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ВСЁ О ЖИЗНИ, КУЛЬТУРЕ И ОБЫЧАЯХ БРИТАНЦЕВ

Учебное пособие по чтению на английском языке



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Цель издания пособия – подготовить студентов к самостоятельному чтению, пониманию и переводу английских текстов, а также развить у обучающихся элементарные навыки устной речи.

Адресовано студентам I и II курсов вузов неязыковых факультетов. Может быть использовано для самостоятельной работы, в том числе студентов-заочников разных специальностей неязыковых факультетов.

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Пособие способствует пониманию письменного текста и развитию навыков устной речи на английском языке у обучающихся.

В издании представлены следующие группы упражнений:

- прочитайте и переведите предложения с новыми словами;
- подберите определения к словам;
- ответьте на вопросы по прочитанному материалу;
- составьте собственные предложения с новыми словами;
- выскажите собственное мнение на одну из данных тем.

Упражнения, представленные в пособии, могут выполняться последовательно, формируя разные умения на английском языке, или преподаватель может выбрать отдельные упражнения для развития того или иного умения в зависимости от цели занятия и уровня владения студентами английским языком. Упражнения могут выполняться студентами фронтально, в малых группах или индивидуально по выбору преподавателя.

Всё издание построено на страноведческой тематике и посвящено британской культуре, обычаям и традициям, содержит адаптированные и неадаптированные тексты из оригинальных источников.

Разные по объёму и степени адаптации тексты позволяют использовать пособие в группах различного уровня подготовки по английскому языку, способствуя дифференциации и индивидуализации обучения на неязыковых факультетах.

Большинство текстов не предназначено для чтения и последовательного перевода. Начинать работу над каждым текстом следует непосредственно с выполнения упражнений.

Тексты могут быть переведены на русский язык для закрепления языкового и страноведческого материала после выполнения всех упражнений.

Помимо обучения чтению тексты пособия могут быть использованы при изучении разговорных тем «Семья», «Дом», «Рабочий день», «Жизнь знаменитого человека», а также тем, посвящённых Великобритании: государственное устройство, история, достопримечательности.

Unit I. INTRODUCTION TO BRITAIN

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. entire; 'England' is used in reference to the entire island of Great Britain.
2. to rule, to refer to; The UK has been ruled by the government in London since 1707.
3. vast, majority; English is the official language of the vast majority of the population.
4. identity; The Scots and the Welsh are proud of their separate identities.
5. a border, to border; Scotland has a land border to the south with England.
6. a principality; Wales is a principality.
7. to elect, elections; The year 1999 saw the first elections to the National Assembly of Wales.
8. to issue; Wales does not issue its own currency.
9. unsuitable; Much of Wales is unsuitable for crop-growing.
10. rural; Tourism is vital for rural areas.
11. to adopt, adoption; The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland adopted its name in 1801.
12. to negotiate; Britain negotiated with Ireland.
13. to establish; The Northern Ireland Assembly was established as part of the Belfast Agreement.
14. to scrutinize; The Assembly scrutinizes and makes decisions on the work of the government.
15. to suspend, to restore; Devolution to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive was suspended in October 2002 and restored on 8 May 2007.

EXERCISE 2. *Match each word with its correct definition:*

Offence, to contain, principal, mysterious, a kilt, soil, unique, sparse

- unusual, being the only one;
- most important;

- the state of being insulted;
- to include, to comprise;
- enigmatic, mystic;
- of few and scattered elements;
- firm land, the upper layer of earth;

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on the essential facts:*

What is the difference between the UK, England, Great Britain (GB) and the British Isles?

"England" is, sometimes, wrongly used in reference to the whole United Kingdom, the entire island of Great Britain (or simply Britain), or indeed the British Isles. This is not only incorrect but can cause offence to people from other parts of the UK.

England, Scotland, Wales refer to different parts of the UK. The British Isles include many islands not even part of the UK.

England is a country in the UK and occupies most of the southern two thirds of Great Britain. The total area of England is 130,410 sq km (50,352 sq ml).

England contains about 84 % of the UK population.

The capital of the UK is in England.

The capital, seat of government, and the largest city in the United Kingdom is London.

London is also the capital of England.

All of Great Britain has been ruled by the UK government in London since 1707. (In 1999 the first elections to the newly created Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales took place leaving England as the only part of Great Britain with no devolved assembly or parliament.)

The English language comes from England. As its name suggests, the English language, today spoken by hundreds of millions of people around the world, originated as the language from England, where it remains the principal tongue today. English is the official language of the UK and the first language of the vast majority of the population. Both Wales and Scotland have their own languages but English is spoken in both countries more.

The British Royal family live in England

Most of the world assumes that British people are "English" unless specified otherwise. This of course is wrong. British people can be Scottish, Welsh, Irish (living in Northern Ireland) or English. The Scots and the Welsh are proud of their separate identities and tend to be more forward about referring to themselves as Scottish or Welsh.

Message from Cameron: "Hey, I am from Scotland or Great Britain. I like to say that I am British but it seems that if I do that, some foreigners will automatically assume that I am from England. It really annoys me because I would like to say I am British, but the majority of the world's population do not understand, so I find it necessary to revoke my identity and call myself Scottish.... "

Where is Scotland?

Scotland is in north-west Europe and is a part of Great Britain, an island country and the United Kingdom (UK) .Scotland is a mountainous country in the north of the island of Great Britain and shares a land border to the south with England and is bounded by the North Sea on the east and the Atlantic Ocean on the west. Its capital city is Edinburgh.

Scotland has some 790 islands – 130 inhabited.

Scotland is Famous for.... Its fresh water lochs (lakes) – there are over 600 square miles of them. One of the most famous is Loch Ness where a mysterious monster is said to lurk in the depths of the water.

It is also famous for its clans, kilts, medieval castles, as well as poetry and songs of Robert Burns.

Theatre lovers from around the world come to Edinburgh for its famous theatres festival.

Famous People of Scotland.

Famous Scots include: Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle, David Hume and the actor Sean Connery.

Famous musicians of Scotland include Annie Lennox, Wet Wet Wet, Travis and Simple Minds.

Government

On 1 July 1999, the Scottish Parliament was opened by HM the Queen, the first Scottish Parliament for 300 years. Scottish parliament responsibilities include social work services, health, local government and education.

Interesting Facts

Edinburgh was the first city in the world which had its own fire-brigade. Edinburgh – the capital of Scotland, like Rome, was built on seven hills. Until 1603, Scotland (like England) had its own Monarch. In 1603, the King of Scotland became also the King of England ruling both countries.

Flag: Cross of St Andrew

National Day: 30 November

Area: 78,789 sq km

Population: 5,054,800 (2002)

Capital City: Edinburgh

Major Cities: Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow

Official Language: English (Scottish Gaelic is spoken by 1.4 percent of the population)

Nationality : Scottish and British

Highest point: Ben Nevis (1,343 m)

Longest river: Tay 193 kilometres (120 miles) long

Where is Wales?

Wales is in north-west Europe and is a part of Great Britain, an island country and the United Kingdom (UK) .

The name Wales comes from the Cymraeg word Gwalia, meaning in English "Homeland". It later became Latinized as Walia, then by the Normans to something like Wal~es....then Wales.

Wales (Cymru in Welsh) is a mountainous country on the western side of Great Britain.

Wales is bordered by England to the east, the Bristol Channel to the south, St George's Channel in the west, and the Irish Sea to the north. Technically, Wales is a principality. This means that it is ruled by a prince. Traditionally the Prince of Wales is the eldest son of the English monarch.

Wales is one of the four parts of the United Kingdom (along with England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland).

Wales has not been politically independent since 1282, when it was conquered by King Edward I of England.

Until 1999, Wales was ruled directly from London; that year saw the first elections to the National Assembly of Wales, which has limited domestic powers and cannot make law.

Wales does not issue its own currency and is not in control of any armed forces. These are the powers of the national government of the UK.

The national game of Wales is Rugby

Famous Welsh people

Wales is known for its great actors - Richard Burton, and today Sir Anthony Hopkins and Catherine Zeta Jones. It is also known for its Celtic traditions and the Red Dragon (Y Ddraig Goch) on its flag.

Laura Ashley – famous fashion creator.

David Lloyd George – past British Prime Minister,

Sir George Everest – famous traveler and explorer. The highest peak in the world is named after him.

Writers and poets

Roald Dahl (1916 – 1990), author

Dick Francis (born 1920), jockey and author

Dylan Thomas (1914 – 1953), poet

Ronald Stuart Thomas (1913 – 2000), poet

David Jones (1895 – 1974), artist and poet

Musicians

Tom Jones

Shirley Bassey

Musical groups:

Catania

Super Furry Animals

The Stereophonics

Manic Street Preachers

Country Facts

Flag: Red dragon on a green and white field.

National Day: 1 March

Area: 20,779 sq km

Population: 2,918,700 (2002)

Capital City: Cardiff (Caerdydd)

Major Cities: Cardiff, Swansea (Abertawe) and Newport (Casnewydd)

Official Language: English and Cymraeg (Welsh)

Nationality : Welsh and British

Highest point: Snowdon 1085 metres (3559 ft)

Longest river: Towy (Tywi) 103 km (64 miles)

Largest Lake: Bala (4.4 sq km)

Official Animal: Dragon

Economy

Coal, copper, iron, lead, and gold have been mined in Wales, and slate has been quarried.

Much of Wales, due to poor soil, is unsuitable for crop-growing, and so livestock farming has traditionally been the focus of agriculture.

The Welsh landscape, protected by three National Parks, and the unique Welsh culture bring in tourism, which is especially vital for rural areas.

Traditional Welsh Food

Welsh food is usually made from local ingredients.

Some traditional dishes include laverbread (made from seaweed), bara brith (fruit cake), cawl cennin (leek stew), Welsh cakes, Welsh Rarebit, and Welsh lamb. A type of shellfish, cockles, is often served with breakfast.

Facts about Northern Ireland

Where is Northern Ireland?

Northern Ireland lies in the northeast of the island of Ireland, covering 5,459 square miles (14,139 km²), about a sixth of the island's total area.

Northern Ireland is the second most sparsely populated part of the UK after Scotland, with 317 people per square mile (122 per square kilometre).

History of Northern Ireland.

In 1801 the whole of Ireland became part of the United Kingdom, with the adoption of the name the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

After years of civil war, Ireland became a republic in 1921. At this time, Britain negotiated with Ireland to keep the six counties in the north-east of Ireland. These six counties now make up what is known as Northern Ireland. The southern part of the island is the Republic of Ireland, or Eire.

In 1927 the current name of the UK, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was adopted.

Famous People of Northern Ireland

C. S. Lewis (1898 – 1963), writer

Kenneth Branagh (1960), actor and film director

James Nesbitt (1965), actor

William Burke (1792 – 1829), grave robber and murderer

George Best (1946 – 2005) footballer

James Galway (1939), musician

Northern Ireland is famous for ...

The Giant's Causeway.

The Giant's Causeway, situated on the North East coast of Northern Ireland, is an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient volcanic eruption. Most of the basalt columns are hexagonal in shape.

Famous Irish breweries include Guinness, Smithwicks (Kilkenny), and Harp Lager.

Government

The Northern Ireland Assembly was established as part of the Belfast Agreement (also known as the Good Friday Agreement). The Assembly debates and makes laws, and scrutinizes and makes decisions on the work of the Northern Ireland government departments.

Devolution to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive was suspended in October 2002 and restored on 8 May 2007.

Interesting Facts

HMS Titanic ship was built in Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland.

National Day: 17 March St Patrick's Day

Area: 5,459 square miles (14,139 km²)

Population: 1,685,000 (Census 2001)

Capital City: Belfast

Major Cities: Belfast, Londonderry, Lisburn, Newtonabbey, Bangor, Craigavon

Official Language: English, Irish and Ulster Scots

Nationality : British and Irish

Anthem (song) :God Save the Queen

Main religions: Protestant and Catholic

Currency: Pound Sterling (£)

Highest point: Slieve Donard mountain 848 m (2782 ft),

Longest river: River Bann 129 kilometres (80 miles)

Largest Lake: Lough Neagh 151 square miles (392 km²) Also the largest freshwater lake in the British Isles.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. What are the parts of the UK?
2. What is the capital of the UK?
3. London is the seat of government, isn't it?
4. What is the official language of the UK?
5. What are other languages spoken in the UK?
6. Where is Scotland situated?
7. What is the capital of Scotland?
8. Who are the famous people of Scotland?
9. What is the highest mountain in Scotland?
10. Where is Wales?
11. When was Wales conquered by King Edward 1 of England?
12. Since when the National Assembly of Wales elected?
13. Who is Wales famous for?
14. What is Scotland famous for?
15. Where is Northern Ireland situated?
16. When did the whole of Ireland become a part of the United Kingdom?
17. Ireland became a republic in 1921, didn't it?
18. Do you know any famous people of Northern Ireland?
19. What Northern Ireland is famous for?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex.1 and Ex.2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on one of the following topics:*

1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
2. England.
3. Scotland.
4. Wales.
5. Northern Ireland.

