

ПРИДНЕСТРОВСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

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ИНСТИТУТА ЯЗЫКА И ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ



**УЧЕБНО-МЕТОДИЧЕСКОЕ ПОСОБИЕ ПО
СТРАНОВЕДЕНИЮ ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИИ ДЛЯ
СТУДЕНТОВ-ПЕРЕВОДЧИКОВ**

BRITAIN IN BRIEF

PART I



Тирасполь, 2010

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Учебно-методическое пособие по страноведению Великобритании для студентов-переводчиков. – Тирасполь, 2010. – 62 с.

Учебно-методическое пособие предназначено для студентов специальности «Перевод и переводоведение».

Пособие имеет целью ознакомление студентов со страноведческой информацией, при изучении которой необходимо систематически отрабатывать произношения трудных слов, знакомиться с новой лексикой, закреплять слова и словосочетания с национально-культурным компонентом, входящие в активный словарь уроков, а также предусматривает развитие навыков устной речи по темам: “UK basic facts”, “Britain and the World. International Relations”, “Geographical features of the British Isles”.

Данное пособие состоит из 5 уроков. В каждом уроке содержится основной текстовый материал, который студент должен освоить, примечания к тексту, в которых даётся объяснение реалий, ознакомление с историческими именами и датами. Каждый урок учебного пособия содержит комплекс упражнений: фонетических, лексических, коммуникативных.

В пособии представлены дополнительные тексты для чтения, предназначенные для самостоятельной работы со словарём.

Учебно-методическое пособие рассчитано на 20 часов обучения. На каждый урок отводится 2-4 часа аудиторных занятий.

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Прокудина И.Б., 2010

Предисловие

Настоящее учебно-методическое пособие предназначено для использования в преподавании практического курса по истории, географии и культуре Великобритании для студентов переводческого отделения.

Цель данного учебно-методического пособия - вырабатывать переводческие навыки студентов, развивать способности речевого общения на английском языке, - в конечном итоге, формировать языковую, коммуникативную и лингвострановедческую компетенцию. Базовая составляющая для пособия – использование страноведческой информации.

Учебно-методическое пособие соответствует требованиям рабочей программы по учебной дисциплине «История и география страны изучаемого языка».

В первую часть учебного пособия “Britain in Brief” вошли разделы, посвящённые темам: география страны, основные символы государства, проблемы окружающей среды, флора и фауна, климат, экология, водные пространства.

Учебная цель определили комбинированный характер упражнений.

В учебном пособии представлено 2 раздела, каждый из которых включает 2 или 3 типовых урока (в зависимости от темы). В каждом уроке содержится основной текстовый материал, который студент должен освоить (прочитать, перевести и выявить основные моменты для обсуждения на практических занятиях), примечания к тексту, в которых даётся объяснение реалий, ознакомление с историческими именами и датами.

Каждый урок учебного пособия содержит комплекс упражнений:

1. Фонетические упражнения “Practice the following for pronunciation” предназначены для систематической отработки произношения трудных слов, а именно: географических названий и терминов.

2. Лексические упражнения “Vocabulary exercises” направлены на отработку новой лексики, закрепления слов и словосочетаний с национально-культурным компонентом, входящих в активный словарь урока. Значение новой лексики к текстам представлено либо через перевод на русский язык, либо при помощи других приёмов, в первую очередь, через лексическое значение слов.

Работа над активным словарём завершается контрольным переводом (Test-Translation), который может выполняться как в устной, так и письменной форме. То же самое относится к упражнению для самостоятельного перевода со словарём (Text for Translation).

3. Речевые или коммуникативные упражнения “Oral Language Practice” направлены на отработку навыков говорения с опорой на текст и тему, развитие у студентов навыков устной речи и предполагают выработку умения связно

высказываться. Большое внимание уделяется переводческим упражнениям как с русского языка на английский, так и с английского языка на русский, используя при этом видеосюжеты, посвящённые той или иной теме урока. В таких случаях у студентов появляется возможность не только «попутешествовать» по стране изучаемого языка, но и послушать речь носителей языка.

