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**The United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland.**

**Збірник текстів з англійської мови для
формування лінгвокраїнознавчої компетенції**

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Збірник містить тексти з англійської мови, що стосуються Об'єданого Королівства Великобританії та Північної Ірландії. Призначений для формування лінгвокраїнознавчої компетенції. Адресується здобувачам освіти коледжу, викладачам англійської мови.

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Вступ

Відколи Україна набула статусу незалежної держави, з року в рік розширюються міжнародні зв'язки, відбувається інтернаціоналізація усіх аспектів суспільного життя, тому іноземна мова є реально необхідною в різних сферах діяльності людини, вона стає дійовим фактором соціально-економічного, науково-технічного та загально-культурного прогресу суспільства.

У сучасних концепціях навчання іноземна мова розглядається як відображення культури відповідного народу – як оволодіння іншомовною культурою і як засвоєння світових духовних цінностей. Таким чином, соціальне замовлення передбачає не тільки формування у здобувачів освіти, що вивчають іноземну мову, необхідних іншомовних навичок та вмій, але й ознайомлення через мову з культурою країни, її традиціями, історією та сучасністю. Таке завдання ставить перед собою лінгвокраїнознавство, що досліджує питання відбору та прийомів подачі здобувачам відомостей про країну, мова якої вивчається, з метою забезпечення їх практичного володіння даною мовою.

Один із принципів лінгвокраїнознавства полягає в розумінні, тобто засвоєнні людиною, яка зросла в одній національній культурі, суттєвих фактів, норм і цінностей іншої національної культури. Основним засобом подання лінгвокраїнознавчої інформації є текст. Тексти обираються на основі комунікативних потреб здобувачів освіти, їхніх пізнавальних інтересів і виховних завдань навчання.

Лінгвокраїнознавча тематика текстового матеріалу полягає у тому, що він репрезентує здобувачам освіти символіку країни, мова якої вивчається, спосіб життя, свята,

обряди народу, його історію. В текстах також можна познайомитися з досягненнями науки та культури, прочитати про визначних людей у сфері науки, культури, спорту. Тексти передають художню атмосферу країни, знайомлять з життям і творчістю видатних діячів культури.

Мова накопичує й закріплює у своїх одиницях (головним чином – у словах, у стійких сполуках і фразеологічних зворотах) історичний досвід народу, стає адекватним відображенням його внутрішнього світу, неповторності менталітету. Процес вивчення іноземної мови є невіддільним від ознайомлення з культурою країни, оскільки мова ніби ретранслятор передає надбання національної культури від покоління до покоління, представникам інших етнічних соціумів.

Наявність у лексиці національно-культурного компонента, притаманного тільки певній мові, свідчить про належність лексеми до лінгвокраїнознавчого матеріалу. Застосування в процесі викладання іноземної мови матеріалів з лінгвокраїнознавства сприяє процесу акультурації здобувачів, тобто допомагає адаптуватися до нового мовно-культурного середовища. Використання лінгвокраїнознавчих матеріалів стимулює мотивацію здобувачів, формує й підтримує інтерес до вивчення іноземної мови.

Методичні рекомендації щодо роботи над текстом лінгвокраїнознавчого характеру

Однією з важливих рис сучасного періоду розвитку суспільства в Україні є її інтеграція до світової інформаційної системи. Значне підвищення рівня інформаційної насиченості ряду видів людської діяльності зумовлює в сучасній методиці викладання іноземних мов особливий підхід до питань текстової

діяльності. Саме в процесі породження та інтеграції текстів здійснюється обмін знаннями й досвідом, уміннями й навичками, емоціями, цінностями, ідеалами й нормами. Враховуючи це, постає проблема пошуку шляхів формування іншомовної текстової діяльності.

Завдання викладача на занятті полягає в тому, щоб зробити роботу з іншомовним текстом цікавою і змістовною, оскільки читання таких текстів розвиває мислення здобувачів, допомагає усвідомити системи іноземної мови, зрозуміти особливості рідної. Інформація, яку отримує здобувач з іншомовних текстів, формує його світогляд, збагачує країнознавчими знаннями. Розумова робота, котра виконується читцем з метою проникнення у зміст тексту, розвиває мовну здогадку, самостійність у подоланні мовних та смислових труднощів, інтерес до оволодіння іноземною мовою, посилює пізнавальну активність учнів.

Читання як вид мовленнєвої діяльності є однією з головних практичних цілей навчання іноземним мовам. Воно допомагає в оволодінні мовним матеріалом, у його закріпленні та нагромадженні. Однак не слід забувати, що читання тісно пов'язане з іншими видами мовленнєвої діяльності: письмом, аудіюванням, мовленням. Викладач повинен навчити здобувачів користуватися читанням для засвоєння мовного та лексичного матеріалу та як джерелом інформації. Оволодіння вмінням добре читати робить реальним і можливим досягнення виховних, освітніх, розвиваючих цілей у процесі вивчення мови.

Текст, який звучить або викладений письмово в процесі навчання іноземної мови, є, на нашу думку, основним видом начального матеріалу. У системі організації мови текст є одиницею найвищого рівня, нижче якого стоїть речення. Текст

може бути об'єктом інтерпретації, який розглядається як взірець для відтворення, тобто з точки зору використання мовних засобів для певного комунікативного наміру. Висловлювати свої думки – означає умінням продукувати текст.

У методичній літературі робота з іншомовним текстом здійснюється переважно з метою збагачення лексичного складу, поширення мовної бази здобувача, ідіоматизації мовлення.

Відбір текстів лінгвокраїнознавчого характеру здійснюється за такими критеріями:

- автентичність (продукується в середовищі, мова якого вивчається);
- країнознавча насиченість (обсяг лінгвокраїнознавчих відомостей у тексті);
- актуальність (сучасне та актуальне для здобувача інформативне наповнення);
- типовість (систематичне відтворення в типових комунікативних ситуаціях).

При роботі з текстом на занятті іноземної мови не слід забувати і про основні завдання іншомовних текстів.

1. Збагачення й розширення знань здобувачів. Так, наприклад, у процесі читання здобувачі отримують завдання знати певні слова чи словосполучення, виписати слова чи структури за якоюсь певною ознакою, назвати слова, які були використані в певній ситуації.
2. Тренування лексико-граматичного матеріалу та використання певного мовного матеріалу у відповідях на запитання викладача, у процесі вільного переказу змісту чи переказу, близькому до тексту.
3. Розвиток усного мовлення здобувачів на основі прочитаного тексту: бесіда за окремими проблемами, які

розкриваються в тексті, продовження тексту або його початку, драматизація окремих епізодів.

4. Розвиток смислового сприйняття тексту – його розуміння. Завдання такого типу спрямовані на перевірку розуміння окремих епізодів, вони допомагають переборювати труднощі, що виникають на шляху розуміння тексту.

Традиційна методика роботи з іншомовними текстами передбачає відомі етапи роботи.

