



ROUND 43

What does being British mean today?

Source: BBC

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1. Vocabulary *Check the meaning of these words/expressions in the dictionary.*

💡 Today's Expression(오른쪽 링크 클릭) - [A Moot Point](#)

- Definition
- Example

QR코드를 통해 **A Moot Point**의 설명 영상을 보실 수 있습니다.



1. Britishness (noun) - the quality or state of being British; the characteristics and identity associated with being British.

ex) Many people in the UK still hold on to a sense of **Britishness** despite the challenges to national identity.

"Today the question of where the union goes from here is being debated and contested as it always has been, just as **Britishness**—the identity that slowly emerged in the 17th and 18th centuries—exists today as it always did alongside other competing identities."

2. Isles (noun) - a group of islands; a small island or peninsula.

ex) The British **Isles** encompass a diverse range of landscapes and cultures.

"The acts of Union that brought the nations together were both passed to secure these **isles** from foreign invasion, and British identity was also forged through war."

3. Knuckle down (phrasal verb) - to apply oneself diligently to a task; to work hard and concentrate on something.

ex) We need to **knuckle down** and finish this project before the deadline.

"We had to really **knuckle down** and get through these terrible times together, and they supported one another."

4. Pull against (phrasal verb) - to act in opposition to; to resist or work against something.

ex) The conflicting interests of the two parties often cause them to **pull against** each other.

"Or in such a changed world, are the forces that always **pulled against** the idea of union simply becoming too strong?"

2. Listening Drill

"Today the question of where the union goes *from here* is being debated and contested as it always has been, just as Britishness—the identity that slowly emerged in the 17th and 18th centuries—exists today as it always did alongside *other competing identities*. I've described myself as both Scottish and British. I'm a Londoner, then I'd say black British Caribbean, Northern Irish, or British. British and Scottish. I'm British but also English, Northern from Yorkshire, from Leeds.

Where we find ourselves today is a reflection of the fact that many of the forces that brought us together and helped build the United Kingdom are now *in decline*. British identity was always strongly linked to religion and the Protestant faith.

Yet, the United Kingdom today is one of the least religious states in the world. The acts of Union that brought the nations together were both passed to *secure these isles* from foreign invasion, and British identity was also forged through war.

We had to really knuckle down and get through these terrible times together, and they *supported one another*. I think that's the length and breadth of the country. We are absolutely at our best in adversity. But after generations of relative peace, are those memories still strong enough to hold us together? The huge industrial booms of the 18th and 19th centuries that spread wealth across the four nations are over, as is the Empire. While over 60% of us still see ourselves as British, that identity is one that today many people reject.

"I'm not British; I'm Scottish." "I'm a Welshman." "I'm Irish." "Totally English, 100%." "I'm not English; I am Welsh, for Scottish and European." Perhaps in the end, it does *come down to* history. Our long shared story—is it enough to keep the United Kingdom together? That history did, after all, create one of the wealthiest and most successful states *there has ever been*. Have we simply been through too much together, been united for too long, have too much in common for us to separate? Or in such a changed world, are the forces that always *pulled against* the idea of union simply becoming too strong?

The answers to all those questions and the fate of the Union will be determined in the decades to come by the generations who are now emerging."

3. Summary

Summarize what you have seen/heard in two or three sentences

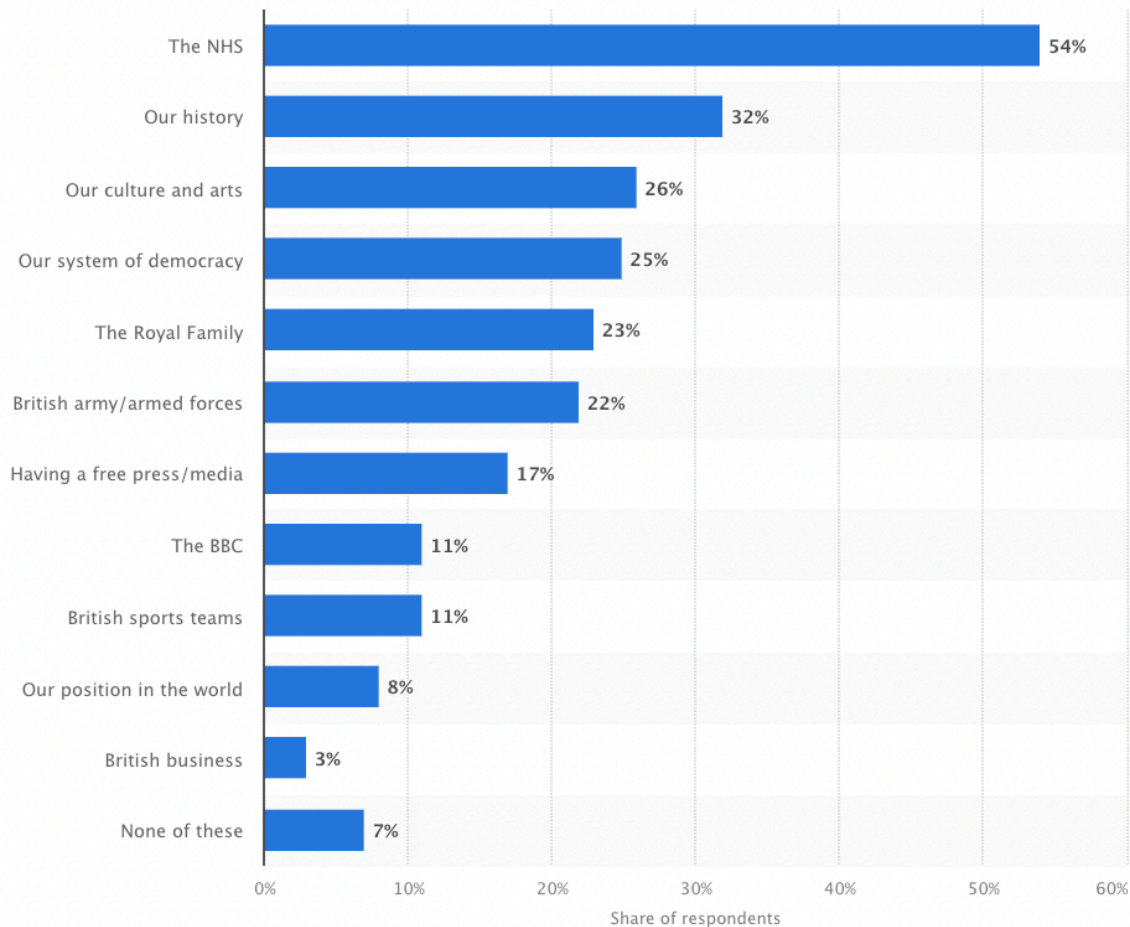
Tip.

