
STEREOTYPES, PREJUDICES

Type of module	Creative communication
Level	A2+
Target group	16–19-year-old learners
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A kiadvány az Educatio Kht. kompetenciafejlesztő oktatási program kerettanterve alapján készült.

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A teljes programcsomag elérhető: www.educatio.hu címen.

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1.1 JOKE HANDOUT

JOKE

- 1 Read the following joke and fill in the gaps with the missing words or expression.

PLEASE, HONEST, OPINION, SOLUTION, FOOD, SHORTAGE, REST OF THE WORLD

Last month a world-wide survey was conducted by the UN. The only question asked was: “*Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortages in the rest of the world?*”

The survey was a huge failure because ...:

In Africa people didn't know what ‘ _____ ’ means.

In Eastern Europe they didn't know what ‘ _____ ’ means.

In Western Europe they didn't know what ‘ _____ ’ means.

In China they didn't know what ‘ _____ ’ means.

In the Middle East they didn't know what ‘ _____ ’ means.

In South America they didn't know what ‘ *please* ’ means.

In the USA they didn't know what ‘ _____ ’ means.

- 2 What kind stereotypical view does this joke attach to each of the above mentioned areas of the world? Collect adjectives to each.

E.g.: *If people in South America don't know what ‘please’ means they are likely to be **impolite**.*

Source: unknown

1.2 VOCABULARY CARDS

alienation (n)

to be alienated (v)

attitude of superiority (n)

to feel superior (v)

discrimination (n)

to discriminate against (v)

1.2 VOCABULARY CARDS (CONT.)

ethnocentrism (n)

ethnocentric (adj)

generalization (n)

to generalize (v)

hostility (n)

hostile (adj)

1.2 VOCABULARY CARDS (CONT.)

intolerance (n)

to be intolerant (v)

prejudice (n)

to be prejudiced against (v)

racism (n)

1.2 VOCABULARY CARDS (CONT.)

scapegoat (n)

stereotype (n)

xenophobia (n)

xenophobic (adj)

1.2 VOCABULARY CARDS (CONT.)

a feeling of being separate, a feeling of not belonging

belief that one is better than others are

special treatment (good or bad) based on race, religion, physical appearance, age, social class

1.2 VOCABULARY CARDS (CONT.)

belief that one's own group (culture, race, country) is better than others are

a statement that does not include details or important differences

anger, hatred, strong opposition

lack of kindness or understanding toward people who are different

1.2 VOCABULARY CARDS (CONT.)

a negative, unfair opinion about a person or group of people, usually based on limited information or limited experience

belief that an ethnic group is superior or inferior to other groups

A person or group who is given the blame for the mistakes or failures of others, promoted through the use of propaganda.

1.2 VOCABULARY CARDS (CONT.)

a very simple, often mistaken, generalization
about a group of people

fear or dislike of foreigners and strangers

1.3 POSTER EVALUATION HANDOUT

- Read the four posters and fill in the following questionnaire.

1 What do you think of the final outcome?

- a) Surprising.
- b) Interesting.
- c) It is what I expected.

Choose the most appropriate answer and give reasons for your choice.

2 Write the number of stereotypes in the gaps.

Poster 1: _____ positive, _____ negative, _____ neutral stereotypes;

Poster 2: _____ positive, _____ negative, _____ neutral stereotypes;

Poster 3: _____ positive, _____ negative, _____ neutral stereotypes;

Hungarian Poster: _____ positive, _____ negative, _____ neutral stereotypes.

Which category (positive, negative or neutral) had the most and the fewest stereotypes?

Is there a tendency in the numbers for all four posters?

Does the Hungarian poster differ from the others in this respect? How?

3 How do you feel about the Hungarian poster? Can you identify with most of the stereotypes listed in it?

1.4 VOCABULARY HANDOUT

- Match the words and their definitions. Put the correct letter under each number in the box below.

