

STEREOTYPES of NATIONALITIES



1. Read the joke:

☐ HEAVEN IS WHEN
Your cook is French
The policeman is English
Your mechanic is German
Your lover is Italian
And everything is run by
the Swiss



☐ HELL IS WHEN
Your cook is English
The policeman is German
Your mechanic is French
Your lover is Swiss
And everything is run by
the Italians



- In this joke the British are regarded as being...
- In this joke the French are portrayed as being...
- In this joke the Germans are considered as being...
- In this joke Italian men have a reputation of being...
- In this joke the Swiss are said to be...

2. *Guess the nationality:*

1. arrogant; assertive; open-minded; materialistic; ambitious; progressive; efficient; straight-forward; practical; egoistic; anxious; fast food eaters; war mongers; in God we trust!
2. nature lovers; surf all day – drink all night; extroverted; sometimes shallow but honest; open-minded; love to joke; Crocodile Dundee types; sports lovers; meat eaters; bush fire battling
3. fast-learners; ambitious; progressive; efficient; materialistic; martial arts lovers; wear glasses; pirate and copy everything; cheap labor; drink green tea; eat everything that lives; smoke opium; prepare for world domination

4. vodka-lovers; modest; polite; introverted; reserved; honest; trustworthy; quiet; serious; diligent; very tall and blond; they love nature; sauna fans
5. disciplined; organized; competent; short; wealthy; workaholics; raw-fish eaters; suicidal
6. heavy tequila drinkers; impulsive; wear huge sombreros; religious; family-oriented; all women look like Salma Hayek; banditos; maids or illegal immigrants; lazy; never finish anything – not even revolution; great food (tortillas, burritos)

7. lazy; womanizers; Paella-lovers; extroverted; untidy; impulsive; bull fighters; always late; temperamental; affectionate; love to dance; nationalists; open-minded and warm people.
8. intelligent; modest; insecure; anxious; impulsive; billionaires, bombers and belly dancers, men wear beards and are womanizers; repressed women who wear headscarf; love celebrations and ceremonies
9. arrogant; religious; strong family relations; well-traveled; anxious; noisy; intelligent, know which side their bread is buttered on; argue over the price of anything; if people say something against them, then they are surely Nazis; God help us!

10. tasteless food; stiff upper-lips; ultra-traditional; thin; smoke a cigar or pipe; “fashionable”; deep thinkers; intelligent and articulate; fond of sports; there is no place like home; anti-American; anti-foreigners; God save the Queen!
11. mechanical; organized; no sense of humor; drink beer all day – beer-bellied; eating vast quantities of sausage; have never been late for anything in their lives, and would secretly like to invade Europe; follow blindly rules and regulations like “don’t walk on public lawn” and “before crossing the road, wait for the little green man to show even if there is no car in sight”
12. good lovers; best cuisine in the world; chaotic; irresponsible; introverted; selfish; cultured; do not like to work – prefer to strike; always surrender in war; don’t speak English; rude to tourists; anti-American; don’t respect religious freedom; God who?

13. Gigolos and Casanovas; even more chaotic than the French; passionate; pizza/pasta lovers; live with their Mamas; dishonest; fashion-addicted; mafia or gang members
14. rich; competent; serious; multi-lingual; watch makers; their trains always run on time; their diet is chocolate; live in wooden huts on the mountainside; each room has at least one cuckoo clock; secretive bankers hoarding Nazi gold and helping out corrupt politicians and gangsters; obsessed with the environment, cleanliness and punctuality
15. aggressive; rude; good tippers, big spenders; generally generous; open-minded; love their “babushkas” and the last Czar; either spies or communists; alcoholics (primarily Stolichnaya vodka); mainly poor – with a few shiny billionaires; buy football clubs around the world (mainly in England); love ice hockey and gymnastics; threatening nuclear war; love to secretly poison their enemies with uranium injections

3. Read the following statements about stereotypes.

Do you agree? Disagree? Are Not Sure? Explain your point of view:

1. Stereotypes contain a certain amount of truth.
2. There is no such thing as national character and therefore the idea of national stereotypes is rubbish.
3. The reason stereotypes exist is because people are afraid of diversity, change, and what is unknown. They prefer to cling to simple classifications, which maintain an old, familiar and established order.
4. Stereotypes are simply harmless sorts of jokes we tell about other nationalities or groups of people.
5. National stereotypes are dangerous because they may provoke racial prejudice.