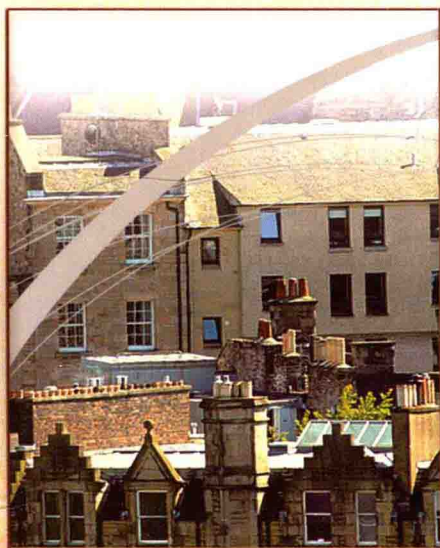


普通高等教育英语
“十二五”规划教材



陈丹 张亮平 编著
李鹏 王辰晖

Cultures

英美文化 选读

SELECTED READING

IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN CULTURES



华中科技大学出版社

<http://www.hustp.com>

普通高等教育

英美文化选读

陈 丹 张亮平 李 鹏 王辰晖 编 著



华中科技大学出版社
中国·武汉

内 容 提 要

《英美文化选读》分别介绍了英美两国的民族特点、历史发展、地理环境、政府制度、宗教信仰、文学概要、教育模式、风俗习惯、节日活动、种族关系及社会事件等,并从跨文化交际的角度对一些现象进行了理论阐述和解释。《英美文化选读》内容丰富,涉及面广,选材地道,既可以作为大学高年级学生、研究生的英美文化教材,也可供企事业单位,特别是大型企业使用,用于培训员工,增强跨文化意识,提升跨文化交际能力。对于具有一定英语基础的英语爱好者,也是一本快速了解英美文化的好书。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英美文化选读/陈丹等编著. —武汉:华中科技大学出版社,2017.1
ISBN 978-7-5680-0582-1

I. ①英… II. ①陈… III. ①英国-概况 ②美国-概况 IV. ①K956.1 ②K971.2

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2015)第 022582 号

英美文化选读

Yingmei Wenhua Xuandu

陈 丹 张亮平 李 鹏 王辰晖 编著

策划编辑:刘 平
责任编辑:刘 平
封面设计:刘 卉
责任校对:邹 东
责任监印:周治超

出版发行:华中科技大学出版社(中国·武汉) 电话:(027)81321913
武汉市东湖新技术开发区华工科技园 邮编:430223

录 排:华中科技大学惠友文印中心
印 刷:武汉市籍缘印刷厂
开 本:787mm×1092mm 1/16
印 张:17
字 数:427千字
版 次:2017年1月第1版第1次印刷
定 价:32.80元



本书若有印装质量问题,请向出版社营销中心调换
全国免费服务热线:400-6679-118 竭诚为您服务
版权所有 侵权必究

本书为教育部人文社科规划项目(12YJAZHI192)的一个子项目,承蒙教育部项目基金资助。

前 言

众所周知,语言与文化互相影响,互相作用。语言是文化的一部分,并对文化起着重要作用,但语言又受文化的影响,反映文化。这就要求我们,不但要学好作为交际工具使用的英语语言,掌握语音、语法、词汇,而且还要深入了解英美文化,知道使用英语的人如何看待事物,如何观察世界;了解他们如何用语言来反映社会的思想、习惯、行为。不懂一个民族的文化,就不可能真正学懂这个民族的语言,更不会懂得这个民族的人民。没有对英美文化的深刻了解,就没有真正意义上对英语语言和英美文学的掌握,更谈不上对英美社会的正确认识。这也是我们编写《英美文化选读》的初衷。

《英美文化选读》分别介绍了英美两国的民族特点、历史发展、地理环境、政府制度、宗教信仰、文学概要、教育模式、风俗习惯、节日活动、种族关系及社会事件等。本书内容丰富、涉及面广,对英美文化进行了选择性的介绍。本书主要具有以下特点。

1. 结构明晰:本书采用专题的形式对英美文化进行介绍。全书共分12个专题,结构简单,清晰明了,能满足非英美人士对英美文化了解的基本需求。

2. 角度新颖:本书打破了以往英美文化书籍对文化只作单纯介绍的惯例,力图从跨文化交际的角度,对某一文化现象不仅有一般的内容介绍,还有其背后原因的简明理论阐述,力求使读者在阅读过程中不仅知其然,也知其所以然。书中许多章节的编写采用了中西文化对比的方法,以利于读者更好地比较异同,体会文化间的差异,促使读者有所思考,以加深对英美文化的理解。