1. Дотекстовий (передтекстовий) етап:

- а) аналіз мовних і смислових труднощів;
- б) введення у проблеми;
- в) формулювання комунікативної установки на читання тексту.

2. Притекстовий етап:

- а) читання тексту;
- б) тренування видів читання ;

3. Післятекстовий етап:

- а) контроль розуміння тексту;
- б) обговорення змісту прочитаного;
- в) навчання смислової переробки інформації.

Отже, вміння працювати з іншомовним текстом, без сумніву, є фактором загальнокультурного розвитку здобувача. Ці вміння дозволяють своєчасно долучитися до джерел професійної та культурологічної інформації, набути навичок роботи з літературою, сприяють підвищенню культури мовлення. Можливість доступу до автентичної інформації перетворює читання іноземною мовою (навички якого, на відміну від усного мовлення, не зникають протягом усього життя) на найпростіший і водночас найцінніший засіб комунікації; сприяє виникненню та розвитку внутрішньої мотивації навчання здобувача освіти і допомагає випускникам у подальшій професійній діяльності.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK) or Britain is situated in the north-west of Europe and consists of two large islands, Great Britain and the Isle of Ireland, and about five thousand small islands. Northern Ireland shares a land border with the Republic of Ireland. Otherwise, the United Kingdom is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, with the North Sea to the east, the English Channel to the south and the Celtic Sea to the south-west. The Irish Sea separates Great Britain and Ireland. The total area of the United Kingdom is 242,500 km², with an estimated population in 2020 of 67 million.

There are four regions in the UK: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Every region has its own administrative centre.

England is the biggest region in the country. It accounts for just over half of the total area of the UK. Most of the country consists of lowland terrain and the highest mountain is Scafell Pike (978 metres) in the Lake District. London is the capital of England and Great Britain.

Scotland accounts for just under one-third of the total area of the UK. It is the most mountainous country in the UK. Ben Nevis, the tallest peak, is 1,343 m high. Edinburgh is the administrative centre of the region.

Wales accounts for less than one-tenth of the total area of the UK. Wales is mostly mountainous, though South Wales is less mountainous than North and mid Wales. The administrative centre of Wales is Cardiff.

Northern Ireland accounts for little less than 6 per cent of the total area of the UK. It is mostly hilly. Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

Vocabulary

to surround – оточувати,

to separate – відділяти,

lowland – низина,

terrain – місцевість,

mountainous – гірський.

Questions:

1. Where is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland situated?
2. What sea separates Great Britain and Ireland?
3. What is the total area of the United Kingdom?
4. How many regions are there in the UK?
5. Which region is the biggest?
6. What is the capital of England?
7. What is the capital of Scotland?
8. What is the capital of Wales?
9. What is the capital of Northern Ireland?
10. What is the highest peak of the UK?

2. LONDON – THE CAPITAL OF THE UK

London is the capital and largest city of England and the United Kingdom. It is situated on the river Thames. Over 8 million people live in London.

Traditionally London is divided into several parts: the City, the Westminster, the East End and the West End. The City of London, its ancient core and financial centre, was founded by the Romans. The Westminster is the aristocratic official part of London. It has held the national government and parliament for centuries. The West End is the rich part of London. The best hotels, restaurants, shops, clubs, parks and houses are situated in the West End. The East End is an industrial district of London. There are many factories and the Port of London is there too.

London is one of the leading tourist destinations in the world. In 2015 the top most-visited attractions in the UK were all in London. Every year crowds of visitors come to explore its historic buildings, to see its museums and galleries, its streets and parks, and its people. Sightseeing tours usually start in Trafalgar Square. Tourists are particularly impressed by the Nelson Column in the centre of the square. From Trafalgar Square you can go along down Whitehall and see the Houses of Parliament which stretch along the Thames' North Bank. Big Ben, the famous clock, is in one of the Towers. It strikes every quarter of an hour.

Near the Parliament there is Westminster Abbey, an old beautiful chapel. Many great Englishmen are buried here. The south side of the Abbey is called the Poet's Corner where famous British writers and poets lie: Chaucer, Charles Dickens, Tennyson, Thomas Hardy. Here, too, are memorials to Shakespeare, Byron, Scott, Burns and Thackeray.

To the right of the square there is the National Gallery which has a fine collections of European paintings. St. Paul's Cathedral is the biggest English church. It is the Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece.

Buckingham Palace is the Queen's official London residence. Tourists always go to see the ceremony of changing the Guard there.

One of the best known museums is the British Museum with its library, reading room and the collection of manuscripts both old and new.

London is full of parks and green spaces. Hyde Park is the latest park in London, which is famous for its Speaker's Corner. Regent's Park is the home of London Zoo.

Vocabulary

to divide – розділяти,

ancient – давній,

industrial – промисловий,

destination – призначення,

to be impressed – бути враженим,

chapel – каплиця,

memorial – пам'ятник,

masterpiece – шедевр.

Questions:

1. What is the largest city of the UK?
2. What is the population of London?
3. What places of interest are there in London?
4. What river flows through London?
5. What is the ancient core of London?
6. Where do sightseeing tours usually start?
7. Where is the Nelson Column situated?
8. What is Big Ben?

9. Where is the Queen's official London residence situated?
10. What is the Westminster Abbey famous for?

3. POLITICAL SYSTEM

The United Kingdom is a unitary state under a constitutional monarchy. Queen Elizabeth II is the monarch and head of state of the UK. The power of Queen Elizabeth II is not absolute. It is limited by Parliament. The Queen is impartial and acts on the advice of her ministers.

The legislative body, Parliament, consists of two chambers: the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The Commons has 650 elected Members of Parliament (MPs), each representing a local constituency. General elections, for all seats in the House of Commons, must be held at least every five years. Voting, which is not compulsory, is by secret ballot and is from the age of 18. The candidate polling the largest number of votes in a constituency is elected.

The Lords is made up of hereditary and life peers and peeresses, and the two archbishops and 24 most senior bishops of the established Church of England.

The executive body consists of the central Government – that is the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers, who are responsible for initiating and directing the national policy. The government is usually formed by the political party which is supported by the majority in the House of Commons. Prime Minister is the majority party leader and is appointed by the Queen. Prime Minister chooses a team of ministers; twenty of the ministers are in the Cabinet.

The second largest party becomes the official opposition with its own leader and the Shadow Cabinet. The two leading parties in Great Britain are the Conservative Party (the Tories) and the Labour Party.

The judiciary body is independent of both the legislative and the executive ones.

There is no written constitution in Great Britain, only precedents and traditions.

Vocabulary

a constitutional monarchy – конституційна монархія,
the House of Lords – палата лордів,
the House of Commons – палата громад,
hereditary – спадковий,
the official opposition – офіційна опозиція,
majority – більшість,
vote – голос, голосувати.