В учебном пособии представлены дополнительные тексты для чтения **“Additional Work”**, предназначенные для самостоятельной работы со словарём. Они могут быть использованы как для фронтальной работы в продвинутых группах, так и для подготовки индивидуальных докладов в группах с разной подготовкой. Данные тексты содержат отрывки из оригинальных произведений русских и зарубежных учёных, историков, политических деятелей. Часть текстового материала из русской и английской периодики и англоязычных Интернет-ресурсов с некоторыми необходимыми изменениями.

Количество часов, отводимых на каждый урок, определяется преподавателем в зависимости от полноты прохождения материала.

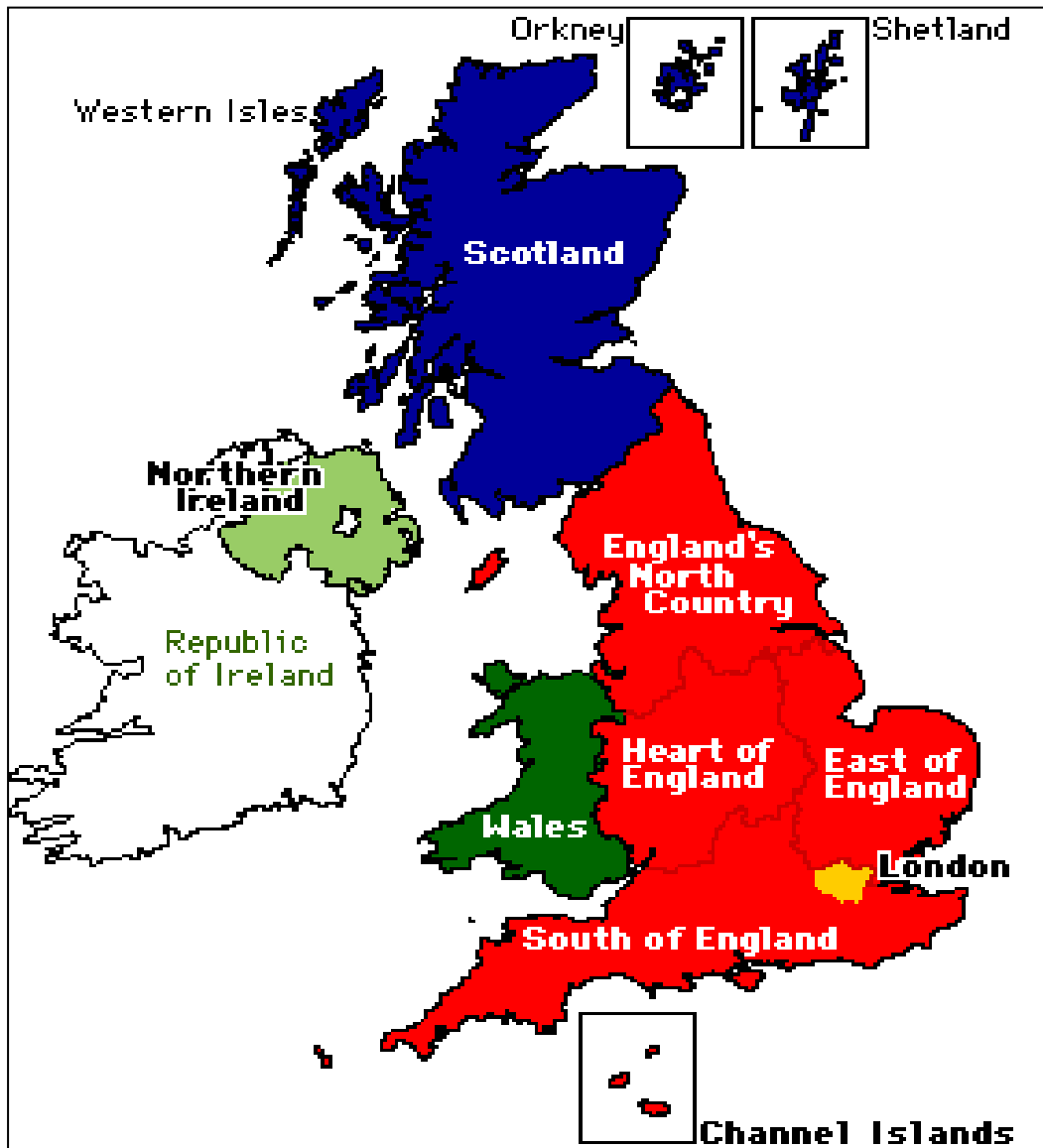
Каждый последующий раздел данного пособия, является, с одной стороны, шагом в изучении страноведческого материала, а с другой – ступенью развития переводческой компетенции и обучения общению на английском языке.