3. 选材新颖:本书选材在兼顾传统英美文化介绍的同时,力求选取最新的英美文化研究理论和成果,素材新颖。

本书不仅可以作为大学高年级学生、研究生的英美文化教材,还可以供企事业单位,特别是大型企业使用,用于培训员工,增强跨文化意识,提升跨文化交际能力。对于具有一定英语基础的英语爱好者,也是一本快速了解英美文化的好书。

本书的编著主要由陈丹(Chapters 3,5,6,11)、张亮平(Chapters 1,7,10)、李鹏(Chapters 2,4,9)、王辰晖(Chapters 8,12)完成,同时要感谢武昌理工学院、武汉轻工大学及湖北汽车工业学院同仁的大力支持。

由于时间仓促,加之作者学术水平有限,书中难免有不足之处,还望读者及同行不吝赐教。

2014年10月

目 录

Chapter 1 UK & USA	(1)
1. UK	(1)
2. USA	(16)
Chapter 2 The English Language	(34)
1. History of the English Language	(34)
2. Varieties of English	(38)
3. Differences between British English and American English	(39)
4. Chinese and English	(47)
Chapter 3 Politics	(54)
1. Great Britain	(54)
2. The United States	(67)
Chapter 4 World View and Core Values	(85)
1. Dividedness between Man and Nature	(85)
2. Individualism	(87)
3. Pursuit of Change	(90)
4. View of Time	(91)
5. Materialism	(94)
Chapter 5 Great Events	(98)
1. The Industrial Revolution	(98)
2. Civil Rights Movement in the United States	(101)
Chapter 6 The Bible & Christianity	(117)
1. A Brief Introduction to the Bible	(117)
2. The Influence of the Bible on British Literature	(119)
3. Christianity	(123)
Chapter 7 Education	(131)
1. Education in the United Kingdom	(131)
2. Education in U. S.	(136)
3. Two Famous Universities	(141)
Chapter 8 Literature	(155)
1. British Literature	(155)
2. American Literature	(163)
Chapter 9 Art—Music & Paintings	(179)
1. Music	(179)
2. Paintings	(187)

Chapter 10 Verbal Communication and English Culture	(203)
1. Word Meaning and Culture	(203)
2. Communication Style and Culture	(217)
Chapter 11 Non-Verbal Communication and English Culture	(222)
1. Body Language	(222)
2. Object Language	(230)
3. Environmental Language	(232)
Chapter 12 Western Festivals and Holidays	(237)
1. Christmas	(237)
2. Halloween	(243)
3. Thanksgiving Day	(248)
4. Valentine's Day	(251)
References	(259)

Chapter 1 UK & USA

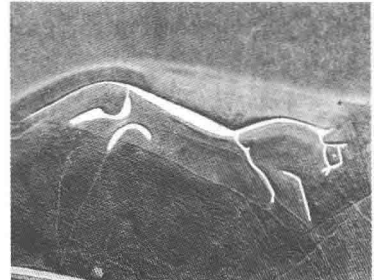
1. UK

1.1 The History of England

1.1.1 Earliest Times



Stonehenge



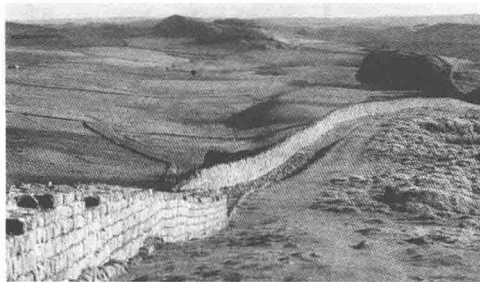
Uffington White Horse

Prehistory

As archaeological evidence has revealed, the territory that now constitutes England was inhabited by ancient humans 800, 000 years ago. Continuous human habitation dates to around 12, 000 years ago. In the Iron Age, England was inhabited by the Celtic people known as the Britons, but also by some Belgae tribes in the south east.

Roman Britain (Britannia)

Julius Caesar conducted the first Roman campaigns in Britain in 55 B. C. and 54 B. C. The conquest did not begin until 43 AD, in the reign of the Emperor Claudius. Following the conquest of the native Britons, a distinctive Romano-British culture emerged under provincial government. The Romans maintained control of their province of Britannia through to the 5th century. Roman officials departed from Britain around the year 410, but the legacy of the Roman Empire was felt for centuries in Britain.



