



# WORKBOOK

## Stereotypes and Prejudices

# Stereotypes & Prejudices

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Although considerable progress has been made in Europe in the recent past stereotypes and prejudices are still very much a part of our culture. This exercise aims to introduce the concept of stereotypes and prejudice and explore whether it is possible to avoid being influenced by them. The exercise focuses specifically on humour; how jokes are often used to maintain and underpin stereotypes and prejudice.

# Stereotypes

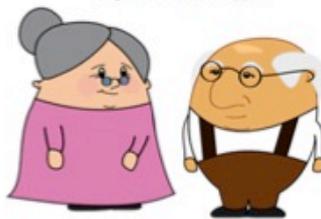


Racial Stereotype



I'm going to start a drunken brawl with any person who stereotypes the Irish

Ageism Stereotype



Old Man: Whatever happened to our sexual relations?  
Old Woman: I don't know, I don't think we even got a Christmas card off them this year.

Gender Stereotype



A glass ceiling? Don't be ridiculous the sign works just fine.



Stereotypes are preconceived notions or perceptions about specific groups of people or specific types of individual. Although many stereotypes are widely held they generally comprise oversimplified images or ideas of people or things. Although there are examples of positive stereotypes you most often hear about negative ones. Many of the most common stereotypes are racist, sexist, ageist or homophobic. One of the biggest problems with stereotypes is that even if they are correct in some instances they are certainly not true in all cases.

## Prejudices



**CONFRONT PREJUDICE EVERY TIME YOU HEAR IT**

Prejudice is any favourable or unfavourable opinion formed or held that is not based on reason or actual experience and that leads to preferential treatment for some people or unfavourable bias or hostility towards others. Prejudice may include any unreasonable attitude that is unusually resistant to rational influence. Prejudices are often rooted in the idea that certain types of people are worth less or are less capable than others.

## Identity & Meaning

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**Stereotypes**  
+  
**Prejudices** = **Discrimination**



Stereotypes and prejudices are harmful because they ignore the fact that each individual has his or her own abilities, strengths, weaknesses, desires, thoughts and feelings. Stereotypes don't just describe what people are like; they also define what they should be like or what role they should have on the basis of these characteristics. Prejudices lead people to make value judgements and assume what people can do or cannot do because of who they are. Some studies have even shown that when people are aware of specific stereotypes about themselves; that knowledge affects their perceptions of their own abilities and also their performance. Stereotypes and prejudices often combine and result in discriminatory actions.

## Funny or Racist

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Paddy Englishman, Paddy Irishman and Paddy Scotsman were working on a building site...

Did you hear the one about the Jewish shopkeeper...

The policeman pulled in the woman driver and asked why she broke the red light...

A Muslim, a communist and a socialist walk into a bar...

Why did Pakistan get kicked out of the...

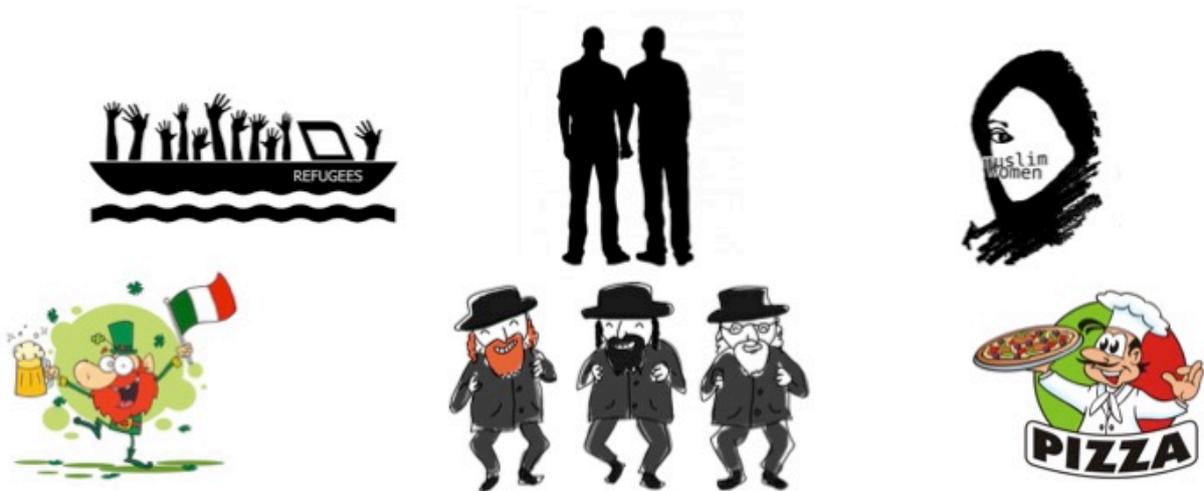
What did the Buddhist tell the door-to-door salesperson who came to his home...