Использование в процессе обучения специалистов-переводчиков данного пособия позволяет преподавателю, варьируя формы учебной работы со студентами, повысить качество усвоения учебного материала. Страноведческая направленность текстов пособия способствует усвоению студентами элементов иноязычной культуры, повышению познавательной активности обучаемых, созданию у них положительной мотивации, наконец, в процессе обучения вырабатываются переводческие навыки. Всё это необходимо переводчику – посреднику между двумя лингвокультурами.

PART I

UNIT I

BRITAIN IN BRIEF



Lesson 1

UK BASIC FACTS

What exactly is Britain? And who are the British?

Geographically speaking

Lying off the north-west coast of Europe, there are two large islands and several much smaller ones. Collectively, they are known as **the British Isles**. The largest island is called **Great Britain**. The other large one is called **Ireland**.

"England, bound in with the triumphant sea." W.Shakespeare.

"Our England is a garden that is full of stately views, Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues, With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by..." R.Kipling

The British Isles consist of about five thousand small islands, the main of which are **the Isle of Wight** in the English Channel, **Anglesea** and **the Isle of Man** in the Irish Sea, **the Hebrides** – a group of islands off the north-western coast of Scotland, and two groups of islands lying to the north of Scotland: **the Orkney Islands** and **the Shetland Islands**. But the United Kingdom doesn't include **the Isle of Man** and **the Channel Islands**, which are **Crown dependencies**¹.

The total area of the United Kingdom is over 244,035 square kilometres. The United Kingdom is made of four countries: **England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**. The capital of the UK is **London**.

The British Isles are separated from the Continent by **the North Sea, the English Channel and the Strait of Dover**. The western coast of Great Britain is washed by **the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea**.

Politically speaking

Great Britain is, strictly, a geographical area consisting of the large island. It's often called **Britain**. The name Great Britain was first used in a political sense after the "Act of Union of Scotland with England and Wales" in 1707. Its official name is **The**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland although it's usually known by a shorter name **the United Kingdom**. In everyday speech this is often shortened to "the UK". The stickers on cars "GB" are another example of the use of this name. The normal adjective, when talking about something to do with the UK, is "British".

The United Kingdom was formed in 1801 when the Irish parliament was joined with the parliament for England, Wales and Scotland in London, and the whole of the British Isles became a single state. However, In 1921 Ireland was divided into two parts. In 1922 the larger southern part formed the independent Republic of Ireland and became **the Irish Free State** and in 1949 a completely independent republic, while Northern Ireland became part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

The Scottish and Welsh are proud and independent people. In recent years there have been attempts at devolution in the two countries, particularly in Scotland where the Scottish Nationalist Party was very strong for a while. However, in a referendum in 1978 the majority of the Welsh people rejected devolution, and in 1979 the Scots did the same. Nevertheless, most Welsh and Scots sometimes complain that they are dominated by England, and of course they don't like to be referred to as English.

There are older names for parts of the United Kingdom, but these are found mostly in literature. "**Albion**" was the original Roman name for Britain. It may come from the Latin word "albus", meaning "white". The white chalk cliffs around Dover on the south coast are the first part of England to be seen when crossing the sea from the European mainland.

"**Britannia**" is the name that the Romans gave to their southern British province (which covered, approximately, the area of present-day England). It is also the name given to the female embodiment of Britain, always shown wearing a helmet and holding a trident (the symbol of power over the sea). In the period of Roman occupation the symbolic figure of Britannia was seated on the globe with spear and round



shield. In the reign of Elizabeth I the spear was replaced by Neptune's trident. The figure of Britannia has been on the reverse side of many British coins for more than 300 years.



The White cliffs of Dover² are the tall chalk cliffs on the south-eastern coast of England. When you travel to Britain by sea or air, it is very likely that you will arrive in the Southeast, for this is where the main passenger ports and airports are located.

