

## **England for Beginners – Practical training at McLaren**

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Everyone has some ideas about England and the people living in the U.K. Everyone knows about the Queen and presumably prince Harry is more popular in Germany, than our Minister of Inner Affairs. Everyone knows that it is always raining on Great Britain and everyone knows that the food is horrible.

But which of those prejudices are really true ? Are Englishmen really those polite but quite distant people that we think they are? Is English food really that horrible ? How tasty is lamb with mince or chips with vinegar ? And why do English cooks never use salt ? How is the rainy myth affected by the fact, that the average precipitation around London is not higher than in most parts of Germany ? And basically: what is living in England about?

How is it to drive on the left side of the road ? How can a beer be ordered in a pub and what is the difference between ale and lager ? And why can some people sit in a pub without ordering a single drink ? What are the exact rules of cricket ? And when is a hat appropriate to watch a horserace ? How is every day's social life ? What is the correct answer to "how are you" ? And what happens when one does not ask that question ? When do you really need to queue ?



The lecture tries to give an answer to all those questions and will in addition reflect the experience I gathered at McLaren-Mercedes where I had a practical training. It will try to focus on the small but noticeable differences between two cultures. The aim is thereby to draw the audience's attention towards the fact that even though there is a common background those differences might well lead to misunderstandings. How much easier will grief misunderstandings occur, when the cultural backgrounds differ even more ? It is therefore very important to support cultural exchange, thereby train ambassadors between the cultures. It is also very important to scrutinize the own culture and try to get a more open minded view on it.

And therefore in the end, maybe it is interesting what Englishmen think about us. Be surprised, the answer involves David Hasselhoff.