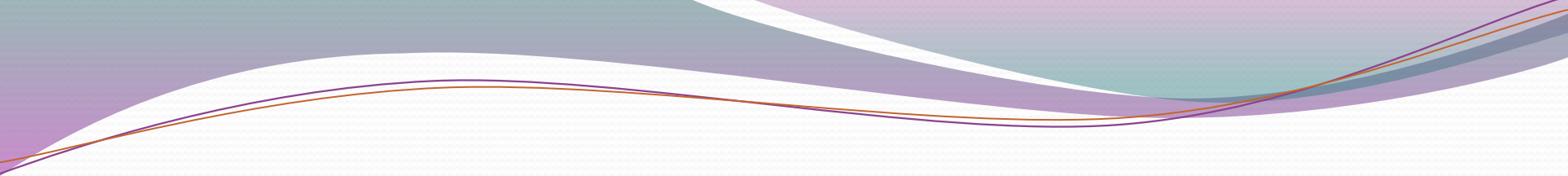


# NATIONAL STEREOTYPES

*A stereotype is*

“...a fixed, over generalized belief about a particular group or class of people.”

(Cardwell, 1996)



One **advantage** of a stereotype is that it enables us to respond rapidly to situations because we may have had a similar experience before.

One **disadvantage** is that it makes us ignore differences between individuals; therefore, we think things about people that might not be true (i.e. make generalizations).



# Stereotypes About Americans



● **Materialism,  
overconsumption,  
extreme capitalism**



*Perhaps the most popular stereotype of Americans is that of economic materialism. They may be seen as caring about nothing but money, judging everything by its economic value, and scorning those of lower socioeconomic status.*



## ● **Uneducatedness, ignorance**

*Americans may be stereotyped as ignorant of all countries and cultures beyond their own. This stereotype shows them as lacking intellectual curiosity, thus making them ignorant of other cultures, places, or anything outside of their own lives or the United States*

## ● Obesity

*Among the most popular stereotypes is that Americans eat an excess amount of fast food, and are obese. With 33.8% of the population obese, of all the countries of the developed world, the United States has the highest rate of obesity.*

*This is well reflected by the popular “fat American” stereotype.*





## ● Gun-loving, violent culture

*Americans have a long historical fondness of guns and this is often portrayed by American media. A considerable percentage of Americans own firearms. The United States has one of the highest death rates caused by firearms in the developed world. The international media often reports American mass shootings, making these incidents well known internationally.*





## ● **Arrogance and boastfulness**

*Many people see Americans as arrogant people. Americans may be seen by people of other countries as arrogant and egomaniacal.*

*American president Barack Obama said that America has shown arrogance, been dismissive and even derisive. American boys may be stereotyped as vain.*

# Unwarranted military intervention



*Another stereotype is that Americans “want to be the world’s policemen”, believing that the entire world needs their help, even if it means military intervention and civilian casualties. This stereotype was most likely spawned from historical United States military interventions, which many people opposed.*

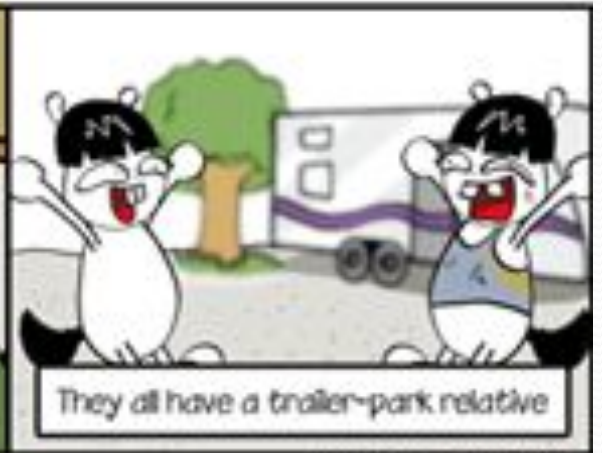
# Supernatural and paranormal

*Americans may be portrayed as believing in the paranormal or supernatural phenomena, e.g. psychic powers, ghosts, haunted houses, UFOs, and exorcism.*





# AMERICAN STEREOTYPES



[www.chinchat.comics.com](http://www.chinchat.comics.com)



[www.chinchat.comics.com](http://www.chinchat.comics.com)



- The most common picture depicting a typical Englishman is a man wearing a bowler hat and reading the Times newspaper.
- England is a land of beer, football and bad weather.



So here follow five stereotypes about English people which are false and five which have some basis of truth.