1 alienation (n) to be alienated (v)	A special treatment (good or bad) based on race, religion, physical appearance, age, social class
2 attitude of superiority (n) to feel superior (v)	B anger, hatred, strong opposition
3 discrimination (n) to discriminate against (v)	C a feeling of being separate, a feeling of not belonging
4 ethnocentrism (n) ethnocentric (adj)	D a very simple, often mistaken, generalization about a group of people
5 generalization (n) to generalize (v)	E belief that an ethnic group is superior or inferior to other groups
6 hostility (n) hostile (adj)	F a negative, unfair opinion about a person or group of people, usually based on limited information or limited experience
7 intolerance (n) to be intolerant (v)	G A person or group who is given the blame for the mistakes or failures of others, promoted through the use of propaganda.
8 prejudice (n) to be prejudiced against (v)	H belief that one is better than others are
9 racism (n)	I a statement that does not include details or important differences

1.4 VOCABULARY HANDOUT (CONT.)

10 scapegoat (n)	J fear or dislike of foreigners and strangers
11 stereotype (n)	K lack of kindness or understanding toward people who are different
12 xenophobia (n) xenophobic (adj)	L belief that one's own group (culture, race, country) is better than others are

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Source: http://the_English_dept.tripod.com/stere2.htm

2.2.A 'YES' HANDOUT – STUDENT A

The Big Debate

Is there any truth in national stereotypes?

YES – Part 1

YES says Stephen Spurdon. Every person has “characteristics”. To some these characteristics may appear annoying, funny, strange or threatening. And the same applies to nations, although many of the politically-correct brigade jump through all sorts of mental hoops in order to avoid uttering anything that could be thought of as a national stereotype.

But just because certain observations may reduce groups of people to a stereotypical image doesn't mean these observations are completely groundless. People obviously vary within one population or nation, but the fulcrum around which those variations occur will differ according to the country they come from. It is in these inherited ethnic and cultural characteristics that an individual is defined as, say, English rather than Polish.

But here we must move from the general to the particular and there can be no nation that has attracted as many stereotypes as the French. The Frenchman is a gastronome, a romantic, a majestic footballer or a cyclist with a string of onions around his neck. A diverse range of images indeed, but all of these characters are linked by the same sense of innate superiority, self confidence and irreproachable style.

YES – VOCABULARY

- Match the underlined words from the text with the following definitions.

1	<i>Noun:</i> a short period when you do too much of something, especially drinking alcohol	
2	<i>Adjective:</i> Believing that everyone is equal and has equal rights	
3	<i>Abbreviation:</i> Member of the European Parliament	
4	<i>Adjective:</i> so good that you cannot criticize it	
5	<i>Adjective:</i> language, behaviour and attitude which are regarded right and acceptable because they are careful to avoid offending some groups of people	
6	<i>Noun:</i> a man who behaves badly, causes trouble (<i>often humorous</i>)	

2.2.A 'YES' HANDOUT – STUDENT B

The Big Debate

Is there any truth in national stereotypes?

YES – Part 1

But the French are not alone in possessing a set of uniquely unpalatable character traits. Every nation has its own tics, traits and vices, and nowhere is this as clear as in international drinking statistics. The Irish are characterised as lovable rogues, the English as drunken hooligans, but it should come as no surprise that the country with the highest alcohol consumption per head is one in which there isn't much else to do.

According to World Drink Trends 2004, top of the alco- pops is Luxembourg, with the average Luxembourgeois consuming the equivalent of 12 litres of pure alcohol per person during 2002. The Hungarians came in second, while the Irish took third place, their famous “craic” bolstered by the veritable lakes of Guinness consumed.

In March 2004, Eurostat (the EU's statistical service) reported that in Ireland 52% of the population drank alcohol regularly in 1999, compared with 25% for the EU average.

Staying on the subject of alcohol, the English football hooligan is one of the most paradoxical of stereotypes, a loutish image that is hard to square with the ordered, tolerant image of English life. With conservative drinking laws creating a culture of binge drinking though – drink as much as you can before they stop serving you – and all of those typically English inhibitions to overcome, it's perhaps unsurprising that the English have become renowned as excessive drinkers.

YES – VOCABULARY

- Match the underlined words from the text with the following definitions.

7 <i>Noun</i> : a short period when you do too much of something, especially drinking alcohol	
8 <i>Adjective</i> : Believing that everyone is equal and has equal rights	
9 <i>Abbreviation</i> : Member of the European Parliament	
10 <i>Adjective</i> : so good that you cannot criticize it	
11 <i>Adjective</i> : language, behaviour and attitude which are regarded right and acceptable because they are careful to avoid offending some groups of people	
12 <i>Noun</i> : a man who behaves badly, causes trouble (<i>often humorous</i>)	

2.2.A 'YES' HANDOUT – STUDENT C

The Big Debate

Is there any truth in national stereotypes?