Questions:

1. Who is the head of state?
2. How many parts does the parliament consist of?
3. How many members has the House of Commons?
4. Who makes up the House of Lords?
5. How often do general elections take place?
6. Is voting compulsory?
7. Is there a written Constitution in Great Britain?
8. What is the official opposition?
9. What body exercises the executive power?
10. What body exercises the legislative power in the country?

4. ROYAL FAMILY

Monarchy is the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom.

In a monarchy, a king or queen is Head of State. The British Monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy. Although the Sovereign no longer has a political or executive role, he or she continues to play an important part in the life of the nation.

As Head of State, The Monarch undertakes constitutional and representational duties which have developed over one thousand years of history. In addition to these State duties, The Monarch has a less formal role as 'Head of Nation'. The Sovereign acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service. In all these roles The Sovereign is supported by members of their immediate family.

The House of Windsor came into being in 1917, when the name was adopted as the British Royal Family's official name by a proclamation of King George V, replacing the historic name of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. It remains the family name of the current Royal Family.

Queen Elizabeth II is the longest-reigning monarch in British history. Born in 1926, Princess Elizabeth became queen on the death of her father, King George VI, in 1952. She married Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1947 and the couple had four children: Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward. Her husband, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, died on 9 April 2021, aged 99. The Prince of Wales is the Queen's eldest son and first in line to the throne. As heir to the throne, his main duties are to support the Queen in her royal commitments.

Vocabulary

monarchy – монархія,
to undertake – брати,
identity – ідентичність,
unity – єдність,
continuity – безперервність,
to support – підтримувати,
to adopt – приймати,
to replace – заміняти,
commitment – зобов'язання.

Questions:

1. How the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom is called?
2. Who is Head of State in a monarchy?
3. What role does the Sovereign play in the life of the nation?
4. Who supports the Sovereign in all his duties?
5. When did the House of Windsor come into being?
6. Who is the longest-reigning monarch in British history?
7. What is the family name of the current Royal Family?
8. When did Princess Elizabeth become queen?
9. Who is the first in line to the throne?
10. What are the main duties of the heir to the throne?

5. CITIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is 67 million people. It is mostly urban: nine tenth of it lives in towns and cities. British cities began to grow when industries developed. Lots of people left the country and moved into cities to work in industry. Later more people moved to cities because farming was done mostly by machines. Other people choose to live in a country village and travel to work in the towns.

Britain's largest cities are: London with the population of about 8 million people, Birmingham (1,1 million people) and Glasgow, Liverpool and Bristol (all with the population less than one million).

London, the largest city in Europe, dominates Britain. It is home for the headquarters of all government departments, Parliament, the major legal institutions and the monarch. It is the country's business and banking centre and the centre of its transport network. It contains headquarters of the national television networks and of all the national newspapers. It is also the country's largest cultural centre with numerous museums and theatres. Plays, musical shows, operas and concerts attract large audiences, including many tourists.

The country's second largest city is Birmingham. During the industrial revolution, the city and the surrounding area of the west midlands, known as the Black country, developed into the country's major engineering centre. Factories of Birmingham still convert iron and steel into a vast variety of goods. People call Birmingham "The city of 1,500 Trades" as all the pins and needles, spoons and forks, TV sets and computers have come from Birmingham.

Glasgow is one of Britain's most important industrial centres. Large and fine ships are built in or near Glasgow. It is a beautiful city

on the river Clyde. The river Clyde for Glasgow is like the Thames for London. The Scottish people say, “Glasgow made the Clyde and the Clyde made Glasgow”. And it is true. People made the Clyde deeper to take large ships into the heart of the city. So, Glasgow made the Clyde. And thanks to the Clyde, Glasgow became one of the biggest seaports.

For some Glasgow is associated with heavy industry and some of the worst housing conditions in Britain. However, this image is one-sided. Glasgow has a strong artistic heritage. At the turn of the last century, the work of the Glasgow school put the city at the forefront of English design and architecture.

Liverpool is known as the birthplace of the Beatles and one of the world’s greatest seaports. Liverpool first attained importance in the 17th century with the growth of trade with American colonies. Nowadays it is known as an exporting centre for the textiles of the north of England.

Bristol is located just 120 miles west of London and is the largest city in the south west of England. The city is situated on the River Frome and River Avon. Bristol is an important shipping centre, especially for oil and food products. It is also an education centre, its schools including Bristol Grammar School, the Cathedral School, and Queen Elizabeth’s Hospital, all founded in the 1500s; Colston’s School (1708); and Clifton College, founded in the residential suburb of Clifton in 1862. The University of Bristol, founded as University College in 1876, was established in 1909.

Vocabulary

urban – міський,

to move – переносити, переїжджати,

headquarter – штаб-квартира,

midlands – центральна частина Великобританії,

convert – перетворювати, переробляти,
housingconditions – житлові умови,
artistic – художній,
forefront – передова, передній план,
toattain – досягати.

Questions:

1. When did the British cities begin to grow?
2. Why did people move to cities?
3. What are the largest cities in Britain?
4. What attracts large audiences, including many tourists to London?
5. What is the country's second largest city?
6. How do people call Birmingham?
7. Why did people make the Clyde deeper?
8. What is Glasgow known for?
9. When did Liverpool first attain importance?
10. How is the largest city in the south west of England called?

6. SPORTS IN BRITAIN

The British are a sports-loving nation. Sport plays such an important part in British life that many idioms in the English language have come from the world of sport. For example, “to play the game” means “to be fair”, and “that’s not cricket” means “that’s not fair”.

The British are proud that many sports originated from their country and then spread throughout the world. Cricket, soccer, rugby, tennis, squash, table tennis, badminton, canoeing and snooker were all invented in Britain. The first rules for such sports as boxing, golf, hockey, yachting and horse-racing also originated from Britain. The most popular sports that people take part in, rather than watching, are angling, snooker and darts.

Cricket is very much the English game. A match can take five days - and still end in a draw. Earliest references to cricket are from 1300 when Edward I was king and the game was played in Kent. Nowadays cricket is played at schools, colleges, universities, in most towns and villages.

Football (more commonly known as soccer in English-speaking nations) is the most popular kind of sports in Britain. Football began as a contest between neighbouring villages - with no limit to the number on each side, no fixed pitch and almost no rules. The Football Association drew up the rules of the modern game in 1863 and in 1888 12 clubs joined together to form the first Football League. A lot of people support their local clubs at matches on Saturday afternoons or watch the matches live on television.

Rugby and football became two separate sports when the rules laid down by the Football Association said that only the goalkeeper could handle the ball. Two kinds of rugby are played in Britain. Rugby Union is played by amateurs in teams of 15 in the

south of England and in Wales (where it is the national sport). Rugby League is played by professionals in teams of 13 in the north of England. Rugby dominates competitive sporting culture in Wales, especially among males, and the sport plays a major role in Welsh national identity.

Golf is Scotland's chief contribution to British sport. Golf is a sport with passionate devotees all over the world but mostly played by rich in an elite environment. Scotland is an exception as people from all walks of life often play and enjoy the game. This makes golf in Scotland an ordinary person's participant sport and candidate for "national game". It has been played in Scotland for at least 400 years. At first, it was played with balls made of wood, then of leather stuffed with feathers.

