

## BRITISH ECCENTRICS

### Pre-session Vocabulary & Speaking

#### Task 1: SIMILAR WORDS

Look at the words/phrases below. Do you think they have positive or negative connotations? Mark each word with a + or -. Can you think of any people who fit these descriptions?

- **Insane** *Example:*
- **Eccentric** *Example:*
- **Thinks outside the box** *Example:*
- **On a different planet** *Example:*

#### Task 2: EXPLORING ECCENTRICITY

Read the statements below and decide how true they are for you, from 1 (not at all) to 5 (absolutely).

- |          |   |          |          |          |
|----------|---|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|          | "I have an individual style and like to wear clothes that I know will turn heads."    |          |          |          |
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|          | "I often think of solutions to problems that nobody else could."                      |          |          |          |
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|          | "I sometimes feel like I'm different from 'normal' people. To me, they seem strange." |          |          |          |
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|          | "People have commented on my unusual taste in food/humour/entertainment."             |          |          |          |

Compare your answers with a partner. Do you think either of you are eccentric?

#### Task 3: SPEAKING

Discuss the following statements with your partner. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

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1. "The world needs more eccentric people."
2. "There is a stigma against eccentric people in my country"
3. "Some things that seem eccentric now will be seen as normal in the future."
4. "A little eccentricity is good, but too much can be a bad thing."

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### Teachers' Notes

These activities have been designed to be used before the workshops as introduction and a way of getting students interested and a way to pre-teach vocabulary. You may also use the material as a follow up activity after the students have attended the event and see how much they remember!

Answer keys:

1.

- Bad – this word has connotations of mental illness or threatening behaviour
- Good – this word describes something/someone that is unusual, but has positive connotations
- Good – this phrase describes someone who takes an innovative approach to problem solving
- Bad – this phrase describes someone who is often distracted or otherwise struggles to function in the real world