Unit II. THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNION FLAG

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. Sovereign; The Union Flag is made up of the individual flags of three countries all united under one Sovereign.
2. to represent; England is represented by the flag of St. George.
3. a cross; Richard I of England introduced the Cross of St. George as the national flag of England.
4. the patron saint; St. George is the patron saint of England.
5. fireworks; England does not celebrate its national day with fireworks.
6. fertile; England is famous for its fertile lowlands.
7. delicious; England is famous for its delicious cheeses.
8. notorious; England is famous for Robin Hood and its notorious sheriff.
9. to inherit; After Queen Elizabeth I of England died in 1603, King James VI of Scotland inherited the English throne.
10. to proclaim; James proclaimed a new title for himself as 'King of Great Britain'.
11. to summarize;
12. an inhabitant; The formation of the Union Flag came about as the result of the progressive merging of the inhabitants of the British Isles under one throne.

EXERCISE 2. *Match each word with its correct definition:*

Ordinary, residence, ancient, reign, to attempt, kingdom, background, to avoid.

- the scenery or ground behind something;
- of a kind to be expected in the normal order of events; usual, every-day;
- the time during which the Sovereign rules;
- the place where one usually lives;
- to refrain from, to keep away from something;
- a politically organized community headed by a king or a queen;
- to try, to make an effort;
- having had an existence of many years; antique, old.

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on the essential facts:*

The Union Flag, popularly known as the Union Jack, is the national flag of the United Kingdom. It is the British flag. It is called the Union Flag because it symbolizes the administrative union of the countries of the United Kingdom. It is made up of the individual Flags of three of the Kingdom's countries all united under one Sovereign – the countries of 'England, of 'Scotland' and of 'Northern Ireland' (since 1921 only Northern Ireland has been part of the United Kingdom). As Wales was not a Kingdom but a Principality it could not be included on the flag.

England is represented by the flag of St. George.

In 1194 A.D., Richard I of England introduced the Cross of St. George, a red cross on a white ground, as the National Flag of England.

St George is the patron saint of England. St. George's Day is on 23 April. It is England's national day.

Who was the real St. George and what did he do to become England's patron saint?

St. George was a brave Roman soldier who protested against the Romans' torture of Christians and died for his beliefs. The popularity of St. George in England stems from the time of the early Crusades when it is said that the Normans saw him in a vision and were victorious.

How does England celebrate St. George's Day?

By tradition, 23 April is the day for a red rose in the button hole, the national flower. However, unlike other countries, England does not celebrate it like Americans celebrate 4 July with fireworks. In fact, you are more likely to see big St. Patrick parades in England celebrating Ireland's National Day, more than you would see any sign of St. Georges Day being celebrated. For most people in England St. George's Day is just another ordinary working day.

Interesting Facts

Despite the fact that St. George has been the patron saint of England since the 14th century, only one in five people know that St. George's Day falls on 23 April.

More than a quarter of people living in England do not even know who their patron saint is!

Shakespeare was born on 23 April 1564 and he died on the same day in 1616.

What is England famous for?

England is famous for many things – David Beckham, Fish and Chips, Big Ben, Red Buses, black cabs, Oasis, Blur, the Beatles, London and tea.

England is famous for its long history.

England is famous for its Royal Family.

England is famous for its Castles and Historic houses

Windsor Castle is the oldest royal residence still in use.

England is famous for its educational institutions. It has some of the most famous universities of the world like Oxford, Cambridge and London universities.

England is famous for some of the world's greatest pop stars – the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Queen, Phil Collins, the Spice Girls and Oasis.

England is famous for William Shakespeare. Hamlet, Othello, and Romeo and Juliet were written by him.

England is famous for its green hills and fertile lowlands.

England is famous for its rain and the lush green of its countryside.

England is famous for its creams and butters and for its delicious cheeses: Stilton, Cheshire, double Gloucester, red Leicester, and cheddar.

England is famous for its strawberries.

England is famous for its pubs. (English pubs are a part of everyday life here. They're pretty much a community gathering place. Many people go there to watch a football game, play pool or just have a beer.)

England is famous for Wimbledon.

England is famous for an ancient circle called Stonehenge. It is the most important prehistoric monument in England.

England is famous for the legend of Robin Hood, Sherwood Forest and its notorious sheriff.

Symbols of England

The three national symbols of England are the St. George's cross (usually seen as a flag), the red rose and the Three Lions crest (usually seen as a badge).

The oak is the national tree of England.

National Animal – Lion.

Scotland is represented by the flag of St. Andrew (a diagonal white cross (called a saltire) on a blue field).

After Queen Elizabeth I of England died in 1603, King James VI of Scotland inherited the English throne and became King James I of England. It was a Union of the Crowns, but not yet of the nations. Each country still kept their own parliaments. Early in his reign James attempted to combine England and Scotland in a united kingdom of 'Great Britain'. This was the policy he presented to his first Parliament, called on 22 March 1604. The union was resisted. James defied them. On 20 October 1604 he proclaimed a new title for himself as 'King of Great Britain'. On 12 April 1606, the National Flags of Scotland and England were united for use at sea, thus making the first Union Jack. Ashore however, the old flags of England and Scotland continued to be used by their respective countries.

A royal decree declared that the ships of the Kingdom of Great Britain "shall bear on their maintops the red cross, commonly called St. George's cross, and the white cross, commonly called St. Andrew's cross." When the

red cross of England was put onto the flag of Scotland, a white border was added around the red cross for reasons of heraldry. (The rules of heraldry demanded that two colours must never touch each other.) On 28th July, 1707, during the reign of Queen Anne, this flag was by royal proclamation made the National flag of Great Britain, for use ashore and afloat. The Act of Union of 1707, joined England and Scotland together, creating a single kingdom with a single Parliament called 'United Kingdom of Great Britain'.

England, Wales and Scotland were now united together under one monarch and one parliament. The Royal Navy christened the British flag "The Union".

Interesting Fact:

When the 'Union Flag' was first introduced, in 1606, it was known simply as 'the British flag' or 'the flag of Britain'.

Nearly one hundred years later, another country was added to the Union flag

Ireland is represented by the cross of St. Patrick (a diagonal red cross on a white background).

On 1 January 1801, Ireland was united with Great Britain and it became necessary to have a new National Flag in which Ireland was represented. The cross of St. Patrick was combined with the Union Flag of St. George and St. Andrew, to create the Union Flag that has been flown ever since. The cross of St. Patrick was inserted so the position given to St. Andrew's Cross in one quarter was the same as that given to the Irish one in the diagonally opposite quarter; in heraldry this is known as "counter-changing". The 'new' British flag is not symmetrical because of the counterchange.

As Scotland joined the Union nearly two hundred years before Ireland, St Andrew's Cross was placed uppermost in the top quarter nearest the flagstaff, this being the most honourable position according to heraldry, while the Irish Cross was given the second most honourable position, the top quarter of the fly.

In order to avoid having the red of the Irish Cross directly upon the blue field of the Scottish one an edging of the white field of the Irish Cross is used.

The symbols of Scotland and Ireland are placed side by side on the Union Flag.

England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland were now all joined together and called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The name was later changed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland when the greater part of Ireland left the United Kingdom in 1921.

The St. Patrick's Cross remains in the flag even though today only Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.

To summarize...

The formation of the Union Flag (Union Jack) came about as the result of the progressive merging of the inhabitants of the British Isles under one throne.

1603 – King James VI of Scotland inherited the English throne and became King James I of England.

1606 – the National Flags of Scotland and England were united for use at sea, thus making the first Union Flag.

1707 – during the reign of Queen Anne, the first Union Flag was by royal proclamation made the National flag of Great Britain, for use ashore and afloat.

1801 – Ireland was united with Great Britain and the present Union Flag was formed.

The Union Flag consists of the three heraldic crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick.

The flags of the Patron Saints of England, Scotland and Ireland are represented on the Union Flag. But, why is Wales not represented on the Union Flag?

The Welsh dragon does not appear on the flag because when the first Union Flag was created in 1606, Wales was already united with England from the 13th century. This meant that Wales a Principality instead of a Kingdom and as such could not be included.

In 1536, under Henry VIII, the Act of Union joined England and Wales officially.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. What is the name of the National Flag of the UK?
2. What does it symbolize?
3. Who is the patron saint of England?
4. What is England noted for?
5. What are the symbols of England?
6. What is the flag of Scotland?
7. What Act joined England and Scotland together?
8. When did it happen?
9. When was Ireland united with Great Britain?
10. Who are the patron saints of Scotland and Ireland?
11. What is the capital of Northern Ireland?
12. What is the capital of Wales?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex. 1 and Ex. 2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on the following topic:*

1. The formation of the Union Flag.

Unit III. DAILY LIFE IN BRITAIN

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts.*

1. Cereal; I like to eat cereal for breakfast.
2. to put on; After breakfast my sister and I put on our school uniform.
3. to pick up; Mum picks us up from school at 3:15.
4. to wash up; I have to help mum wash up when I have eaten.
5. whilst; I go to Cubs whilst my sister goes to Brownies.
6. to go camping; We usually go camping twice a year.
7. to bet; I bet you can guess what colour my rabbit is.
8. average amount; The average amount of pocket money for seven to eleven-years-olds is 6.31 pounds per week.
9. to chat; to text; They enjoy chatting to and texting friends on their mobiles.

10. to hang out with smb.; a mate; They enjoy hanging out with their mates.

11. a telly; I do my homework before watching telly.

12. to browse/to surf the Internet; Ever since then, I have been surfing the Internet.

13. to pop; We popped into Sainsbury on our way back home.

14. value; Changing values and norms of the British family.

15. a rise; household; There has been a rise in the number of single-households.

16. to estimate; By the year 2020, it is estimated that there will be more single people than married people.

17. divorce; Divorce was very difficult, expensive and took a long time.

18. a couple; Many couples live together without getting married.

19. to put off; They prefer to concentrate on their jobs and put off having a baby until late thirties.

20. due to; This is due to more marriages ending in divorce.

21. a budgerigar; They keep one million badgerigars.

22. dwarf; I have a dwarf rabbit.

23. a wildlife; The British have a varied wildlife.

24. a robin; A common bird in England is the red robin.

EXERCISE 2. Match each word with its correct definition.

To guess, eventually, to cohabit, creature, tiny, tame, temporary, to protect.

- very small;
- to believe, to suppose;
- lasted for a limited time;
- to save;
- in the end;
- an animal; a human being;
- domesticated;
- to live together as a married couple.

EXERCISE 3. Read the texts and try to focus on the essential facts:

What is a typical day like for a child in Britain? (A diary of an English boy).

Hi, my name is Craig. I am English because I was born in England, but I am also British because England is a part of Great Britain and is in the UK. I am English, I am British too .

I live in a typical English family. I have a father, a mother and a sister and we all live together in a house in a town in the south east corner of England. At the back of our house we have our garden where I play with my sister.

My family has a car, a computer, a colour telly (television) with a dvd, a washing machine, a dishwasher and a cat. Mum and dad both have mobile phones and I am hoping to get one soon.

The day starts at about 7 o'clock when Dad and Mum get up. My sister and I usually watch telly in our pyjamas (night clothes) until breakfast. We have breakfast at 8 o'clock. I like to eat Rice Krispies (cereal) and jam on toast. I also drink a glass of milk. My Mum usually only has a toast, a glass of orange juice and a cup of coffee. Dad likes to have a fried breakfast consisting of baked beans, bacon, tomatoes, mushrooms, two eggs and a sausage.

After breakfast, my sister and I, put on our school uniform. I wear grey trousers, a white shirt and a blue sweat shirt.

I take a packed lunch to school, which contains things like sandwiches, fruit and a bag of crisps. Sometimes my friends and I swap our food.

My favourite subjects at school are science and history. My favourite topic in history is learning about the ancient Egyptians. I also enjoy PE (Physical Education) lessons. We play football, netball, cricket and sometimes we go cross-country running. Mum picks us up from school at 3:15. Sometimes we go down town to the shops and, if we are really lucky, Mum will buy us a McDonalds Happy Meal. However, most days we will go straight home and my sister and I watch the telly, play on our Wii, or play on the computer.