Tennis is played by both men and women either in exclusive tennis clubs or on public tennis courts. The first rules for tennis were drawn up by the All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club when it held its first tournament in the London suburb of Wimbledon in 1877. Wimbledon is the oldest and most prestigious tournament in the sport of tennis. It is held annually, is played on grass courts and lasts for a fortnight.

The British like racing. There are all kinds of racing in England: horse-racing, motor-car racing, boat-racing, dog-racing. The most famous boat race in England is between Oxford and Cambridge. The Boat Race is rowed annually each spring on the River Thames in London. The event is an extremely popular one. Thousands of people arrive to watch it. The first race was in 1829 and it has been held annually since 1856 with the exception of the war years.

There are a lot of sports and games which are popular both among youngsters and grown-ups. 25 million of grownup people

take part in sports. Sports is on the programme of all state and private schools and universities. Nearly all schools have sports grounds and swimming pools. Indeed, sports is a part of everyday life in Britain.

Vocabulary

cricket – крикет,
soccer – футбол,
rugby – регбі,
squash – сквош,
snooker – снукер,
to invent – винаходити,
to originate – походити,
angling – рибалка,
darts – дартс,
to draw up the rules – укладати правила,
annually – щорічно,
devotee – шанувальник,
participant – учасник,
to row – веслувати.

Questions:

1. What are the most popular kinds of sports in Great Britain?
2. Are the British fond of sports?
3. How long can a cricket match take?
4. When did the Football Association draw up the rules of the modern game?
5. What two kinds of rugby are played in Britain?
6. What sport plays a major role in Welsh national identity?
7. What is Scotland's national sport?
8. When were the first rules for tennis drawn up?
9. What is the oldest and most prestigious tournament in the sport of tennis?

10. How is the most famous boat race in England called?

7. SYSTEM OF EDUCATION. PRIMARY SCHOOL.

There are two basic education systems in the United Kingdom: one covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland and one covering Scotland. Traditionally the English, Welsh and Northern Irish systems have emphasised depth of education whereas the Scottish system has emphasised breadth. Thus English, Welsh and Northern Irish students tend to sit a small number of more advanced examinations and Scottish students tend to sit a larger number of less advanced examinations. But English schools are allowed to vary locally, although by teenage years they have to reach identical levels for standardised qualifications.

The education system in the UK is divided into four main parts, primary education, secondary education, further education and higher education. There are many children who attend a nursery school from the age of 3, but it is not compulsory. In nursery schools they learn some elementary things such as numbers, colours, and letters. Apart from that, babies play, have lunch and sleep there. Whatever they do, there is always someone keeping an eye on them.

Children in the UK have to legally attend primary and secondary education which runs from about 5 years old until the student is 16 years old.

The education system in the UK is also split into "key stages" which breaks down as follows:

- Key Stage 1: 5 to 7 years old;
- Key Stage 2: 7 to 11 years old;
- Key Stage 3: 11 to 14 years old;
- Key Stage 4: 14 to 16 years old.

Primary education begins in the UK at age 5 and continues until age 11, comprising key stages one and two under the UK

educational system. Students are assessed at the end of each stage. Primary education lasts for 6 years. It is divided into two periods: infant schools (pupils from 5 to 7 years old) and junior schools (pupils from 7 to 11 years old).

In infant schools children don't have real classes. They mostly play and learn through playing. Children learn to draw with coloured pencils and paints, work with paper and glue. It is the time when children just get acquainted with the classroom, the blackboard, desks and the teacher. Later they begin to learn letters and read, write and count.

Real studying begins when pupils are 7. They don't already play so much as they did in infant school. Now they have real classes, when they sit at desks, read, write and answer the teacher's questions. In junior schools children do many subjects: English and Math, History and Music, Natural History and Drawing, Handicrafts and some foreign language.

The first lesson usually starts at 9 o'clock. There are 3 lessons with short breaks of 10 minutes between them and then an hour break for lunch. After lunch they have two more lessons which are over by half past three. Junior school ends at the age of 11 and then the secondary school begins.

Vocabulary

breadth – обсяг (знань),

depth – глибина (знань),

primary education – початкова освіта,

secondary education – середня освіта,

further education – післяшкільна освіта,

higher education – вища освіта,

nursery school – ясельна школа, садочок,

compulsory – обов'язковий,

to attend – відвідувати,
key stage – ключовий етап,
to comprise – об'єднувати, включати, містити,
infant school – молодші класи,
junior school – середні класи,
to get acquainted – знайомитися.

Questions:

1. What are the four main parts in the education system in the UK?
2. What do children learn in nursery schools?
3. How many key stages are there in the education system in the UK?
4. When do primary education begin?
5. How many key stages does primary education comprise?
6. What do children learn in infant schools?
7. When does the real studying begin?
8. What subjects do children learn in junior schools?
9. When do lessons usually start?
10. When does junior school end?

8. SECONDARY EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

The basic features of public education in Great Britain are the following:

- full-time education is compulsory up to the middle teenage years;
- the academic year begins at the end of summer;
- compulsory education is free of charge, but parents can spend money on educating their children privately outside the state system if they want to (the fees are high).

There are three recognized stages of education: primary, secondary and “further” education.

The first stage is primary education from 5 to 11 years old. Primary education takes place in infant schools where pupils are taught basic reading, writing, arithmetic, art, etc., and in junior schools (from 8 to 11 years old) which mark the transition from play to “real work”.

The second stage is secondary education from 11 to 16/18 years old. Children must go to school until the age of 16, and pupils may stay on for one or two years if they wish. Free secondary education is available to all children in comprehensive schools, which are not selective – children don’t have to pass an exam to go there. Comprehensive schools in the UK are for all abilities and sexes. They develop the talents of each individual child. Comprehensive schools teach wide range of subjects in arts, crafts, woodwork, domestic science, modern languages, sciences, technical areas and computer studies. All pupils move to the next class automatically at the end of the year. There are also a small number of secondary modern schools, offering a more practical education, grammar schools, providing a more academic education

and technical schools, offering a combination of academic and technical teaching. There are also special schools for children with physical or mental disabilities.

Private (or public) schools are for pupils aged up to 13. They are very expensive and accept pupils on the basis of an examination. Most of them are boarding schools. The education is of a high quality. The discipline is very strict, corporal punishment has been recently banned in state schools, but in most public schools it is still allowed. At 18 most public school-leavers gain entry to universities. Public schools are famous for their ability to lay foundation of a successful future by giving their pupils a good academic background and self-confidence. About 7 percent of schoolchildren go to private schools.

The school-leaving exams are set by independent examining boards and held in May/June. All schools share the same unified school-leaving exam. The main exam is the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), normally taken at the age of 16, in which students sit papers in different subjects (usually five or more) and are awarded a grade in each subject on a seven-point scale, A to G.

