

# IDENTITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



**Raffaella Antinucci**

# Definitions of identity

“[...] the reflective self-conception or self-image that we each derive from our family, gender, cultural, ethnic, and individual socialization process” (Ting-Toomey).

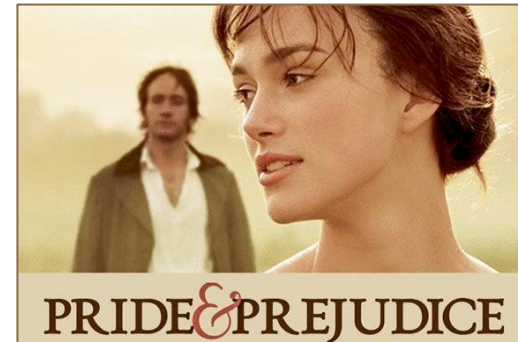
“Identity is generally understood to be the shared identity of naturalized inhabitants of a particular political-geographic space – this can be a particular nation or region.” (Andrew Higson)

Benedict Anderson: nations as “imagined communities”  
Any nation “is *imagined* because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion.”

# The role of the media

- Benedict Anderson maintains that **the media play a vital role** in constructing a national/regional identity as in reality the nation is too big for everyone to know each other yet they often have shared values:
- “The unification of people in the modern world is achieved not by military but by cultural means, in particular the media system enables people (of a nation or region) to feel part of a coherent, meaningful and homogenous community.”

EMMERDALE



# Three levels of identity

- Personal (what makes us unique)
- Relational (our relationships with others)
- Cultural, Communal or Social (large-scale communities such as nationality, ethnicity, gender, religious or political affiliation)

# The dark side of identity



**Stereotypes** – categorization that mentally organizes your experience with, and guides your behaviour toward, a particular group of people.

**Prejudices** – are deeply held negative feelings associates with a particular group (anger, fear, aversion, anxiety).

**Racism** – an extension of stereotyping and prejudice. The belief that one race is inherently superior to another; “genetic endowment”.

**Ethnocentrism** – one’s own culture is superior to any other.

## Types of identities:

1. Ethnic
2. Family
3. Geographical
4. Class
5. Gender
6. Religious
7. Political



# 1. Ethnic identity





# 1. Ethnic identity

- Native British
  - Scottish
  - Welsh
  - Irish
- Non-native British
  - Caribbeans
  - South Asian





# Native British: Scottish

- Scottish people have constant reminders of their distinctiveness:
- several important aspects of public life are organized separately, and differently, from the rest of Britain – education, law and currency – Devolution
  - the Scottish way of speaking English is very distinctive (Scots, Scottish Gaelic)
  - there are many symbols of **Scottishness** which are well-known throughout Britain





# Native British: Welsh

There aren't many reminders of 'Welshness':

- despite the Welsh Assembly, the organization of public life is similar to that of England
- distinctive way of speaking (Gaelic, which is of Celtic origin)
- few national heroes (Owain Glyndwr)



# The notion of ethnic identity in Wales

A large minority of the people in Wales do not consider themselves Welsh at all.

In the nineteenth century large numbers of Scottish, Irish and English people went to find work there, and today many English people still make their homes in Wales or have holiday houses there.

As a result, a feeling of loyalty to Wales is **regional** rather than **nationalistic**.



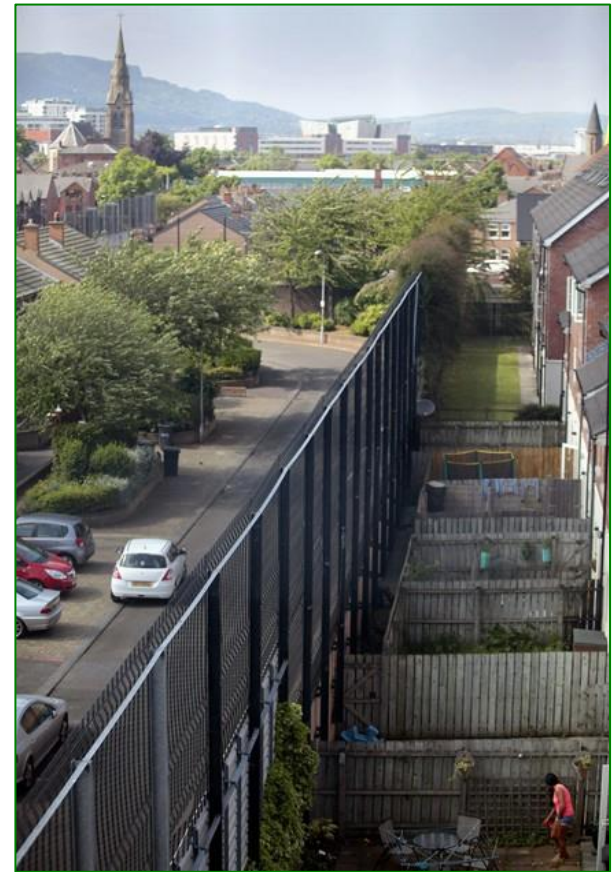
# Native British: English (?)

- ‘English’ and ‘British’ still used interchangeably (same national anthem)
- Recent rise in ethnic and national profiles:
  - Cross of St. George
  - Icons online (2005, [www.icons.org.uk](http://www.icons.org.uk))



# Native British: Irish

- Social class plays a minor role, while **ethnicity, family, and religion** are inter-related
- Polarized society  
(Protestant↔Catholic)
- Segregated lives





# Native British: Northern Irish

- On one side of the divider are people whose ancestors came from lowland Scotland or England. They are **Protestants** and want **Northern Ireland to remain** in the UK
- On the other side of the divide are people whose ancestors were native Irish. They are **Catholics** and would like **Northern Ireland to become part of the Irish Republic**



# Native British, however,...

- look the same
- have the same religious heritage (Christianity)
- learn English as a first language
- share the same attitudes to the role of men and women



# Non-native British

- Continental Europeans (Polish, Italians, etc.)
- Non-European major groups:
  - Black Caribbeans
  - 'Asian'
- Different languages and religions (Hindu, Muslim)

# IMMIGRATION

- For centuries people from overseas have settled in Britain to **escape political or religious persecution or in search of better economic opportunities:**