Dad usually gets home about 6 o'clock. We eat together at about 6.30. My favourite meal is a fish finger with peas and chips. I also like pizza which we have very often.

I have to help mum wash up (wash the dishes) when I have eaten. I also have to tidy my bedroom.

In the evenings, I usually do my homework before watching more telly. Mum helps me with my homework. My family likes to watch Eastenders, and Coronation Street (English soap operas).

I am a Cub Scout and my sister is a Brownie. On Mondays, I go to Cubs whilst my sister goes to Brownies. I also go to Karate on Thursdays and my sister goes to Ballet on Wednesdays. I love Cubs especially when we go camping. I like building fires and cooking on them. It is fun sleeping in the tents too. We usually go camping about twice a year.

I enjoy playing on my computer and skate boarding. I have a pet rabbit called Sooty. I bet you can guess what colour it is? Black of course.

Every Saturday, my family and I, go into town to the open market. People sell vegetables, clothes, toys, posters, and nearly anything else out on the street. Mum buys her fruit and vegetables there. I enjoy just wandering looking at all the things for sale, hoping my parents will buy me something. Sometimes I am lucky.

I love my family very much.

Written by Craig aged 10 years.

Teenagers life in England / UK

Pocket Money

The average amount of pocket money for seven to 11-year-olds is £6.31 per week.

The average amount of pocket money for 12 to 16-year-olds is £9.15 per week.

What is life of a teenager like in England?

Teenagers in England do much the same as kids in America or other European countries do. They enjoy chatting to and texting friends on their mobiles, hanging out with their mates, listening to the latest music on their MP3 players, shopping for the latest fashions or just watching movies on the television or at the cinema (movie house).

In my free time I swim, go into town, text my mates, do household stuff with my Mum and Dad, go on the internet, watch TV and play on my Playstation and Gamegear!

I listen to music all the time! I have a mp3 and a CD player. In Britain, most youths listen to punk, garage, house, rock, pop and R&B. (such as Busted, McFly, JLo, Xtina, Beyonce, Pink, Britney, Justin Timberlake, Mis-teeq).

Five Days in the Life of a Teenager during a School Holiday

Day One

I've had an OK day today. I got up at 12 midday, ate cookie crisp for breakfast. Mum went out to Tesco's during the afternoon. I wasn't on my own for too long though. Mum only bought food for lunch.

I checked my mobile phone during lunch - one of my friends texted me early in the morning and I'd only just noticed it! I sent back a reply and apologized for not replying sooner.

After lunch I sat around watching telly and finishing my English / History / German / Science homework.

I had dinner at about 6:30, I had a microwaveable pizza and crinkle chips. I went upstairs, finished off my English homework, I listened to Avril Lavigne and Dido for a while, came back downstairs at about 7:15, came onto the internet. Watched Emmerdale, then Coronation Street and am now watching Eastenders. Tesco is a supermarket. Telly is slang for television. Emmerdale, Coronation Street and Eastenders are all soap operas.

Day Two

I woke up at 10:45, Mum and I went into town. Afterwards, we phoned Mum's mate and her daughter (my mate) to ask if we could come round afterwards, as we hadn't seen each other for months!

We stayed at our friends' house for an hour and a half – during that time me and my mate browsed the internet. Afterwards we went to Tesco's to get dinner – microwave Indian meal for three (Mum, Dad, me).

Day Three

I woke up at 10 am ish, I think. Mum and I went back into Maidstone today, as we needed to get the Sunday Roast stuff for, well, Sunday. We also bought fish and chips for lunch and I bought some new funky crayon spider pens. We popped into Sainsburys on our way back home.

Ever since then, I have been surfing the internet, eating dinner (sausages, mash, beans) and watching a bit of TV.

Day Four

Mum went to work today, I did some more homework and in the afternoon I surfed the internet. Mum left me out lunch before she went. I also prayed at about 2pm. Now I'm watching channel Five. I'm afraid that's all I've done today

Day Five

I woke up at 2pm, and so did my mum. We went to Tesco at 3:30pm – where mum kept meeting her friends, and we chatted for 2 hours! When we got home, it was already time for dinner(sausage, egg and chips). Afterwards, I did more homework until 2am – and I'm not joking!

Favourite Things

Results from a survey of 5000 British 12 to 18 year-olds conducted by UK's Bliss magazine in 2004

Favourite film

1. The Lord of the Rings trilogy
2. Pirates of the Caribbean
3. Scary Movie
4. Love Actually
5. Dirty Dancing

Favourite book

1. Harry Potter
2. The Lord of the Rings
3. A Child Called 'It'
4. The Princess Diaries
5. Holes

Favourite band

1. Busted
2. Blazin' Squad
3. Black Eyed Peas
4. Sugababes
5. Blue

6. Big Brovaz
7. Red Hot Chili Peppers
8. The Darkness
9. Good Charlotte
10. Evanescence

What is family life like in Britain?

Changing Values and Norms of the British Family

The family in Britain is changing. The once typical British family headed by two parents has undergone substantial changes during the twentieth century. In particular there has been a rise in the number of single-person households, which increased from 18 to 29 per cent of all households between 1971 and 2002. By the year 2020, it is estimated that there will be more single people than married people. Fifty years ago this would have been socially unacceptable in Britain.

In the past, people got married and stayed married. Divorce was very difficult, expensive and took a long time. Today, people's views on marriage are changing. Many couples, mostly in their twenties or thirties, live together (cohabit) without getting married. Only about 60 % of these couples will eventually get married.

In the past, people married before they had children, but now about 40 % of children in Britain are born to unmarried (cohabiting) parents. In 2000, around a quarter of unmarried people between the ages of 16 and 59 were cohabiting in Great Britain. Cohabiting couples are also starting families without first being married. Before 1960 this was very unusual, but in 2001 around 23 per cent of births in the UK were to cohabiting couples.

People are generally getting married at a later age now and many women do not want to have children immediately. They prefer to concentrate on their jobs and put off having a baby until late thirties.

The number of single-parent families is increasing. This is mainly due to more marriages ending in divorce, but some women are also choosing to have children as lone parents without being married.

Family Size

On average 2.4 people live as a family in one home Britain. This is smaller than most other European countries.

Pets

Britain is famous for being a nation of animal lovers, and many people in Britain keep pets. More than 50 per cent of British families own a pet. They keep some 7.7 million cats, 6.6 million dogs, one million budgerigars and 18 million goldfish. And they are increasingly adopting exotic creatures such as small farm animals, snakes, tropical fish, and spiders; an estimated 2,000 households now have reptiles.

My Pet Rabbit

My name is Nina Francis and I am in class 3B. I have a Netherland Dwarf rabbit called Fluffy who is three years old. The main characteristics which make him a dwarf rabbit are, that he doesn't grow very big and he has tiny ears.

He lives in a hutch in my garden and goes down a ramp to play in his run underneath. In the summer he plays on the grass and in the winter I bring him indoors in the warm to watch TV in my bedroom with me. He is very tame, he doesn't bite and loves being stroked. I loved bringing him into school for show, so all my friends could meet him.

By Nina Francis

Wild Animals

The British have a varied wildlife. Their largest mammal is the red deer. In the wild, foxes and rabbits are often seen, and if you're lucky, you may even see a badger, weasel or a hedgehog. The only poisonous snake, the adder, is rare and protected. The smallest mammal is the pygmy shrew. There are no animals like elephants or tigers but they can see them in the zoo.

Birds

Bird watching is a popular pastime in Britain. England is home to nearly 230 kinds of birds and a temporary home to 200 migrating birds. A common bird in England is the red robin. The migrant cuckoo stops in England during spring. The tit family, chaffinch, blackbird, and thrush are other common birds.

Animals native to England

Mammals

European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

Red Deer

Roe deer

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)

Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Polecat (*Mustella putorius* L)

Hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)

Rabbits are not native to England, they were probably introduced by the Normans as a food source during the early part of the last millennium (1066).

Amphibians

Common frog

Common toad (*Bufo bufo*)

Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*)

Palmate newt

Smooth newt

Great crested newt

Reptiles

Common (or viviparous) lizard

Sand lizard

Slow-worm

Adder (or viper)

Grass snake

Smooth snake

Birds

Swans

Sparrow

The Tawny owl

Robin

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. When does a typical day of English family start?
2. What do they usually have for breakfast?
3. Do schoolchildren wear uniform?
4. What kind of lunch do schoolchildren have?
5. What does the family do in the evening?
6. What are the children's hobbies?
7. What is life of a teenager like in Britain?
8. Are there any changes in the family life in Britain?
9. Do many people in Britain keep pets?
10. What animals can be seen in the forests?
11. Bird watching is a favourite pastime in the UK, isn't it?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex. 1 and Ex. 2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on the following topics:*

1. A typical day of the British family.
2. Teenagers' life in Britain.
3. Changing values and norms of the British family.
4. About wildlife and pets.

Unit IV. HOUSES IN ENGLAND

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. urban; Most people in England live in urban areas.
2. to cope with; environment; Towns and cities are spreading into their surrounding environment to cope with the increase of the population.
3. to own; Who owns houses in England?
4. property; a mortgage; People buying their property almost always pay for it with a special loan called a mortgage.
5. wage; The cost of housing in Britain has increased much faster than people's wages.
6. a lounge; Some people call a living room a lounge.
7. a radiator; The bedrooms are kept warm by radiators.

8. a wardrobe; A wardrobe is a place to hang clothes in.
9. a swing; a lawn; In the back garden there is a swing and a lawn for children to play football.
10. loads of; In the front garden is a small lawn surrounded by loads of flowers and plants.

EXERCISE 2. *Match each word with its correct definition:*

To spread, a landlord, a loan, to store, cutlery, a sink, a laundry.

- a stationary basin for washing;
- to place for preservation or later use;
- the owner of property that is rented to another;
- a room for doing the family wash;
- implements for cutting and eating food;
- money lent at interest;
- to open or expand over a large area.

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on its essential facts:*

Most people in England live in urban areas. Towns and cities are spreading into their surrounding environment to cope with the increase of the population. In England, an average of 7,000 hectares of farmland, countryside and green space were converted to urban use every year between 1985 and 1998. This is almost the equivalent size of 9,600 international football pitches!

Who owns houses in England?

More people are buying their own homes than in the past. About two thirds of the people in England and the rest of Britain either own, or are in the process of buying their own home. Most others live in houses or flats that they rent from a private landlord, the local council, or housing association.

People buying their property almost always pay for it with a special loan called a mortgage, which they must repay, with interest, over a long period of time, usually 25 years.

What are houses in England like?

Most houses in England are made of stone or brick from the local area where the houses are built. The colours of the stones and bricks vary across the country.

Types of houses in England

England has many types of homes. In the large cities, people often live in apartments, which are called flats. In most towns, there are streets of houses joined together in long rows. They are called terraced houses.

The main types of houses in England are:

Detached (a house not joined to another house)

Semi-detached (two houses joined together)

Terraced (several houses joined together)

Flats (apartments)

The most popular type of home in England is semi-detached (more than 27 % of all homes), closely followed by detached then terraced.

Almost half of London's households are flats, maisonettes or apartments.

Cost of Houses

A big problem in England is the rising cost of houses. In 1989 first-time buyers paid an average of around £40,000, in 2001 this had more than doubled to £85,000 and in 2006 to £151,565.

The cost of housing in England has increased much faster than people's wages making it impossible for first-time buyers to get on the housing ladder unless they are in especially well-paid jobs, are able to call upon rich relatives or are prepared to buy jointly with friends.

2003

Average wage per year: £20,000

Average house price: over £120,000.

2007

Average wage per year: £23,244

Average house price: £184,924

Cost of Houses in 2005	Cost of Houses in 2007
Average Cost: £182,920	Average Cost: £184,924
Detached: £282,157	Detached: £285,697
Semi-detached: £169,074	Semi-detached: £170,650
Terraced: £139,122	Terraced: £143,512
Flat: £168,571	Flat: £174,052

Inside an English house

Hi, my name is Erik. I live in a small town in the south east of England.

I live in a detached house. This means that my house is not joined to another house. My house is made of bricks and tiles.

In my house there are three rooms downstairs and three rooms upstairs. We have central heating which keeps our house warm. Some houses have an open fire place but we don't. (Over 90 per cent of homes have central heating.)

Rooms Downstairs

Kitchen

If you come into my house through the back door, you will find yourself in the kitchen. This is the room where food is stored and cooked. In my kitchen there is a fridge (refrigerator), a freezer under the fridge where Mum freezes things.