Hadrian's Wall



Roman Public Baths in Bath, England

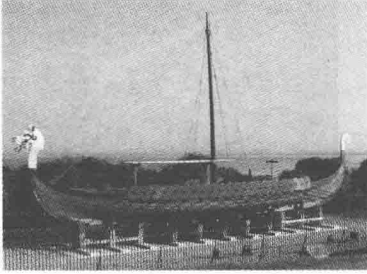
Anglo-Saxon Conquests

The Early medieval period saw a series of invasions of Britain by the Germanic-speaking Anglo-Saxons, beginning in the 5th century. Through wars with British states, Anglo-

Saxon kingdoms were formed and gradually came to cover the territory of present-day England. Around 600, seven principal kingdoms had emerged, beginning the so-called period of the Heptarchy. During that period, the Anglo-Saxon states were Christianised.

Viking Challenge and the Rise of Wessex

In the 8th and 9th centuries England faced fierce attacks, Vikings from Denmark and Norway conquered most of England, and the fighting lasted for many decades. Only the Kingdom of Wessex under Alfred the Great survived and even managed to re-conquer and unify England for much of the 10th century, establishing Wessex as the most powerful kingdom and promoting the growth of an English identity.



Viking Longboat Replica



Statue of Alfred the Great

A new series of Danish raids began in the late 10th century and early 11th century culminated in the wholesale subjugation of England to Denmark under Canute the Great. Danish rule was overthrown and the local House of Wessex was restored to power under Edward the Confessor for about two decades until his death in 1066. Despite the repeated crises of succession and a Danish seizure of power, by the 1060s England was a powerful, centralised state with a strong military and successful economy.



The Death and Funeral of Edward the Confessor

1.1.2 Medieval Britain

The Norman Conquest

In 1066, William, Duke of Normandy said he was the rightful heir to the English throne, invaded England, and defeated King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings. Proclaiming himself to be King William I, he strengthened his regime by appointing loyal members of the Norman elite to many positions of authority, building a system of castles across the country and ordering a census of his new kingdom, the Domesday Book.



Battle of Hastings

England's population more than doubled during the 12th and 13th centuries, fuelling an expansion of the towns, cities and trade, helped by warmer temperatures across Northern Europe. A new wave of monasteries and friaries were established, while ecclesiastical reforms led to tensions between successive kings and archbishops. Despite developments in England's governance and legal system, infighting between the Anglo-Norman elite resulted in multiple civil wars and the loss of Normandy.

England under the Plantagenet



Black Death



The Peasants' Revolt



Wars of the Roses

The 14th century in England began with the Great Famine and the Black Death, catastrophic events that killed around half of England's population, throwing the economy into chaos and undermining the old political order. Social unrest followed, in the form of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. Nearly 1,500 villages were deserted by their inhabitants and many men and women sought new opportunities in the towns and cities. New technologies were introduced, and England produced some of the great medieval philosophers and natural scientists. English kings in the 14th and 15th centuries laid claim to the French throne, resulting in the Hundred Years' War. At times England enjoyed huge military success, with the economy buoyed by profits from the international wool and cloth trade, but by 1450 the country was in crisis, facing military failure in France and an ongoing recession. More social unrest broke out, followed by the Wars of the Roses, fought between rival factions in the English nobility.

1.1.3 The Tudors

The end of the Wars of the Roses and the crowning of Henry Tudor in 1485 after his victory at the battle of Bosworth Field marked the rise of the Tudors. Henry VII's largely

peaceful reign ended decades of civil war and brought the peace and stability to England that art and commerce need to thrive. During this period Henry VII and his son Henry VIII greatly increased the power of the English monarchy. Henry VIII also made use of the Protestant Reformation to seize the power of the Roman Catholic Church, confiscating the property of the monasteries and declaring himself the head of the new Anglican Church.



