

Using nouns and adjectives: *Britain, British or Briton?*

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a The most popular country for Britons to visit in 1999 was France.
b The most popular country for British to visit in 1999 was France.
- 2 a The company is based in the Thai capital, Bangkok.
b The company is based in the Thailand capital, Bangkok.

To talk about things which belong to or come from a place, we use an adjective:

a French word Thai food Most of the students are Asian.

UK and US (not USA) are sometimes used as adjectives before a noun, especially referring to a company, a system or an organisation:

the UK government UK companies British food (not usually ~~UK food~~)
the US legal system the US government (not ~~the USA government~~)

The noun to refer to a person from a place is usually the same word as the adjective:

an American, an Australian, a German, a Thai, an Asian, a European

Some nationalities have a different word to refer to a person from that country:

an Englishman/Englishwoman, a Frenchman/Frenchwoman, a Dutchman/Dutchwoman
a Dane (Denmark), a Filipino (the Philippines), a Finn (Finland), a New Zealander,
a Pole (Poland), a Spaniard (Spain), a Swede (Sweden), a Turk (Turkey)

Briton is often used to refer to a person from Britain in writing and news reports, but in conversation we usually talk about *a British person/man/woman*.

★ There are some common informal words for nationalities, such as *Brit*, *Aussie* and *Kiwi*. These are not appropriate in more formal writing.

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Complete the gaps using the best noun or adjective for the country given.

- 1 (*Germany*) This could have a serious effect on the economy.
- 2 (*Britain*) Several tourists were injured in the accident, including four
- 3 (*France*) According to statistics, contributed \$5.4 million in aid.
- 4 (*Sweden*) The average drinks 7.8 kilograms of coffee a year.
- 5 (*China*) The population of is more than 1.3 billion.
- 6 (*Australia*) The scheme was set up by the government.
- 7 (*USA*) Machines selling fizzy drinks are to be banned in all schools.
- 8 (*Africa*) AIDS is the most common cause of death in many countries.