# TRUE: English people drink tea all day



Each Brit consumes 1.89 KG of tea per year according to 2009 figures and are ranked 6th in a list which is topped by the United Arab Emirates, followed by Ireland and Mauritania.

Of course, tea is the 2nd most popular drink in the world next to water, so Britons are not alone in their collective love for a cuppa!

# TRUE: English love to queue

- Although no-one in their right mind loves anywhere, many British people will state that they would prefer forming an orderly type of 'free for all' policy they may have seen adopted in other countries (although might be yet another stereotype!)



However, the record for longest toilet queue is actually held by the Belgians and occurred when 756 people waited in line to use a latrine as part of UNICEF World Water Day activities!



# TRUE: Britons are obsessed with the class system



- Although traditional class boundaries have become more blurred over the years, most Britons do tend to identify with one of the 3 main classes for better or for worse and although some claim that social mobility is greater now than it was for previous generations, evidence suggests that Britain unfortunately remains divided along class lines.

# TRUE: Britons love to celebrate Royal occasions



- This is definitely true as Royal Weddings and Jubilees are lavish occasions which millions of Britons love to celebrate by waving Union Jacks, organising street parties and donning fantastic Great British fancy dress costumes! Indeed, as 24.5 million viewers watched the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Princess Catherine on TV last year, if a Royal Wedding was held every week it would certainly eclipse viewing figures of 'EastEnders', 'Coronation Street' and 'The X Factor'!

# FALSE: Everyone in Britain is closely related to the Royal Family



- Since Britain has a population of over 63 million this is not the case, but some unlikely Britons in line for the throne include Catherine Laing; a West Country travel agent's wife and Chloe Felton, a farmer's daughter from Devon.
- In fact, there are only around 20 people in the UK who bear the title 'Your Highness' or 'Your Majesty' and around a further 70 who can claim to be members of the extended Royal Family or Royal Household; so it's a reasonably exclusive club!

# FALSE: It rains every day in Britain



- Although Britain receives its fair share of rain, in 2009 the UK received less annual rainfall than Norway, Switzerland, Japan or New Zealand.
- It's true that sodden citizens of Glasgow can expect around 48 inches of rain a year but this is only half the amount that the good people of Bergen, Norway can look forward to!

# FALSE: Pubs in Britain only serve warm beer



- Whilst some ales are still served warm, the popularity of continental lagers means that most beers served in the UK are now served cold. In fact, British lagers such as Carling and Tennents are marketed as best served cold and even Guinness stout has an 'extra cold' version due to popular demand!

# FALSE: Everyone in Britain has a plummy accent and talks like the Queen



- This is untrue as there are hundreds of distinctive regional accents across the UK and Standard English is itself a synthetic language amalgamated from elements of regional languages. For some interesting explorations of languages and dialects, check out the poem 'The 6 O'Clock News' by Tom Leonard and the song 'Cockney Translation' by Smiley Culture.

## FALSE: All Britons have bad teeth



- There seems to be no factual basis for this stereotype, dental hygiene in the UK compares well to that of any other developed nation. However, some British cultural icons do have very ‘unusual’ teeth; such as Rab C Nesbitt and Ken Dodd.



1st row: Alfred the Great • Oliver Cromwell • William Shakespeare • Michael Palin • Georgiana Cavendish • Walter Raleigh • Sting  
 2nd row: Elizabeth I of England • Bobby Moore • Margaret Thatcher • David Beckham • Harold Godwinson • Kate Winslet • Charles Dickens  
 3rd row: Pope Adrian IV • Daniel Craig • Isaac Newton • George Harrison • Jane Austen • Damon Albarn • George Stephenson



# 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!

Specimen - copyright LSP



# A map about German Stereotypes



The current German flag is the same as that used by the **Weimar Republic** which lasted from 1919 to 1933. The German flag is one of the few that refers to “gold” as being one of the colors as opposed to “yellow” and one of the few flags in the world that uses black as a major ingredient.

# ● Germans are very punctual



VALENTYN VOLKOV/FOTOLIA.COM

- **Germans are very efficient and love making schedules**



- **Germany is the country of insurance companies**



- **Germans are cold (Reserved is a better word...)**



# ● Germans love beer



## ● Germans love bread



And so, it's easy to note that Germans take their bread very seriously. But for good reason, because it's delicious! There's bakeries on almost every street and every train station, and some of them even open for a few hours on Sundays!