1 The Irish

2 The Jewish who came to Britain towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in the 1930s



Pride not prejudice  
across the nations of Britain

# IMMIGRATION

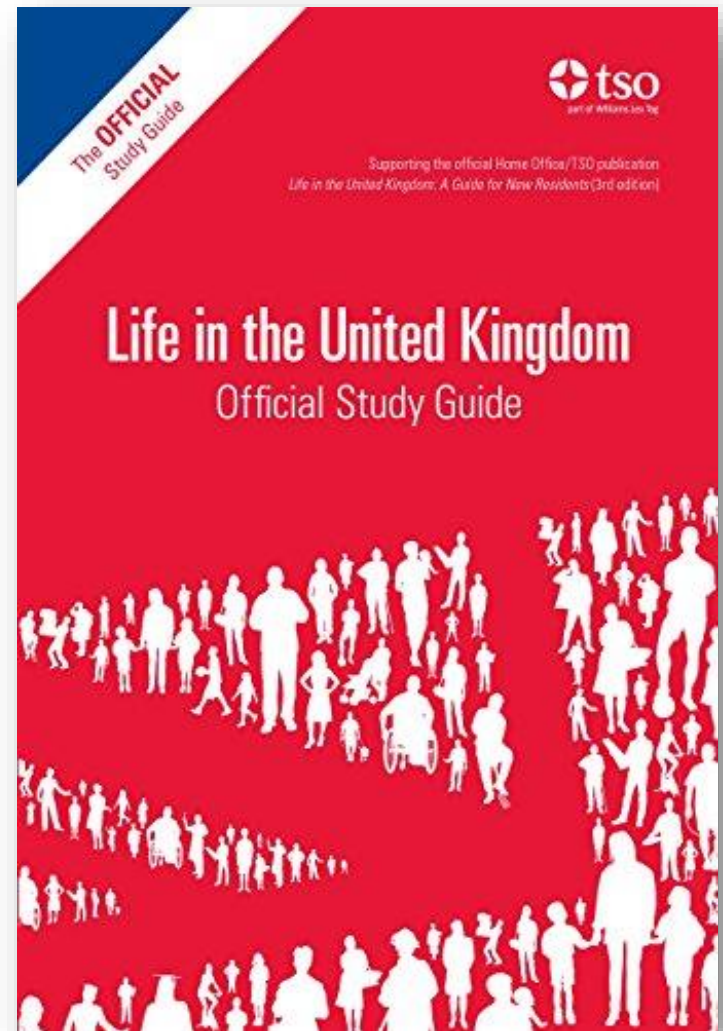
- 3) European refugees after 1945
- 4) the Caribbean and the South Asian immigration dates principally from the 1950s and 1960s (also Australians, Chinese, Greek and Turkish Cypriots, Italians, Spaniards)
- 5) Latin America, Indo-China and Sri Lanka refugees (more recently)





# Life in the UK test

It is a computer-based test (introduced in 2007) that anyone seeking Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK or **naturalisation as a British citizen** needs to pass. It is meant to prove that the applicant has a sufficient knowledge of British life and sufficient proficiency in the English language. It consists of 24 questions covering topics such as British values, history, traditions and everyday life.





## REVIEW



Incorrect (2)

All Answers (35)

When did the English defeat the Spanish Armada, which had been sent by Spain to conquer England and restore Catholicism?

1455

1488

1544

1588

# Black Caribbeanans

- From Jamaica and Trinidad (II WW)
- Immigration started in 1948 (*Empire Windrush*) and remained significant until the mid 1970s
- Employed by the London Transport
- Similar cultural practices
- Distinctive language (creole or patwa)
- Influence of Caribbean music (reggae, calypso and ska)
- Notting Hill Festival



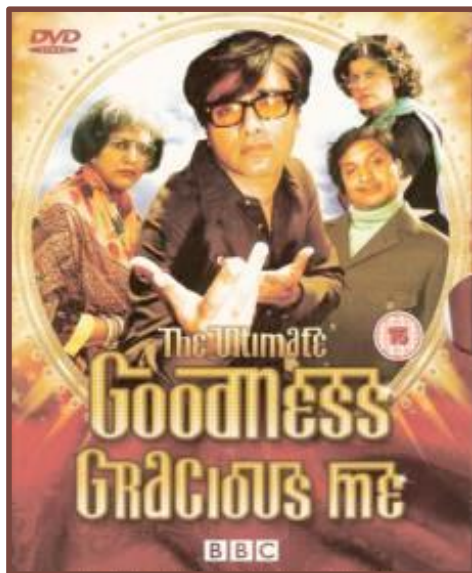
# Asian

- From countries in and around the Indian subcontinent;
- closed community (usually marry among themselves);
- distinctive languages (Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi), non-Christian religions, traditional music and food;
- their religious identity (Islam) is more important than the ethnic one;
- distinctive hybrid identity as 'British Asians' in media and music (bhangra)



# *Goodness, Gracious Me*

- TV sketch comedy (BBC, 1996-2001)
- The show's title and theme tune is a bhangra rearrangement of a hit comedy song of the same name. The original was performed by Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren reprising their characters from the 1960 film *The Millionairess*.





# ‘Let’s go for an English’

It is a cliché of British life that, after a heavy drinking session in the pub, a group of British people often decide to 'go for an Indian'. There, some of the men in the group will display their macho credentials by ordering 'the hottest thing on the menu' (that is, the dish with the hottest spices).

In one of the most famous sketches of the British Asian comedy *Goodness, Gracious Me* a drunken group of Asians ‘go for an English’ (meaning ‘go to an English restaurant’) and one of them orders ‘the blandest thing on the menu’.



# “The Queen is Indian!”

## TV sketch, Goodness Gracious Me!

- Trooping of the Colour

“The all Royal Family is Indian! Think about it:

- Descending from Queen Victoria, Empress of India
- They all live in the same family house together
- They all work in the family business
- They all have arranged marriages
- They all have sons, daughters're no good
- Children live with their parents until they marry
- They are all Indian! All except Prince Charles...he's African!... If he was Indian, he'd have smaller ears!”



# The Kumars at No 42



- Tv host show (2001-2006)
- The show stars a fictional British Indian family who lives in Wembley, London. The show's central premise is that Sanjeev's parents have supported his dream of being a television presenter by having a TV studio built on what used to be their back garden.



## 2. Family identity

- Rather **weak** compared to other places in the world
- Little sense of extended family identity, just nuclear family
- Small family size
- High proportion of elderly people living alone
- Family gatherings beyond the household unit are rare
- One of the highest rates of divorce in Europe
- Revival of double-barrelled names (e.g. Compton-Burnett )



2 Read the text on family life in the UK and complete the gaps with the words below.

single later both 45 elderly 10

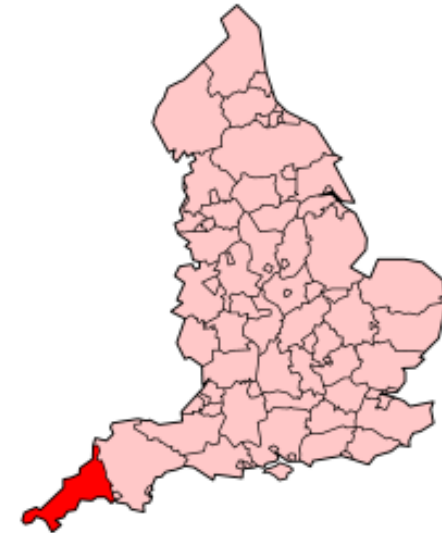
### Report on family life in the UK

Families are traditionally 'nuclear' in the UK. This means they consist of a father, a mother and the children but over the last 40 years British families have changed dramatically. This is because of the rise in divorce and the changing attitudes to different types of family units. Recent statistics show that:

- 65% of children live with <sup>1</sup> ..... their parents
- <sup>2</sup> .....% of couples get divorced – this figure drops to 30% after 20 years of marriage
- ¼ of all children live in a home with just one parent, called <sup>3</sup> ..... or lone-parent families
- 1 in <sup>4</sup> ..... children live in a family with a step-parent and about 65,000 children live with people who are paid to look after them
- increasing numbers of couples decide not to have children or to have them <sup>5</sup> ..... in life
- over ½ million old people live in homes for the <sup>6</sup> ..... and 12% of British people choose to live alone

# 3. Geographical identity

- Weak sense due to mobility
- Local pride arises because of comfort/well-being not because of belonging
- Associated with a larger geographical area, a city or a county (Cornwall, Yorkshire)
- **Northerners vs Southerners**





# The North-South Divide



# The South

often shown as being the centre of culture, modern, classy, clever, sunny, richer, doing middle class jobs such as managers etc.





# Southerners

- Stereotype: 'Poncy Southerners' arrogant and posh
- Dialogue/dialect: well spoken
- Costume: suit and tie, tailored clothing and dresses
- Props: brief case
- Class/Status: middle/upper



# The North

often shown as being poorer, bad weather, lower class, aggressive, less cultured, less clever, doing working class jobs such as builders etc.

