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Brit-Think, Ameri-Think: A Transatlantic Survival Guide, Revised Edition



Synopsis

When it comes to understanding the great cultural ocean that divides Brits and Yanks, it's not just our vocabulary but also our attitudes that differ. This irreverent guide surveys a whole gamut of British-American divergences, from sex to food, from pets to religion, from sports to money, and from war to-most divergent of all-humor. Entertaining and invaluable, Brit-Think, Ameri-Think has been updated to reflect changes in political, cultural, and social trends, and includes new chapters on cultural icons Oprah Winfrey and Bridget Jones, and on Brit-cool vs. Ameri-cool.

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Customer Reviews

An American broadcaster and journalist who lives in London with her British husband, Walmsley observes that Yanks and Brits have distinctly different "attitudes and aspirations." Here she catalogues some of those differences, and the subjects include pets ("What Joan Collins is to Yanks' fantasies, sheepdogs are to Brits' "); humor ("The vastly popular Johnny Carson Show laid a U.K. egg"); sports (cricket is "an exercise of such subtlety that only life long devotees can tell when the ball is actually in play"); consumerism ("British salespeople are very attached to merchandise and try hard to keep it in the store"); and public appeal ("To succeed in America, you have to be 'cute' "). Walmsley also covers sex, death, religion, war, television and ice cream ("the Great Levelerthe Yank version of pubs"). This is a fine, funny guide from a perceptive humorist. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A candid and humorous look at the way Americans and British view life from different perspectives...combining clever quips with the humour found on both sides of the Atlantic." – The Washington Post "A funny, shrewd book." – Alastair Cooke

Although a bit dated, this summary of the differences between the British and Americans is witty, clever, and in my experience, quite accurate. As an American married to a Brit, I gleaned that what I had perceived as individual differences were actually related more to culture than personality. I saw many examples of this, but one that stood out for me involved Walmsley's description of Brits eschewing foods "mum" didn't give them in early childhood. I now see my husband's avoidance of new food and novel dishes as an aspect of his culture rather than as personal aversion to change. We expect there to be fewer differences between us, because we think we speak a common language, but even that has words and phrases that demand translation. The book is short, easy to read, informative, and entertaining.

Pretty good read. I bought this one after reading *Almost French* while on vacation in France and thought it gave me some good insights into French culture. This does a pretty good job of highlighting the differences between the two cultures. It had me (american) and my wife (english) laughing out loud on planes and cracking up as some of it is just so true. It's a little dated in places (palm pilot) but most of it does hold really true. American's love their health and their wealth. The brits all about fair-play and good manners. Tons of good insights if you're looking to understand the two cultures. Although I'm not sure about the ice-cream....brits love that almost as much I think!

A must read for anyone who thinks that Americans are just Brits with a different accent or vice versa. This book makes you realise that Brits and Americans are genetically different species through the examination of attitudes to all sorts of everyday things eg British attitude to choice is that too much is confusing/bad for you/vulgar. American attitude is that you can't have enough choice - why have 3 flavors of ice-cream when you can have 37. If you are an ex-pat this book is a must read. Also a great buy as a general amusing gift as it is a very light read.

This book creases me up. As an angry young man growing up in England, it was fashionable to rage against the cultural imperialism of the folks with whom we share something of a common language but actually surprisingly little culture across the water. Now I thoroughly enjoy visiting the US and doing most of my business with Americans - and I put some of the fun and success I've had

doing that down to this book. It was bought for me by an all-american gal with the words 'Hugh, read this if you want us get along!' (by the way that's 'get along' not 'get on' - just one example of a potential pitfall for the unwary!). Thank you Marly - and I hereby pass on your commendation to anyone else who's trying to have business or personal relationship across the atlantic divide!

This book was a delight to read, especially if you've spent any time at all living "across the pond", (i.e. the Atlantic Ocean.) I spent five years in England, and it is always a fun to have my memories stirred up about my experiences over there. We are so alike, yet so different. This book helps to draw the line, and maybe understand each other a bit more. I loved all the comparisons, and think this has to be a must for anyone who enjoys spending time getting to know the people of Great Britain.

Easy to pick up and read a few pages, then pick up again a couple of days later and read more. No heavy reading here - just some momentary fun. I got an odd copy - the outside edge of every page was trimmed into the last letter of each line, so I had to guess what words were on occasion.

Its hard to give an authoritative rating since I'll need to test the knowledge against other sources and such. I did not realize how old this was originally, noting the revised date of 2003 rather than the original date of 1986. This explains some of the dated feel of the more familiar American material, and lack of impact of recent events and technology. A few references are inserted but seem to break with the flow. The information is broken into nice small sections making it easier to remember and reference. The writing is interesting, often making memorable facts through subdued exaggeration.

Just ok

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