- **Germans love sausages**
- **Germans have no sense of humour**



## ● Germans are very unromantic



# ● Germans all have dogs



The German Shepherd

# ● Germans love football





- **Germans love rules**

- It's true. There're signs everywhere telling you what you can't do. Some of them can't be read, but everyone knows it must be stating something that is not allowed, whatever that may be.

# The toppest 10 Russian Stereotypes



- Beyond all doubts that the craziest country in the world is Russia. There, everything can happen. If you search on Google “Russia is” is funny to see the results. So here just the TOPPEST Russian stereotypes!

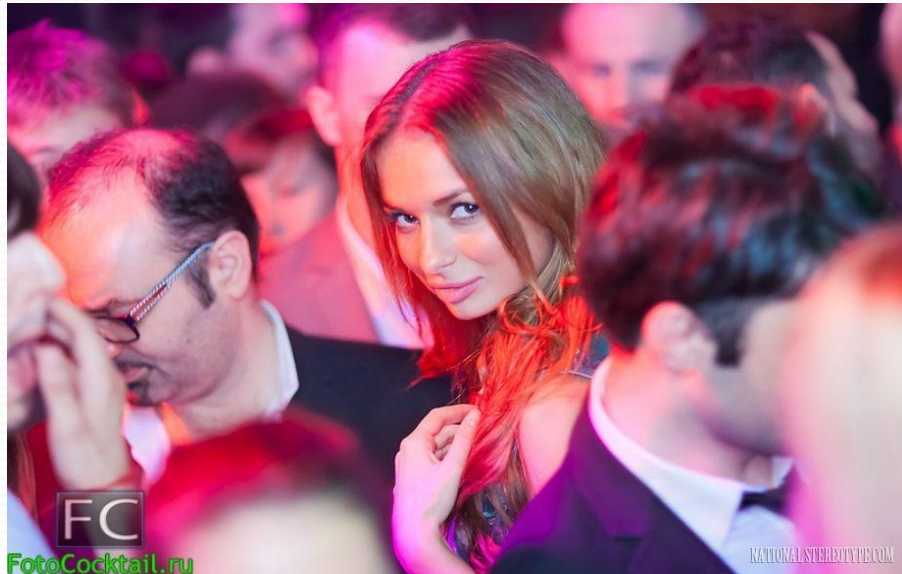
# 10. Russians are flashy



## Russian Fashion

When Russian people dress up, they go all-out. Sky-high heels, glittery miniskirts and fur coats on impeccably made-up girls, the latest in crisp, bright or loud men's fashion on guys. When they're not dressing to go out, Russian men tend to tone it down and wear quiet clothing, but Russian women keep it dialed up, always seeming as though they've stepped out of a fashion magazine.