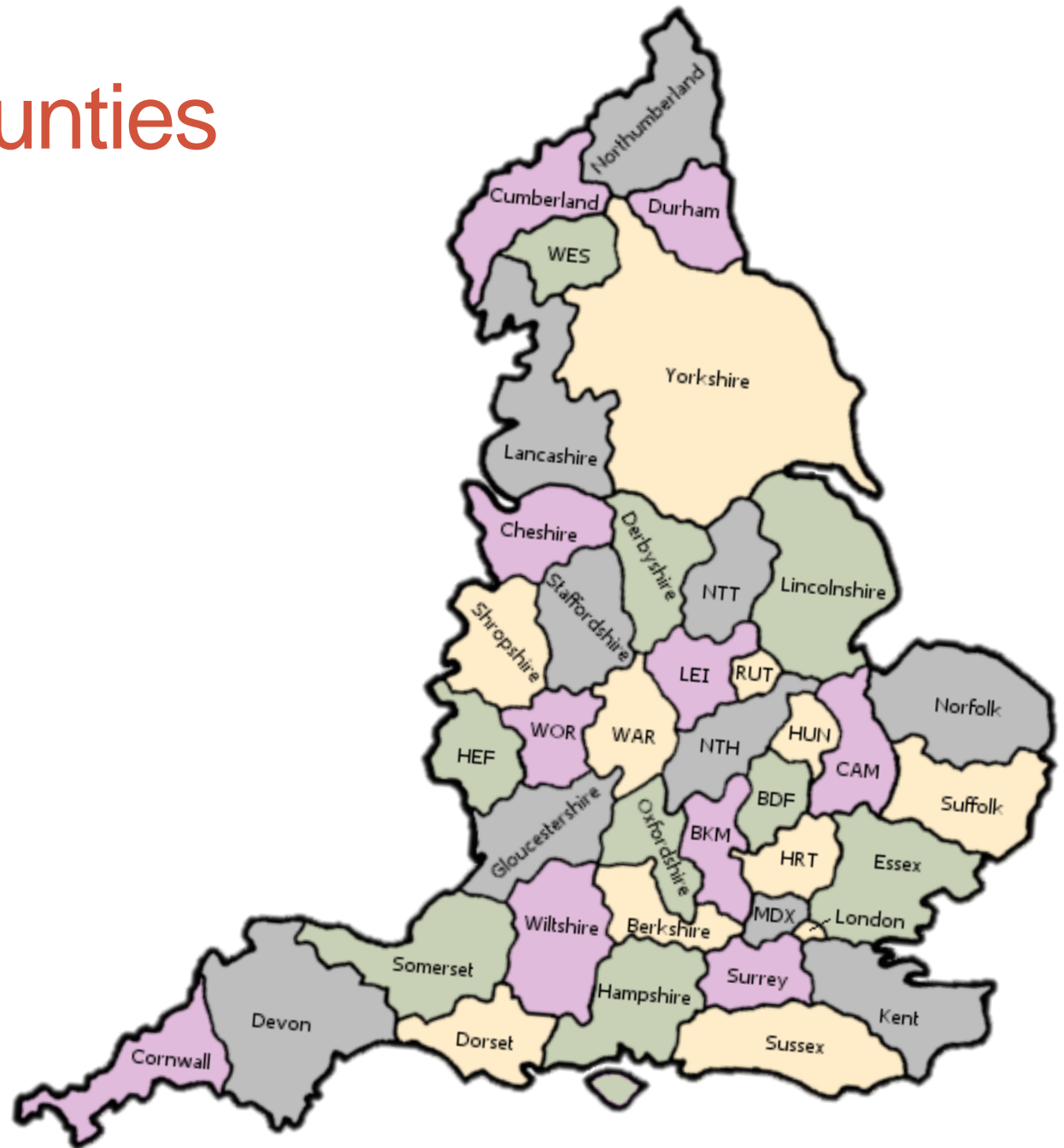


# Northerners

- Stereotype: 'Northern Monkeys', loud, rude, drink a lot and of a lower status
- Costume: track suit or cheap/casual clothes
- Dialogue/dialect: vowel sounds over-pronounced
- Class/Status: low



# English counties



# Counties of the UK

In the UK the **county**, or **shire** [ˈʃaɪə(r)], has historically been the principal subdivision of the country for political, administrative, judicial, and cultural purposes. Each of the constituent countries of the United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales – is divided into a number of historic counties.

These historic counties, in many cases, no longer correspond to current administrative subdivisions but remain an important focus of local identity. Cultural activities, such as the sport of cricket, are still organized according to historic counties.

The suffix **-shire** [ʃɪə(r)] is attached to most of the names of English, Scottish and Welsh counties. It tends not to be found in the names of shires that were pre-existing divisions. Essex, Kent, and Sussex, for example.

The term “shire” is not used in the names of the six traditional counties of Northern Ireland.



# Regional stereotypes



# Essex

- Stereotype: image conscious, unintelligent, love to shop and party
- Stereotype coined by TOWIE (*The Only Way is Essex*)
- Dialogue/dialect: 'Shut up' 'Oh my God' (common phrases)
- Costume: girls revealing/OTT; boys: fashionable
- Location: clubs and boutiques
- Props: expensive handbags, up to date mobile phone
- Make up: fake tan, fake eyelashes and hair extensions
- Class/Status= lower middle





**Essex** – often shown as being glamorous but cheap, footballer's wives, lots of partying, being quite stupid



# Yorkshire

- Dialogue/dialect: 'Ey up', don't pronounce 't's'
- Costume: flat caps, tweed jackets
- Location: open fields, country pubs, local shops
- Props: Whippets/Yorkshire terrier and Yorkshire puddings
- Class/Status: low (farmers)



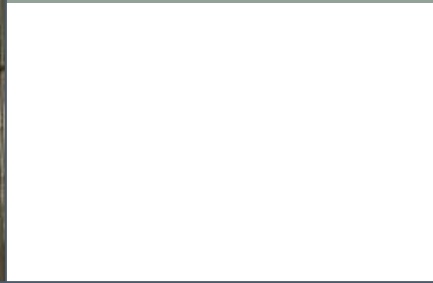


**Yorkshire** – Often shown as living in rural countryside, with rolling hills and cobbled streets, being quite old fashioned





**Cornwall/Somerset** – Often shown as being “backwards”, living in rural areas, working on farms



**Manchester / Newcastle / Liverpool** – often shown as being “chavs”, wearing fake designer labels, or tracksuits, drinking a lot, being aggressive, uneducated, criminals

# Mancs

- Stereotype: loud, rude, funny and fond of fighting (helped coined by Oasis)
- Dialogue/dialect: 'Oh, aye' 'Nowt'
- Costume: Manchester United Shirt
- Location: busy town centres
- Class/Status: low/lower middle