We have cupboards for food and for plates etc. We have an electric cooker. It has four rings on top and a grill and oven underneath. Microwave is very quick and easy to use. We use it to cook our food quickly. Mum washes our clothes in washing machine and hangs them out in our garden to dry. I help my mum wash up the plates in the sink. We wash the dishes in washing up bowl in the sink. We take the bowl out when we wash our hands. We have a dishwasher. We put our plates, cups and cutlery in here to wash them.

Living Room

Some people call this room the lounge. It is where the television is and the comfy chairs.

In my living room there is a table with chairs the place where we eat our meals.

In America I think they call this a sofa. It is a comfy 2 seater chair. We have Television, DVD Player and Video Recorder.

Bathroom

Most houses have a bathroom upstairs but ours is downstairs. In my bathroom there is a toilet, a bath (We fill the bath up with water and then climb into it to wash ourselves.), a sink with two taps (one for hot water and one for cold; I clean my teeth at the sink and also wash my hands

and face), a shower (I like having a shower rather than a bath.), a laundry basket (this is where I put my dirty clothes for washing).

Rooms Upstairs

The three rooms upstairs are all bedrooms. They all have carpets on the floor, apart from my room. The bedrooms are kept warm by radiators in each room.

Bedroom

In my bedroom I have my own computer, wardrobe, cupboards with drawers for my other clothes, cupboards for all my toys, bookcase for my books, my bed. My bed is high up as I have my desk underneath it and my computer. I have my own television.

Outside my House

We have a back garden and a front garden. In the back garden there is a swing and a lawn (an area of grass) for me to play football on and to ride my bike. Mum likes to grow vegetables in the garden and plant flowers. At the bottom of my garden is a river. In the front garden is a small lawn surrounded by loads of flowers and plants.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the following questions:*

1. Where do most people live in England?
2. How many people own their homes?
3. Do some British rent a flat from a private landlord?
4. What is a mortgage?
5. What are houses in England like?
6. What types of houses do you know?
7. The rising cost of houses is a big problem, isn't it?
8. What was the average house price in 2007?
9. What was the average wage per year in 2007?
10. What is inside an English house?
11. What is there on the ground floor (downstairs)?
12. What is there on the first floor (upstairs)?
13. Do they usually have a back garden and a front garden?
14. Do people love to grow vegetables and plants in their gardens?

EXERCISE 5. *Be ready to speak on one of these topics:*

1. Housing in the UK.
2. A typical British house.

Unit V. ECONOMY IN BRITAIN

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP); GDP is the market value of all final goods and services produced and purchased within a country during a given time period.
2. inflation, interest rates, unemployment; Inflation, interest rates and unemployment remain low.
3. service industry; About 75 % of British jobs are in service industries: hotels, restaurants, travel, shopping, computer and finance.
4. to employ, an employer, an employee; British employers must give their employees 24-days paid holiday a year.
5. accommodation; Transport and accommodation costs make the capital one of the most expensive places to live in the world.
6. to announce; to reflect; The Mayor of London announced that workers in the capital should be paid at least 7.20 pounds an hour to reflect the increased cost of living.
7. to earn; poverty level; The report shows that anyone earning less than 6.25 pounds an hour in London is at or below the poverty level.
8. agriculture; labour force; Agriculture is intensive, highly-mechanized and efficient by European standards, producing about 60 % of food needs with only 1.4 % of the labour force.
9. reserves; The UK has large coal, natural gas and oil reserves.
10. to deliver; Many teenagers get up early to deliver newspapers to houses in their local area before going to school.
11. an application form; permit; to obtain; An application form for the work permit can be obtained from school or local Education Welfare Office.

EXERCISE 2. *Match each word with its correct definition:*

Steady, to purchase, currency, compulsory, rate, to enable, law, equipment.

- a rule or order that it is advisable or obligatory to observe;
- an amount of fixed payment;
- money that is in circulation as a medium of exchange;
- showing little variation, stable;

- to obtain by paying money, to buy;
- necessary, obligatory;
- to give legal power, to make possible;
- the implements used in an operation or activity.

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on its essential facts:*

The UK is the sixth largest economy in the world, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of US \$2.48 trillion. It has the third largest economy in Europe (after Germany and France). The capital, London, is one of the two largest financial centres in the world, along with New York City.

The UK economy is one of the strongest in Europe. Inflation, interest rates, and unemployment remain low.

Economic Growth

GDP

\$2.480 trillion (2011)

GDP growth 1.0 % in Q3, 2012 (ONS)

GDP per capita \$39,600 (2011)

GDP by sector agriculture: 0.7 %, industry: 21.5 %, services: 77.8 % (2011 est.)

Inflation (CPI) CPI: 2.7 %, RPI 2.9 % (November 2012)

Population

below poverty line 14 % with household income below 60 % of UK median income (2006 est.)

Labour force 31.72 million (2011 est.)

Labour force

by occupation agriculture: 1.4 %, industry: 18.2 %, services: 80.4 % (2006 est.)

Unemployment 7.8 % (2.51 million) (3 months to October 2012; down 82,000 on 3 months to September 2012)

Average gross salary €4,108 / \$5,546, monthly (2006)

Average net salary €2,749 / \$3,712, monthly (2006)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the market value of all final goods and services produced and purchased within a country during a given time period.

Currency

One Pound Sterling (£) = 100 pence (p)

Working in Britain

There are about 3.7 million businesses in the UK. About 75 % of British jobs are in service industries - hotels, restaurants, travel, shopping, and computer and finances. It is the fastest growing business and employs over twenty million people.

The Working Day

The usual working day starts at 9am and finishes by 5pm. Most people work a five-day week.

How hard do British people work?

The working week is, on average, the longest of any country in Europe. In 1998 a new law was passed saying that workers do not have to work more than 48 hours a week if they don't want to. However, about 22 % of British workers do work more than a 48-hour a week.

Paid Holidays

British employers must give their workers 24 days paid holiday a year.

UK National Minimum Wage from 2007

The minimum wage is a legal right which covers almost all workers above compulsory school leaving age (16 years old). There are different minimum wage rates for different groups of workers as follows:

The main rate for workers aged 22 and over increased on 1 October 2007 to £5.52 an hour from £5.35 an hour in 2006.

The development rate for 18-21 year olds increased to £4.60 an hour from £4.45 an hour in 2006.

The development rate for 16-17 year old increased to £3.40 an hour from £3.30 an hour in 2006.

Minimum Wage in London

Transport and accommodation costs make the capital one of the most expensive places to live in the world.

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, announced workers in the capital should be paid at least £7.20 an hour to reflect the increased cost of living. The Mayor's Living Wage Unit carefully works out the real minimum for London that enables an acceptable standard of living, currently £7.05 per hour almost £2 an hour more than the National Minimum Wage.

The report shows that anyone earning less than £6.25 an hour in London is at or below the poverty level, after taking tax credits and benefits into account, because of the higher cost of living in the capital.

UK Employment Law

Children are not legally allowed to work until they are 13. Under-15s can work up to five hours on Saturdays (and weekdays in the summer holidays), to a maximum of 25 hours a week during school holidays. They can only work two hours maximum on schooldays and Sundays. Over-15s can work eight hours maximum on Saturdays and school holiday weekdays, and up to 35 hours a week during the holidays.

There are about 3.7 million businesses in the UK.

Industries in Britain

The main industries today are banking and finance, steel, transport equipment, oil and gas, and tourism.

Other industries:

Machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, and other consumer goods. Labour force: 31.72 million (2011)

Labour force - by occupation:

agriculture 1.4 %,

industry 18.2 %,

services 80.4 %

source: www.cia.gov

Farming (Agriculture)

Products (0.5 % of GDP):

cereals, oilseed, potatoes, vegetables, cattle, sheep, poultry, fish. Agriculture is intensive, highly mechanized, and efficient by European standards, producing about 60 % of food needs with only 1.4 % of the labour force. It contributes around 0.5 % of GDP. Around two thirds of production is devoted to livestock, one third to arable crops.

The lowlands support some farming such as wheat, potatoes and vegetables.

Dairy and sheep farming are common in the hilly pastures.

Energy

The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil reserves; primary energy production accounts for 10 % of GDP, one of the highest shares of any industrial nation.

Services

Services, particularly banking, insurance, and business services, account by far for the largest proportion of GDP.

Teenagers working part time in England. How old do children have to be before they can work in England?

Children are not legally allowed to work until they are 13.

What time can children work?

Children can only work after 7 a.m. and before 7 p.m. On a school day they can only work for up to 2 hours.

How many hours can a teenager (13 and 14 year olds) work?

During school days they can work not more than 2 hours in one day:

Morning: 7 a.m. to start of school or

Evening: close of school to 7 p.m.

Saturdays Up to 5 hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Sundays Up to 2 hours between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Term Time

Up to a maximum of 12 hours a week (Including weekends)

School Holidays

(Including weekends) Up to a maximum of 25 hours week.

5 hours a day, between 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on any day except Sunday.

On Sundays, 2 hours between 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

15 and 16 year olds may work for up to 8 hours on Saturdays and up to a maximum of 35 hours during school holidays.

The kind of jobs teenagers can do:

Delivering newspapers

Many teenagers will get up early to deliver newspapers to houses in their local area before going to school. They are known as Paperboys or Papergirls.

Babysitting

Looking after young children in their home whilst their parents have gone out for the evening is a popular job for teenagers, as they get paid for watching children and television all at the same time!

Helping the Milkman on his round

From the age of 14 some teenagers help the milkman deliver milk to houses.

Other popular jobs include:

Agricultural or horticultural work.

Working in a shop.

Working in a hairdressers.

Office work.

Washing cars (not in a garage).

In a café or restaurant.

Working in a riding stables.

Domestic work in hotels.

What do teenagers need to start working?

They need to have a work permit. An application form for the work permit can be obtained from school or local Education Welfare Office.

How much money do teenagers get paid for working?

It depends on the kind of work but could be anything up to £3 per hour.

The National Minimum Wage does not apply to workers under 16, and there is no protection in English law regarding wage rates for those under the age of eighteen.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. The UK is the fourth largest economy in the world, isn't it?
2. What is the UK Gross Domestic Product?
3. What is GDP?

4. What is the currency of the UK?
5. What is the fastest growing industry in the UK?
6. Do most people work from 9 till 5 five days a week?
7. How long does the British working week last?
8. What is the UK national minimum wage?
9. London is one of the most expensive places to live in the world, isn't it?
10. What are the main industries in the UK?
11. Since what age are children legally allowed to work in the UK?
12. How long can a teenager work?
13. What kind of jobs can teenagers do?
14. What do teenagers need to start working?
15. How much money do teenagers get paid for working?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex. 1 and Ex. 2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on one of the following topics:*

1. Economic growth.
2. The main industries in the UK.
3. Teenagers working part-time in the UK.

Unit VI. BRITISH WEEKENDS

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. to worship; Sunday was the one day of the week for 'worship and rest'.
2. leisure; Popular leisure activities on Sunday used to be going to church and doing odd jobs around the home such as gardening and DIY.
3. indoor and outdoor activities; People enjoy various indoor and outdoor activities in Britain.
4. digital; The proportion of households using satellite, cable or digital television was 44 per cent in 2002.
5. compulsive; A newspaper survey found that 20 per cent of women are compulsive shoppers.

6. physical recreation; Sports and physical recreation have always been popular.
7. to derive; American Football derived from our game of Rugby.
8. strawberries; It is traditional for visitors to eat strawberries and cream whilst they watch the tennis.
9. female; Netball is the largest female team sport in England.
10. to regard; Scotland is traditionally regarded as the home of golf.
11. greyhound racing; Horse racing and greyhound racing are popular spectator sports.
12. to place bets; People can place bets on the races at legal off-track betting shops.
13. equestrian; Another equestrian sport is polo, brought to Britain from India in the 19th century by army officers.
14. rowing; In the nineteenth century, students at Oxford and Cambridge, Britain's two oldest universities, were huge fans of rowing.
15. huntsmen; huntswomen; The huntsmen and huntswomen ride horses.
16. stately homes; There are many stately homes, museums, beaches and beautiful parts of the countryside to visit.

EXERCISE 2. Match each word with its correct definition:

Accident, to brew, range, to purchase, consent, licence, to obtain, a fine, to consume

- permission, approval, or agreement;
- an undesirable or unfortunate happening that occurs unintentionally;
- a sum of money imposed as a penalty for an offense;
- to make beer;
- to acquire by the payment of money; to buy;
- the limits between which the variation is possible;
- to eat or drink up;
- a formal permission from authorities to do something;
- to get/

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on its essential facts:*

What do British people like doing at the weekends ?