Those pupils who don't leave school at 16 and go on to a Sixth Form will study two or three subjects for an A-Level (Advanced Level) exam. This is a highly specialized exam and is necessary for University entrance.

Vocabulary

Primary education – початкова освіта,

Secondary education – середня освіта,

Infant schools – дошкільні навчальні заклади,

Private schools – приватні школи,

independent examining boards – незалежна екзаменаційна комісія.

Questions:

1. Is full-time education compulsory for all children in UK?
2. What subjects are taught in primary school?
3. In what types of schools is free secondary education available to all children?
4. What subjects are taught in comprehensive schools?
5. There are state and private schools in Great Britain, aren't there?
6. What can you say about the discipline and quality of education in private schools?
7. How do private schools accept pupils?
8. Is corporal punishment allowed in schools?
9. What kind of education is provided by Grammar and modern schools?
10. What is GCSE and when is it held?

9. HIGHER EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

There are different kinds of educational institutions in Great Britain:

universities, colleges (residential and non-residential), University extra-mural departments and evening departments at colleges. Pupils going on to higher education or professional training usually take «A» level examinations in two or three subjects. Universities accept students mainly on the basis of their «A» level results, although they may interview them as well. In 1971 the Open University was started, where these formal qualifications are not necessary. Nearly a quarter of all adult part-time students follow its degree courses on radio and television.

If you want to go to university, you usually apply during your last year at school, when you are 17-18. You can apply to study at any university in Britain. At the beginning of your last year at school you receive an application form. On this form you choose up to five universities that you would like to go to. The form is sent to those universities with information from your school about you and your academic record. If the universities are interested in your application, they will ask you to attend an interview. If they are still interested after the interview, they will offer you a place.

At present there are about 40 universities in Great Britain. Practically every big city of the country has a university. A university usually consists of some colleges, which are a part of the University.

Until the 19th century there were only two universities in England Oxford and Cambridge. Both Universities are residential. They have a tutorial system of education. Each student has a tutor who helps the student to plan his work. The modern Universities are

not residential. They provide instruction chiefly by means of lectures attended mainly by day students.

College is a separate institution. College gives diplomas, not degrees. The course for training specialists lasts 3 or 4 years, while at the universities it lasts as a rule more than 4 years.

A person who studies for a degree at a British University is called an undergraduate. Bachelor of Arts or of Science is the first degree. One can become aB.A. after 3 years of hard study and a M.A. (Master of Arts or of Science) at the end of 5 years. Doctor of Philosophy is the highest degree.

Tuition costs a lot of money. We have to pay for taking examinations, for attending lectures, for borrowing books from the library, for hostel accommodations. At present, students who have been accepted by universities or other institutions of higher education receive a grant from their local authority, which covers the cost of the course, and may cover living expenses.

The academic year has 3 terms. Each term lasts about eight — ten weeks. Between terms the students have their holidays — a month in winter, a month in spring and three or four months in summer.

Vocabulary

educational institutions – заклад освіти,
application form – бланк заяви,
academic record – академічна успішність,
tutor – наставник,
degree – ступінь,
undergraduate – бакалаврат,
tuition – плата за навчання.

Questions:

1. What kinds of educational institutions are there in Great Britain?

2. What should you do to become a university student?
3. What is application form for?
4. How many universities were in England until the 19th century?
5. What is the role of tutor in educational process?
6. In what way do modern universities provide instruction?
7. What is the difference between college and university?
8. What is the length of academic year?
9. What is necessary to go on to higher education?
10. What are the conditions of receiving grants?

10. UNIVERSITIES IN GREAT BRITAIN

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE

Higher education in Britain is traditionally associated with universities, though education of University standard is also given in other institutions such as colleges and institutes of higher education, which have the power to award their own degrees. Entry is competitive and specific requirements are set for each course.

The main and the oldest universities are Cambridge and Oxford, being established in the mid 12th century. The universities are informally referred to as Oxbridge. The upper class have traditionally sent their children to Oxbridge, although to many people Oxford and Cambridge seem very remote places where only the very privileged can go.

Students at Oxford and Cambridge can be accepted at one of the self-governing colleges. Each college has its own teaching and research staff, called fellows, and its own buildings, including a dining hall, a library, a chapel, and rooms for students to live in during the term. Until the 1970s colleges were single-sex, but now almost all are mixed. Oxford is one of the oldest universities in England. This University has 32 colleges—27 for men and 5 for women. There are 16 faculties there, among them the medical, humanitarian and others. A large college has about 500 students; about one hundred students study at a small college.

During the first days after his entrance to Oxford the student meets his tutor (teacher) and begins to work.

At the beginning or end of each term the student must take college examinations in written form. In many colleges of Oxford the tutors meet with the head of the college regularly and discuss the students' work.

At Oxford the working hours of the student are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 9 o'clock he sees his tutor or goes to the library or to the lectures. From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. he goes in for sports and does different exercises. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. he works in the library or in the laboratory. At 7 p.m. he has dinner. After dinner the students have club activities or attend different societies. At about 10 p.m. the student begins to work again and works for about two hours.

Undergraduates at Oxbridge study for a BA (Bachelor of Arts) or BS (Bachelor of Science) degree, but after a period of time graduates can convert their Bachelor degree to Master degree. There are usually three possible degrees for postgraduates: MA (Master of Arts) or MS (Master of Science) usually one year; MPhil (Master of Philosophy) usually two years; PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) at least three years.

At Oxford students sometimes have to wear gowns, e.g. when they go to see college principal. When they take examinations or go to a degree ceremony they have to wear academic dress, which consists of a black suit or skirt, black shoes, a white shirt or blouse and a black tie. On top they wear their gown and a black hat with a flat, square top and, when they graduate, a hood that shows their status.

The academic year in Cambridge is divided into three terms. The first one runs from October till December, the second one – from January till March and the third one – from April till June. The holidays in between the terms include Christmas, Easter and long summer vacations.

At Cambridge students only have to wear gowns when they matriculate and at graduation.

The two universities are academic rivals, and rivals also in debating and sport. The Boat Race, held each year around Easter,

attracts national attention. Rugby and cricket teams play against each other in varsity matches, as well as against professional sides.

Vocabulary

entry– вступ,
researchstaff– дослідницькі матеріали,
tutor– ментор,
gown– мантія,
graduation– випуск,
laboratory– лабораторія,
degree– ступінь,
rival– суперник.

Questions:

1. Where can British school-leavers get higher education?
2. What are the general features of higher education institutions?
3. How are Oxford and Cambridge referred to informally?
4. What kind of children do usually matriculate into these universities?
5. What requirements are set for the entry?
6. What facilities does each college have?
7. What system is at the core of teaching and learning?
8. What degrees do undergraduates and postgraduates study for?
9. How are students at Oxbridge dressed?
10. What sport events take place at the universities?

