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**UK and US Personality 英国和美国人的性格**

**Finn:** This is Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English. I'm Finn, and with me today is Jean.

**Jean:** 在我们的《英国问答》节目中，我们为大家解答有关英国生活与文化的一些问题。

**Finn:** We certainly do, and today we have a question from Jen in Beijing about the differences in personality between British and American people.

**Insert**

*It is said that British people compared to American people, they are more indifferent, like not looking straight into people's eyes or not delving into other people's private things – I want to ask whether it is true or not.*

**Jean:** Jen 想问的就是，英国人在说话的时候是不是并不很直接，也很少太多涉及个人的话题 – 因为她听说英国人比美国人要冷淡一些 **indifferent**。 **Do you think so Finn?**

**Finn:** Well I think it's a good question Jean. But firstly – this word 'indifferent' might not be the best choice here. I think that Jen might have meant a word like 'reserved'.

**Jean:** 有保留的、谨慎的 **reserved** 可能是 Jen 想表达的意思。一般来讲我们可以说谁是 **indifferent to something** 或者 **indifferent about something**, 而不是不管对什么都是完全的冷淡冷漠不关心。比如说 **I am indifferent to apples**.

**Finn:** Apples, really? Anyway let's get back to Jen's question. To get an idea we spoke to a few Americans in Britain, and also British people who lived in America. First we spoke to Ben.

**Insert**

*What's important is to consider the geography in Britain or in America as to where people live. London is a big city like anything else, very similar to New York as far as the make up of the people. People have their own business, don't necessarily want to go out of their way to make acquaintance with someone. But I found the country pubs where I spent most of the first week since I'm on*

*holiday over here, I found that to be a really welcoming, open place, much less guarded.*

Jean: Ben 他认为居住在伦敦或者纽约的人们一般来说都很忙 – 他们都有自己的事业，很少下很大的功夫去结交新朋友。

Finn: He said they don't go out of their way to make new friends – that means they don't try too hard – but if you are in the country then people are much more friendly.

Jean: Especially the country pubs! 所以他认为英国和美国国内的城市与乡村的差异比这两国之间的不同还要大。

Finn: That's right, so if you find Londoners just a little bit unfriendly, perhaps you could visit the country where people are more welcoming.

Jean: 更友好好客。

Finn: And less guarded.

Jean: 更少一点保守谨慎。

Finn: Right, now, we also spoke to Val. She's a British woman with an American father who lived in the States for many years. Did she think Americans were more open?

### **Insert**

*Probably there I'd find people superficially more open, like chatting to you on the streets and on public transport. And even things like your neighbours, my parents have lived here for 17 years and they don't really know their neighbours here, whereas there they might not have known them very well but you still say hi and still come around and say how are you doing, even if it's a very superficial relationship.*

Jean: 有趣的是，Val 觉得美国人更为 open 更开放一些，不过这有的时候是一种表面的开放。

Finn: Yes – she uses the word superficial.

Jean: 表面的 – 原来她觉得美国人在表面上是更友好一些。

Finn: This is Ask About Britain and today we're talking about differences between the American and the British personality. Next, we're going to hear from Jay who is an American who's lived in Britain for many years.

Jean: 他认为美国人比英国人更开朗 outgoing，而且他也对他的这个说法做了一个解释，what does he think Finn?

Finn: Now this is interesting – he thinks that British people are less outgoing because they live on a small island.

## Insert

*I think that Americans are probably more outgoing than Britons, but you have to remember Britain is of course a fairly small island and it's cut off from the rest of Europe, and I think that anything resembling a British culture, if we can call it that, is based in part around this island mentality.*

Finn: This is an interesting idea – he says Britain is cut off from the rest of Europe.

Jean: It's cut off 和欧洲其它地方隔绝。

Finn: And therefore this affects people's mentality – he says British people have an island mentality.

Jean: An island mentality 岛国意识。Do you have an island mentality Finn?

Finn: Ooh, I don't know how to answer that! I hope not, but then I did grow up on a small island Jean.

Jean: 在我们今天的节目当中我们一起来探讨了一下美国人和英国人在性格上的不同 – 希望大家也从中得到了有趣有益的一些学习。如果大家就英国的文化和生活有任何问题的话，你可以给我们发邮件过来。我们的邮箱就是 [chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:chinaelt@bbc.co.uk).

Finn: So, until next time, bye bye!

Jean: Bye!

## Glossary

indifferent 冷漠的	reserved 谨慎的
to go out of your way 去竭尽全力	guarded 保守谨慎的
superficial 表面的	outgoing 开朗的
cut off 隔绝	island mentality 岛国意识