The weekends are a time for families in Britain. Often the parents are not at work having worked a five day week from Monday to Friday. Saturdays are a busy time for shops with many families going shopping.

Sundays used to be a very special day of the week in Britain. It was the one day of the week for 'worship and rest'. The shops were closed and most people were at home or at church. Popular leisure activities on Sunday used to be going to church and doing odd jobs around the home such as gardening and DIY.

Until a few years ago shops were not permitted to open on a Sunday. Sundays today are becoming like any other day of the week with shops open. Some families will now spend their time shopping rather than going to church or they will combine the two activities.

Britain is becoming a far less Christian country with fewer people regularly attending Church. Many Christians believe that Sunday should be kept special, as a time given to worshipping God. They think it is important for Christians to meet together, listen to readings from the Bible and celebrate Holy Communion. Others believe that it is important that families have time to be together. (The shopping hours on a Sunday are less than on any other day of the week.)

How do people spend their free time?

People enjoy various indoor and outdoor activities in Britain.

An Euro stat survey, the EU's statistical office, discovered that people in Britain spend about 45 % of their free time watching television, 24 % of their free time socializing, 22 – 23 % on sport and hobbies, and 10 % on other activities. Other popular leisure activities are listening to the radio, listening to pre-recorded music, reading, DIY, gardening, eating out and going to the cinema.

Television

The most common leisure activity in the UK is watching television. The average viewing time is 25 hours per person per week. Almost all

households have at least one television set. The proportion of households using satellite, cable or digital television was 44 per cent in 2002. Many television programmes are about wildlife, animals, holidays, cooking and gardening. All these things are much cherished by British people.

Radio

People in Britain listen to an average 15 hours and 50 minutes of radio each week.

(The only radio I listen to is the Top 40. I like to find out who is number one in the pop charts each week.)

Digital Devices

In 2005/06, 88 per cent of UK households had a CD player and 79 per cent a mobile phone. In April to June 2006, 26 per cent of people aged 15 and over owned an MP3 player.

In January to April 2006, 56 per cent of households in Great Britain had a desktop computer, 30 per cent had a portable or laptop computer, and 7 per cent had a handheld computer.

statistics.gov.uk

Cinema (Movie house)

Britons made 123 million visits to the cinema in 1998 making it the most popular cultural activity in the UK.

Eating out has grown in popularity, with British people spending in 1999 an average of £5.63 per person per week on food (excluding alcohol) outside the home.

Homes and Gardens

The British are known as a nation of gardeners. Most people have a garden on their property. Gardening has been a popular pastime since Roman times. Many people in Britain are proud of their houses and gardens. They want their houses and gardens to look nice. Every town in Britain has one or more DIY (Do It Yourself) centres and garden centres. These are like supermarkets for the home and garden. These places are very popular with British home-owners at the weekends.

Activities outside the home

Saturday is traditionally the day for shopping and watching sports. A newspaper survey found that 20 per cent of women are compulsive shoppers.

Saturday is the main day when we go shopping. Sometimes we will go into town after school.

Sports and physical recreation have always been popular. Local governments provide cheap sport and leisure facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, parks and golf courses. People go to watch other people play sports like football or take part in sports themselves.

Many of the world's famous sports began in Britain, including cricket, football, lawn tennis, golf and rugby.

England's national sport is cricket although to many people football (soccer) is seen as our national sport. Football is our most popular sport. Some of England's football teams are world famous, the most famous being Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool.

Cricket is played on village greens and in towns/cities on Sundays from April to August

The rules of cricket became the responsibility, in the 18th century, of the Marylebone Cricket Club(MCC), based at Lord's cricket ground in north London.

How to play Cricket

Teams are made up of 11 players each. They play with a ball slightly smaller than a baseball and a bat shaped like a paddle. Two batters stand in front of wickets, set about 20 metres apart. Each wicket consists of three wooden rods (stumps) pushed into the ground, with two small pieces of wood (bails) balanced on top. A member of the opposing team (the bowler) throws the ball towards one of the batters, who must hit the ball so that it does not knock a bail off the wicket. If the ball travels far enough, the two batters run back and forth between the wickets while the fielders on the opposing team try to catch the ball. The game is scored according to the number of runs, which is the number of times the batters exchange places.

Football (Soccer)

Football is undoubtedly the most popular sport in England, and has been played for hundreds of years.

In the English Football League there are 92 professional clubs. These are semi-professional, so most players have other full-time jobs. Hundreds of thousands of people also play football in parks and playgrounds just for fun.

The highlight of the English football year is the FA (Football Association) Cup Final each May. Did you know?

The first set of laws of the game of football, or soccer as it is known in the US, date from the formation of The Football Association in England in 1863.

Rugby

Rugby originated from Rugby school in Warwickshire. It is similar to football, but played with an oval ball. Players can carry the ball and tackle each other. The best rugby teams compete in the Super League final each September.

For many years Rugby was only played by the rich upper classes, but now it is popular all over the country. There are two different types of rugby - Rugby League, played mainly in the north of England, and Rugby Union, played in the rest of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, together with France and Italy, play in an annual tournament called the Six Nations.

American Football derived from our game of Rugby also Baseball derived from the old English game of Rounders.

Tennis

The world's most famous tennis tournament is Wimbledon. It started at a small club in south London in the nineteenth century. It begins on the nearest Monday to June 22, at a time when English often have the finest weather. Millions of people watch the Championships on TV live.

It is traditional for visitors to eat strawberries and cream whilst they watch the tennis.

Did you know?

Wimbledon is the oldest of all the major tennis tournaments beginning in 1877. The rewards of prize money began in 1968 when the total purse allocated was £26,150 (about \$40,000).

Netball

Netball is the largest female team sport in England. The sport is played almost exclusively by women and girls, although male participation has increased in recent years.

Basketball

Over 3 million people participate in basketball in the UK.

Golf

Scotland is traditionally regarded as the home of golf. There are over 400 golf courses in Scotland alone. The most important golf club in Scotland is in the seaside town of St. Andrews, near Dundee.

Horse racing

Horseracing, the sport of Kings is a very popular sport with meetings being held every day throughout the year. The Derby originated here, as did The Grand National which is the hardest horse race in the world.

Horse racing and greyhound racing are popular spectator sports. People can place bets on the races at legal off-track betting shops. Some of the best-known horse races are held at Ascot, Newmarket, Goodwood and Epsom.

Ascot, a small town in the south of England, becomes the centre of horse-racing world for one week in June. It's called Royal Ascot because the Queen always goes to Ascot. She has a lot of racehorses and likes to watch racing.

Polo

Another equestrian sport is polo, brought to Britain from India in the 19th century by army officers. It is the fastest ball sport in the world. Polo is played with four men on horses to a team. A ball is hit with a stick towards the goal, one at each end of a 300 yard long by 160 yard wide field.

Table Tennis (ping pong)

Table tennis was invented in England in 1880. It began with Cambridge University students using cigar boxes and champagne corks.

Although the game originated in England, British players don't have much luck in international championships.

Badminton

Badminton takes its name from the Duke of Beaufort's country home, Badminton House, where the sport was first played in the 19th century.

University Boat Race

In the nineteenth century, students at Oxford and Cambridge, Britain's two oldest universities, were huge fans of rowing. In 1829, the two schools agreed to hold a race against each other for the first time on the Thames River. The Oxford boat won and a tradition was born. Today, the University Boat Race is held every spring in either late March or early April.

Fishing (Angling)

Angling is one of the most popular sports in the UK, with an estimated 3.3 million people participating in the sport on a regular basis. Fishermen can be seen sitting beside rivers and lakes.

Bowls

The two main forms of bowls are lawn flat green (outdoor and indoor) and crown green.

Boxing

Boxing in its modern form is based on the rules established by the Marquess of Queensberry in 1865. In the UK boxing is both amateur and professional, and strict medical regulations are applied in both.

Swimming

Swimming is also a popular pastime and enjoyed by people of all ages.

Martial arts

Various martial arts, mainly derived from the Far East, are practised in the UK, such as judo and karate.

Darts

Darts is a very popular pub game. The game of darts, as it is today, was invented in the north of England in a town called Grimsby. However, the origins of the game date back to at least the Middle Ages.

Boxing Day Hunts

Traditionally Boxing Day is a day for fox hunting. The huntsmen and huntswomen ride horses. They use dogs too. The dogs (fox hounds) follow the smell of the fox. Then the huntsmen and huntswomen follow the hounds.

Before a Boxing Day hunt, the huntsmen and huntswomen drink hot wine. But the tradition of the December 26th is changing. Now, some people want to stop Boxing Day hunts (and other hunts too). They don't like fox hunting. For them it is not a sport – it is cruel.

What do children do during their free time?

Children enjoy playing and watching sports such as football, cricket, tennis and netball.

Clubs

Many children belong to clubs such as Cub Scouts, Brownies, Boys Brigade, St Johns Ambulance, Judo, Karate, Dance and Youth Clubs. Other popular activities include watching television, playing computer games, cycling and skateboarding.

Sightseeing

Families enjoy going sightseeing at the weekends and during the school holidays. There are many stately homes, museums, beaches and beautiful parts of the countryside to visit.

What type of games or sports do teenagers play for fun in England?

Skateboarding, roller blading, football, basketball, mountain biking, karate, judo, tenpin bowling, computer games, play station games, nintendo games.

What is a pub?

The word pub is short for public house. There are over 60,000 pubs in the UK (53,000 in England and Wales, 5,200 in Scotland and 1,600 in Northern Ireland). One of the oldest pubs, Fighting Cocks in St. Albans, Herts, is located in a building that dates back to the eleventh century.

Pubs are popular social meeting places. Pubs are an important part of British life. People talk, eat, drink, meet their friends and relax there. Pubs often have two bars, one usually quieter than the other, many have a garden where people can sit in the summer. Children can go in pub gardens with their parents. Groups of friends normally buy 'rounds' of drinks, where the person whose turn it is will buy drinks for all the members of the group. It is sometimes difficult to get served when pubs are busy: people do not queue, but the bar staff will usually try and serve those who have been waiting the longest at the bar first. If you spill a stranger's drink by accident, it is good manners (and prudent) to offer to buy another drink.

British Beer

Most pubs belong to a brewery (a company which makes beer) but sell many different kinds of beer, some on tap (from a big container under the bar) and some in bottles. The most popular kind of British beer is bitter, which is dark and served at room temperature (not hot, not cold). British beer is brewed from malt and hops. More popular today though is lager, which is lighter in colour and served cold. Guinness, a very dark, creamy kind of beer called a stout, is made in Ireland and is popular all over Britain.

In the West of England, cider made from apples, is very popular. Like wine, it is described as sweet or dry, but is drunk in beer glasses and can be stronger than beer.

Beers are served in "pints" for a large glass and "halves" for a smaller one.

Other Beers served

Most pubs offer a complete range of beers, local and imported, with German, Belgian and French beers being in demand.

Pubs sell soft drinks as well as alcohol.

Although most people think pubs are places where people drink alcohol, pubs in fact sell soft drinks (non alcoholic) drinks too.

British people drink an average of 99.4 litres of beer every year. More than 80 % of this beer is drunk in pubs and clubs.

Opening Hours

British pubs are required to have a licence, which is difficult to obtain, and allows the pub to operate for up to 24 hours. Most pubs are open from 11 to 11.

Pub Food

Nearly all pubs sell pub lunches. One of these is the Ploughman's Lunch which is a great wedge of Cheddar cheese, some bread, some pickle, and an onion. Other typical pub foods are scampi (kind of shellfish) and chips (fried potatoes), pie and chips, and chicken and chips.

Pub Names

Pubs have traditional names which date back over 600 years. Some typical names are The Chequers, The White Swan, The Crown, The King's Arms, The Red Lion and The White Horse. People often refer to the pub by its name when giving directions: Turn left at the Rose and Crown. There is usually a sign outside the pub showing the pub's name with a picture.

Various games, especially darts, are common features of pubs; many of the old country pubs continue to promote traditional games, such as 'Bat and Trap' (played in Kent) which have been played for hundreds of years.

Licensing Laws

The legal age to purchase alcohol is 18. People aged 16 and 17, with the licensee's permission, may consume only 1 glass of wine, beer or cider with a table meal in specific areas of the premises, providing they're with an adult and the adult orders it (England & Wales only, Scotland no adult required to be present).

It is illegal to sell alcohol to someone who already appears drunk. You may not buy alcohol for a drunk person on licensed premises. All off-sales are advised to ask for photographic ID if the person looks under 21. Purchasing alcohol on behalf of a minor will result in an £80 on-the-spot fine.