11. LIFE OF YOUTH IN GREAT BRITAIN

Young people from all walks of life are united according to their interests by the established youth organizations in Britain. Sport clubs are characteristic youth organizations in the US and UK. They unite people, who are interested in baseball, football, basketball, golf, etc. You can attend any club: from theater clubs to bird-watching clubs. Bird-watching clubs are very popular, especially in Great Britain. Youth organization Green peace deals with the most urgent ecological problems of today's world. It protests against nuclear weapon test, sea and soil pollution, etc. at 15 years old and above, young people try to find 'Saturday jobs', working as assistants in shops, cafes or restaurants.

There are a great many things that young people wish to buy, including clothes and magazines, CDs and cassette tape music, computer game and jewelry. Some young people work in their church organizations. They help elderly people or work in hospital. There are even some groups, where young people help released prisoners to start their life anew.

About 20 % of British teenagers leave home between the ages of 16 and 20. Some of them are students. They get help from the government (grants) or their parents to study away from home. But they go back home during their holidays, so they have not really left. Most of the 20 % leave home because they want to get work and experience of the world. However, accommodation is a big problem. Sometimes young people share flats but most young people have to live in bedsitters, which are rooms you sleep and live in. These bedsitters have washing and cooking facilities.

Outdoor pursuits involve anything from pony trekking to rock-climbing or canoeing and help young people go out from the confines of their home or their environment. Such pursuits nourish a

spirit of self-reliance and help realize the importance of teamwork under a good leadership. All the major youth organizations hold outdoor pursuits either by organizing special residential courses or by sending their members to take part in established courses or seminars in other cities and countries.

Local authorities and a number of multipurpose youth organizations provide the place for such activities as canoeing, sailing, rock-climbing, map reading, orienteering and cooking for survival; all of them encourage initiative and self-discipline.

Young people participate in "expedition courses" lasting 8, 12 or 20 days and involving adventurous journeys by land or sea. There are also "specialist courses" for young people aged 17 and over to become involved in work with such groups as the homeless, the elderly and the disabled.

Vocabulary

outdoor pursuits— заняття на свіжому повітрі,

to leave home — від'їжджати з дому, покидати батьківський дім.

experience — досвід,

accommodation — житло,

bedsitters — однокімнатні квартири.

Questions:

1. What is the aim of sport clubs?
2. How do interest clubs work?
3. What is the main task of youth organization Green peace?
4. At what age do people in Britain start working?
5. Why do young people start living by themselves?
6. How do young people spend their money?
7. What do outdoor pursuits involve?
8. What do local authorities and a number of multipurpose youth organizations provide?

9. What organizations are among providers of outdoor places?
10. What is the difference between Ukrainian and Britain teenage life?

12. BRITISH CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Every nation and every country has its own customs and traditions. In Britain traditions play a more important part in the life of the people than in other countries.

Englishmen are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. Foreigners coming to England are struck at once by quite a number of customs and peculiarities in English life. Some ceremonies are rather formal, such as the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Color, the State opening of Parliament.

To this day an English family prefers a house with a fireplace and a garden to a flat in a modern house with central heating. Most English love gardens. Sometimes the garden in front of the house is a little square covered with cement painted green in imitation of grass and a box of flowers. They love flowers very much.

The English people like animals very much, too. Pet dogs, cats, horses, ducks, chickens, canaries and other friends of man have a much better life in Britain than anywhere else. In Britain they have special dog shops selling food, clothes and other things for dogs. In recent years the English began to show love for more “exotic” animals such as crocodiles, elephants, tigers, cobras, camels.

Holidays are especially rich in old traditions and are different in Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England. Christmas is a great English national holiday and in Scotland it is not observed at all. But six days later, on New Year’s Eve the Scotts begin to enjoy themselves. All the shops and factories are closed on New Year’s Day. People invite their friends to their houses. Greetings and presents are offered.

A new tradition has been born in Britain. Every year a large number of ancient motor-cars drive from London to Brighton. Some of these veteran cars look very funny. This run from London to

Brighton is a colorful demonstration. People are dressed in the clothes of those times. It is not a race, and most of the cars come to Brighton, which is sixty miles from London, only in the evening.

There are many superstitions in Britain. The number 13 is said to be unlucky for some, and when the 13th day of the month falls on a Friday, anyone wishing to avoid an inauspicious event had better stay indoors.

The worst misfortune that can befall you is incurred by breaking a mirror, as it brings seven years of bad luck! The superstition is supposed to have originated in ancient times, when mirrors were considered to be tools of the gods.

Black cats are generally considered lucky in Britain, even though they are associated with witchcraft - a witch's animal-familiar' is usually a black cat. It is especially lucky if a black cat crosses your path

Politeness is a characteristic feature of Englishmen. They often say "Thank you", "Sorry", "Beg your pardon". The British are also traditional about their breakfast. They usually eat bacon and eggs, a toast with orange jam, a bowl of cereals or porridge in the morning.

There are over 60 thousand pubs in the United Kingdom. Pubs are an important part of British life too. People talk, eat, drink, meet their friends and relax there.

Vocabulary

customs—звичаї,

superstitions— забобони,

witch— відьма,

canary – канарейка,

inauspicious— несприятливий.

Questions:

1. What formal ceremonies in England do you know?
2. Most English love gardens, don't they?
3. What animals do the English have in their houses?
4. Name the great English national holiday. Is it observed in Scotland?
5. What new tradition has been born in Britain?
6. Are British people superstitious?
7. What superstitions can you name?
8. What are the difference between British and Ukrainian superstitions?
9. What other British traditions can you name?
10. Draw a parallel between Ukrainians and British people.

13. HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The word “holiday” comes from the words “holy day”. In present day Britain

beside religious festivals (such as Easter, Christmas, Whitsun) there are many other holidays that have nothing to do with religion. There are festivals honoring important historical events or reflecting certain traditions of the country.

Official public holidays in Great Britain are called bank holidays because all banks are closed as well as most factories, offices and shops. All the bank holidays (except New Year’s Day, Christmas and Boxing Day) are movable. They don’t fall on the same date each year. At present the following days are bank holidays in Great Britain: New Year’s Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day, Spring Bank holiday (the last Monday in May), Summer Bank holiday, often known as the August Bank Holiday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

For most British families the Christmas period is the only time when all the members of the family gather together. This makes people feel the importance of the family, and most young people, living apart from their parents, still spend Christmas with the family. The holiday is celebrated on the 25th of December. Although Christmas – celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ – is a religious festival, for most British people this holiday means traditional Christmas dinner of turkey, Christmas pudding and mince pies; exchanging presents and watching special Christmas programs on TV. Decorating a house with evergreens at Christmas is very old custom. Traditionally mistletoe is hung from the ceiling for people to kiss under. Holly is another well known Christmas decoration. There is a legend that Christ wore a crown of holly thorns before his death.

A traditional feature of Christmas is the Christmas tree. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert popularized this German tradition in Britain. Now most families buy a small fir-tree to decorate and put it in their homes at Christmas.