Henry VII



Henry VIII

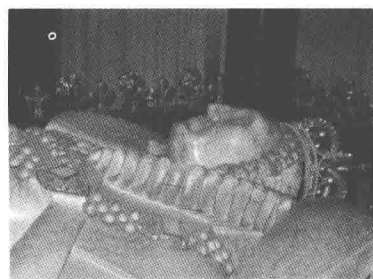
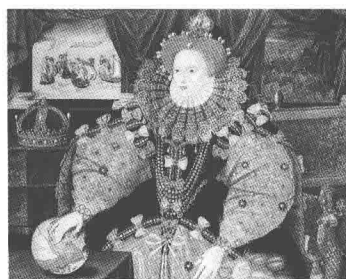


Queen Elizabeth I

Queen Elizabeth

The Elizabethan Era is the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603) and is known to be a golden age in English history. It was the height of the English Renaissance and saw the flowering of English literature and poetry. This was also the time during which Elizabethan theatre was famous and William Shakespeare composed plays that broke away from England's past style of plays and theatre. It was an age of expansion and exploration abroad, while at home the Protestant Reformation became entrenched in the national mindset.

The Protestant/Catholic divide was settled, for a time, by the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, and parliament was not yet strong enough to challenge royal absolutism. England was also well-off compared to the other nations of Europe. The Italian Renaissance had come to an end under the weight of foreign domination of the peninsula. France was embroiled in its own religious battles that would only be settled in 1598 with the Edict of Nantes. In part because of this, but also because the English had been expelled from their last outposts on the continent, the centuries long conflict between France and England was largely suspended for most of Elizabeth's reign.



Portrait of Elizabeth I to Commemorate the Defeat of the Spanish Armada (left)
Elizabeth I as Shown on Her Grave at Westminster Abbey (right)

The one great rival was Spain, with which England conflicted both in Europe and the Americas in skirmishes that exploded into the Anglo-Spanish War of 1585-1604. An attempt by Philip II of Spain to invade England with the Spanish Armada in 1588 was famously defeated, but the tide of war turned against England with a disastrously unsuccessful attack upon Spain, the Drake-Norris Expedition of 1589. Thereafter Spain provided some support for Irish Catholics in a draining guerilla war against England, and Spanish naval and land forces inflicted a series of defeats upon English forces. This badly damaged both the English Exchequer and economy that had been so carefully restored under Elizabeth's prudent guidance. English colonisation and trade would be frustrated until the signing of the Treaty of London the year following Elizabeth's death.

1.1.4 The Stuarts

Union of the Crowns

Elizabeth died in 1603 without leaving any direct heirs. Her closest male Protestant relative was the King of Scots, James VI, of the House of Stuart, who became King James I of England in a Union of the Crowns. King James I & VI as he was styled became the first king of the entire island of Great Britain, though he continued to rule the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland separately. Several assassination attempts were made on James, notably the Main Plot and Bye Plots of 1603, and most famously, on 5 November 1605, the Gunpowder Plot, by a group of Catholic conspirators, led by Guy Fawkes, which caused more antipathy in England towards the Catholic faith.



James VI of Scotland



Guy Fawkes Discovered in the Undercroft beneath the House of Lords Shortly after Midnight on 5 November 1605

Colonial England

In 1607 England built an establishment at Jamestown in North America. This was the beginning of English colonization. Many English settled then in North America for religious or economic reasons. The English merchants holding plantations in the warm southern parts of America then resorted rather quickly to the slavery of Native Americans and imported Africans in order to cultivate their plantations and sell raw material (particularly cotton and tobacco) in Europe. The English merchants involved in colonization accrued fortunes equal to those of great aristocratic landowners in England, and their money, which fuelled the rise of the middle class, permanently altered the balance of political power.

English Civil War

The English Civil War consisted of a series of armed conflicts and political machinations that took place between Parliamentarians (known as Roundheads) and Royalists (known as Cavaliers) between 1642 and 1651. The first (1642-1646) and second (1648-1649) civil wars pitted the supporters of King Charles I against the supporters of the Long Parliament, while the third war (1649-1651) saw fighting between supporters of King Charles II and supporters of the Rump Parliament. The Civil War ended with the Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651.



King Charles I



Oliver Cromwell

The Civil War led to the trial and execution of Charles I, the exile of his son Charles II, and the replacement of the English monarchy with first the Commonwealth of England (1649-1653) and then with a Protectorate (1653-1659), under the personal rule of Oliver Cromwell, followed by the Protectorate under Richard Cromwell from 1658 to 1659 and the second period of the Commonwealth of England from 1659 until 1660. The monopoly of the Church of England on Christian worship in England came to an end, and the victors consolidated the already-established Protestant Ascendancy in Ireland. Constitutionally, the wars established a precedent that British monarchs could not govern without the consent of Parliament, although this concept became firmly established only with the deposition of James II of England, the Glorious Revolution of 1688, the passage of the English Bill of Rights, and the Hanoverian succession. For the remainder of the century, Britain was ruled by William III of England, until 1694 jointly with his wife and first cousin, the daughter of James II, Mary II of England.

