

Suzy Eddie Izzard's sketch on British imperialism and the Royals: "[Do you have a flag?](#)"

Suzy Eddie Izzard is one of Britain's greatest living comedians. Born in the British colony of Aden (Yemen) in 1962, she is a "stand-up comedian, actor, and activist. Her comedic style takes the form of what appears to the audience as **rambling whimsical** monologues and self-referential [pantomime](#)... Izzard uses a [stream-of-consciousness](#) delivery that jumps between topics, saying in a 2004 interview with [The Guardian](#) that 'it's the [oral tradition](#) [...] human beings have been doing it for thousands of years'... She has cited [Monty Python](#) as her biggest influence, and Python member [John Cleese](#) once referred to her as 'the lost Python'".

"Izzard identifies as [genderfluid](#) and calls herself 'somewhat **boy-ish** and somewhat **girl-ish**'. She uses the word '[transgender](#)' as an **umbrella term**. When asked in 2019 what pronouns she preferred, Izzard responded, 'either "he" or "she"' and explained, 'If I am in boy mode, then "he", or girl mode, "she"... In March 2023, she announced that she would begin using the name Suzy in addition to Eddie, saying that she is 'going to be Suzy Eddie Izzard'.

"In 2009, Izzard completed 43 marathons in 51 days for [Sport Relief](#), despite having no history of long-distance running. In 2016, she ran 27 marathons in 27 days in South Africa in honour of [Nelson Mandela](#), raising £1.35 million. In addition to her native English, she regularly performs stand-up in Arabic, French, German, Russian, and Spanish, and is an active supporter of [Europeanism](#) and the [European Union](#)." (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie_Izzard).

This [sketch](#) describes how the British Empire acquired its colonies. Watch the first 1:35 minutes, and fill in the blanks below. The answers are at the bottom of the page.

... build up _____. We stole countries. That's what you do. That's how you build an empire. We stole countries with the **cunning** use of flags. You just sail _____ the world and stick a flag in. I claim India for Britain. There you go.

You can't claim us, we live here. Five hundred _____ of us.

Do you have a flag?

We don't need a bloody flag... It's our country you bastard.

No flag, no country. You can't have one. That's the _____ that I've just made up. And I'm backing it up with this _____, that was lent from the National Rifle Association [the main US gun lobby].

And that was it. Queen Victoria became Empress of India. She never even f- -king _____ there. She was one of our more **frumpy** queens. They are all frumpy, aren't they? Because it is a bad _____ when cousins marry... bottom of the **gene pool**, you know, we're just **scraping the bottom of the barrel**: haven't got enough for _____ of you Royals there, sorry.

First rule of genetics, you know. Spread the genes apart. But the Royals are just obsessed by it: "Are you a member of a royal family? Are you a royal member? Well then you can _____ me, because we are the same gene pool and then our IQs will **go down the toilet**. Fantastic.

That's why there are no _____ Royals. "Hello, hello, what do you do?... You're a plumber? What on earth is that?"

Rambling: digressive, roaming, wandering, sprawling; **whimsical**: from a whim, a fancy, an impulse, a capricious idea; **boy-ish/girl-ish**: like a boy, like a girl; **umbrella term**: a broad term, a blanket term; **cunning**: clever, deceptive; **frumpy**: old-fashioned; **gene pool**: the genes available in a population; **scraping the bottom of the barrel**: to take what is left; go down the toilet: to fail, to go to waste.

Answers: empires, round, million, rules, gun, went, idea, anymore, marry, crazy.