STUDY NOTES   EPISODE 6: GREENHOUSE GASES

NATIONALITIES OF COUNTRIES

Learning the nationalities of countries is important and useful, especially when identifying yourself or any other group of people, and when describing personal and national characteristics.

Of equal importance is using the correct form when identifying or talking about a nationality, and spelling the nationality correctly.

There are 5 groups of adjectival endings which are used to form nationalities from country names, but no easy rules that tell you what ending to use with which country. In other words, the ending on the country name does not determine necessarily the adjectival form of the nationality. Therefore, it is best to memorise the country name and nationality together.

STUDY TIPS

Knowing the nationalities of countries and using them correctly is helpful in the Speaking section of the IELTS test.

During the test you will have the opportunity to talk about your country, the people, and possibly where you have travelled or plan to travel so that you can speak about other countries and identify other nationalities.

The groups are:

-(i)an   **-ese**   **-i**   **-ish**   **-ic**

and a group that includes exceptions, for example, Philippines - Filipino.

The most common form **-(i)an** also constitutes the largest group of adjectives, for example, Colombia – Colombian / kəˈlʌmbiən /; Mexico – Mexican /mɛksɪkən/.

The noun used to describe the person from these countries is the same as the adjective.

Nationalities are always capitalised in English.

STUDY ENGLISH

EXAMPLES OF COUNTRIES AND NATIONALITIES

Practise the pronunciation of these nationalities, which are grouped according to their adjectival endings:

-ese (Japan – Japanese)	-(i)an (Australia – Australian; Korea – Korean)	-i (Bangladesh – Bangladeshi)	-ish (Finland – Finnish)	Others (Philippines – Filipino; France – French)
Portugal – Portuguese /pɔtʃə'giz/ Vietnam – Vietnamese /vjɛtnə'miz/	Argentina – Argentian or Argentinean /adʒən'tɪniən/ Cambodia – Cambodian /kæm'boʊdiən/ Egypt – Egyptian /ə'dʒɪpʃən/ Singapore – Singaporean /sɪŋə'pɔriən/	Pakistan – Pakistani /pakə'stani/	Ireland – Irish /'aɪrɪʃ/ Turkey – Turkish /'tɜkɪʃ/	Switzerland – Swiss /swɪs/

Note: you can listen to the correct pronunciation by playing the audio file on our web site. Go to the Study Notes section for Episode 6 and look for the listen icon.