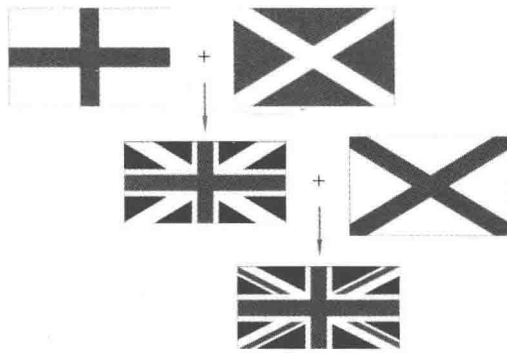
1.1.5 Rise of Empire (1688-1914)

Formation of the United Kingdom

The Acts of Union between the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland in 1707 caused the dissolution of both the Parliament of England and Parliament of Scotland in order to create a unified Kingdom of Great Britain governed by a unified Parliament of Great Britain.

The Act of Union of 1800 formally assimilated Ireland within the British political process and from 1 January 1801 created a new state called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, which united the Kingdom of Great Britain with the Kingdom of Ireland

to form a single political entity. The English capital of London was adopted as the capital of the Union.



The Flag of the United Kingdom Based on the Flags of England, Scotland and Ireland

Industrial Revolution

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, there was considerable social upheaval as a largely agrarian society was transformed by technological advances and increasing mechanization, which was the Industrial Revolution. Much of the agricultural workforce was uprooted from the countryside and moved into large urban centers of production, as the steam-based production factories could undercut the traditional cottage industries, because of economies of scale and the increased output per worker made possible by the new technologies. The consequent overcrowding into areas with little supporting infrastructure saw dramatic increases in the rate of infant mortality (to the extent that many Sunday schools for pre-working age children (5 or 6) had funeral clubs to pay for each other's funeral arrangements), crime, and social deprivation.

1.1.6 Modern Times

Following years of political and military agitation for "Home Rule" for Ireland, the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921 established the Irish Free State (now the Republic of Ireland) as a separate state, leaving Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom. The official name of the UK thus became "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

England, as part of the UK, joined the European Economic Community in 1973, which became European Union in 1993.

Demands for constitutional change in Scotland resulted in a referendum being held in 1979 on the issue of re-establishing a Scottish Parliament, though within the United Kingdom. Following a huge "Yes" vote, the Scotland Act 1978 was passed and the devolved parliament was elected and took powers in May, 1979. Following the Scottish elections in 2007, a minority SNP government took power, under the leadership of First Minister, Alex Salmond that is determined to move Scotland towards independence. The response of the main unionist parties has been to propose a constitutional commission to look at transferring more powers to the Scottish Parliament.

1.2 English People



The British people are mostly white people. But their forefathers were of different origins and came from different lands in Europe. When the British claim that theirs is a society of variety, they mean, in part present-day British people are a mixture of ethnic groups. Foreigners often say the “English people” when they mean the “British people”. But there are some people in Britain who refuse to consider themselves the English. It is true that people of English origin make up the majority of the nation, but there are also the Scottish people, the Irish people, the Welsh people, and some other minority groups. They all use English as their official language, but some of them retain their local dialects and accents. It is said that there are as many dialects as there are counties in England, and the King’s English is one of them, though it is considered as official and standard English.

In its narrow and historical sense, the term “English people” refers to the descendents of the English-speaking Anglo-Saxons who conquered the native Celts in England in the 5th century. The native Celtic inhabitants in England either intermingled with the Anglo-Saxon invaders or fled into the mountains of Wales and Scotland, giving rise to regional differences. The following invasions by the Danes and Normans, in the eighth and eleventh centuries respectively, added not only to the population but also the variety of characteristics. In spite of their different historical background, today the British people are well mixed for a national state and in this sense the three terms, the English people, the British people, and Britons are interchangeable.

Despite traditional as well as present diversity, the English people have their common characteristics—conservatism and deference. Conservatism consists of an acceptance of things which are familiar and an inclination to be suspicious of anything that is strange or foreign. There are many examples which bespeak the influence of English conservatism. The monarchy and the Upper House have been retained. The national song is still the old God Save the King (or Queen). English judges still wear long wigs in law courts. Though the feudal class is no longer in power, the monarchy continues to confer noble titles on distinguished persons. While there is criticism of the royal family for its large expenditure, the costly royal pageantry is still popular as a reminder of the past.

