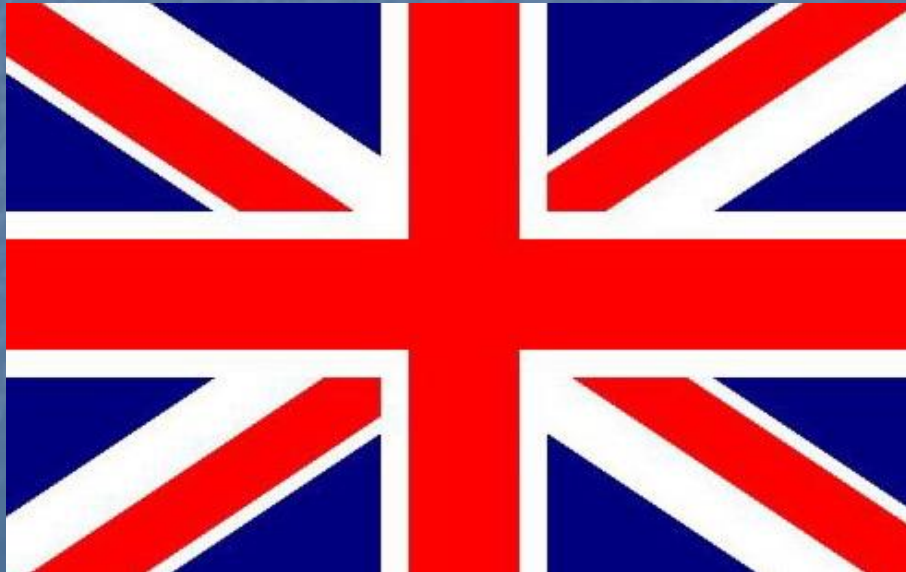


# **ENGLISH NATIONAL CHARACTER presentation**

**made by the pupil of the  
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# The objectives of the project

- a) identify the characteristics of the English nation for the acquisition of own experience and its application in the practice of life.
- b) to develop General cultural and intellectual skills , working independently with literature.
- c) to promote respect, tolerance and friendly attitude to foreign language and another culture.
- d) to gain additional knowledge on sketch portrait and lifestyle of the target language country .



# THE TASKS OF THE PROJECT

- to study and organize information, documentary and journalistic literature on the subject,
- to make such supplements to project work as "English proverbs describing the main features of English national character", "Idiomatice expressions used to describe the character"
- to make up the presentation of the project having selected information, photos, pictures , etc.





The national character describes the character of people of nation in general. Every person has its own character, but according to the person`s belonging to some nation, many traits of character are similar and these features may be defined as the national character.



Russian people are recognized as *generous, open-hearted, kind*; the Spaniards are said to be *noble* and *very proud*; the French are supposed to be *light-minded*, the Germans are very *efficient* but rather *dull*; the Americans — *boastful, energetic, technical-minded* and *easy-going*. There are certain stereotypes of national character which are well-known in Britain. For instance, the Irish are supposed to be *great talkers*, the Scots are not a very *happy* or *fun-loving* nation and have a reputation for being *careful with money*, and the Welsh are known for their *singing ability*. These characteristics are, of course, only caricatures and are not reliable descriptions of individual people from these countries. Nevertheless, they indicate some slight differences in the behaviour in these countries. So, what about English people?





**John Bull** is a symbol of the typical Englishman and is often drawn in cartoons or pictures about England. He was invented in 1712 by a political writer John Arbuthnot (1667-1735). He is a national symbol of freedom, loyalty to a king and country, resistance to any aggression. He personifies honesty, generosity, zest for life and readiness to fight for what he believes in. His size, rosy cheeks and plump face is a sign of prosperity and good health. His bulldog is another Symbol of the country



# The popular postcards from the “How to be British” series show various aspects of English reality from an ironic point of view.

