



Read the text and mark the statements

True (1), False (2), Not Stated (3).

Social Etiquette in the UK

There are no strict etiquette rules that you have to stick to when in the UK. It is advisable, however, to demonstrate decent manners and respect to the local culture and traditions. The first, and most important step is to be aware of the clearly distinct nations which form the UK. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The citizens of any of these countries may be referred to as "British". When certain of heritage, you are free to call the different residents as follows: English, Scot, Welsh or Irish. When first meeting a Brit, he or she may seem reserved and cold, but that is just an impression. In reality, they are very friendly and helpful to foreigners.

A handshake is the most common form of greeting, but try to avoid prolonged eye contact, as it may make people feel ill at ease. British people are not very keen on displaying affection in public. Hugging, kissing and touching are usually reserved for family members and very close friends. You should also avoid talking loudly in public or going to extremes with hand gestures during the course of communication. Do not stand too close to another person or put your arm around someone's shoulder. The British often use expressions such as "drop in anytime" and "come see me soon". However, do not take these literally. To be on the safe side, always telephone before visiting someone at home. If you receive a written invitation to an event that says "RSVP", you should respond to the sender as soon as possible, whether you are going to attend or not. British people are very strict when it comes to punctuality. In Britain people make a great effort to arrive on time, so it is considered impolite to be late, even by few minutes. If you are delayed, be sure to inform the person you are meeting.

- A. Before going to the UK, you should learn the customs and traditions of the four countries it consists of.
- B. Any citizen of the UK can be called a 'Brit'.
- C. Great Britain includes England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- D. Hugging is a typical way to greet foreigners in the UK.
- E. It is a false impression that the British are unfriendly to newcomers.
- F. For successful communication in the UK you should learn a special body language.
- G. The British like some personal space during the course of communication.
- H. When introduced to foreigners the British usually look at the new person for a long time.
- I. After you are introduced to a British person you can call on him/her any time.
- J. The British are very punctual people and expect others to be the same.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