Boxing Day is celebrated on the 26th of December – on the day following Christmas. It was formerly the custom to give “Christmas boxes”, or gifts of money, to servants and tradesmen on this day. Today many people still give an annual Christmas gift to regular callers such as dustmen and paperboys. This is also a day for visiting friends and relatives and giving them presents.

Halloween is celebrated on October, 31. It was originally a pagan festival of remembrance for the end of the old year and the communion with the dead (it falls on All Souls’ Eve). Some people in Britain feel uneasy about Halloween. It is celebrated principally by children who enjoy frightening atmosphere created by make-up, masks and costumes on the theme of ghosts, witches and skeletons. In the 1990s many schools banned the Halloween celebration, because of pressure from parents who believed the festival was connected with black magic and because it encouraged children to go out at night unsupervised.

Vocabulary

holy day – святий день,
bank holidays – державні свята,
to honour – вшановувати,
public holidays – святковідні,
mistletoe – омела,
feature – особливість
tradesmen – торговці.

Questions:

1. What does the word “holiday” come from?

2. Are most holidays religious festivals nowadays?
3. What are bank holidays?
4. How many bank holidays are there in Great Britain?
5. What does Christmas mean for most people?
6. What does a traditional Christmas dinner consist of?
7. What are traditional Christmas decorations?
8. When is Boxing Day celebrated?
9. What custom was it connected with long ago?
10. What are the traditions of celebrating today?

14. TRADITIONAL BRITISH MEALS

The English proverb says: every cook praises his own broth. One cannot say English cookery is bad, but there is not a lot of variety in it. The English are very particular about their meals.

The usual meals in Britain are: breakfast, lunch, tea and supper. Breakfast is generally a bigger meal than they have on the Continent, though some English people like a continental breakfast of rolls, butter and coffee. But the usual English breakfast is porridge or cornflakes with milk or cream and sugar, bacon and eggs, marmalade made from oranges with buttered toasts and tea or coffee. For a change, you can have a boiled egg, cold ham or, perhaps, fish.

People in Britain generally have lunch about one o'clock. The businessman in London usually finds it impossible to come home for lunch, and so he goes to a cafe or restaurant; but if he is making lunch at home, he has cold meat (left over probably from yesterday's dinner), potatoes, salad and pickles with a pudding of fruit to follow. Sometimes people have a mutton chop or steak and chips followed by biscuits and cheese, and some people like a glass of light beer with lunch.

Tea is very popular among the English; it may almost be called their national drink. Tea is welcome in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening. The English put one tea-spoon full of tea for each person.

Afternoon tea you could hardly call a meal but it is a sociable sort of thing as friends often come in then for a chat while they have their cup of tea with cake or biscuit.

In some houses dinner is the biggest meal of the day. In a great many English homes people make the midday meal the chief one of the day, and in the evening they have the much simpler supper

- an omelet or sausages, sometimes bacon and eggs, and sometimes just bread and cheese, a cup of coffee or cocoa and fruit.

Some people also have «high tea». They say there is no use for these afternoon teas where you try to hold a cup of tea in one hand and a piece of bread and butter about as thin as a sheet of paper in the other. They have it between five and six o'clock, and have ham or tongue and tomatoes and salad or sausages with good strong tea, plenty of bread and butter, then stewed fruit, with cream or custard and pastries or a good cake. And that's what an Englishman calls a good tea.

The British enjoy tasting delicious food from other countries, for example, French, Italian, Indian and Chinese food. Modern people are so busy that they do not have a lot of time for cooking themselves. So, the British buy the food at the restaurant and bring it home already prepared to eat. So we can conclude that take-away meals are rather popular among the population.

Vocabulary

Proverb – прислів'я,
cornflakes – кукурудзяні пластівці,
chief – головний,
custard – заварний крем,
take-away – на виніс.

Questions:

1. What are the usual meals in England?
2. How do you understand the proverb?
3. What do people eat for breakfast in Britain?
4. What is afternoon tea?
5. When do people generally have lunch? What do people eat for lunch?
6. What is the chief meal of the day? What does it consist of?

7. What do people in Britain eat for the midday meal and supper?
8. What is high tea?
9. Do the British enjoy tasting delicious food from other countries?
10. Is tea popular among the English?

15. TRADITIONAL BRITISH HOMES

Towns and cities in Britain have grown a lot in size over the last two centuries. The oldest houses are usually those closest to the town center. Many people live in the suburbs, areas on the edge of a town. There are 22 million homes in Britain — big homes and small homes, old cottages and new buildings, houses and flats. (Americans say "apartment" but British people say "flat"). Many British people love old houses and these are often more expensive than modern ones. They also love gardening and you will see gardens everywhere you go: in towns, villages and out in the country.

Some are very small with just one tree and a few flowers. Others are enormous with plenty of flowers and enough vegetables and fruit trees. Two third of the families in Britain own their houses.

Some people prefer to live in a village and travel into the nearby town to work. Villages are considered to be pleasant places to live, as they are quieter and less polluted than towns and are closer to the countryside. They usually contain a range of houses, including old cottages and new houses and bungalows.

Many British people prefer to buy a house rather than renting one, because they can decorate or alter it to suit their own taste and because they believe they will have more privacy. Young people and those who cannot afford to buy a house live in rented accommodation.

The largest and most expensive type of house is a detached house, which is not joined to other houses and has a garden all round it. Detached houses have at least three bedrooms and one or two bathrooms upstairs, and one or more living rooms plus a separate dining room and kitchen downstairs.

Semi-detached houses, or semis, are extremely common. They are built in pairs with one house joined to the other along one side. These houses usually have two or three bedrooms. There is a separate garden at the front and the back for each house.

Bungalows have only one storey, and this makes them especially popular with older people. They are mostly found in villages or on housing estates.

High-rise blocks of flats, sometimes over 20 storeys high with several flats on each floor, were built in many towns in the mid 20th century. Many have since been pulled down because they needed a lot of repairs and because people did not like living in them. Some English families live in flats, but lots of people have got their ownhouses. There are two floors in a traditional English house.

Two or three bedrooms and a bathroom are upstairs. The living-room, the dining-room, the kitchen and a hall are downstairs.

The living-room is usually a favorite in the house. There is always a sofa, some chairs and armchairs in it. There is often a carpet on the floor. It makes the room comfortable. The British people usually have a fireplace in the living-room. They sometimes call this room a sitting-room because they often spend evenings in armchairs near the fireplace. They read books, watch TV, listen to music or sit around and talk. People in Britain like their homes and often say, "There is no place like home" or "East or West home is best".

Vocabulary

proverb– прислів'я,

block of flats– багатоповерхівка,

suburb– околиці,

detached house– особняк,

semi-detached house– напівособняк,

bungalow– бунгало.

Questions:

1. Why do people live in suburbs?
2. Do all people in Britain live in their own houses?
3. Are the British fond of gardening?
4. How many floors are there in a traditional English house?
5. Which rooms are usually upstairs?
6. Which rooms are usually downstairs?
7. Which room is a favorite in a traditional English house?
8. How do Englishmen sometimes call a living-room?
9. What are the houses built of?
10. What are the most popular types of houses in Great Britain?