The Southeast is the most densely populated region of England. It's only 11 per cent of the land area of the country, but a third of the total population lives here. Because of this, a large part of the region is affected by urban development: housing, factories, offices and a complex network of roads and motorways. However, there is still attractive countryside to be found in all counties outside the influence of London. The south coast has a mild and sunny climate which makes it popular with both holiday-makers and the elderly, who find it a comfortable area to retire to.

Forming the Nation

About 2 000 years ago the British Isles were inhabited by **the Celts³**, who had originally come from continental Europe. During the next 1 000 years there were many invasions.

The Romans came from Italy in AD 43. **The Angles** and **the Saxons** came from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands in the 5th century and gave the country the name England (Angle-land). **The Vikings** kept coming from Denmark and Norway throughout the 9th century. In 1066 (the date in history which every British school child knows) **the Normans** invaded from France.

All these invasions drove the Celts into Wales and Scotland, and of course they also remained in Ireland. The present-day English are the descendants of all the invaders, although they are more Anglo-Saxon than anything else. These various origins explain many of the differences which exist between England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland – differences in education, religion, legal systems and in language.

The people who live in England are English, the people who live in Scotland are Scots, the people who live in Wales are Welsh. At the same time all these people are British because they live in Britain. As to the word “Great” in the name of the island, it was first introduced by the French to distinguish the island from the area in the north of

France called Brittany (the French language has the same word for “Britain” and “Britanny”).

The four nations

People often refer to Britain by another name. They call it “England”. But this is not strictly correct, and it can make some people angry. England is only one of the four nations of the British Isles. Their political unification was a gradual process that took several hundred years.

At one time the four nations were distinct from each other in almost every aspect of life. In the first place, they were different racially. The people in Ireland, Wales and highland Scotland belonged to the Celtic race; those in England and lowland Scotland were mainly of Germanic origin. This difference was reflected in the languages they spoke. People in the Celtic areas spoke Celtic languages: Irish, Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh. People in the Germanic areas spoke Germanic dialects (including the one which has developed into modern English). All the invading peoples, particularly the Norman-French, influenced the English language, and we can find many words in English which are French in origin. Nowadays all the Welsh, Scottish and Irish people speak English, but they have their own special accents and dialects, so you can tell what part of Britain a person is from as soon as they begin to speak. Sometimes the differences in accents are so great that people from different parts of the UK have difficulty in understanding one another. The southern accent is generally accepted as Standard English. The nations also tended to have different economic, social and legal systems.

Today these differences have become blurred. But they haven’t completely disappeared. Although there is only one government for the whole of Britain, and people have the same passport regardless of where in Britain they live, some aspects of government are organized separately in the four parts of the United Kingdom. Moreover, Welsh, Scottish and Irish people feel their identity very strongly.

The dominance of England

There is, perhaps, an excuse for people who use the word “England” when they mean “Britain”. It cannot be denied that the dominant culture of Britain today is specifically English. The system of politics that is used in all four nations today is of

English origin. Many aspects of everyday life are organized according to English custom and practice.

Today English domination can be detected in the way in which various aspects of British public life are described. For example, the supply of money in Britain is controlled by the Bank of England. The present queen of the country is universally known as **Elizabeth II** ⁴, even though Scotland and Northern Ireland have never had an **Elizabeth I** ⁵. Newspapers and the television news talk about “Anglo-American relations” to refer to relations between the governments of Britain and the USA.

There has been a long history of migration from Scotland, Wales and Ireland to England. As a result there are millions of people who live in England but who would never describe themselves as English.

Identifying symbols of the four nations

St George



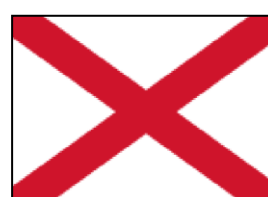
23 April

St Andrew



30 November

St Patrick



17 March

National flag

The flag of the United Kingdom, known as **the Union Jack** or **the Union Flag**, is



made up of three crosses. The upright red cross on a white field is the cross of St George⁶, the patron saint of England. The white diagonal cross on a blue field is the cross of St Andrew⁷, the patron saint of

Scotland. The red diagonal cross on a white field is the cross of St Patrick⁸, the patron saint of Ireland. It was added in 1801, when Ireland became part of the United Kingdom. Wales isn't represented on the Union Jack because it is a principality of England. The national flag of Wales with the red dragon on a green and white background has been recognized since the 1950s as the national flag of Wales.