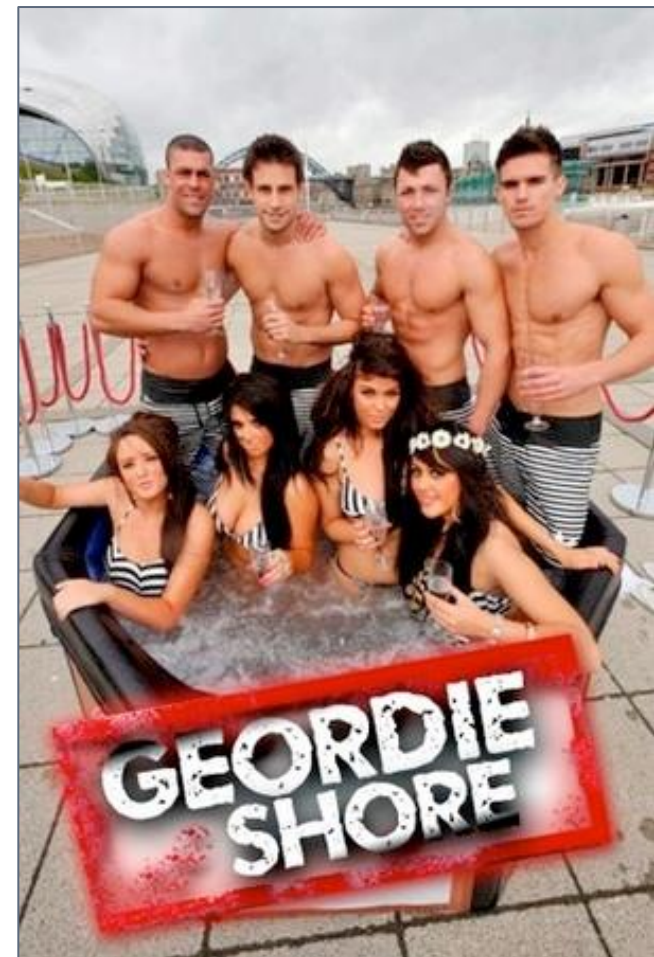


# shameless



# Geordies

- Stereotype: loud, swear a lot, party animals and binge drinkers (help coined by Geordie Shore)
- Dialogue/dialect: 'way eye man', difficult to understand
- Costume: revealing, tight clothing
- Location: busy town centres, clubs, urban areas
- Make up: over the top, fake tan, dark hair
- Class/Status: lower middle/ middle





# Scousers

- Stereotype: dangerous ('Why does the river Mersey run through Liverpool? If it walked it would get mugged')
- Dialogue/dialect: difficult to understand; 'like' prominent k's
- Costume: tracksuits, very casual, cheap looking clothing
- Location: pub/home
- Props: cheap looking jewellery
- Make up: minimal, or OTT
- Class/Status: low



# Brummies

- Stereotype: unintelligent and unfriendly
- Dialogue/dialect: 'Yow' heavily pronounced the 'ow' of 'You'
- Costume: casual
- Location: busy, industrialised centres
- Make up: greasy hair
- Class/Status: low



# Londoners (Northern/ more posh boroughs)

- Dialogue/dialect: well spoken, range of vocabulary
- Costume: cashmere jumpers/sweaters and suits
- Location: skyscrapers, swanky bars, posh homes
- Props: briefcase
- Class/Status: middle/upper





**London** – There are 2 main stereotypes of Londoners. One is that they are often shown as being rich, posh, snobby, upper class, Hugh Grant-types from central or west London.

# Londoners (Cockney/ South London)

- Dialogue/dialect: rhyming slang 'apples and pairs = stairs', dropping 't's'
- Costume: flat caps
- Location: busy streets, market stalls
- Make up: minimal
- Class/Status: low







The other is that they are often shown as being from north, east or south London, poor, common, lower class, criminal, violent, “Kidulthood” style.



The satellite map shows us a city sprawl so we know that the programme is set in an urban area. However it is the River Thames than reveals the specific location as being London.

Regional Identity can be seen by the views we see in the picture. We can see the countryside in the distance and we can also see an old vehicle which is only used in the countryside.





Country background and country houses. What the characters are wearing symbolises 'the country' as well.



## *Shameless*

Set in an estate as there are flats in the background and the people look like they aren't of a high class because of the clothes they are wearing.



# Scottish

- Stereotype: humourless, hate other nations, alcoholic and violent
- Dialogue/dialect: strong accent 'och' 'wee'
- Costume: kilt, tartan, Tam o' Shanter
- Location: Highlands, cold and vast open spaces
- Props: bagpipes, haggis, whisky
- Make up: ginger hair and freckles
- Class/Status: lower class (farmers)







**Scottish** – often shown as being money obsessed, won't pay for anything, drinks a lot of alcohol, loves the outdoors, wears kilts, eats haggis, quite aggressive and violent



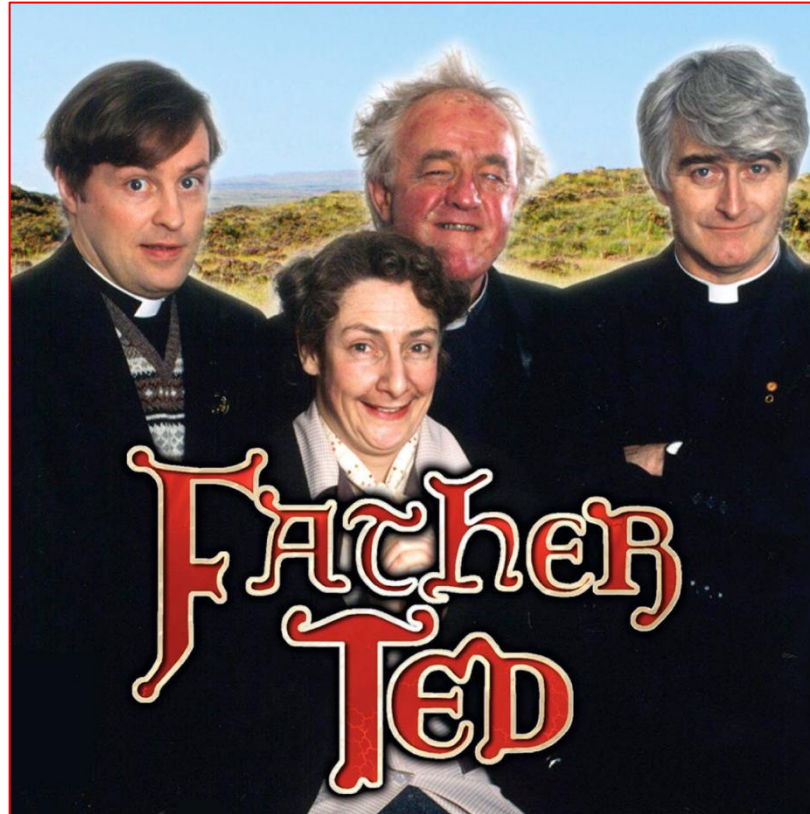
# Welsh

- Stereotype: small, dark haired people who play rugby, sing in choirs, herd sheep or mine coal
- Dialogue/dialect: very 'song-like' and melodic, slow and exaggerated pronunciation
- Costume: rugby shirts
- Location: rugby pitch, church, pub, fields with sheep
- Props: sheep
- Class/Status: middle/lower





**Welsh** – Often shown as living in the middle of the countryside, comically simplistic and rugby fans.



**Irish** – often shown as living in the countryside, working in rural areas such as farms, being very religious, being good at dancing and singing, very friendly but not very intelligent

## 4. Class identity

- Survival of the class system perhaps as a result of **past social flexibility**
- **Awareness of class** forms a major part of people's sense of identity



# The British social classes

- The upper class
- The middle class
- The working class



The famous sketch on the comedy programme *The Frost Report* (1966) mocked Britain's class obsession. Ronnie Barker said of John Cleese: "I look up to him because he is upper class." He said of tiny Ronnie Corbett: "I look down on him, because he is lower class. I am middle class." Corbett: "I know my place".