Yes – Part 3

Then there are the ordered Germans with their famously well-built cars, which are now taking over the rest of Europe's motoring industry. Brands like BMW, Mercedes and Audi are German brands through and through, but now even the cheeky British Mini is in German hands, and flourishing as a result.

The Italians, meanwhile, are personified by completely the opposite characteristics. Loud, passionate and emotional, possibly the greatest exponent of this Mediterranean way of life is political and business leader Silvio Berlusconi. There's no love lost between the Italians and the Germans, a fact proven at the highest level by Mr. Berlusconi in July 2003, when he declared that a German MEP would be "perfect" to play the part of a Nazi prison guard in a film. Many Italians rallied around their man, showing a distinct sympathy for the character who had built up an empire of television stations and publishing companies, and became chairman of AC Milan before moving into politics, attracting comparisons to that other great Italian stereotype; the Godfather.

All of this is to say nothing of the Spanish and their siestas, the Dutch and their liberal drug laws, or the Swiss and their moneyed neutrality. National stereotypes may not sit too comfortably with one's own advanced, egalitarian self-image, but it's clear to all that the facts and figures bear them out with uncanny regularity.

YES – VOCABULARY

■ Match the underlined words from the text with the following definitions.

13 <i>Noun</i> : a short period when you do too much of something, especially drinking alcohol	
14 <i>Adjective</i> : Believing that everyone is equal and has equal rights	
15 <i>Abbreviation</i> : Member of the European Parliament	
16 <i>Adjective</i> : so good that you cannot criticize it	
17 <i>Adjective</i> : language, behaviour and attitude which are regarded right and acceptable because they are careful to avoid offending some groups of people	
18 <i>Noun</i> : a man who behaves badly, causes trouble (<i>often humorous</i>)	

2.2.C YES – STEREOTYPES

- Fill in the table based on your text. (Note: the spaces marked with * you may only be able to fill in after consulting your partner who is reading another text.)

Nationality	Stereotypical view	Facts and statistics
the French		*
the Irish		*
the English / British		*
the Scots	*	*
the Germans		*
the Italians		*
the Spanish		*
the Dutch		*
the Swiss		*
the Czechs	*	*

2.2.B 'NO' HANDOUT – STUDENT A

The Big Debate

Is there any truth in national stereotypes?

NO – Part 1

NO says Rosie Carr. Are you Irish? Then I expect you had about 10 pints last night, before playing the fiddle and telling some brilliant jokes. If you're English, let me guess... you spent the weekend getting legless after a football match then kicked in someone's head. If you didn't, you must be a posh toff with a country estate who goes around shooting bunny rabbits. I beg your pardon, you're German? No doubt you've been working hard and barking out orders. And if you're Swiss, well, you've probably been doing something exciting like sweeping up the countryside (to keep it tidy) or mending a cuckoo clock.

National stereotypes are great fun. They provide the building blocks of many a joke and in some countries, many an ad campaign. The Germans appear to think the Scots are a nation of Scrooges-and they use this alleged meanness frequently in advertising to illustrate what a bargain their goods are by claiming that even a Scot would be happy with the price. The Scots aren't exactly thrilled about this portrayal and they're not alone in fighting a losing battle trying to shake off a dreadful image abroad.

That's the sinister thing about national stereotypes: they are almost always negative (stupid, drunk or beer swilling; lazy, lacking a sense of humour, or arrogant). They tell us nothing good about the stereotyped individual. And the irony is that we never believe the one about ourselves, even though we secretly think all the others are true.

NO – STEREOTYPES

1	<i>Verb:</i> to drink alcohol especially in large amounts	
2	<i>Adjective:</i> of a person who behaves calm and doesn't show his/her feelings in a situation where most people would become upset	
3	<i>Adjective:</i> strong, powerful, big, and impressive	
4	<i>Noun:</i> a man who behaves badly and causes trouble (<i>often humorous</i>)	
5	<i>Noun phrase:</i> of a rich person with an upper class or aristocratic background who talks and behaves in that way	
6	<i>Noun phrase:</i> a young man who drinks too much (especially beer) and then behaves violently and rudely	
7	<i>Adjective:</i> of a person who is not affected by emotions and determined to get what s/he wants	
8	<i>Name:</i> The main character in Dickens's Christmas Carol; a very mean old man who only thinks about himself	

2.2.B 'NO' HANDOUT – STUDENT B

The Big Debate

Is there any truth in national stereotypes?