Fourteen-year-olds may enter a pub unaccompanied by an adult if they order a meal. Children may enter a pub with their parents until 9 p.m., which lets families enjoy reasonably priced pub meals together, and allows pubs to continue in their traditional roles as community centers.

Legal age for drinking alcohol at home.

The legal age for drinking in one's home is 5 provided parental consent is given. Children under 5 must not be given alcohol unless under medical supervision in an emergency.

Customs

Customs in British pubs differ from those in American bars. In most pubs in Britain, you must go to the bar to order drinks and food and pay for your purchase immediately, there is no table service. Bartenders are called "barmen" and "barmaids" and they do not expect frequent tipping. To tip a barman or barmaid, it is customary to tell him to "would you like a drink yourself?"

Some pubs have a waiting service, where orders are taken by waiters at the tables and not paid for immediately. There is usually a sign in the pub which tells you that diners will be served at the table. It is customary to tip your waiter/waitress at the end of the meal (approx 10 %). Sometimes this is included in the bill.

The landlord is the owner/ one in charge of the pub.

British Traditional Foods

British food has traditionally been based on beef, lamb, pork, chicken and fish and generally served with potatoes and one other vegetable. The most common and typical foods eaten in Britain include the sandwich, fish and chips, pies like the cornish pasty, trifle and roasts dinners. Some of our main dishes have strange names like Bubble & Squeak and Toad-in-the-Hole.

The staple foods of Britain are meat, fish, potatoes, flour, butter and eggs. Many of our dishes are based on these foods.

Traditional British dishes have had competition from other dishes over the years. Despite this, if you visit England, Scotland or Wales, you can still be served up the traditional foods we have been eating for years.

"Harry's mouth fell open. The dishes in front of him were now piled with food. He had never seen so many things he liked to eat on one table: roast beef, roast chicken, pork chops and lamb chops, Yorkshire pudding, peas, carrots, gravy, ketchup and, for some strange reason, mint humbugs."

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, J. K. Rowling

Main meal dishes in England: Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Toad-in-the-Hole, Roast Meats, Fish and Chips, Ploughman's Lunch, Cottage Pie, Shepherd's Pie, Gammon Steak with egg, Lancashire Hotpot, Bubble and Squeak, English Breakfast, Bangers and Mash, Black Pudding, Bacon Roly-Poly, Cumberland Sausage, Pie and Mash with parsley liquor.

Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding

This is England's traditional Sunday lunch, which is a family affair.

This dish is not usually eaten as a dessert like other puddings but instead as part of the main course or at a starter.

Yorkshire pudding, made from flour, eggs and milk, is a sort of batter baked in the oven and usually moistened with gravy.

The traditional way to eat a Yorkshire pudding is to have a large, flat one filled with gravy and vegetables as a starter of the meal. Then when the meal is over, any unused puddings should be served with jam or ice-cream as a dessert.

Meals and Meal Times

Some people have their biggest meal in the middle of the day and some have it in the evening, but most people today have a small mid-day meal - usually sandwiches, and perhaps some crisps and some fruit.

We have three main meals a day:

Breakfast – between 7:00 and 9:00

Lunch – between 12:00 and 1:30 p.m.

Dinner (sometimes called Supper) – The main meal. Eaten anytime between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. (Evening meal)

Traditionally, and for some people still, the meals are called:

Breakfast – between 7:00 and 9:00

Dinner (The main meal) – between 12:00 and 1:30 p.m.

Tea – anywhere from 5:30 at night to 6:30 p.m.

On Sundays the main meal of the day is often eaten at midday instead of in the evening. This meal usually is a Roast Dinner consisting of a roast meat, Yorkshire pudding and two or three kinds of vegetables.

Breakfast

What is a typical English Breakfast?

Most people around the world seem to think a typical English breakfast consists of eggs, bacon, sausages, fried bread, mushrooms and baked beans all washed down with a cup of coffee. Now-a-days, however, a typical English breakfast is more likely to be a bowl of cereals, a slice of toast, orange juice and a cup of coffee.

Many people, especially children, in England will eat a bowl of cereal. They are made with different grains such as corn, wheat, oats etc.

In the winter many people will eat "porridge" or boiled oats.

What is the traditional English Breakfast?

The traditional English breakfast consists of eggs, bacon, sausages, fried bread, baked beans and mushrooms. Even though not many people will eat this for breakfast today, it is always served in hotels and guest houses around Britain.

The traditional English breakfast is called the 'Full English' and sometimes referred to as 'The Full English Fry-up'.

Lunch

What is a typical British lunch?

Many children at school and adults at work will have a 'packed lunch'. This typically consists of a sandwich, a packet of crisps, a piece of fruit and a drink. The 'packed lunch' is kept in a plastic container.

Sandwiches are also known as a 'butty' or 'sarnie' in some parts of the UK.

(My favourite sandwich is prawn and mayonnaise. I also love tuna and mayonnaise and ham and pickle sandwiches.)

Dinner

The evening meal is usually called 'tea', 'dinner' or 'supper'.

What is a traditional British Dinner?

A typical British meal for dinner is "meat and two veg". We put hot brown gravy, (traditionally made from the juices of the roast meat, but more often today from a packet!) on the meat and usually the vegetables. One of the vegetables is almost always potatoes.

What is a typical British Dinner like today?

The traditional meal is rarely eaten nowadays, apart from on Sundays. A recent survey found that most people in Britain eat curry! Rice or pasta dishes are now favoured as the 'British Dinner'.

Vegetables grown in England, like potatoes, carrots, peas, cabbages and onions, are still very popular.

The Sunday Roast Dinner

Sunday lunch time is a typical time to eat the traditional Sunday Roast.

Traditionally it consists of roast meat, (cooked in the oven for about two hours), two different kinds of vegetables and potatoes with a Yorkshire pudding. The most common joints are beef, lamb or pork; chicken is also popular.

Beef is eaten with hot white horseradish sauce, pork with sweet apple sauce and lamb with green mint sauce. Gravy is poured over the meat.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. How do British people spend their free time?
2. What is the most common leisure activity in the UK?
3. When do people usually go shopping?
4. What is England's favourite sport?
5. Do you know how to play cricket?
6. What is the most popular sport in England?
7. What is rugby?
8. Where does the world's most famous tennis tournament take place?
9. What country is traditionally regarded as the home of golf?
10. Horseracing is the sport of Kings, isn't it?
11. Where are the best-known horse races held?
12. What do children do during their free time?
13. What types of games and sports do teenagers play for fun in England?
14. What is a pub?
15. What are traditional British dishes?
16. When do people usually have their meals?
17. What is a typical English breakfast/ lunch/ dinner?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex. 1 and Ex. 2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on one of the following topics:*

1. Sports in Britain.
2. British Pubs.
3. Traditional British food.

Unit VII. INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL LIFE

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. education; Education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 – 16.
2. fee; State schools are non fee-paying.
3. to make sure; Parents are expected to make sure that their child has a pen, pencil, ruler etc.
4. uniform; Parents are, however, expected to pay for their child's school uniform and items of sports wear.
5. to charge; Charges may also be made for music lessons and for board and lodgings on residential trips.
6. contribution; Schools may ask for voluntary contributions for school time activities.
7. to encourage; Parents are strongly encouraged to help their children, particularly with reading and writing.
8. to cater for; Most secondary schools cater for both sexes.
9. optional; School tie is optional in most primary schools.

EXERCISE 2. *Match each word with its correct definition:*

A fund, to tend, to transfer, an applicant, priority, admission, to select, A-level, odd

- to have a tendency toward a particular quality or degree;
- leaving a remainder of 1 when divided by 2 (numbers like 3, 15, 181 etc.)
- a supply of money for some purpose;
- a public examination requiring advanced knowledge in a subject and taken at the end of secondary school;

- to remove from one place to another;
- to choose in preference to another or others; to pick out;
- a person who requests something; a candidate;
- the act of allowing to enter; right or permission to enter;
- higher in importance, rank, privilege, etc.

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on its essential facts:*

Education is an important part of British life. There are hundreds of schools, colleges and universities, including some of the most famous in the world.

Education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 – 16. Some children are educated at home rather than in school. Children's education in England is normally divided into two separate stages. They begin with primary education at the age of five and this usually lasts until they are eleven. Then they move to secondary school, there they stay until they reach sixteen, seventeen or eighteen years of age.

Teachers in primary schools (4 – 11 year olds) are always addressed by their surname by parents and pupils alike, always Mr, Mrs or Miss Smith..... In secondary schools (11 – 16 years), teachers are usually addressed as Miss or Sir.

The main categories of school are:

- local authority maintained schools (State Schools). They are free to all children between the ages of 5 – 16;
- independent schools. (Private/Public Schools).

Parents pay for their children's' education.

State Schools

In the UK 93 % of the children in England and Wales go to "state schools". State schools are non fee-paying, funded from taxes and most are organised by Local Authorities (LA).

Parents are expected to make sure that their child has a pen, a pencil, a ruler etc. but the cost of other more specialised equipment, books, examination fees are covered by the school.

Parents are, however, expected to pay for their child's school uniform and items of sports wear. Charges may also be made for music lessons and for board and lodgings on residential trips. Schools may ask for voluntary contributions for school time activities – but no pupil may be left out of an activity if their parents or guardian cannot or do not contribute.

Primary schools (5 – 11 year olds)

In the UK, the first level of education is known as primary education. These are almost always mixed sex, and usually located close to the child's home. Children tend to be with the same group throughout the day, and one teacher has responsibility for most of the work they do.

Parents are strongly encouraged to help their children, particularly with reading and writing, and small amounts of homework are set to all children, even during the early years at school.

Secondary schools (11 – 16 year olds)

Most children transfer at the age of 11 – usually to their nearest secondary school, though the law allows parents in England and Wales to express preferences for other schools too. A place has to be offered at the parents' preferred school unless the school has more applicants than places; in that case it will admit the children who have the highest priority under its published admission arrangements which can vary a little in different places.

Most secondary schools cater for both sexes. They tend to be much larger than primary schools.

Nearly 88 per cent of secondary school pupils in England go to comprehensive schools, as do all pupils in Wales. These take children of all abilities and provide a wide range of secondary education for all or most of the children in a district from 11 to 16 or 18. All children in Scotland go to non-selective schools.

Grammar Schools are selective, they offer academically oriented general education. Entrance is based on a test of ability, usually at 11 (11+). Grammar schools are single sexed schools i.e. children either go to a boys Grammar School or a Girls Grammar School. There are grammar schools in Northern Ireland and some parts of England.

Fee Paying Schools

Independent Schools

7 % of the children in England go to independent schools. Independent schools are known as private schools and public schools . Parents pay for their children to attend these schools.

Nursery/Kindergarten 2 to 4 years

Pre-preparatory 3 or 4 to 7 years

Preparatory 7 to 11 or 13 years

Public 11 or 13 to 18 years

Prep Schools

A preparatory school is a school to prepare pupils to go to a public school.

Public Schools

A public school is an independent secondary school. Public schools in England are not run by the government. The entrance exams used by most public schools are known as Common Entrance exams and are taken at the age of 11 (girls) or 13 (boys).

The most famous public schools are Eton, Harrow and Winchester.

Higher Education

Around 30 % of the 18 to 19 year olds enter full-time higher education. The formal entry requirements to most degree courses are two A-levels at grade E or above. In practice, most offers of places require qualifications in excess of this.

Do children wear a school uniform?

Most school in England require children to wear a school uniform.

The uniform

Boys

Long grey or black trousers (shorts may be worn in the Summer)

White Shirt

School tie (optional in most primary schools)

Jumper or sweater with the school logo on. The colour is the choice of the schools.

Black shoes

Girls

As above.

Girls may wear skirts

During the summer term girls often wear summer school dresses.

Why wear a Uniform?

When we go on a school trip we all look the same and so can't get lost.

Stops kids worrying about what to wear each day.

Everyone is equal.

Parents don't have to shop for expensive and varied wardrobes for their children to keep up with or show-off to other children

Wearing a uniform instills a sense of pride and discipline in students

Why not to wear a uniform:

Uniforms deny students their right to personal identity and self-expression.

Can you think other reasons for and against wearing a school uniform?

When are school vacations in England?

How long do they last?

The English academic year runs from September to July.

Schools are open for 195 days each school year.

English schools have six terms (semesters), separated by holidays (vacations).