Answer the questions using vocabularies that you learned in the vocabulary section.

4. Describing The Chart

Describe what is the general idea being expressed by the graph. Discuss it to your class. Try to interpret what you see in the chart.

Share of respondents who said the following aspects of life made them most proud to be British as of 2023



Aspects of life citizens are most proud of in the United Kingdom as of 2023

Published by Statista Research Department, Sep 6, 2023

As of 2023, the National Health Service was by a long way the aspect of society which made Britons the most proud to be British. With over half of respondents reporting the NHS made them proud to be British, this was significantly higher than the next highest sources of pride which were British history and the culture and arts.

Questions

1. What 's the take away of the graph?
2. What extra information can help you understand the graph even better?
3. Do you have any interesting findings? What's your guess about it?

5. Discussion Questions

Let's begin at the easy category. You are expected to have prepared your answers already before the class begins.

Easy

1. When you think about England or the British Union, what images, feelings, or associations come to your mind? How might these perceptions be influenced by factors such as culture, media, or personal experiences?

Average

1. In Korea, the concept of identity has evolved over the years. How would you describe the current state of Korean identity?

5. Discussion Questions

Let's begin at the easy category. You are expected to have prepared your answers already before the class begins

Average

2. Looking ahead, what aspects of Korean cultural or national history would you like to pass on to the next generation, and how might this contribute to a sense of shared identity?

Difficult

1. The video highlights the decline of industrial booms and changes in religious affiliation. How have similar societal changes in Korea influenced cultural norms and identities?

These expressions and idioms can **be used when describing various trends, changes, or patterns** in charts, graphs, or data presentations.

1. **Shoot up** (phrasal verb) - to increase rapidly and sharply
ex) The sales figures for the new product **shot up** after the marketing campaign.
2. **Plummet** (verb) - to fall or decline steeply
ex) The stock prices **plummeted** after the negative news was released.
3. **Level off** (phrasal verb) - to stabilize or reach a steady state
ex) After a period of growth, the demand for the product **leveled off**.
4. **Skyrocket** (verb) - to increase dramatically and quickly.
ex) The company's profits **skyrocketed** after the successful launch of their new product.
5. **Plateau** (noun) - a period of stability or little change
ex) The revenue growth **reached a plateau** and remained steady for several months.
6. **Fluctuate** (verb) - to rise and fall irregularly or unpredictably
ex) The stock prices **fluctuated** throughout the day, responding to market conditions.
7. **Bottom out** (phrasal verb) - to reach the lowest point and then stabilize
ex) The housing prices finally **bottomed out** and showed signs of recovery.
8. **Surge** (verb) - to experience a sudden and significant increase
ex) The website experienced a **surge** in traffic after being featured in a popular blog.
9. **Slump** (noun) - a sudden and significant decline or decrease
ex) The company's profits **suffered a slump** due to the economic downturn.
10. **Rebound** (verb) - to recover or bounce back after a decline
ex) After a period of recession, the economy **rebounded with** strong growth.
11. **Peak** (noun) - the highest point or level
ex) The chart shows that sales **reached their peak** during the holiday season.
12. **Downturn** (noun) - a period of decline or decrease in economic activity
ex) The industry **experienced a downturn** due to changes in consumer preferences.
13. **Accelerate** (verb) - to increase in speed or rate
ex) The company's expansion plans **accelerated** after securing additional funding.
14. **Slow down** (phrasal verb) - to decrease in speed or rate
ex) The production rate **slowed down** due to a shortage of raw materials.
15. **Flattening curve** (idiom) - a gradual reduction or stabilization of a trend
ex) The chart indicates a **flattening curve** in COVID-19 cases, suggesting a decrease in infection rates.
16. **Break-even point** (noun) - the point at which total costs equal total revenue
The business needs to **reach the break-even point** to start making a profit.
17. **Double-digit growth** (idiom) - a growth rate of more than 10%
ex) The company **achieved double-digit growth** in sales for the third consecutive quarter.
18. **Taper off** (phrasal verb) - to gradually decrease or diminish
ex) The demand for the product **tapered off** after the initial launch hype.
19. **Upswing** (noun) - an upward or positive trend
ex) The market **experienced an upswing** as consumer confidence improved.
20. **Hit a plateau** (idiom) - to reach a point of stability or little change
The number of subscribers **hit a plateau** and remained steady for several months.