NO – Part 2

The truth is that the Spanish aren't lazy, the Czechs don't sit around all day boozing, the Scots aren't the meanest race in the world and the Germans do have a sense of humour. Even Swiss trains don't always run on time.

If some races really are lazier and less hard working than others, wouldn't this be reflected in their economic performance? Take a look at Germany's economic performance over the past few years. It's annual increase in GDP growth is struggling to get off the ground at a rate of just over 1% – but does that mean that Germany is now the lazy man of Europe, and that Spain (or even Ireland) has nicked its crown? Ireland's growth rate is a fast-paced 7.7%, making it Europe's best performing economy – and Spain is growing at more than twice the rate of Germany, with an average annual increase of 2.8%.

If the Czech Republic was nothing more than a great big pub, it surely couldn't have become a top destination for tourists hungry to see its fairy-tale castles, stunning churches, golden rooftops and towers, spa towns and beautiful art collections.

NO – STEREOTYPES

1	<i>Verb:</i> to drink alcohol especially in large amounts	
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8	<i>Name:</i> The main character in Dickens's Christmas Carol; a very mean old man who only thinks about himself	

2.2.B 'NO' HANDOUT – STUDENT C

The Big Debate

Is there any truth in national stereotypes?

NO – Part 3

The French are supposedly arrogant, yet for all their high and mighty-ness, they are humble enough to give more than any other European nation to countries in need. According to the latest edition of *The Economist's World In Figures*, France is the world's third largest aid donor after the US and Japan.

Are the British really a nation of lager louts and stiff upper-lipped gentlemen? If England is where you get your head kicked in for supporting the wrong football team, how come it's Sweden where there are more serious assaults each year than anywhere else in Europe? (source: *The Economist*) Perhaps a more accurate depiction of the British is as hard nosed businessmen and women. After all, the London stockmarket is the one of the largest in the world and it towers in size over every other market in Europe.

Meanwhile, the Italians are clearly doing more than eating pizza, making love and exacting revenge Mafia-style, because if they weren't, how could their huge engineering, textile and chemical industries keep going? There's an old joke that says that heaven is where the French are in charge of the cooking, the Italians are the lovers, the British organise the music, the Germans run the factories and the Swiss manage it all. Meanwhile hell is where the Swiss are the lovers, the Italians organise it all and so on. If that's hell, it sounds good to me. After all, the Italians organise everything in Italy and it is, by anyone's standards, a fine country, with great food, architecture and art, whose history is littered with significant and important achievements.

Perhaps it's time we stopped perpetrating unfounded myths about each other and accepted that, like extended families, we've all got a mixture of fine, upstanding individuals, a few rouges and a couple of embarrassing aunties.

NO – STEREOTYPES

1	<i>Verb:</i> to drink alcohol especially in large amounts	
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8	<i>Name:</i> The main character in Dickens's Christmas Carol; a very mean old man who only thinks about himself	

2.2.D NO – TABLE

- Fill in the table based on your text. (Note: The spaces marked with * you may only be able to fill in after consulting your partner who is reading another text.)

Nationality	Stereotypical view	Facts and statistics
the French		
the Irish		
the English / British		
the Scots		*
the Germans		
the Italians		
the Spanish		
the Dutch	*	*
the Swiss		
the Czechs		

2.2.E BIG DEBATE FLASHCARDS

BINGE

EGALITARIAN

IRREPROACHABLE

MEP

POLITICALLY CORRECT

2.2.E BIG DEBATE FLASHCARDS (CONT.)

ROUGE

BOOZE

HARD-HOSED

LAGER LOUT

MIGHTY

2.2.E BIG DEBATE FLASHCARDS (CONT.)

POSH TOFF

SCROOGE

STIFF UPPER-LIPPED

2.2.E BIG DEBATE FLASHCARDS (CONT.)

Noun: a short period when you do too much of something, especially drinking alcohol

Adjective: believing that everyone is equal and has equal rights

Adjective: so good that you cannot criticize it

Abbreviation: Member of the European Parliament

2.2.E BIG DEBATE FLASHCARDS (CONT.)

