

failed. It is the time for us to put greed and our fanaticism aside and give world peace a chance.

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## **WHAT IS ENGLISH HUMOUR**

Humour is the ability or quality of people, objects, or situations to evoke feelings of amusement in other people. The sense of humour is inherent in the human race. Our life would be much harder without it.

However, some people think that “there is no humour in England”, the English being too serious; but we cannot agree with this statement. The English love irony and expect others to appreciate it too.

We can find humorous passages in many English books. In fact the tradition of English humour dates at least from the Middle Ages. In his *Canterbury Tales* Geoffrey Chaucer portrays a number of characters in an amusing way. The most widely read of the Victorian novelist is Charles Dickens, who created a host of comic characters; some of them are grotesque repugnant, while the others are portrayed with gentle humour. Lewis Carroll also contributed a lot to the “literary of nonsense”. The style of O. Henry is marked by irony, unexpected similes, and periphrases. “Modern” humour somewhat differs from that of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Roald Dahl is noticed for his black humour.

The English are all too often disappointed as foreigners take umbrage at what appears to them to be unbearable rudeness.

Since the English never say what they mean, often the exact opposite, and tend towards reticence and understatement, their humour is partly based on an exaggeration of this facet of their own character.