

National identity cards

Task 1: Tick the information that appears on your national identity card, or the information that you would expect to find on a national identity card.

first name	surname	your photo	your signature
place of birth	date of birth	occupation	phone number
personal identity number	issue date	marital status	a fingerprint
gender	parents' names	parents' occupations	address

Task 2: What is the sound of the underlined letters? Put the words in the correct group.

<u>a</u> ddress	da <u>t</u> e	finger <u>pr</u> int	g <u>en</u> der	marit <u>a</u> l	occu <u>p</u> ation	occu <u>o</u> ccupation
	pers <u>o</u> nal	pl <u>a</u> ce	sign <u>a</u> ture	stat <u>u</u> s	stat <u>u</u> s	

/eɪ/ as in 'name'	/ə/ as in 'number'

Task 3: Speak to the other students in the class and find somebody who confirms the following. When they confirm it, ask an additional question to get more information from them.

Find someone who...	Name	Extra information
...has lost their identity card or passport		
...has had to show their identity card to someone this week		

...likes their photo on their identity card or passport		
...hates their photo on their identity card or passport		
...thinks national identity cards aren't necessary		

Task 4: National identity cards are not used in the UK. Read two different viewpoints, and note why Rachel and Nick are for or against ID cards.

Rachel's view

I think it's crazy that we don't have ID cards in the UK! I've always looked young for my age, and no one ever used to believe I was over eighteen. When I was younger, it was difficult to get into clubs, or even to buy a lottery ticket! I used to have to carry my passport with me to prove my age. But not everyone has a passport – and it was a real pain to carry it around. I even lost it one time. Now I'm a bit older I don't have so many problems, but it would be easier for everyone if we had ID cards. Apart from being useful for proving who you are for everyday things, like opening a bank account, I think they would also help to reduce the crime levels in this country. I'm disappointed that the government hasn't introduced them. They seemed to talk about it a lot before, especially after all the terrorist attacks, so I hope they change their minds.

Nick's view

I hate the thought of having to carry an ID card. How can a government force us to carry one at all times? We should be free to go where we want, when we want and do what we want without having to prove who we are. They should trust us to respect the laws and the rules of the country. It's an invasion of our personal privacy forcing us to have an identity card. We've got our photos on driving licenses, so why should we need to have another form of ID? The supporters forget to tell you that only some countries have compulsory identity cards. If big countries like the USA and Australia don't need them, why do we? It would cost a lot of money to introduce ID cards – money that we, the taxpayers, would have to pay. It scares me a bit that Big Brother wants to watch us so carefully. A little bit too carefully for my liking!