*You can tell I'm British because...*



*I live in the past*



*I don't care what people think*



*I'm a different person when the sun's out*



*I'm not bothered about a bit of dust*



*I never refuse a drink*



*I don't speak a foreign language*



*I'm lost without my dog*



*I wouldn't live anywhere else!*





W. Jim in his "The Alien's Guide to Britain" says The English see themselves as highly controlled warriors with a strong, patriotic sense of place, tolerant of others, mild of manner and lovers of order, reason and eccentricity. On the one hand the Englishmen's opinion of themselves is self-ironed, on the other one- they have a deeply hidden respect for themselves. Being wise after the event – another exclusively English talent



British geographical isolation from the Continent makes the country and people different and helps to make up the **code of behaviour**.



The English live according to the principle of **non-interfering in other people`s** affair, they keep **the cult of privacy**. They always speak about the weather, but **never anything personal**.

# Strict Upbringing

The main principle – “**Don`t Spoil Them**”





**Strict upbringing** produces some good results. The English, in their time, were not only able to conquer half the world, but they were able to live there and consolidate their grip on it too.

## **Strict upbringing**

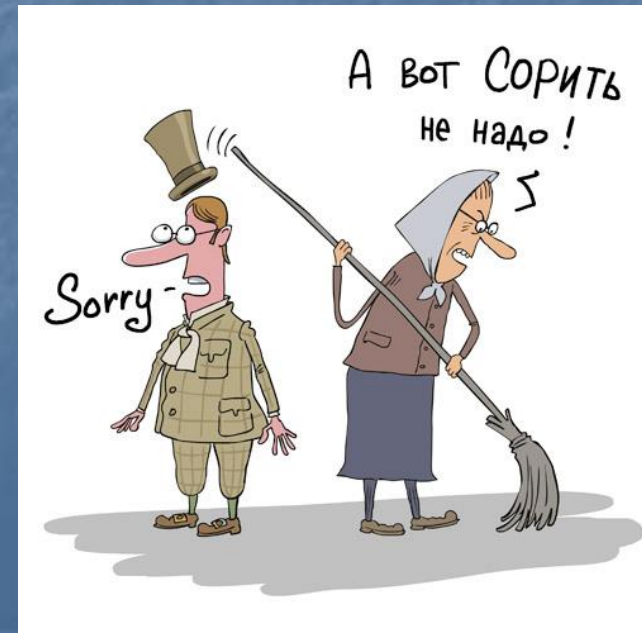


**unpretentiousness,  
reserve, desire to  
hide emotions,  
to save face**



# In England you can never say “thank you” or “please” too much.

All of these things— silence, hidden emotions, standing in line, politeness, punctuality, law observation, reserve, self-control, modesty, etc— is a part of the code that the English learn when they are brought up, another indispensable part of which is consideration, including in the way they express themselves verbally in relation to those around them.





# Amazing English Humour

The Englishmen have a specific sense of humour. Their humour is delicate.



# English Traditions

**“My home is my castle”**

**“There is no place like home”**

**“East or West – Home is best”**

The English like to live  
independently in their houses,  
they don` t like flats





The English are traditionally a **nation of animal lovers**. Almost each family has a pet.

Cats are especially popular because many people who live alone and go to work like independent pets. Other popular pets are dogs, birds, rabbits, pigs, fish and hamsters.





