

科目目：現代イギリス社会

WEEK 2

Contemporary British Society (Spring/2)

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Class

What is class? What class are you? What class am I? And why it matters.

In the sketch we see the tall John Cleese, in a bowler cap, as the representative for the upper class, Ronnie Barker, in a good suit as the middle class, and Ronnie Corbett, in a newsboy cap, as the working class. In turn each of them describe their position in society and their advantages and disadvantages.

Upper: I've got innate breeding, but I haven't got any money. So sometimes I look up to him. (he squats down to middle class height)

Middle: I still look up to him because, although I have money, I am vulgar. But I am not as vulgar as [the working class], so I still look down on him.

Working: I know my place. I look up to them both. Though I am poor, I am rich, industrious, and trustworthy. I could look down on them both, but I don't.

Middle: We all know our place, but what do we get out of it?

Upper: I get a feeling of superiority over them.

Middle: I get a feeling of inferiority from him. But a feeling of superiority over him.

Working: (looking up to them, literally) I get a pain in my neck.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VxkltwS9go>

Class and taste

If you have class, you have taste. If you don't have class you are vulgar. This can be carried to extremes. Here is the 'Eating sketch' by three great British comedians: Peter Cook, Dudley Moore and Peter Sellers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQsoCjJfPcU>

Class and crime

If you are of the working class or the underclass, you are by definition, poor and poorly educated. You may have a little money, but it is hard-earned. Or you may have no money. This makes you more likely to be a criminal. After all, you need to eat. Here is Charlie Chaplin in *The Kid*, illustrating the connections between class, poverty and crime <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7nMV3ujeMo>