

# Starbucks, summer, and other things I ❤️ love about Britain



**M**ark Vanhoenacker, an American journalist who lives in London, says the UK's not just OK – it's paradise. **These are some of his reasons...**

## Walking

Britain isn't a good place for cyclists. But for pedestrians it is wonderful. When you walk on a zebra crossing, all the drivers stop.

## Banks

British banks are great – you do everything online, and you don't pay when you take money out of an ATM. And if you want to change banks,

the banks do all the work, not you.

## Drivers

The British are very polite when they drive. They don't hoot, and they are patient with other drivers. They always say thank you when you let them pass.

## Boots the Chemist

Chemists in the UK are wonderful, friendly shops and completely different from US pharmacies. Boots sells everything you want, not just medicine, and the shop assistants give you good advice.

## No ID Cards

Britain is one of the only places in the world where people don't have ID cards. In the US you need ID when you buy a drink, go to a club, use a credit card, or take an intercity train.

## Summers

I love British summers! A good summer day in Britain is dry and warm, but not very hot.

## Starbucks

Starbucks isn't British, of course, but I prefer the Starbucks in Britain. They are nice, friendly places where people read the newspaper and drink good coffee. And the waiters don't write your name on the cups – I feel stupid in America when the waiter calls 'Mark, your tall cappuccino with extra chocolate!'



## 4 READING & SPEAKING

a Look at the photos. In which one can you see...?

- a cash machine (ATM in American English)
- a cup of coffee
- a zebra crossing
- a driver
- a chemist /'kemɪst/
- a cyclist /'saɪklɪst/
- a waiter
- a pedestrian

b (27) Read and listen to the article. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false). Say why the F ones are false.

- 1 Britain is a good country for cyclists and pedestrians.
- 2 It's expensive to use ATMs in Britain.
- 3 British drivers are nice to other drivers.
- 4 Boots the Chemist only has medicine.
- 5 In Britain people don't have ID cards.
- 6 Summers in Britain are very hot.
- 7 In Starbucks in Britain waiters don't use your first name.

c Underline these verbs in the text. What do they mean? Compare your ideas with a partner.

walk pay drive sell give need  
buy use prefer feel call

d Look at each paragraph again. Say if it's the same or different in your country or city.

*Naples isn't a good place for cyclists or pedestrians, because people drive very fast!*

 **Useful words: Why? and because**  
Use because to answer the question Why?  
**Why** isn't Naples a good place for cyclists?  
**Because** people drive very fast.