Adjective: language, behaviour and attitude
which are regarded right and acceptable
because they are careful to avoid offending
some groups of people

Noun: a man who behaves badly, causes
trouble (often humorous)

Verb: to drink alcohol especially in large
amounts

2.2.E BIG DEBATE FLASHCARDS (CONT.)

Adjective: of a person who is not affected
by emotions and determined to get what s/he
wants

Noun phrase: a young man who drinks
too much (especially beer) and then behaves
violently and rudely

Adjective: strong, powerful, big, and
impressive

2.2.E BIG DEBATE FLASHCARDS (CONT.)

Noun phrase: of a rich person with an upper class or aristocratic background who talks and behaves in that way

Name: The main character in Dickens's Christmas Carol; a very mean old man who only thinks about himself

2.2.E BIG DEBATE FLASHCARDS (CONT.)

Adjective: of a person who behaves calm and
doesn't show his/her feelings in a situation
where most people would become upset

3.1 VOCABULARY CARDS

POLITICALLY CORRECT
to BOOZE
HARD-NOSED
SCROOGE
POSH TOFF
STIFF UPPER-LIPPED
ROUGE
EGALITARIAN
BINGE
IRREPROACHABLE

POLITICALLY CORRECT
to BOOZE
HARD-NOSED
SCROOGE
POSH TOFF
STIFF UPPER-LIPPED
ROUGE
EGALITARIAN
BINGE
IRREPROACHABLE

3.2 'WHAT ARE YOU LIKE?' HANDOUT

- What are you like? Complete the table about yourself.

My best qualities are... <i>(Write at least two.)</i>	
My worst qualities are ... <i>(Write at least two.)</i>	
I'm good at...	
I'm not so good at ...	
I like...	
I hate...	



- What are you like? Complete the table about yourself.

My best qualities are... <i>(Write at least two.)</i>	
My worst qualities are ... <i>(Write at least two.)</i>	
I'm good at...	
I'm not so good at ...	
I like...	
I hate...	

3.3 QUESTIONNAIRE HANDOUT

- Fill in the following questionnaire. Put an X into the box to show whether you agree or disagree with these statements.

		I agree	I disagree	I'm not sure
1	National stereotypes are dangerous because they may provoke racial prejudice.			
2	Stereotypes contain a certain amount of truth.			
3	There is no such thing as national character and therefore the idea of national stereotypes is rubbish.			
4	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.			
5	Stereotypes are simply harmless sorts of jokes we tell about other nationalities or groups of people.			



- Fill in the following questionnaire. Put an X into the box to show whether you agree or disagree with these statements.

		I agree	I disagree	I'm not sure
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3	There is no such thing as national character and therefore the idea of national stereotypes is rubbish.			
4	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.			
5	Stereotypes are simply harmless sorts of jokes we tell about other nationalities or groups of people.			

3.4 HOMEWORK HANDOUT

■ Complete the following sentences. Choose a 9th category and write a sentence about that group of people as well.

- 1 Men (are) ...
- 2 Women (are) ...
- 3 People living in a city (are) ...
- 4 People living in the country (are) ...
- 5 Old people (are) ...
- 6 All politicians (are) ...
- 7 Teenagers (are) ...
- 8 Manual workers (are) ...
- 9



■ Complete the following sentences. Choose a 9th category and write a sentence about those group of people as well.

- 1 Men (are) ...
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- 7 Teenagers (are) ...
- 8 Manual workers (are) ...
- 9

4.1 REPORT GUIDELINE HANDOUT

Your target group: _____

■ Read your classmates homework focusing on your chosen theme and try to answer the following questions to prepare a report.

a) Did you find very similar or different ideas about your target group?

Give examples for one or two interesting or unusual ideas if there were any.

b) Did you find any stereotypical ideas? If so, what were they?

c) Were most of the qualities negative, positive or neutral? Give examples for them.

Positive: _____

Negative: _____

Neutral: _____

d) What is your opinion about this survey?

Have you ever had any first hand experience about age, gender or other stereotypical opinion? Have you, or someone from your close friends or relatives ever been treated unfairly as a result of prejudice against their age, sex, clothes etc.? If so, tell the class briefly about it.