What's the difference between a smart Polak and a...



Regardless of how politically correct we like to think we are it is fair to assume that everyone has laughed at a joke based on stereotypes or prejudices that we can all relate to. It is important to be aware of the impact of jokes on those against whom the jokes are told. While laughing with people is one thing; laughing at people is completely different.

# Fuelling Stereotypes and Prejudices



Humour plays a major part in everyone's life but often fuels discrimination and our ability to see the fun in something is often dependent on our stereotypical views of people of a specific culture, creed or colour or our prejudices against a particular ethnicity, sexuality or gender.

## Humour?

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...and remember if you need anything  
I am available 24/6...



Look at the image and caption being displayed. It isn't very funny. In fact it isn't funny at all.

## Humour

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...and remember if you need anything  
I am available 24/6...



Now look at the image and the caption displayed. Adding the Jewish character is what makes the image humorous. Through our stereotypical understanding of the Jewish adherence to the Sabbath this image becomes humorous.

## Humour?

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Once again the image portrayed on this slide is rather non-descript and not at all humorous.

## Humour

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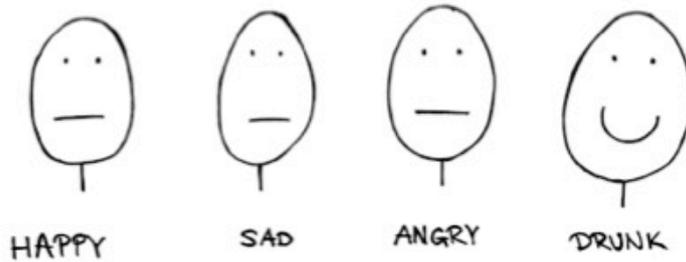
### IMMIGRATION



Now look at the image with the caption and it has a completely different meaning in Europe of today where so many tradesmen from Eastern European countries now work in the more established EU Member States.

## Humour

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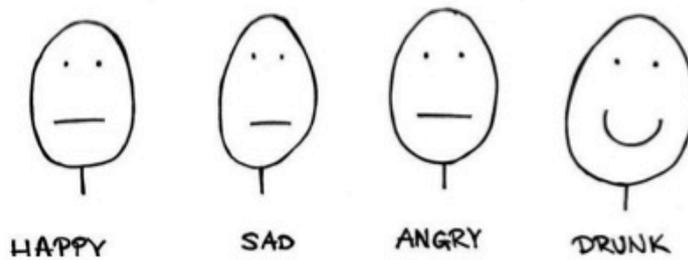


The embedded stereotypes and prejudices that we carry with us about different nationalities are also used extensively by cartoonists and comedians. Look at the image displayed and it has some humour.

## More humorous



WELCOME TO SWEDEN



It can be argued that the cartoon is now more humorous by adding a stereotype that we can understand and relate to.

## No to Stereotypes and Prejudice!

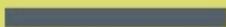


stereotypes Don't Define Us



We have a personal responsibility to respond to situations we disagree with. While race, gender, age and sexuality are part of who we are; these characteristics do not define us. We should consider carefully the stereotypes and prejudices that we have internalised over the years to ensure that they don't define us either.

# Thanks!



All photographs courtesy of Pixabay.com

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

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Project Number: 2017-1-FR01-KA204-037126





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Project Number: 2017-1-FR01-KA2040-057126



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