The school year is 39 weeks long and is divided into six terms:

Term 1 – September to October (followed by a one week holiday)

Term 2 – October to December (followed by a two week holiday)

Term 3 – January to February (followed by a one week holiday)

Term 4 – February to March (followed by a two week holiday)

Term 5 – April to May (followed by a one week holiday)

Term 6 – June to July (followed by a six week summer holiday)

Holidays / Vacations

Our main School holidays are:

Christmas – 2 weeks

Spring – 2 weeks

Summer (end of July and the whole of August) - 6 weeks

We also have a one week holiday at the end of every odd numbered term.

When does the school year start?

The new school year starts at the beginning of September, at the end of summer vacation.

Who decides the dates of the school terms and holidays?

The local educational authority decides the dates of the school terms and the school governing bodies determine the times at which schools open and close each day.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. Is education free and compulsory for all children between ages of 5 and 16?
2. How many stages is children's education in England normally divided into?
3. When do children start school?
4. At what age do they move to secondary school?
5. What are the main categories of schools?
6. Do parents pay for their children's education?
7. How many children attend state schools?
8. Independent schools are known as public schools, aren't they?
9. What are the most famous public schools in England?
10. What do pupils need to enter the university?
11. Do children wear a school uniform?
12. When are school vacations in England?
13. When does the school year start?
14. Who decides the dates of the school terms and holidays?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex. 1 and Ex. 2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on one of the following topics:*

1. The system of education in England.
2. Public Schools.
3. The school uniform.

Unit VIII. THE ROYAL FAMILY

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. although; Queen Elizabeth II is a 'constitutional monarch'. This means that although she is officially the head of the state, the country is actually run by the government, led by the Prime Minister.
2. to curtail; The English Bill of Rights Act of 1689 curtailed the power of the sovereign and confirmed Parliament's place at the heart of the English constitution.

3. the Commonwealth; Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth, a multinational body created after the dissolution of the British Empire.
4. to share; The Duke of Edinburgh is Queen Elizabeth's third cousin; they share Queen Victoria as a great-great-grandmother.
5. to coronate; Elizabeth II was coronated in 1953.
6. A consort ; A consort is a spouse , usually of a reigning monarch.
7. to renounce; King George V renounced all the German titles belonging to him and his family and adopted the name of his castle Windsor.
8. descendant; From 8 February 1960, all The Queen's descendants who do not bear the "style, title or attribute of HRH, and the titular dignity of Prince or Princess" have the name of Mountbatten-Windsor. (Mountbatten as Prince Philip's surname.)
9. to restore; The monarchy was restored in 1660.
10. to declare; The Queen is the only person who can declare when the country is at war and when war is over.
11. sorrow; The Queen represents the nation at times of great celebration or sorrow.
12. a wreath; The Queen lays a wreath at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.
13. beneath; Before every State Opening of Parliament, the Yeomen of the Guard search the cellars beneath the Palace of Westminster.
14. timeless; One of London's most timeless ceremonies, dating back 700 years is the ceremony of the keys.
15. to amend; All actions by the government – and particularly its proposals to amend or create laws- are scrutinized within parliament.

EXERCISE 2. *Match each word with its correct definition:*

Dissolution, a knight, to carry out, arms, a cellar, precaution, to summon, a lock, to scrutinize.

- to examine in detail with careful or critical attention;
- an order issued by the head of a state terminating a parliament and necessitating a new election;
- a device for securing a door, a gate, etc.
- a man of noble birth;

- to authorize or order a gathering of;
- to execute; to complete;
- a measure taken in advance to avert possible evil or to secure good results;
- weapons;
- an underground room, usually beneath a building.

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on its essential facts:*

Queen Elizabeth II

Born: 21 April, 1926.

Queen since 6 February 1952

Her birthday is officially celebrated in Britain on the second Saturday of June each year. The day is referred to as “the Trooping of the Colour”, the official name is “the Queen’s Birthday Parade”.

Queen Elizabeth II is a 'constitutional monarch'. This means that although she is officially the head of the state, the country is actually run by the government, led by the Prime Minister.

The English Bill of Rights Act of 1689 curtailed the power of the sovereign and confirmed Parliament’s place at the heart of the English constitution. From this date English Monarchs (now British Monarchs) would rule in partnership with Parliament.

Where does the Queen live?

The Queen lives at Buckingham Palace in London.

Interesting Fact:

There has not been a Queen of England since 1707. Queen Ann was the last ever King or Queen of England. From 1707, the monarch, although living in England, has been known as either the Monarch of the Kingdom of Great Britain (as Queen Anne was) or of the United Kingdom (as Queen Victoria was).

Queen Elizabeth II is the United Kingdom's Head of State. She is queen of 16 former British colonies, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand; and head of the Commonwealth, a multinational body created after the dissolution of the British Empire.

Who is the Queen married to?

The Queen as married to the HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the son of Prince and Princess Andrew of Greece and Denmark. They married on 20 November 1947.

The Duke is Queen Elizabeth's third cousin; they share Queen Victoria as a great-great-grandmother.

In the British monarchy, the husband of a female monarch does not have any recognized special status, rank, or privileges.

Prince Philip was a prince from birth. He is the son of Prince Andrew of Greece and was born Prince of Greece and Denmark. Upon his marriage to then-Princess Elizabeth in 1947, Philip was given the title "Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merion, and Baron Greenwich," and was made a Knight of the Garter. (He became a British citizen around this time and renounced his Greek and Danish titles). Elizabeth II was coronated in 1953, and in 1957, she granted Philip the title "Prince of the United Kingdom."

Interesting Fact:

The wife of a male monarch (e.g. the Queen Mother was the wife of King George VI) takes on her husband's rank and style upon marrying, becoming Queen. She is known as the Queen consort (wife and consort of a reigning king).

(A consort is a spouse , usually of royalty.)

What is Queen Elizabeth's surname?

The Queen does not normally use a surname (she doesn't need a passport or a driving licence for example), but on the few occasions where it has been necessary, i.e. when serving with the ATS during World War II, she has used the surname 'Windsor'.

(source: www.royal.gov.uk)

The British royal family changed their last name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor in 1917. Why? World War One broke out in 1914 and anti-German sentiment was its height in 1917. In protest, King George V renounced all the German titles belonging to him and his family and adopted the name of his castle, Windsor.

From 8 February 1960, all The Queen's descendants who do not bear the "style, title or attribute of HRH, and the titular dignity of Prince or Princess" have the name of Mountbatten-Windsor. (Mountbatten as Prince Philip's surname).

Royal Homes

Among the official royal residences are Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St. James Palace, Balmoral Castle, Frogmore House, The Palace of Holyroodhouse, Sandringham House and Kensington Palace.

Interesting Fact:

The only time when there was no King or Queen in England was when the country was a republic between 1649 and 1660. (In 1649 King Charles I was executed and England became a Republic for eleven years. The monarchy was restored in 1660.)

Although the Queen is no longer responsible for governing the country, she carries out a great many important tasks on behalf of the nation.

As Head of State, the Queen goes on official State visits abroad. She also invites other world leaders to come to the United Kingdom. During their visit, Heads of State usually stay at Buckingham Palace, or sometimes at Windsor Castle or Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

The Queen is also the Head of the Armed Forces. She is the only person who can declare when the country is at war and when war is over, although she must take advice from her government first.

The Queen is Head of the Church of England – a position that all British monarchs have held since it was founded by Henry VIII in the 1530s.

The Queen appoints archbishops and bishops on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The spiritual leader of the Church of England is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Government Duties

Every day 'red boxes' are delivered to the Queen's desk full of documents and reports from the government ministers and Commonwealth officials. They must all be read and, if necessary, signed by the Queen.

Represents the Nation

The Queen represents the nation at times of great celebration or sorrow. One example of this is Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph monument in Whitehall. The Queen lays a wreath there each year to honour the members of the armed forces who have died fighting for their country.

Royal Garden Parties

At least three Royal Garden Parties are held at Buckingham Palace each year and about 8,000 guests attend each one.

Visits

Alongside her other duties the Queen spends a huge amount of time travelling around the country visiting hospitals, schools, factories and other places and organisations.

How many children does the Queen have?

Charles

Prince of Wales

b. 1948

m. Lady Diana Spencer

(divorced 1996)

(d. 1997)

m. Camilla Parker Bowles

Anne

Princess Royal

b.1950

m. Captain Mark Phillips

(divorced 1993)

m. Commander Timothy Laurence

Andrew Duke of York

b. 1960

m. Sarah Ferguson

(divorced 1996)

Edward

Earl of Wessex

b. 1964

m. Sophie Rhys-Jones

How many grandchildren does the Queen have?

The Queen has eight grandchildren: William, Harry, Peter, Zara, Beatrice, Eugenie, Louise, James, and one great-grandchild George.

Royal Ceremonies

London is a royal city and has preserved its ceremonies and traditions over hundreds of years. Some are every day and some are every year. The most traditional ceremonies and most popular attractions are the Trooping of the Colour and the Changing of the Guard.

Searching the Houses of Parliament

Before every State Opening of Parliament, the Yeomen of the Guard search the cellars beneath the Palace of Westminster by the light of old candle-lanterns. This precaution has been undertaken every year since 1605, when the "Gunpowder Conspirators" attempted to blow up parliament on the day of the State Opening.

The State Opening of Parliament

Dating back to Medieval London, this ceremony marks the beginning of a new session of Parliament and allows the Government to announce its programme for that session. The ceremony features peers and bishops in traditional robes and a royal procession involving the State Coach.

State openings usually take place in November, or soon after a General Election.

On the day of the Opening, the Queen travels from Buckingham Palace to the Houses of Parliament in the State Coach (a gold carriage). Once the Queen arrives at Parliament the union flag is lowered and replaced by the royal standard.

The Queen, wearing her crown and ceremonial robes then processes through the Royal Gallery to take her place on the throne in the House of Lords, from where she sends her messenger (Black Rod) to summon the MPs. When he arrives at the House of Commons, the door is slammed in his face, symbolizing the right of the Commons to freedom from interference. He must then knock three times to gain entry and deliver his summons.

The Queen sits on a throne in the House of Lords and reads the "Queen's Speech".

It is tradition for the monarch to open parliament in person, and The Queen has performed the ceremony in every year of her reign except for

1959 and 1963, when she was pregnant with princes Andrew and Edward respectively.

No King or Queen has entered the House of Commons since 1642, when Charles I stormed in with his soldiers and tried to arrest five members of Parliament who were there.

Ceremony of the Keys

One of London's most timeless ceremonies, dating back 700 years is the ceremony of the keys which takes place at the Tower of London. At 21:53 each night the Chief Yeoman Warder of the Tower, dressed in Tudor uniform, sets off to meet the Escort of the Key dressed in the well-known Beefeater uniform. Together they tour the various gates ceremonially locking them, on returning to the Bloody Tower archway they are challenged by a sentry.

"Who goes there?"

"The Keys." – answers The Chief Warder.

"Whose Keys?" – the sentry demands.

"Queen Elizabeth's Keys."

"Pass Queen Elizabeth's Keys. All's well."

A trumpeter then sounds the Last Post before the keys are secured in the Queen's House.

Changing of the guard

Outside Buckingham Palace, you can see guardsmen dressed in their bright red uniforms and bearskin hats. These guardsmen protect the Queen. Every day a new guard of thirty guardsmen marches to the palace and takes the place of the "old guard". This is known as the Changing of the Guards ceremony and it dates back to 1660.

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday, at Easter.

On that day the Queen gives Maundy money to a group of old people. This tradition is over 1,000 years old. At one time the king or queen washed the feet of poor, old people on Maundy Thursday, but that stopped in 1754.

Swan Upping

On the River Thames there are hundreds of swans and a lot of these beautiful white birds belong, traditionally, to the king or queen. In July, the Queen's swan keeper sails up the River Thames, from London Bridge to Henley. He looks at all the young swans and marks the royal ones.

The Queen's Telegram

This fairly new custom assures aspiring centenarians that they will receive a birthday telegram from the queen on their one-hundredth birthday. On his or her one hundredth birthday, a British person gets a telegram from the Queen.

The Birthday Honours list and the New Year Honours list

Twice a year at Buckingham Palace, the Queen gives titles or 'honours', once in January and once in June.

Honours received include:

C.B.E. – Companion of the British Empire

O.B.E. – Order of the British Empire

M.B.E. – Member of the British Empire

These honours began in the nineteenth century, because then Britain had an empire.

Knighthood

A knight has "Sir" before his name. A new knight kneels in front of the Queen. She touches first his right shoulder, then his left shoulder with a sword. Then she says "Arise, Sir...and his first name, and the knight stands.