# The Great British Class Survey (2013)

- **Elite** - the most privileged group in the UK, distinct from the other six classes through its wealth. This group has the highest levels of all three capitals. (6%)
- **Established middle class** - the second wealthiest, scoring highly on all three capitals. The largest (25%) and most gregarious group, scoring second highest for cultural capital
- **Technical middle class** - a small, distinctive new class group which is prosperous but scores low for social and cultural capital. Distinguished by its social isolation and cultural apathy.
- **New affluent workers** - a young class group which is socially and culturally active, with middling levels of economic capital
- **Traditional working class** - scores low on all forms of capital, but is not completely deprived. Its members have reasonably high house values, explained by this group having the oldest average age at 66 (14%)
- **Emergent service workers** - a new, young, urban group which is relatively poor but has high social and cultural capital
- **Precariat, or precarious proletariat** - the poorest, most deprived class, scoring low for social and cultural capital (15%)

A new (1) \_\_\_\_\_ social classes in the United Kingdom. This is four classes more than (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Last century, there were just three classes in Britain - upper, middle, and working class. This (3) \_\_\_\_\_ people's wealth, education and job. The new survey, from the BBC, shows (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The BBC says the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and a new one is needed to show someone's class. This new model includes how rich you are, your (6) \_\_\_\_\_, but adds several more points. These include savings, how many people you know, social networking, and cultural interests and activities.

The BBC study is called the Great British Class Survey. More than 161,000 people (7) \_\_\_\_\_ life. The researchers looked at all the information and decided that Britain's way of measuring class needed modernising. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ - the richest people. This is followed by the "(9) \_\_\_\_\_," the "technical middle class," and the "new affluent workers". The three bottom classes are the "(10) \_\_\_\_\_," the "emergent service workers," and the poor. Six per cent of Britons are in the elite class. They have (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and went to a top university. Fifteen per cent are in the poor class. (12) \_\_\_\_\_ a year.

A new survey shows there are seven social classes in the United Kingdom. This is four classes more than the traditional class system. Last century, there were just three classes in Britain – upper, middle, and working class. This system centred around people's wealth, education and job. The new survey, from the BBC, shows how the times have changed. The BBC says the old model is too simple and a new one is needed to show someone's class. This new model includes how rich you are, your schooling and your occupation, but adds several more points. These include savings, how many people you know, social networking, and cultural interests and activities.

The BBC study is called the Great British Class Survey. More than 161,000 people answered questions about their life. The researchers looked at all the information and decided that Britain's way of measuring class needed modernising. The top class is the "elite" – the richest people. This is followed by the "established middle class," the "technical middle class," and the "new affluent workers". The three bottom classes are the "traditional working class," the "emergent service workers," and the poor. Six per cent of Britons are in the elite class. They have savings of more than \$200,000 and went to a top university. Fifteen per cent are in the poor class. These earn less than \$12,000 a year.

Consciousness of class difference ('different background') does not originate in a belief in the class system, but rather on **differences** in attitudes and daily habits regarding:

- Food (names of the meals, too)
- Topics
- **Accent** (standard British English, Received Pronunciation)
- Sports
- Pastimes

## Some typical features of the British class structure:

- Relation between **wealth** and perceived social class is looser
- Rather than wealth, **accent** is the means by which class is identified:

“[i]t is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman hate or despise him”  
(George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*, 1916)

A strong accent is identified with the working class

- ‘Inverted snobbery’ vs ‘poshness’



# British meals and social classes

- **Tea** for the urban working class (and a wider section of the population in Scotland and Ireland) is the evening meal, eaten as soon as people get home from work (at around 6 p.m.). For other classes, it means a cup of tea and a snack at around 4 p.m.
- **Supper** is a word for the evening meal used by some of the people who do not call it 'tea'.
- **Dinner** is the other word for the evening meal. It suggests a later time than 'tea'. The word is also used in connection with a special meal, as when friends are invited for a 'dinner party'. Many people talk about 'Christmas dinner', even if they have it in the middle of the day. The same word is also sometimes used to refer to the midday meal in schools, which is served by 'dinner ladies'.

# Varieties of English

- Dialects
- Accents
- Country of origin



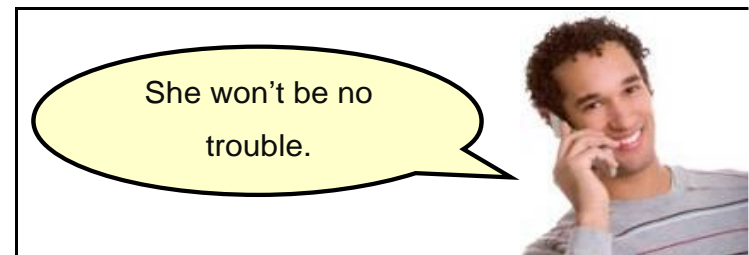
# Dialects

A **dialect** is a specific variety of English that differs from other varieties in three specific ways: **lexis** (vocabulary), **grammar** (structure) and **phonology** (pronunciation or accent).

Ex. A Geordie dialect speaker (speaker from Newcastle-upon-Tyne): *gan* for “to go” or *clarts* for “mud” (voc.);  
*I’ve went* and *I’ve drank*; *mysel*, *yoursel*, *hissel* etc. (structure).

# Standard or regional?

Are the people below speaking standard English or a regional dialect?



# Accent

**Accent** refers only to **differences in the sound patterns** of a specific dialect.

A speaker from Newcastle-upon-Tyne who generally uses mainstream vocabulary and grammar, but whose pronunciation has an unmistakable hint of Tyneside, should properly be described as having a **Geordie accent**.

Despite popular belief **we all speak with an accent**, which tells something about our place of origin and social class.

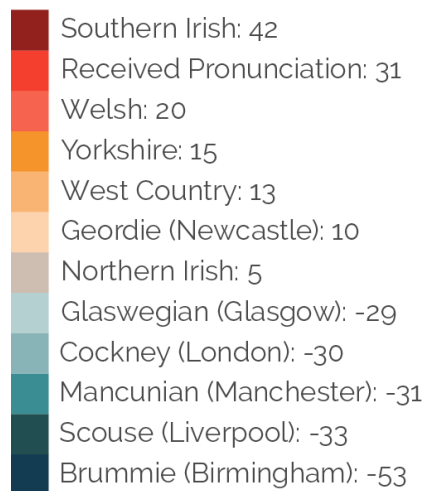


# Received Pronunciation (RP)

Received Pronunciation (RP) is the proper term to describe the regionally neutral accent used by many middle class (old) speakers in England. It is widely used as a reference point in dictionaries and as a model for teaching English as a foreign language. Popular terms for this accent, such as 'The Queen's English', 'Oxford English' or 'BBC English' are all a little misleading. RP is an **accent**, not a **dialect**, since all RP speakers speak **Standard English**.

