

## Infinitive or gerund: What defines Britishness?

Read the following text. Then decide whether the verbs from the box should be used as a gerund or an infinitive (with or without **to**) to fill the gaps.



ask      be (2x)      define-      feel      include      lead      say

The monarchy, the BBC and pubs are among the most important aspects when it comes to  
..... defining ..... (1) Britain, according to a new study. However, the pride of Britons in  
their national identity has fallen to an all-time low, with only one in five young people  
..... (2) they are "very proud" to be British, the British Social Attitudes survey  
has found.

According to the figures, shown in *The Sunday Times*, a third of people claimed  
..... (3) very proud to be British, compared with 43% a decade ago. The  
young and highly educated are the least likely to be ..... (4) proud of being  
British, when compared to older people or those with fewer qualifications. Penny Young of NatCen  
Social Research, which carried out the survey, attributed the drop to factors  
..... (5) the fallout from the war in Iraq and the faltering economy. "There  
was a lot of confidence in Britain in 2003, but now we are still recovering from the financial crash,"  
she said. "For some people, greater exposure to other countries through budget travel and a wider  
digital community can ..... (6) them ..... (7) what it  
means to be British."

Proud or not, almost three quarters of people (74 %) see Britain as ..... (8)  
defined by the monarchy. While 73% see William Shakespeare as the most important figure when  
it comes to defining Britishness, 73% also chose the common law system and the House of  
Commons. The British Social Attitudes survey has been conducted every year since 1983. The 2013  
study consisted of interviews with 3,244 people, of whom 900 were asked about their level of  
pride in Britain.

(Alice Philipson, The Telegraph, 13 April 2014; adapted and abridged)