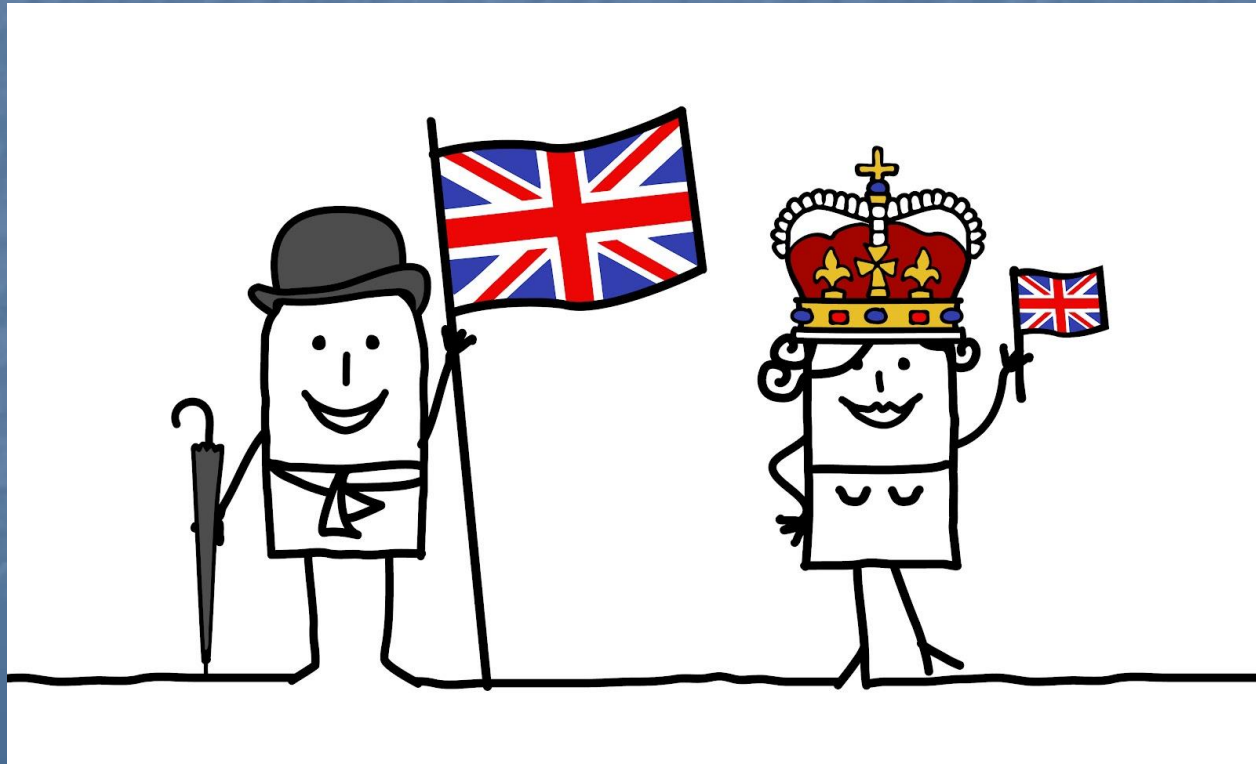
Some houses have large gardens, especially in countryside, with amazing flowers and plants. Gardening is a national passion and the key for understanding many aspects of their character, such as love to privacy and comfort. Mowing grass is also very important. Every Sunday morning (except for winter) they come out to mow their lawns. The British see an unmown lawn not only as a sign of laziness, but also as disrespect to others. So , hardworking , respect for others and not to be lazy – are also the typical features of English people.





A **cup of tea** is almost a symbol of English culture. All around the world, everyone thinks that British people drink tea every day at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. In reality, they drink tea at every hour of the day, from the minute they get up to last thing before going to bed. British people nearly always put milk in their tea. This seems strange to people from other European countries, who would rather drink their tea without adding anything to it. People in England are always shocked when you say that you prefer coffee to tea. Tea really is part of their cultural identity, whether we like it or not!

The most number of people thinks, that the Englishmen are **self-satisfied, self-confident, self-contained** and **self-important**. Their main characteristics are **self-praise** and **superiority**. But our research work shows, that Britons are **kind, hospitable, polite, humorous, pet-loving** and **restrained** people. So we can say, that there is no common opinion about them.





