

Read the article and do the exercises below.

The stereotype prevailing around the world portrays the British as dressing in inconceivably formal clothes, eating tasteless food, doing boring and leisurely sports, and having a specific sense of humor incomprehensible to foreigners. And also as a conservative, reserved and cold person. Indeed, the British are not the most open and spontaneous people. Undoubtedly, the unstable climate of the British Isles had a great influence on the formation of the British national character. Weather has been the main theme for centuries for “small talks” and for family conversations. Popular descriptions of British weather: “cold grey, warmer grey, gorgeous short burst of summer, grey again” or “gloom-gloom-hope-gloom”.

The unpredictability and variability of British weather made them so different from all of continental Europe. For comparison, Rome has an average of 2,500 hours of sunshine per year, London has 1,500 hours, and Glasgow only 1,250! The English coldness is a consequence of the cold climate. The inhabitants of the British Isles simply did not have and do not have the opportunity to communicate as much outside the home as southerners do, who have developed a café - culture. Bad weather largely explains the natural restraint and gloom of the British, the lack of unnecessary excitement in solving problems.

1. Match the adjectives with their synonyms

boring		particular
leisurely		dull
formal		slow
tasteless		official
specific		traditionalist
conservative		inconstant
unstable		bland

2. Divide the words and expressions into two groups:

formal clothes, unstable, the restraint and gloom, tasteless food, cold grey, leisurely sports, a specific sense of humor, the unpredictability, coldness, the lack of unnecessary excitement, cold

The stereotype of the British	The British weather