

Rants and Raves – Queuing

M1: Of course, the British are famous for queuing. 'Waiting in line', the Americans call it. And I think people overseas don't realise how annoying we find it if someone tries to jump the queue and go to the front of the line. I mean, in some countries you do see people sort of hovering in a group, when they're waiting for a bus for instance, and when it comes, everyone rushes forward to get on the bus first, pushing past anyone they can. To them, it's normal, but to a Londoner, it's absolutely shocking. And you do see it happening in London too now, where there are so many tourists. I don't know why we get so upset about it. It's a similar thing in supermarkets, where you join one queue at the checkout, with maybe two people in front of you, and suddenly realise that the man in the queue next to you, who joined when there were four or five people in front of him, is already being served and you're still waiting. It used to be the same in banks and post offices, but now many of them have just one queue and the next customer is called to the first available assistant in the order they arrived. That's much fairer. 'Cashier number 8, please.' Hee hee.

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