16. BRITISH CHARACTER

Every nation has its own features of character. As for the British, for centuries they were considered to be superior, insular, snobbish, hypocritical and aloof. Is that really so?

Foreigners have many ideas about what the British are like. For example, some people say the British are cold and reserved, which means that they don't talk much to strangers and don't show much emotion. A reserved person never tells you anything about himself.

The character of British people has been misjudged for many centuries. One of the most striking features of British life is the self-discipline and courtesy of people of all classes. There is little noisy behavior, and practically no loud disputing in the streets. People do not rush excitedly for seats in buses or trains, but take their seats in queues at bus stops in a quiet manner.

British people are famous for their habit of politeness. They are naturally polite and are never tired in saying "Thank you", "I'm sorry", "Beg your pardon". Many foreigners have commented on a remarkable politeness of the British people.

The British don't like displaying their emotions even in dangerous and tragic situations, and ordinary people seem to remain good-tempered and cheerful under difficulties. They don't like boasting or showing off in manners, dress or speech.

Englishmen are very conservative. They are attached to their old familiar things. They dislike any possible changes in life. They respect their usual way of life and their habits. On a national scale this conservatism may be illustrated by reference to the public attitude to the monarchy. Besides, conservatism exists on a local scale. Different corporations, universities, schools have their own

private traditions. Englishmen attached to a fire-place despite of the fact that it causes troubles.

England is the country of law and order. Englishmen are rather law-abiding. They know not only their rights, they respect their duties. Englishmen have a strong sense of privacy. They are practical and realistic.

“There is no place like home” say the British. This adage best expresses an Englishmen’s traditional love of his home. About 70 percent of British people have their own houses. Most homes have a garden in which the British spend a lot of time growing flowers and looking after the lawns. The English are prudent and careful. Their lawns are closely cropped, their trees are neatly pruned.

The British not only love their homes but also their pets. Many people keep cats, dogs and other animals at home. They are completely crazy about pets and obsessed with the conditions in which animals live.

The English are very devoted to animals. Besides, animals are protected by law. For instance, you cannot leave a cat to starve in an empty house. If you can, prison is possible punishment. Englishmen are fond of their pets and can speak of their favorite dogs or horses for hours. There are even special cemeteries for dogs. More over there is the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Britain. It is a charitable foundation in which the Royal Family is the celebrity supporters. It is RSPCA, one of the Britain’s oldest charities.

Of course, English people are fond of sports. Many continentals think life is a game; the English think cricket is a game. To many Englishmen cricket is both a game and a standard of behavior. When they consider something unfair, they say “That isn’t cricket”. Fox hunting and horse racing are the great national

sports. Top social event in Ascot is called Ascot Royal Racing. It also attracts much attention of the Royal Family and the British top establishment.

It is not easy to decide on the typically British characteristics. Not all British people are aloof, uncommunicative or boring. Not all of them are crazy about lawns or animals. Still there is a “British nation”, and one of the most characteristic features is their traditions, which they respect, and which they have kept for many generations, because they bring some stability into the rapidly changing world.

Vocabulary

insular– ізольованийий,
Snobbish– снобістський,
hypocritical– лицемірний,
aloof– осторонь,
good-tempered– з веселою вдачею,
conservative– консервативний,
reserved– стриманий.

Questions:

1. What can you say about the misjudgment of the British character?
2. Are the Englishmen conservative? Why do you think so?
3. How can you illustrate English conservatism on a national and local scale?
4. England is the country of law and order, isn't it?
5. What are the other features of the Englishmen?
6. What is their attitude to the animals?
7. What remarkable habit are the Englishmen famous for?
8. Why are they completely crazy about pets?
9. Do they like displaying their emotions?

10. What do traditions bring the British?

17. ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE

People began to speak many centuries ago, and since then they have been speaking different languages. Every language reflects the soul, behavior and temperament of each nationality. Peoples created their own alphabets and rules, but they always wanted to communicate with each other, to understand and to know more about each other. Languages help people to understand each other better, they help them to solve different economic and political problems, which stands before them, and so people learn foreign languages.

All languages are different. Some are very hard, some are easier, some are similar, but there are no identical languages in the whole world. There are more than 2 700 languages in the world. Many of them are "alive" because people use them, but there are some "dead" languages, for example Latin.

Two thousand years ago, Latin was the world's most important international language. Today this title belongs to English. It's a global language of travel, business, pop culture, sport and science.

Over one billion people speak English. That's almost one fifth of the world's population. For over 400 million it's their first language. For the other 600 million it's either a second language or a foreign language.

Today, in fact, over 250 million people are learning English. That's more than the population of the USA.

The average person in Britain has a vocabulary of between 10 and 15 000 000 words. In his plays William Shakespeare used a vocabulary of about 30 000 words. Shakespeare was born over 400 years ago. At that time, only six or seven million people spoke English.

Now English is spoken practically all over the world, it has become the world's most important language in politics, science, trade and cultural relations. It is spoken as a mother tongue in Great Britain, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Besides, a lot of people speak English in Japan, India, China, Africa and many other countries. English is one of the official languages of the United Nation Organization. Half of the world's scientific literature is in English. It is the language of computer technology.

To my mind English is worth studying. There is a proverb: "A new language is a new world". "Knowledge is a power", one great man said. Speaking a foreign language one can not only read the papers, magazines and original books by outstanding writers, but as well watch satellite programmes, travel easily to different parts of the world. Besides, understanding and speaking a foreign language became necessary while applying for a good and well-paid job. Now I know that it is a must for XXI century professional no matter what job to choose.

The world is getting smaller and international connections tighter. A lot of foreign delegations keep coming to our country, hundreds of joint ventures have appeared in every city of our country recently. So without doubt you can't do without learning this beautiful language.

One should say that English is not an easy language to learn. There is a big problem of spelling, of the large number of exceptions to any rule. This language is very idiomatic and the prepositions are terrible. English is one of those languages which may seem easy in the beginning, but then the bridge between basic knowledge and mastery takes a long time to cross. But if you cross this bridge it will give you great satisfaction. You will be able to speak to people from

other countries, to read foreign authors in the original, which makes your outlook wider. To know English today is absolutely necessary for every educated man, for every good specialist.

Vocabulary

to reflect – відобразити,
soul – душа,
behavior – поведінка
to create – створювати,
similar – схожий,
average – середній, звичний,
mother tongue – рідна мова.

Questions:

1. What was the world's most important international language two thousand years ago?
2. How many people speak English as their first language, a second language or a foreign language?
3. How many languages are there in the world?
4. How large is the vocabulary of the average British person?
5. Where is spoken English?
6. Why English is important?
7. What advantages have the people who know foreign languages?
8. Why is English not an easy language to learn?
9. What do you do to improve your English?
10. What is your attitude to learning English?

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