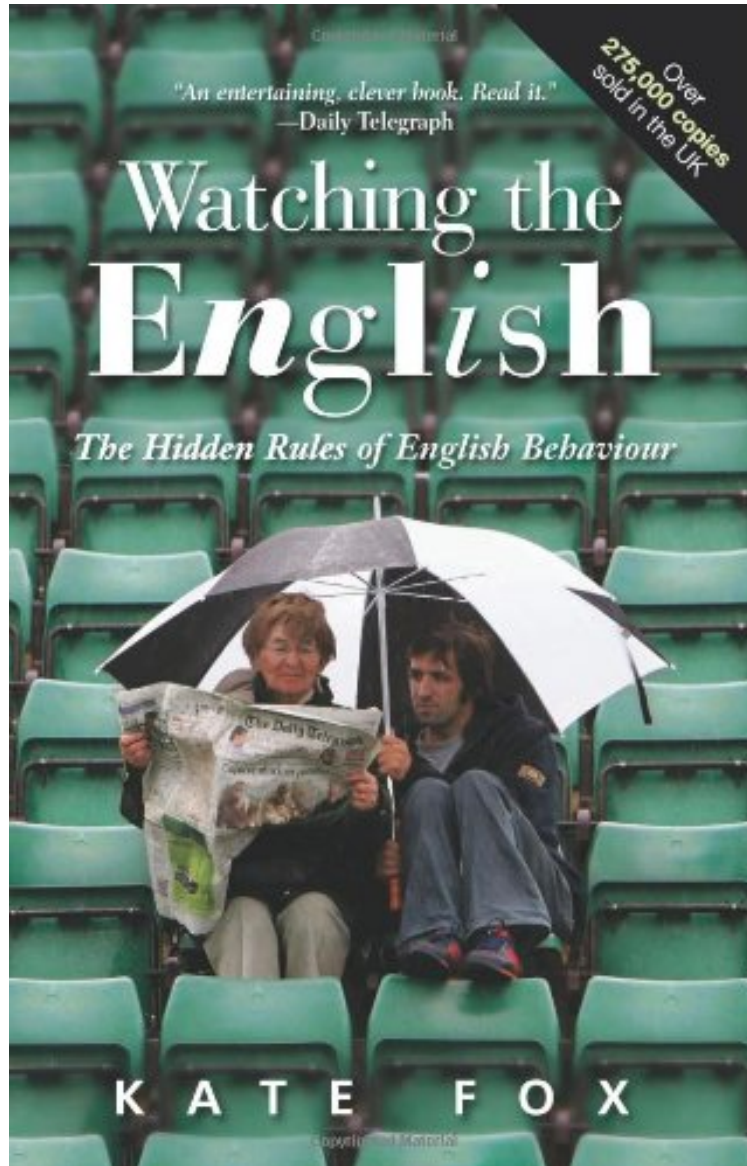


(Download free pdf) Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour

## Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour

Kate Fox

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**Kate Fox : Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. It solved a lot of mysteries for me...By Das Englisch von KöniginI have traveled to the UK many times and have friends there and I often found myself scratching my head at times in

trying to figure out English culture. There were a number of times I exclaimed, "Oh! That's why they do that!" It explained a lot in my sometimes awkward interactions with the English. After reading the book, I took another trip to England and had a much easier time of relating to people (and they to me.) We speak the same language, but our cultures are very different. If you are and anglophile, travel to England frequently or are and expat living there, I highly recommend this book. I enjoyed the very humorous writing at times. It's a book on modern English cultural anthropology, but as dry as that sounds it was well written and highly entertaining. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I have found my people!

By Debra Hamel  
In *Watching the English*, social anthropologist Kate Fox takes a look at her own tribe with a view to coming up with a "grammar of Englishness." She watches the English quite literally, observing how they behave when in line at a coffee shop or on a train or while using a cellphone, eavesdropping on their conversations, performing experiments or testing hypotheses on unwitting strangers when she's out in public. Sometimes she'll even outright interview them: "A researcher with a notebook is a nuisance, of course, but much less scary than a random stranger trying to start a conversation for no apparent reason. If you simply start chatting to English people on trains or buses, they tend to assume you are either drunk, drugged or deranged. Social scientists are not universally liked or appreciated, but we are still marginally more acceptable than alcoholics and escaped lunatics." *Watching the English* is absolutely fascinating and sometimes very funny. The author's writing is lively and lucid, but beyond her intentional humor there is humor inherent simply in taking a (relatively) detached look at behavior which most of the time we take for granted. (Just so, comedians like Jerry Seinfeld make us notice the humor in our everyday behavior.) Fox neatly ties up her findings in the end with a diagram showing the ten English characteristics she's tracked throughout the book: at the core of it all is social dis-ease, but other characteristics include humor (i.e., humour), class consciousness, "Eeyorishness" (that is, a tendency to moan about things), and modesty. In sum, I loved the book, and I love the English, with whom--it seems clear to me now--I have much in common.-- Debra Hamel

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. by the English, on the English, for the English...  
By Sergiusz Kalinowski... and those non-English who want to get in the minds of same. Kate Fox does an adequate\* job of trying to dissect the national character / mindset of her compatriots and boiling their many peculiarities down to 15 or so key terms. The real beauty of the book is that while she does all that, she \*is\* writing from an English perspective, and so - knowingly - falls prey to the self-same mind patterns. Really, I don't see how it could be any more meta :) "*Watching the English*" is full of humour, understatement, irony, self-jabs, and a whole lot of mock-moaning; in other words, just what a proper English book should be. Yes, I loved it. While it does get a bit laboured at times, it is punctuated by so many pearls of wit that the "labour" bit is easily forgiven.\* notice my cack-handed attempt at understatement. Translated for non-English, it means "splendid".

A runaway bestseller in the UK, *Watching the English* is now available in the U.S. for the first time! Witty and wise, Kate Fox reveals the quirks, habits, and foibles of the English in her book *Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour*. Putting the national character under her microscope, Fox explores this strange and fascinating culture, governed by a complex set of unspoken rules and a bizarre code of conduct. Through anthropological analysis and a series of unorthodox experiments (often using herself as a reluctant guinea-pig), Fox discovers what these unwritten codes tell us about Englishness: the rules of weather-speak, the ironic-gnome rule, the reflex apology rule, the paranoid-pantomime rule, class anxiety tests, and the money-talk taboo, among others. *Watching the English* is a biting, affectionate, insightful, and often hilarious look at English society.