It has been used as the British flag since 1603, when Scotland and England were united.

The Union Jack is most often seen flying from public buildings or at sports



events. During national celebrations strings of small flags are hung across the street as bunting.

The Union Jack is less important to British people than the Stars and Stripes is to Americans. Many people feel a stronger loyalty to the national flag of England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. The flag of the European

Union, a circle of gold stars on a blue background, is sometimes also seen in Britain.

The Royal Coat-of-Arms

Since 1837 the Royal coat-of-arms has depicted a shield. The four quarters of the shield contain two repetitions of the arms of England, three golden lions on red, the pacing red lion of Scotland on a gold background and the Irish harp, silver- stringed gold harp on a bright blue field. Wales is not represented on the shield.

The shield is supported by an English lion and the Scottish unicorn, standing on a field with the emblems of England (the rose), Scotland (the thistle) and Ireland (the shamrock). Below this is the royal motto "**Dien et mon droit**" (**God and my right**) – the battle call of Richard the Lionheart⁹ when he led his army in the battle of 1198. The shield is circled with the blue ribbon of the Order of the Garter¹⁰, carrying in gold the motto "**Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense**"/**Shame on Him Who Thinks Evil of it/** - the words of Edward III¹¹ said in 1348 at the ball.

Topping the crown is a small gold lion, also crowned, and facing outward.

National Anthem

The anthem is based on a 17th century song. The British national anthem was established in 1745, making it the oldest in the world. The anthem originated as a patriotic song in London. Neither the author nor composer is known.



“God save the Queen”

God save our gracious Queen!

Long live our noble Queen!

God save the Queen!

Send her victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long reign over us,

God save the Queen!

Notes

¹**Crown dependencies.** There are two small parts of the British Isles which have special political arrangements: **the Isle of Man** and **the Channel Islands**. Each has complete internal self-government, including its own Parliament and its own tax system. Both are “ruled” by a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the British government.

²**Dover** – a port in Kent, south-east England, and the nearest English town to France. The part of the Channel between Dover and Calais (called the **Strait of Dover**) is 34 km. wide and is one of the busiest sea routes in the world. Dover has a long history. It was a town in Roman times, and its castle, which was the administrative centre of the Cinque Ports, was an important part of the country’s defences.

³**the Celts**- This is a group of people whose influence spread to Britain and Ireland from Austria and Switzerland in the late Bronze Age and Iron Age.

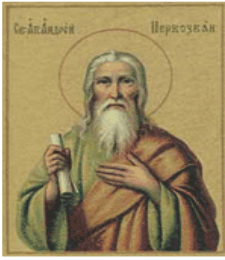


⁴**Elizabeth II**- is the queen of the United Kingdom since 1952. In 1947 she married Prince Philip of Greece, who had just been made the Duke of Edinburgh. She is a respected and well-loved monarch with a great interest in the Commonwealth.

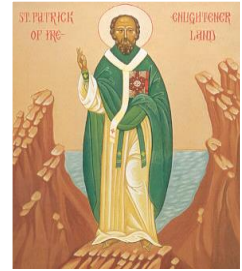
⁵**Elizabeth I**- was the queen of England and Ireland from 1558. She is regarded as one of England’s greatest rulers.

⁶**St George** – is the national saint of England. Many people believe he was a Christian martyr (a person who is killed because of their religious beliefs) in the third century. According to the legend, he killed a dragon to save a woman. He is often shown in pictures fighting the dragon.

⁷St Andrew – is the patron saint of Scotland. He was one of the 12 apostles, the brother of St Peter. According to tradition, he was killed in Greece on a cross in the shape of an X, and so this cross is on the Scottish flag. Andrew is also the patron saint of Greece and Russia.



⁸St Patrick – is the national saint of Ireland. He was probably born in Wales, the son of a Roman father. Patrick became a monk in Gaul (France) and went to Ireland in 432. He converted many people to Christianity, and there are many stories about his great powers, including one which explains why there are no snakes in Ireland. Patrick is said to have tricked them all so that they went into the sea and drowned.



⁹Richard the Lionheart or **Richard I** – was the king of England from 1189 to 1199. He was called Richard the Lionheart because of his courage in battles.

¹⁰Edward III – was the king of England from 1327 to 1377.

