

First Impressions

Reading

Amy Johnson is an American who lives and works in England. We asked her to tell us about her first impressions of the UK.

One of my first impressions was that the UK is more expensive than the US. I live in Oxford and the cost of living, (rent, bills, food, etc.) is higher than in Ohio, where I'm from in the US. The only thing that is a lot cheaper here is healthcare – it's free to go to the doctor's or to hospital, whereas in the US it isn't, so you need to have health insurance, which can be very expensive.

I think you can eat very well in England – there's a wide variety of food from all around the world – Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Turkish, etc. – but eating out is more expensive than in the US, and the service is worse. Generally, I'd say British food is healthier than American food, and the portions are a lot smaller, too.

As for the people, I find British people quite pessimistic compared to Americans who are usually very positive and optimistic about the future. Also, when I'm in Ohio I talk to everybody: shop assistants, the person behind me in the supermarket queue, the person sitting next to me in the restaurant, but I can't do that in the UK – people are much more reserved. But, on the other hand, I think it is easier to make real friends here than in the US. I also find British people are not very good at telling you what they really think or (in a work situation) saying something negative about you. Americans just say things as they are!



Read the text and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 It is cheaper to live in the US than in the UK.
- 2 It is more expensive to be ill in the US.
- 3 Waiters are better in UK restaurants.
- 4 It's more difficult to make friends in the US.
- 5 The British are less direct than Americans.

Listening

Listen to five people and answer the questions.



- 1 Selina was surprised when she arrived in London because it was the summer but _____.
a the weather was bad
b there weren't many tourists
c the weather was good
- 2 David would like to _____.
a get a completely new job
b change the job that he has
c do a job he did before
- 3 When Ruth talks about Mamma Mia she doesn't mention _____.
a the actors b the soundtrack c the story
- 4 Ben thinks that women drive _____ than men.
a more slowly b less dangerously c better
- 5 Justin went to a karaoke bar _____.
a a long time ago b quite recently c last year