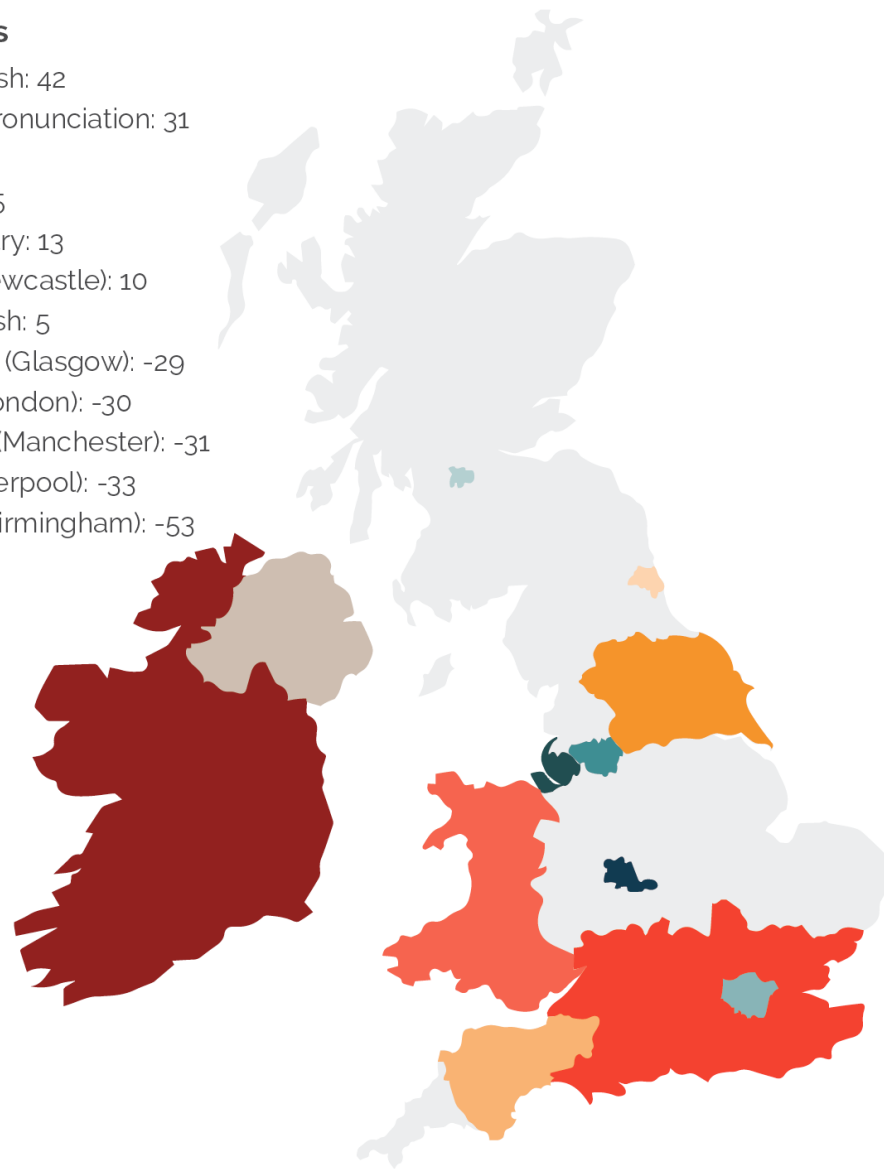
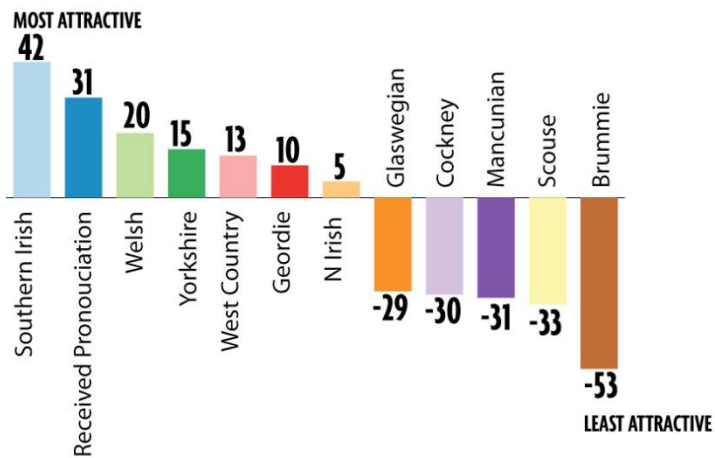
# The most attractive accents in the British Isles – mapped (2014)

## Net scores

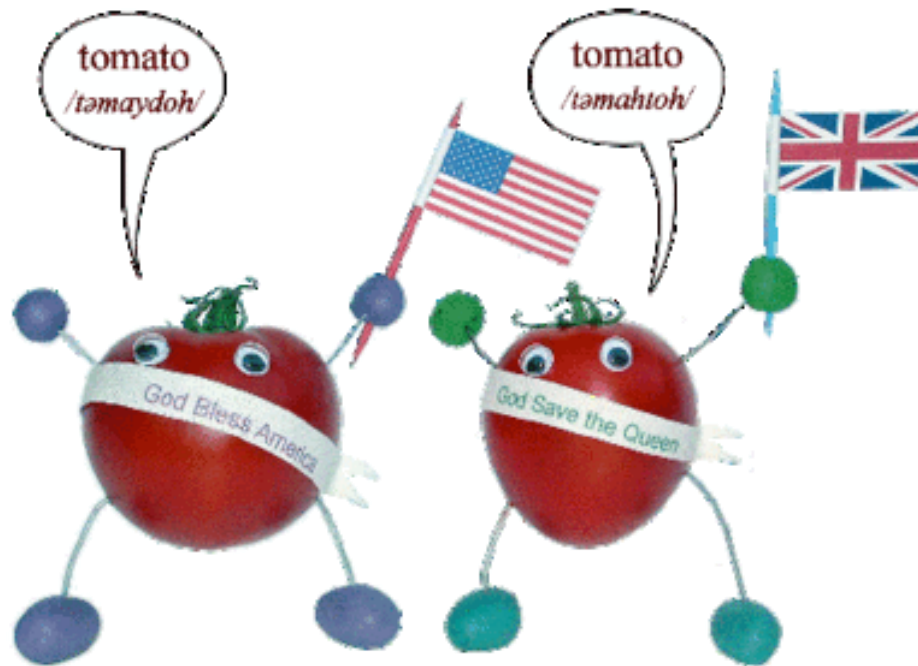


## THE MOST... AND LEAST ATTRACTIVE ACCENTS

YouGov asked whether Brits thought these 12 accents were attractive



# Country of Origin



# TALKING PROPER: A VERY ROUGH GUIDE TO ENGLISH ACCENTS

IN HERTFORD, HEREFORD,  
AND HAMPSHIRE, HURRICANES  
HARDLY EVER HAPPEN

*Ye knaa what  
ah mean leik?*

**GEORDIE**

**RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION**

*Did ye bek  
a ceke?*

**YORKSHIRE**

*Have a luck  
in me bewk*

**SCOUSE**

*She laaughed as he  
took a long baaath*

*Comb your  
'air, sillei!*

**WEST COUNTRY**

**ESTUARY ENGLISH**





**ONE WOMAN**

**17 BRITISH ACCENTS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyyT2jmVPAk>



# 5. Gender identity

- Discrimination between men and women (officially illegal although ubiquitous)
- Women
  - are under-represented in Parliament
  - paid less than men at work
- Domestic duties and childcare are still largely women's work (although differentiation has decreased sharply)



# Gender legislation

The **Sex Discriminations Acts 1975 and 1986** made discrimination between men and women unlawful in employment, education, training and the provision of housing goods, facilities and services (**Equality Act 2010**).



# Marriages and partnerships

- The *Civil Partnership Act* legalized civil partnerships (5<sup>th</sup> December 2005)
- *The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013* allowed same-sex marriage in England and Wales (13 March 2014)
- Joint and stepchild adoption since 2005 (E&W)
- LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) rights



## 6. Religious & Political identity

- Not so important (except for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Islamic communities)
- Small minority of people: churchgoers, active members of political parties
- Plays little part in determining other aspects of life



# A BIT OF HISTORY

With the **Act of Supremacy** (1553) king Henry VIII asserted the independence of the *Ecclesia Anglicana* from the Church of Rome. He appointed himself as the Supreme Head of the Church of England and ordered the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

The **Emancipation Act** (1829) (re-)admitted Irish and English Roman Catholics to Parliament and to all but a handful of public offices.



