

10-18-2016

Phrase Comparison in England

Rhianna Mathisen-Jamrock
Linfield College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_fieldnotes_1617

Recommended Citation

Mathisen-Jamrock, Rhianna, "Phrase Comparison in England" (2016). *2016-17 Field Notes*. Essay. Submission 9.

https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_fieldnotes_1617/9

This Essay is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield, with permission from the rights-holder(s). Your use of this Essay must comply with the [Terms of Use](#) for material posted in DigitalCommons@Linfield, or with other stated terms (such as a Creative Commons license) indicated in the record and/or on the work itself. For more information, or if you have questions about permitted uses, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.

Rhianna Mathisen

Nottingham, England

October 18, 2016

Phrase Comparison

Upon coming to England, I had several preconceived notions that I tried to get rid of as soon as possible – although some preconceived notions could not exactly be entirely removed, which I learned shortly after witnessing three English students argue over the best way to prepare tea (an argument which didn't really end with a solid consensus, except that you should never leave the bag in and you should put the sugar and cream in after you pour the water). One student that I met with laid several things to rest, at least from her perspective, about cultural norms and the similarities and differences between our cultures.

Several things that seem to be incredibly popular here are American television shows, American music, and baking shows (Bake Off, specifically. Apparently, it's far more peaceful than our cooking shows). One funny difference that I found was in the language. The person I interviewed and I compared many phrases that Americans use versus the ones that people in the UK use and had a good laugh about it because it all sounds so strange. The other surprising thing that I found was that our cultures aren't quite as different as I thought. The girl I spoke to told me about her family life and why she chose to enroll at the university. Culturally, it didn't feel that different from anyone I'd met prior to coming to England. However, in her interview as well as my daily interactions with people, I found that people here are a lot less extroverted as I'm used to. In fact, oddly enough, even though I'm considered an introvert in every sense of the word, I feel more outgoing than I ever have in my life.

But regardless of the differences and similarities that I've already noticed and asked about,

every day I'm learning more and more about their culture – like which side of the sidewalk that people walk on (which doesn't matter unless you're on stairs... always go left on stairs), or how you might always feel like you're in people's way but in reality if you don't constantly dodge people, they won't crash into you because that's how everyone walks here. Every day is a new adventure, and I'm glad of the friends that I've made and the experience that I'm gaining just by immersing myself in a new culture.