

## Dont' touch! We are English!

English people think that you should avoid physical contact with strangers. When they ride on an underground train or stand in a crowded lift, they keep themselves to themselves. They read on trains or buses so that they don't have to talk to people they don't know. They avoid eye contact at all costs.

Research has shown that the English are much more conscious of their personal space than other nationalities, especially the Irish or the Scots, who seem more at ease with physical contact. The English allow much less contact, even with friends. And they can be upset if you touch them unexpectedly. You should never, for example, tap an English person on the shoulder if you want to attract their attention. It's safer to cough or say: 'Excuse me?'

When the English meet people for the first time, they shake hands, but then immediately move further away. Other nationalities, Spanish people or Egyptians, for example, move closer to someone they are speaking to, but not the English. The English think you shouldn't get too close because it suggests a desire for intimacy. And they rarely kiss people they have just met at a party when they are leaving.

Read the text and choose TRUE OR FALSE.

|     |                                                                     | TRUE                                                                                  | FALSE                                                                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | English people avoid touching strangers.                            |    |    |
| 2.  | English people like to talk with other people on trains and buses.  |    |    |
| 3.  | English people like to look people into the eyes.                   |   |   |
| 4.  | Irish and Scots use more physical contact.                          |  |  |
| 5.  | It is good to touch an English person.                              |  |  |
| 6.  | To attract the attention of the English we can tap their shoulders. |  |  |
| 7.  | When English meet people for the first time they shake hands.       |  |  |
| 8.  | Spanish and Egyptians prefer to speak closely.                      |  |  |
| 9.  | English don't like people get close to them.                        |  |  |
| 10. | English always kiss people.                                         |  |  |