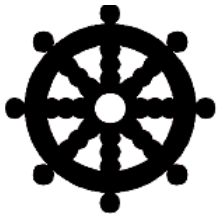


# RELIGION IN THE BRITISH ISLES

There are lots of religions in the British Isles. The main religion is Christianity (72%). The other religions are: Islam, Hindu, Sikh, Judaism and Buddhism.

15% of the population don't have religion and 1.4% have another religion.

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Buddhist



Muslim



Christian



Jewish



Hindu

## RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

*CHRISTIAN:* 17<sup>th</sup> March: St Patrick's day

23<sup>rd</sup> April: St George's day



*MUSLIM:* 10<sup>th</sup> January: Al Hijra (Islamic new year)

Eid Al-Fitr: end of Ramadan

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*JEWISH :* 30<sup>th</sup> September: Rosh Hashanah

1<sup>st</sup> October: New Year's day

*BUDDHIST:* 8<sup>th</sup> February: New Year's day

*HINDU:* 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Ganesh's day



# Britain and the EU

The UK joined the EEC on 1 January 1973

**YES!**

**Britain is  
where she  
Belongs...  
in Europe**

**Build Bridges  
— Not Barriers**

The effects of staying in the Common Market will be of vital importance to young people in this country. Our prosperity, our employment, our environment and the way Britain faces up to the future all depend on our staying in. But apart from these direct benefits, a united Europe can help to break down the old prejudices which have prevented international co-operation in the past. A new Europe with Britain can establish stronger relationships with other parts of the world.

We can use our joint skills to offer hope to those people in developing countries who still live in poverty and starvation. An outward looking Europe can provide new potential for them to develop their resources. Only by working together inside Europe will we be able to preserve the best traditions of European democracy which we sometimes take for granted.

A strong Europe will be able to stand up to big international enterprises which abuse their power. A prosperous Europe can offer a better deal to outlying and neglected areas, reducing the gross inequalities in living standards between regions.

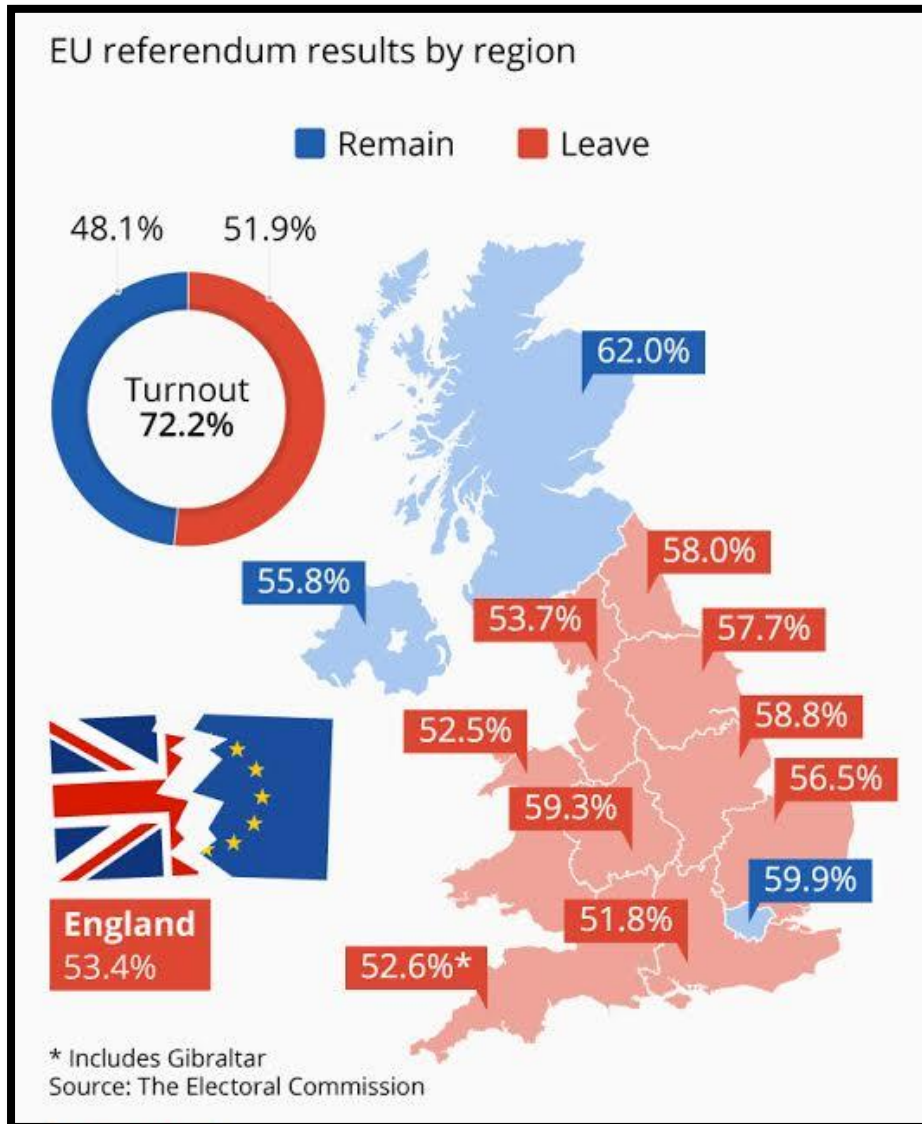
**You will be voting for *our* future on June 5th — don't let us down.**

# Britain and the EU

- Worry about the loss of British identity in the EU (left-hand traffic, different systems of measurement, currency)
- Favour of the UK's withdrawal from the EU (Brexit) (detachment→ jobs boom, save billions in membership fees)



# Brexit Referendum (23rd June 2016)







**Polls show Britons split over  
Jane Austen's best novel:**

**Sense & Sensibility:**

**48%**

**Pride & Prejudice:**

**52%**

# Art. 50 of the Lisbon Treaty

“Any member state may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements.”