# Supplement I

## Proverbs describing the brightest features of English national character :

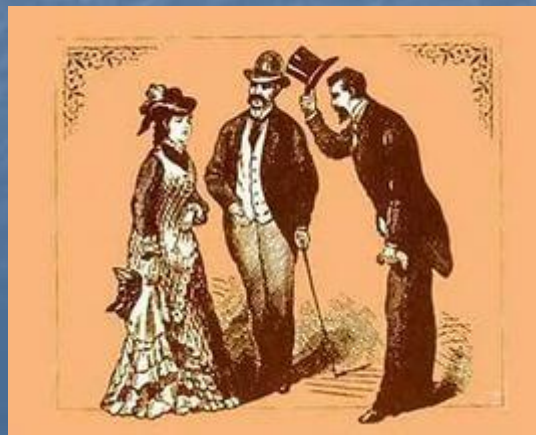
- 1. Actions speak louder than words.  
■ Английский: «Поступки говорят громче, чем слова»  
■ Русский: «Не по словам судят, а по делам»
- 2. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.  
■ Английский перевод: «Не смотрите дареному коню в рот».  
■ Русский перевод: «Дареному коню в зубы не смотрят».
- 3. Where there is a will there is away.  
■ Английский перевод: «Где есть желанье, там есть и путь».  
■ Русский перевод: «Где хотенье, там и уменье».
- 4. So many men so many minds.  
■ Английский перевод: «Сколько людей, столько и мнений»  
■ Русский перевод: «Сколько голов, столько умов».
- 5. He laughs best who laughs last.  
■ Английский перевод: «Лучше всех смеётся тот, кто смеётся последним».  
■ Русский перевод: «Хорошо смеётся тот, кто смеётся последним».
- 6. Jack of all trades and master of none.  
■ Английский перевод: «Человек, который берется за многие ремесла, хорошо не владеет ни одним».  
■ Русский перевод: «За все браться – ничего не сделать»,  
■ «За все берется, да не все удаётся».
- 7. No pains no gains.  
■ Английский перевод: «Без труда нет и заработка». Русский перевод: «Без труда нет плода»,

- 8. Live and learn.
- Английский перевод: «Живи и учись».
- Русский перевод: «Век живи, век учись».
- 9. While there is life there is hope.
- Английский перевод: «Пока имеется жизнь, имеется и надежда».
- Русский перевод: «Где жизнь, там и надежда»,  
«Пока дышу, надеюсь».
- 10. The early bird catches the worm.
- Английский перевод: «Ранняя птичка червячка ловит».
- Русский перевод: «Кто рано встает, тому бог подает»,





- 11. All is not gold that glitters.
- Английский перевод: «Не все золото, что блестит».
- Русский перевод: «Не вся блеска – золото».
- 12. First think, then speak.
- Английский перевод: «Сперва подумай, потом говори».
- Русский перевод: «Молвишь – не воротишь»,  
«Слово не воробей, вылетит, не поймаешь».
- 13. A friend in need is a friend indeed.
- Английский перевод: «Друг в беде – есть настоящий друг».
- Русский перевод: «Друзья познаются в беде».
- 14. Never say die.
- Английский перевод: «Никогда не говори: «Умираю».
- Русский перевод: «Никогда не подай духом»,



- 15. Tastes differ.
- Английский перевод: «У каждого свой вкус».
- Русский перевод: «На вкус и цвет товарищей нет»,  
■ «О вкусах не спорят».
- 16. Business before pleasure.
- Английский перевод: «Сначала дело, потом развлечение».
- Русский перевод: «Сделал дело, гуляй смело», «Делу – время, потехе – час».
- 17. Bad news travels fast.
- Английский перевод: «Плохая весть передается быстро».
- Русский перевод: «Худы вести, не лежат на месте»,  
■ «Плохая молва на крыльях летит».
- 18. Brevity is the soul of wit.
- Английский перевод: «Краткость – душа ума (остроумия)».
- Русский перевод: «Краткость – сестра таланта»
- 19. Don't trouble trouble until trouble troubles you?
- Английский перевод: «Не тревожь беды, пока беда не потревожит тебя».
- Русский перевод: «Не кличь беду, сама придет»,  
■ «Не буди лихо, пока лихо тихо».



# Character idioms

- All sugar and honey – сахар медович
- A man of means – богатый человек
- As slippery as an eel – скользкий как угорь
- As true as steel – преданный и верный
- Ball of fire – очень энергичный человек
- Full of beans – быть в хорошем настроении
- Man of his word – человек слова
- Man of parts – способный человек
- Move up in the world – быть успешным человеком
- Old friends and old wine are best – держись друга старого, а дома нового
- Quite a character – большой оригинал
- To be short-handed – нуждающийся в помощи
- To have green fingers – иметь способность к выращиванию растений
- To stretch the truth – преувеличивать
- To wear one's heart upon one's sleeve – душа нараспашку
- To zip the lip – не разговаривать



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- 4. <http://www.megabook.ru/Article.asp?AID=603603>
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- 7. <http://www.vokrugsveta.ru/vs/article/512/>