

How To Be British POLITENESS

Ex 1. Read the text below and check with a partner if you understand the expressions in bold.
Ex 2. When will you say 'After you' or 'Allow me'?

Politeness

In order to be a popular guest, and to make a good impression on his British hosts, the foreign visitor needs to learn how to **apologise**. In the street. On the bus. At the hairdresser's. In the bedroom. Going out and coming in. *Sorry* is one of the most important words in the vocabulary of any true Brit. And it's a word which **should be always on the lips** of any foreigner moving amongst us. *Sorry* **prepares a path, excuses faults, calms nerves** and **wipes the slate clean** so that we can all **be jolly together** and **not get upset**. Together with 'sorry', the words 'Please' and 'Thank you' are perhaps the most useful in any foreign visitor's lexicon. 'Please' belongs to a family of words that includes *pleasant, pleasure* and *pleasing*, which is further proof that it's nice to be polite. 'Thank' comes from the Old English *thanc*, which has the same root as the word *think*. Thus, being polite is the same as being thoughtful!

Expressions to learn:

After you.

Allow me.

Avoid saying



...what you really think.

PHOTOCOPIABLE

Adapted from How To Be British by Martyn Ford and Peter Legon, Lee Gone Publications.