Peerage. A peer is a lord. Peers sit in the House of Lords, which is one part of the Houses of Parliament. The other part is the House of Commons.

Dame/Baroness. These are two of the highest honours for a woman.

The British Government

The two Houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom (the House of Lords and the House of Commons) are based at The Palace of Westminster, also known as the Houses of Parliament, in London. The palace lies on the north bank of the River Thames in the London borough of the City of Westminster, close to the government buildings of Whitehall.

Parliament decides the laws and makes decisions on running the UK. (Some issues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are now dealt with by their respective parliaments and assemblies.) There has been a parliament at Westminster since the 13th Century.

The UK government is normally formed by the leader of the party that wins the most seats in the general election. All actions by the government – and particularly its proposals to amend or create laws – are scrutinized within parliament.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. When was Queen Elizabeth II born?
2. Where does the Queen live?
3. Who is the Queen married to?
4. What is Queen Elizabeth's surname?
5. Why did the British royal family change their last name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor in 1917?
6. When was the country a republic?
7. The Queen carries out a great many important tasks on behalf of the nation, doesn't she?
8. Who is Head of the Church of England?
9. Does the Queen have any children?
10. How many grandchildren does the Queen have?
11. What are the most traditional ceremonies in the UK?
12. When does the Queen give titles?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex. 1 and Ex. 2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on one of the following topics:*

1. The royal family.
2. Traditional ceremonies.
3. The British government.
4. The British parliament.

Unit IX. FACTS AND INFORMATION ABOUT LONDON

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. to make up; Together they all make up a region known as Greater London.
2. worth; It's worth booking or getting tickets in advance for any major attractions.
3. a queue; Sometimes the queues can take hours.
4. a wheel; The big wheel gives you a panoramic view of London.
5. a landmark; It offers passengers spectacular views of over 55 of London's most famous landmarks.
6. amazing; See a musical. They are amazing.
7. a site; Take a trip down the Thames to Greenwich and see many sites along the river.
8. a borough; London comprises the City of London, and the 32 boroughs.
9. diverse; Over 250 languages are spoken in London, making the capital the most linguistically diverse city in the world.

EXERCISE 2. *Match each word with its correct definition:*

To join, a settlement, residence, dense, revenue, for free, to book, a store, to comprise, a root, a background.

- an underground part of a plant and something resembling it;
- a small community, village, or group of houses in a thinly populated area;
- to put together, to connect;
- one's origin, education, experience;
- to include or contain;
- the place, especially the house, in which a person lives;
- an establishment where merchandise is sold, usually on a retail basis;
- intense;
- to engage a place, services, etc.
- an amount of money regularly coming in, the income;
- without cost, payment, or charge.

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on its essential facts:*

London is made up of two ancient cities which are now joined together.

They are:

- the City of London, known simply as 'the City' which is the business and financial heart of the United Kingdom. It is also known as the Square Mile (2.59 sq km/1 sq mi). It was the original Roman settlement (ancient Londinium), making it the oldest part of London and already 1,000 years old when the Tower of London was built.

- the City of Westminster, where Parliament and most of the government offices are located. Also Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen and the Royal family is located there too.

Together they all make up a region known as Greater London.

London is the biggest city in Britain and in Europe.

London occupies over 620 square miles.

London has a population of 8,172,036 (2011).

About 12 per cent of Britain's overall population live in London.

London has the highest population density in Britain, with 4,699 people per square kilometer.

London is in the southeast of England.

London is the seat of central government in Britain.

The tallest building in London is the Canary Wharf Tower.

London was the first city in the world to have an underground railway, known as the 'Tube'.

Some of the most important people from countries all over the world visit the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

There are over 100 theatres in London, including 50 in the West End. London theatre accounts for 45 % of all UK theatre admissions and over 70 % of box-office revenues. Source: GLA Economics.

What to see and do in London.

London attracts very large numbers of visitors and tourists and can be an expensive place to visit. However, there is still much you can see and do for free.

Tourist attractions are mainly in Central London. Plan your day well. London is a big place and if you are not careful you may find yourself spending most of the day travelling.

It's worth booking or getting tickets in advance for any major attractions – including The Tower of London – which will save you a lot of time – sometimes the queues can take hours – you can usually book online at the website of the attraction.

Top 10 Places to Visit in London

The most popular and our favourite attractions.

Take a ride on the London Eye(The big wheel which gives you a panoramic view of London). It is the world's highest observation wheel and offers passengers spectacular views of over 55 of London's most famous landmarks – all in just 30 minutes.

Changing of the guard (Buckingham Palace and Horse Guards at Whitehall).

See a Musical – They're amazing.

Tower of London and Tower Bridge(Home to the Crown Jewels, the Tower of London is over a thousand years old).

Hamleys (The worlds biggest toy store).

Shop at Picadilly Circus.

Covent Garden (Street entertainment, shopping and nightlife).

Museums and Art Galleries (British Museum – Best museum for history and it's free.

Madam Tussauds – Wax models of the famous people.

Buckingham Palace (Home of the Royal Family).

Take a trip down the Thames to Greenwich and see many sites along the river. Greenwich is the home of Greenwich Mean Time.

Also consider visiting some of London's markets. They all free to enter and are some of the best markets in Europe.

Population of London

London comprises the City of London, and the 32 boroughs, of which 13 are in Inner London and 19 are in Outer London. It is a growing city spreading out and 'swallowing' many villages and towns in the south east

of England. Because of this, there are many conflicting definitions of London and Greater London and the population of London varies accordingly. London, the capital of England and the UK, occupies over 620 square miles and is the most populous city in the European Union, with over 8 million residents. London's population is heavily concentrated (at about 4,539 people per sq km/11,568 per sq mi).

Over 250 languages are spoken in London, making the capital the most linguistically diverse city in the world. More than 270 nationalities make up the fabric of the city. Many have family roots in Africa and India, formerly governed by the British Empire.

Although predominantly white and Anglo-Saxon, more than a quarter of London's population is from an alternative ethnic background, making up half of the Britain's total ethnic minorities. This gives London the largest non-white population of any European city and is an important part of its cosmopolitan feeling.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. What ancient cities is London made up of?
2. What is the name of the business and financial heart of London?
3. Is the City of London the oldest part of the capital?
4. London is the biggest city in Europe, isn't it?
5. What is the population of London?
6. Are there many theatres in London?
7. What are the most favourite and popular attractions in London?
8. What is the population of London?
9. How many languages are spoken in London?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex. 1 and Ex. 2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on one of the following topics:*

1. The history of London.
2. London's attractions.
3. Population of London.

Unit X. SUPERSTITIONS IN BRITAIN

EXERCISE 1. *Read, translate and study the use of the new words to read and discuss the texts:*

1. superstition; Superstitions can be defined as, "irrational beliefs, especially with regard to the unknown".
2. to touch; It's lucky to touch wood.
3. a horseshoe; A horseshoe over the door brings good luck.
4. upside down; The luck runs out of the horseshoe if it is upside down.
5. to wax (of the moon); Cut your hair when the moon is waxing and you will have good luck.
6. a ladder; Unlucky to walk underneath a ladder.
7. to spill; Unlucky to spill salt.
8. to counteract; If you spill salt, you must throw it over your shoulder to counteract the bad luck.
9. to crucify; Friday is considered to be an unlucky day because Jesus was crucified on a Friday.
10. shell; When finished eating a boiled egg, push the spoon through the bottom of the empty shell to let the devil out.
11. vicinity; In Yorkshire, housewives used to believe that bread would not rise if there was a corpse (dead body) in the vicinity.
12. to feature; Animals feature a lot in the superstitions.
13. a raven; In some parts of the UK meeting two or three Ravens together is considered really bad.
14. a witch; It was believed that witches were closely associated with bats.
15. to host; In some areas black rabbits are thought to host the souls of human beings.
16. a bride and a groom; Bride and groom mustn't on the day of the wedding except at the altar.

EXERCISE 3. *Read the texts and try to focus on its essential facts:*

Superstitions can be defined as, "irrational beliefs, especially with regard to the unknown".

(Collins English Dictionary)

General Superstitions

Good Luck

Lucky to meet a black cat. Black Cats are featured on many good luck greetings cards and birthday cards in England.

Lucky to touch wood. We touch, knock on wood, to make something come true.

Lucky to find a clover plant with four leaves.

White heather is lucky.

A horseshoe over the door brings good luck. But the horseshoe needs to be the right way up. The luck runs out of the horseshoe if it is upside down.

Horseshoes are generally a sign of good luck and feature on many good luck cards.

On the first day of the month it is lucky to say "white rabbits, white rabbits, white rabbits," before uttering your first word of the day.

Catch falling leaves in autumn and you will have good luck. Every leaf means a lucky month next year.

Cut your hair when the moon is waxing and you will have good luck. Putting money in the pocket of new clothes brings good luck.

Bad Luck

Unlucky to walk underneath a ladder.

Seven years bad luck to break a mirror. The superstition is supposed to have originated in ancient times, when mirrors were considered to be tools of the gods.

Unlucky to see one magpie, lucky to see two, etc..

Unlucky to spill salt. If you do, you must throw it over your shoulder to counteract the bad luck.

Unlucky to open an umbrella in doors.

The number thirteen is unlucky. Friday the thirteenth is a very unlucky day. Friday is considered to be an unlucky day because Jesus was crucified on a Friday.

Unlucky to put new shoes on the table.

Unlucky to pass someone on the stairs.

Food Superstitions

When finished eating a boiled egg, push the spoon through the bottom of the empty shell to let the devil out.

In Yorkshire, housewives used to believe that bread would not rise if there was a corpse (dead body) in the vicinity, and to cut off both ends of the loaf would make the Devil fly over the house!

Table Superstitions

If you drop a table knife expect a male visitor, if you drop a fork a female visitor.

Cross cutlery on your plate and expect a quarrel.

Leave a white tablecloth on a table overnight and expect a death.

Animal Superstitions

Animals feature a lot in our superstitions as they do in superstitions around the world.

One ancient British superstition holds that if a child rides on a bear's back it will be protected from whooping-cough. (Bears used to roam Britain but now they are not seen on our shores).

In some parts of the UK meeting two or three ravens together is considered really bad. One very English superstition concerns the tame Ravens at the Tower of London. It is believed if they leave then the crown of England will be lost.

It is said to be bad luck if you see bats flying and hear their cries. In the middle ages it was believed that witches were closely associated with bats.

If a sparrow enters a house it is an omen of death to one of the people who live there. In some areas it is believed that to avoid bad luck, any sparrow caught must be immediately killed otherwise the person who caught it will die.

In some areas black rabbits are thought to host the souls of human beings. White rabbits are said to be really witches and some believe that saying 'White Rabbit' on the first day of each month brings luck. A common lucky charm is a rabbit's foot, but not for the rabbit.

It is thought very unlucky to have the feathers of a peacock within the home or handle anything made with them. This is possibly because of the eye shape present upon these feathers i.e. the Evil-Eye associated with wickedness.

Wedding Superstitions

Bride and groom must not meet on the day of the wedding except at the altar.

The bride should never wear her complete wedding clothes before the day.

For good luck the bride should wear “something borrowed, something blue, something old and something new”.

The husband should carry his new wife over the threshold of their home.

EXERCISE 4. *Answer the questions:*

1. Which British superstitions are similar to those in your country?
2. Which are different?
3. Do you know anything about the origins of some of the superstitions in your country?
4. Can you give the definition of "superstition"?
5. Do you believe that they can influence our lives and still live on in the age of science?

EXERCISE 5. *Make up your own sentences using the vocabulary from Ex.1 and Ex.2.*

EXERCISE 6. *Be ready to speak on one of the following topics:*

1. Superstitions in Britain.
2. Superstitions in Russia.

ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ

При подготовке пособия автор ставил перед собой цель познакомить студентов с культурой страны изучаемого языка во всем её богатстве. За последние годы добыть страноведческую информацию на хорошем английском языке не составляет проблемы. Проблема скорее в том, чтобы ”не утонуть” в ней. Занимаясь по пособию, студент имел возможность не только ознакомиться с аутентичными текстами, но и моделировать межкультурное общение. Над некоторыми темами студенты могли работать в мини-группах, получая информацию на уроке (тексты для чтения), а также добывая её самостоятельно (журналы, газеты, Интернет).

Хотя успех во многом зависел от общего языкового уровня обучающихся, автор надеется, что все работали с интересом и, как минимум, овладели ключевой терминологией. Те, кто имел лучшую языковую подготовку, научились свободно ориентироваться в страноведческой литературе на английском языке и мыслить профессиональными категориями, о чем свидетельствуют подготовленные ими проекты.

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