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Autore	Ellis Iain
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Sommario/riassunto

Humor, as much as any other trait, defines British cultural identity. It is "crucial in the English sense of nation," argues humor scholar Andy Medhurst; "To be properly English you must have a sense of humor," opines historian Antony Easthope. Author Zadie Smith perceives British humor as a national coping mechanism, stating, "You don't have to be funny to live here, but it helps." Sex Pistols frontman Johnny Rotten concurs, commenting, "There's a sense of comedy in the English that even in your grimmest moments you laugh". Although humor invariably functions as a relief valve for the Britis