The wide influence of conservatism can also be found in daily life. Many rooms in England, for example, are heated by gas or electric fire, but their owners still spend money keeping dummy fireplaces which are of no use value. Britain was the first country to start the industrial revolution, but it was not until 1971 that its old and troublesome currency became decimalized after a century-old battle for reform.

Adherence to traditions and familiar things easily leads to public suspicion of new plans of the government, causing numerous protests in the country. Many English people took part in the protests against the construction of nuclear power stations, the new flat rate poll

taxes, and even the Concorde aero plane project. Today many English people are still suspicious of the European integration plan. In the realm of legal affairs, their conservatism helped to prepare the soil for the application of the English common law. It also relieved the government of the trouble to work out a single document known as the written constitution.

English conservatism does not imply a high degree of conformity in attitudes rather it is a kind of nostalgia of the past. As matter of fact, most English people attach great importance to local and individual character. Cities, schools, corporations and societies have different traditions and customs which they are reluctant to change. They like to think of their own ways of doing things as distinctions between them and the rest of the world. The same is true with individual persons. They tend to wear clothes of different styles, go to different clubs, have different styles of houses, and even speak different words with different accents. Many of them, knowingly or unknowingly, believe the saying that a person is like a tree in a forest; He is side by side with others but he should have his own character. In this sense we say English conservatism has something to do with English history.

Another English characteristic is what people call deference. English society used to be rigidly stratified and status-conscious. Everyone was told to be deferential towards those who were superior to him in wealth, status and power. The line from a famous English poem "Yours is not why but how" was a reflection of the demand for deference. Deference was once considered as the basis of social stability and good manners. But a new demand is definitely on the rise—the demand for equality. Many occurrences in England after World War II were due to the demand for reform and equality. As a result of its influence, the Queen is no longer exempted from income taxes. It also caused what has been known as the generation gap. The safe conclusion is that more and more English people have come to accept those doctrines which advocate equality, freedom and openness.

The British, and in particular of the English, is "reserved". A reserved person is one who does not talk very much to strangers, does not show much emotion, and seldom gets excited. It is difficult to get to know a reserved person; he never tells you anything about himself, and you may work with him for years without ever knowing where he lives, how many children he has, and what his interests are. English people tend to be like that. They hate small talk and refuse to express their mind freely. When they speak, they carefully choose the words appropriate to the occasion and their status. It's a point of honour with English people to behave well. They hate any attempt to make a window into the soul or poke into other people's private business. Many topics for small talk in other countries are under taboo in England. It is extremely impolite to ask an English woman how old she is and whether she has got married. To an Englishman, one's employment, marriage, family, income, and many other things concerning private life are not topics for casual talk. Gossips behind the back of others are considered as a sign of low breeding and back-biters are unpopular. To avoid the trouble of greeting each other, many people would just read books or newspapers while traveling on the train or in buses. The old golden rule for English children—to be seen, but not heard—was a reflection of the old social requirement. It was

this, in part, that made some people say that English society was filled with suffocating hypocrisy. A foreign diplomat said that he lived in London for 15 consecutive years but he failed to learn how to behave like an Englishman. This is an example of cultural difference, not just the way of doing things, but the young generation who demands more openness is less bound by the traditional values. They tend to show their feelings more freely.

English people are also known for their sense of humor. Its starting-point is self-dispraise, and its great enemy is conceit. Its object is the ability to laugh at oneself—at one's own faults, one's own failure, even at one's own ideals. The criticism, "He has no sense of humor", is very commonly heard in Britain, where humor is highly prized. A sense of humor is an attitude to life rather than the mere ability to laugh at jokes. This attitude is never cruel or disrespectful or malicious. The English do not laugh at a cripple or a madman, or a tragedy or an honorable failure.

English people are careful with their manners. Well-bred persons must be appropriately dressed for dinner and interviews. They are supposed to keep quiet and take good care of the tableware. Polite table-talk is necessary, but loud voices and wild laughs are considered as ill-breeding. According to the English rule, people should put their forks and spoons in place before leaving the table. They don't shake hands often, but they say "Thank you very much" instead of "Many thanks".

1.3 Geography of UK