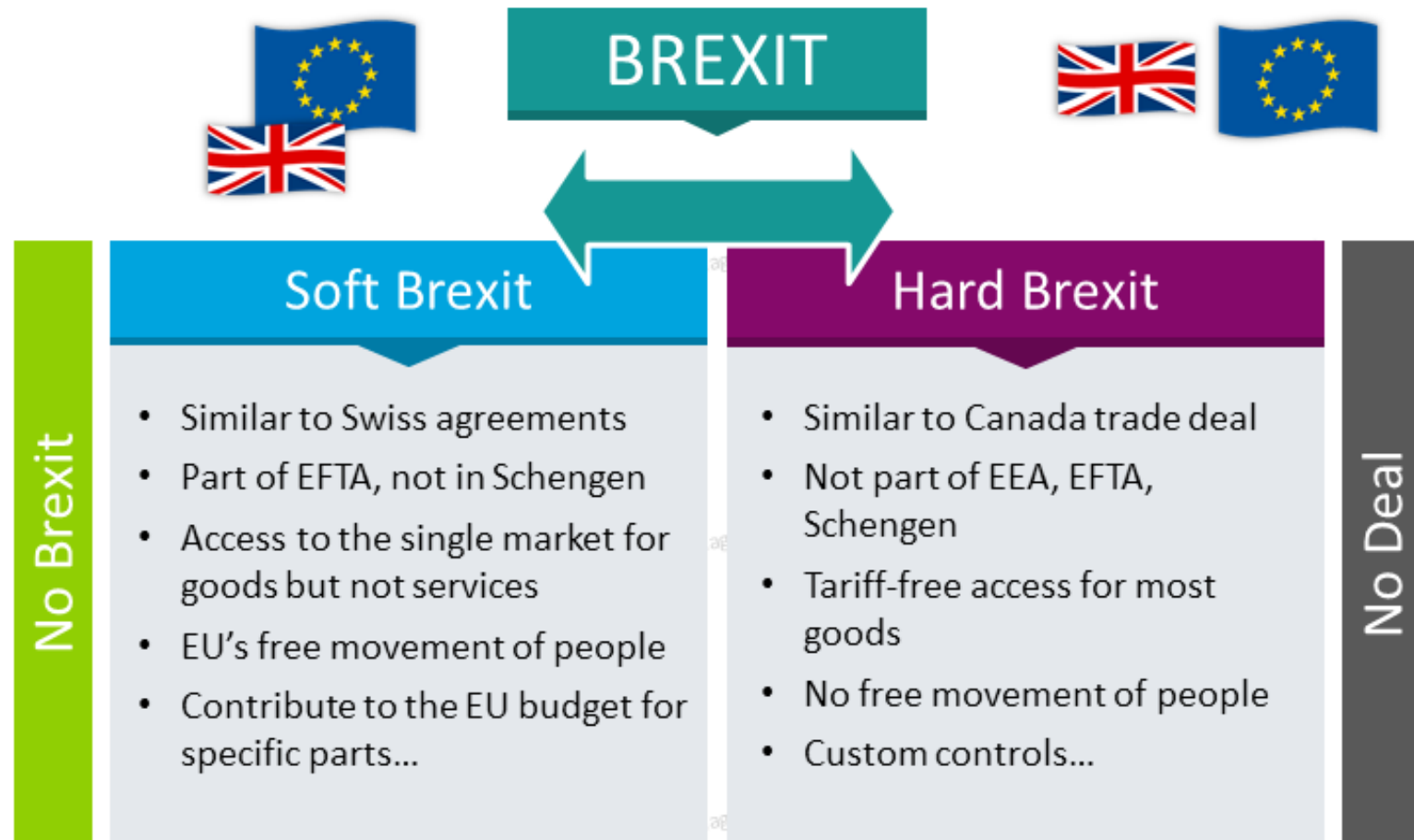
A leaver has to notify the European Council of its intention, negotiate a deal and establish legal grounds for a future relationship with the EU.

- A provision gives negotiators **two years** from the date of article 50 notification to conclude new arrangements (29 March 2017-19).

- No country had invoked article 50 before.



# Leaving EU – UK Agreement Options



## Further steps...

- The first withdrawal agreement (November 2018) didn't pass the British Parliament's ratification for three times.
- Having failed to get her agreement approved, May resigned as Prime Minister in July and was succeeded by **Boris Johnson** (July 2019).

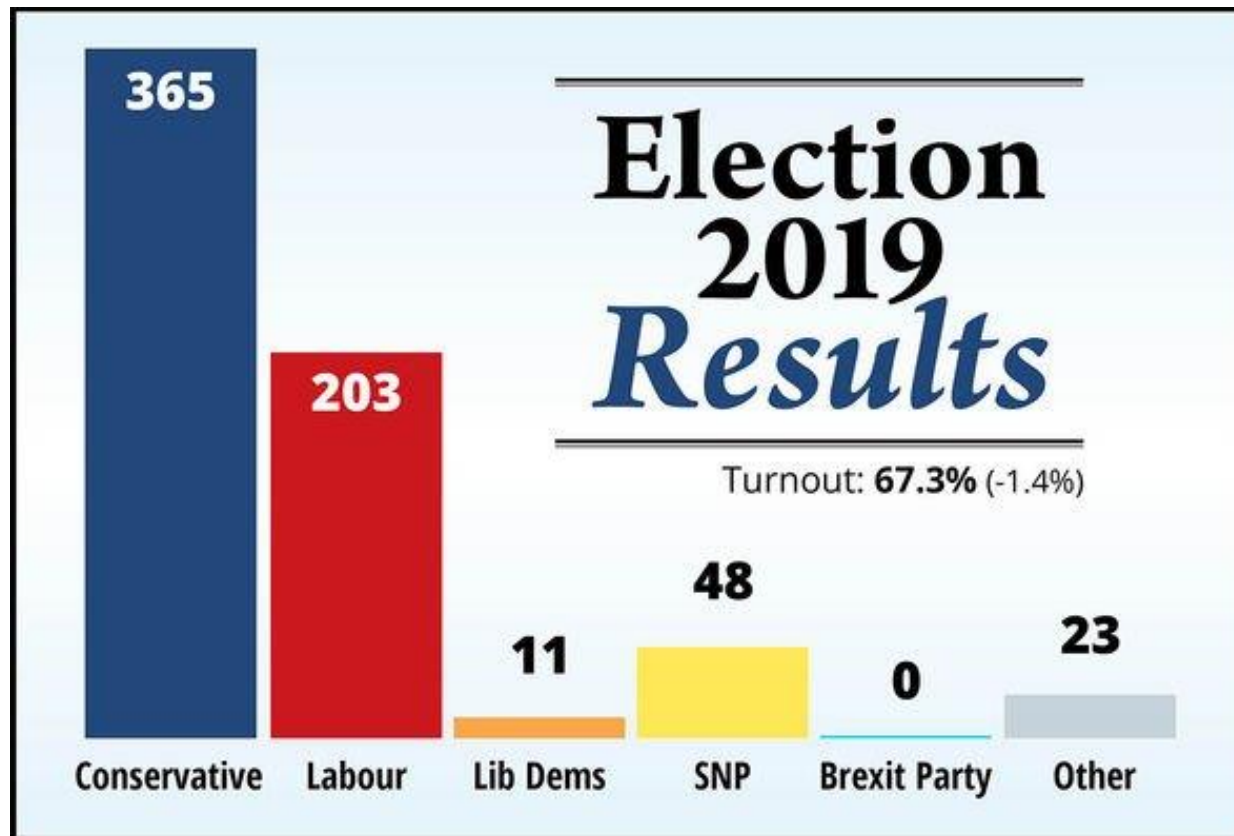


# Revised withdrawal agreement (March 2019)

- How much money the UK has to pay the EU in order to break the partnership (about £39bn)
- What happens to UK citizens living elsewhere in the EU and, equally, what happens to EU citizens living in the UK
- How to avoid the return of a physical border (“backstop”) between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland when it becomes the frontier between the UK and the EU.



# New General Elections (12 December 2019)



# See UE soon...



Following a general election, Parliament ratified the revised withdrawal agreement, and the UK left the EU at 11 p.m. GMT on **31 January 2020**.

This began a transition period that ended on **31 December 2020**, during which the UK and EU negotiated their future relationship. The UK remained subject to EU law and remained part of the EU customs union and single market during the transition, but was no longer part of the EU's political bodies or institutions.

# What next?

- **Various agreements** covering a wide range of areas including goods and services, fishing and farming, security cooperation, data policy, education and science.
- David Frost and Michel Barnier negotiated a permanent trade agreement. On **24 December 2020** both parties announced that a deal had been reached. The deal was passed by both Houses of the British Parliament on 30 December and given Royal Assent in the early hours of the next day.

# What next?

- The European Parliament ratified the agreement on **27 April 2021**.

- **Liz Truss**  
(6<sup>th</sup> September-25<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

- **Rishi Sunak**  
(25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 –)



# Individual identity: British sense of humour...





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