

# Flashback 4

## Vocabulary & Speaking

1 a Work in small groups and answer these questions.

- 1 Can you think of an occasion when you've lost your self-control?
- 2 Do you think you are a self-conscious person?
- 3 Who is the most selfish person you know?
- 4 Do you know anyone who's ever made an album?
- 5 Is there a cover version that you prefer to the original song?
- 6 What do you think is the stereotypical image of the British?

b Now write three questions for another group to discuss.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct part of the compound adjective.

- 1 She's so \_\_\_\_\_-minded! She never remembers her friends' birthdays.
- 2 You should always be well \_\_\_\_\_ for a job interview so that you make a good impression.
- 3 A lot of Swedish people are \_\_\_\_\_-haired and blue-\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 I've never met anyone so two-\_\_\_\_\_. She's really friendly to your face and then says nasty things about you behind your back!
- 5 My boyfriend's so \_\_\_\_\_-going, nothing ever bothers him. Sometimes I wish he wasn't so relaxed about everything!

Look at Unit 10 to check your answers.

## Reading & Speaking

1 Read the article. Discuss with a partner who you think it is written for and which nationality the text is about.

### Conversation and Physical Space

For most ... silence is uncomfortable. <sup>a</sup> 4 . It is therefore common to hear people casually talking about the weather, sports, parties, food, clothing, exams, etc.

While talking, ... are often made uncomfortable by extreme physical closeness. Thirty centimetres is the minimum distance they will usually tolerate, so do not stand very close to people when you are talking to them. <sup>b</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ .

At parties or social gatherings, it is generally easy to join a group of strangers in a conversation. <sup>c</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ . This may at first be slightly awkward, but you will find that most ... will do what they can to help.

<sup>d</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ . You may enter into an interesting conversation in a waiting room, stadium, bus, plane or classroom without a formal introduction. Many people not only enjoy such a conversation, but it also helps the time pass more rapidly.

As we had said before, ... enjoy humour and laugh a great deal. <sup>e</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ . Do not feel offended if an ... friend tries to make a joke at your expense. In doing so, he / she does not harbour malice or ill will, but instead indicates a feeling of friendship toward you. Just relax and try to enjoy what is going on.

2 Read the text again and insert lines 1–5 in the correct place (a–e) in the text.

- 1 All it takes is for you to introduce yourself.
- 2 They make fun of each other and make many statements that are not to be taken literally.
- 3 It is very easy to start a discussion with Americans while travelling, waiting for something or attending an event.
- 4 Small talk or superficial conversations are usually preferable to silence.
- 5 Informal physical contact during conversation is also not encouraged by most Americans.

3  Listen and check.

4 Answer the following questions.

According to the article...

- 1 which topics do Americans usually make 'small talk' about?
- 2 How close can you get to an American when talking to them?
- 3 Are Americans usually friendly in social situations?
- 4 How would you describe the American sense of humour?

5 Work in pairs. Discuss the advice given and say how closely it relates, or how different it is, to your culture.