

Visitors to Britain are surprised by the strange behaviour of the inhabitants. One of the worst mistakes is to get on a bus without waiting your turn in the queue. The other people in the queue will probably complain loudly. Drivers in cars can become quite aggressive if they think you are jumping the queue in a traffic jam. People respond to queue jumping in an emotional way. Newspaper headlines describe anger at people who pay to bypass a hospital waiting list to get an operation more quickly. Queuing is a national habit and it is considered polite or good manners to wait your turn.

In recent years smoking has received a lot of bad publicity, and fewer British people now smoke. Many companies have banned smoking from their offices and canteens. It is becoming less and less acceptable to smoke in a public place. Smoking is now banned on the London underground, in cinemas and theatres and most buses, and there are special smokers' carriages on trains. It is considered rude or bad manners to smoke in someone's house without asking 'do you mind if I smoke?'. Public attitudes are reflected in 'Lonely Hearts' columns, where people advertise for non-smoking partners, and in advertisements for flats or houses to rent.

On the other hand, in some countries it is considered bad manners to eat in the streets, whereas in Britain it is common to see people having a snack whilst walking down the road, especially at lunch time. Britons may be surprised to see young children in restaurants in the evenings because children are not usually taken to restaurants late at night and, if they make a noise in public or in a restaurant, it is considered very rude. In Victorian times it used to be said that 'children should be seen and not heard', since children did not participate at all in public life. In recent years children are playing a more active role and they are now accepted in many pubs and restaurants. Good and bad manners make up the social rules of a country and are not always easy to learn because they are often not written down in books. These rules may also change as the society develops; for example, women did not go into pubs at the beginning of the 20th century because it was not considered respectable behaviour for a woman. Now both women and men drink freely in pubs and women are fully integrated into public life.

We may think that someone from a different country is being rude when their behaviour would be perfectly innocent in their own country. Social rules are an important part of our culture as they are passed down through history. The British have an expression for following these 'unwritten rules': 'When in Rome do as the Romans do'.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

- A - Answer these questions in your own words: (3 pts)

1. In what way has adult's attitude towards children changed in Britain?
2. Why is it hard to know about the rules of conduct of a society?
3. What does the writer mean when he says: 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do'?

- B - List four types of behaviour that are considered rude in Britain. (4 pts)

1.
2.
3.
4.

- C - Complete these sentences based on information from the text: (1 pts)

1. Nowadays less and less people smoke in Britain thanks to

- D - Are these statements true or false? Justify: (3 pts)

1. Britons complain about queuing.
2. 'Lonely Hearts' columns deal with personal matters.
3. Eating in the streets in Britain is considered acceptable behaviour.

- E - Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as: (4 pts)

1. react (parag. 1)
2. transmitted: (parag. 5)

II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A Circle the correct words. (4 pts)

Properties

As a busy (1) ~~estate agent~~ / ~~resident~~, it's my job to sell many different kinds of homes, from (2) ~~penthouse~~ / ~~factory~~ apartments to (3) ~~property~~ / ~~detached~~ houses. These homes come in all shapes and sizes. They might have a wonderful (4) ~~skyline~~ / ~~view~~ or be decorated in a very (5) ~~dull~~ / ~~damp~~ way. In the city centre, there are some very expensive and trendy properties, but you also sometimes see a lot of (6) ~~quality~~ / ~~poverty~~ and some people live in terrible housing. In other parts of the city, people live in (7) ~~enormous~~ / ~~cramped~~ houses with huge rooms and gardens. The properties which estate agents see in their everyday work might be very near each other in a city, but they are (8) ~~worlds~~ / ~~warehouses~~ apart in reality.

B Complete the sentences with these phrasal verbs. (5 pts)

~~burn down~~ ~~deal with~~ ~~make up~~ ~~speak out~~ ~~take off~~ ~~turn down~~

- 1 The pilot told passengers to fasten their seatbelts because the plane was ready to _____.
- 2 Why did you _____ the part in that new film?
- 3 It's important to _____ at work if you think something is wrong.
- 4 It's helpful if you _____ your mind early about what job you want to do.
- 5 In every occupation you have to _____ difficult situations.

C For questions 1-6, choose the correct answer, a, b or c. (3 pts)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 House prices in London _____ up every single year.
a is going
b go
c goes | 4 You _____ flats without security systems these days.
a don't often see
b often don't see
c don't see often |
| 2 When the firefighters entered the building, they _____ someone crying for help.
a were hearing
b were heard
c heard | 5 Jack _____ his job last week because he was always late for work.
a was losing
b lost
c lose |
| 3 We were having our final rehearsal when the lights suddenly _____ off.
a gone
b went
c were going | 6 She _____ on her computer when the manager came in.
a wasn't working
b not working
c didn't work |

D Use the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to make words which fit in the spaces. (3 pts)

- 1 These days you need to be very _____ to buy a house in London. *WEALTH*
- 2 I've never been inside such a beautiful and _____ house before! *LUXURY*
- 3 As it is close to a metro station and a bus stop, the _____ of my flat is ideal. *LOCATE*

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

Describe somebody you know who is either very good or very bad at their job.

A large rectangular box with a solid black border, containing 25 horizontal dotted lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box.