## 9. Russian clubs are very exclusive

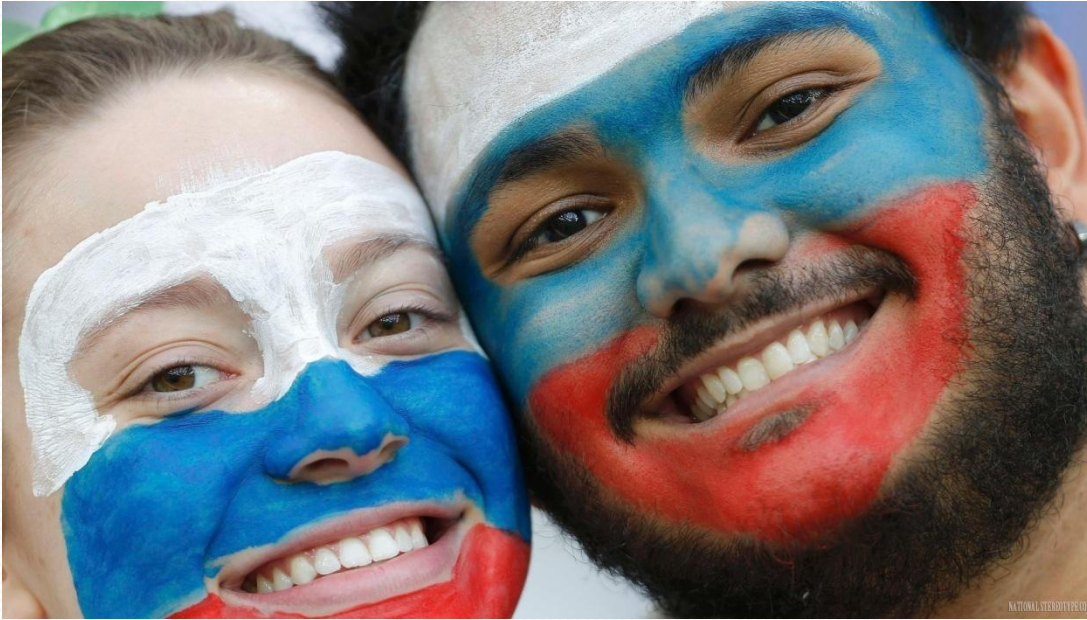


Russian Clubs

It's true, many Russian clubs, especially in Moscow, are designed for the very rich, with strict face-control and exorbitant "cover" fees – and that's before you have to pay for drinks! While it is possible to find some affordable clubs in Russia, be prepared to face high cover charges and even be turned away if you are not dressed up to the nines (see above). If you're not up for that, try going to a bar instead, which can often be just as lively but a lot less expensive!



## 8. Gender roles are alive and well in Russia



- Men are men and women are women in Russia... in every aspect of daily life. Men are expected to be very traditionally chivalrous, opening doors, pulling out chairs, and paying for the ladies. Women are expected to cook, clean and always look gorgeous – and not act offended when they encounter these kinds of attitudes. I'm not saying it's easy, but that's the way it is!

## 7. There's a lot of corruption in Russia



- Sad, but true... if you get stopped by police for a random check in the Metro and don't have your passport with you, or even if you're stopped for a traffic violation, police will often offer you a choice between an official ticket (and jail time in some cases!) or paying them off, quite a large amount that increases in proportion to the severity of the crime. And that's just one example. Any Russian bureaucrat – actually, almost any employee – can be bribed and often that's the only way to get things done.

## 6. Russians are blunt and serious



● Russians always have a serious face on when they're in public. It is considered impolite to express strong (especially loud) emotions around strangers. (Of course, this all changes in private, but that's a different story.) Russian people are also very blunt and will not beat around the bush; they don't tolerate small talk or niceties and much prefer to get to the point of a conversation. Except for young (Americanized) people, you will never hear Russian people exchanging "how are you?"s as they walk past each other on the street – this question is reserved for private conversations and demands an honest answer.

## 5. Russians are chain-smokers



- Although the Russian government is slowly starting to impose harsh anti-smoking regulations in an attempt to end the smoking epidemic gripping the country, Russia still has one of the highest smoking rates in the world. Expect second-hand smoke to be practically inescapable on Russian streets.

## 4. Russians are superstitious



Russian people have a lot of “superstitions” that are mostly habits – like “knock on wood” is in many cultures. Many Russians will sit down inside their house before leaving for a trip to ensure a good journey; they will consider it good luck to break a glass accidentally, and they will spit three times over their shoulder after they knock on wood. Most people don’t actually believe these things “work”, but they always – always – do them anyway.

### 3. Russian babushkas



- The babushka, or Russian granny, is a pervasive image in Western culture, and, good news – she exists! There are a lot of older women in Russia who look exactly like stereotypical “babushkas” – small and short with scarves around their heads, ready to run you down with their wheeled shopping cart.

## 2. Russian women are extremely beautiful



- Walk down any street in any Russian city and you will see that this is absolutely true. Young Russian women are gorgeous, and they are very particular about their appearance – most Russian women will not go outside without their hair and make-up perfectly done and their outfit, shoes and accessories perfectly matching. Even in the winter, you will see many Russian women on the streets in the following outfit: short skirt, tights, heels, and a fur coat.

# 1. Russians love vodka



- Almost all Russians are capable of drinking vodka like water, and most of them will always have a bottle in their house whether they drink it regularly or not. If you are ever at an event of any sort organized by Russian people, there will be vodka there, and it will be offered to you! It's not true, however, that Russians get extremely offended when you refuse a shot – it's more that they're surprised, because to them it's not at all a big deal. And of course, remember that just because Russians like vodka, it does not mean that they are alcoholics – they can just drink more than most other people!





- “I imagine hell like this: Italian punctuality, German humour and English wine.”  
– [Peter Ustinov](#)



- “I don't fit into any stereotypes. And I like myself that way.”  
– [C. JoyBell C.](#)



- “What we ask is to be human individuals, however peculiar and unexpected. It is no good saying: "You are a little girl and therefore you ought to like dolls"; if the answer is, "But I don't," there is no more to be said.”  
– [Dorothy L. Sayers](#)