¹¹The Order of the Garter is the oldest and highest of the British orders of chivalry. It was probably started in 1348 by King Edward III. According to tradition, it was named after an occasion when a woman in the presence of the king dropped a garter (a band worn around the leg to hold up a sock). The King saved her from embarrassment by picking up the garter and fixing it to his own leg, saying “Honi soit qui mal y pense”. This phrase became the motto of the order.

GLOSSARY

Read the following words and word combinations according to the reading

rules:

- *geographical area* – *географическая зона*
- *act of union* – *закон объединения*
- *political sense* – *политическое значение*
- *to shorten* – *укорачивать*
- *sticker* – *этикетка*
- *a single state* – *единое государство*
- *independent republic* – *независимая республика*
- *chalk cliffs* – *известняковые скалы, обрывы*
- *mainland* – *материк, континент*
- *southern* – *южный*
- *female embodiment* – *женское воплощение*
- *lieutenant governor* – *губернатор провинции (в английской колонии)*

- *helmet* – шлем
- *to hold a trident* – держать трезубец
- *the symbol of power* – символ власти
- *spear* – копьё
- *round shield* – круглый щит
- *reign* – правление
- *the reverse side of coins* – обратная сторона монет
- *densely populated region* – густонаселённый регион
- *to be affected* – быть под воздействием
- *urban development* – урбанизация
- *holiday-maker* – отпускник, экскурсант, отдыхающий
- *elderly* – пожилой человек
- *to retire* – уходить на пенсию
- *invasion, invader* – набег, вторжение; захватчик
- *descendant* – потомок
- *devolution* – отделение (от другой страны)
- *to reject* - отказать
- *racial* – расовый
- *highland* – горная местность; нагорье
- *lowland* – низина; менее гористая часть
- *to tend* – иметь склонность, тенденцию
- *to become blurred* – стали стираться
- *identity* – личность, индивидуальность
- *dominance* – господство, влияние, преобладание
- *to detect* – выявлять, обнаруживать
- *migration* – миграция, передвижение
- *cross* – крест
- *diagonal* – диагональный
- *principality* – княжество
- *dragon* – дракон
- *strings of flags* – ряд, вереница знамён

- *bunting* – материя для флагов, флаги
- *loyalty* – преданность
- *the Royal coat-of-arms* – королевский герб
- *to depict* – изображать, рисовать
- *repetition* – повтор, копия
- *roaring lion* – шагающий лев
- *silver-stringed harp* – арфа с серебряными струнами
- *unicorn* – единорог
- *thistle* – чертополох
- *shamrock* – трилистник
- *motto* – девиз
- *ribbon* – лента
- *order of the Garter* – Орден Подвязки
- *faced outward* – направленный наружу
- *chivalry* – рыцарство
- *embarrassment* – смущение
- *anthem* – гимн
- *gracious* – добрый, милостивый
- *victorious* – победоносный
- *glorious* – славный, великолепный

Practice the following for pronunciation.

Proper names: *Europe, British Isles, Great Britain, Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, The United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, Anglesea, the Hebrides, the Orkney Islands, the Shetland Islands, Romans, Elizabeth, Neptune, Dover, the Celts, the Saxons, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, the Vikings, Norway, the Normans, France, Gaelic, the USA, the Union Jack, St George, St Andrew, St Patrick.*

VOCABULARY EXERCISES

I. Choose the word corresponding to the definition from those listed below:

- a song which has a special importance for a country and is sung on special occasions;
 - the female ruler of an independent state that has a royal family; • the act of giving power from a central authority to an authority or a government in a local region;
 - a design that is a special symbol of a family;
 - the movement of large numbers of people, birds or animals from one place to another;
 - a high area of rock with a very steep side, often at the edge of the sea or ocean;
 - a person that the Christian Church recognizes as being very holy, because of the way they have lived or died;
 - an army or a country that enters another country by force in order to take control of it;
 - a piece of fabric with a special coloured design on it that may be the symbol of a particular country or organization;
 - the main area of land of a country, not including any islands near to it.
- (devolution, chalk cliffs, mainland, invaders, migration, queen, flag, the patron saint, Coat-of-Arms, anthem).

II. Suggest English equivalents for the Russian parts. Read the whole sentence and translate it into Russian.

1. In recent years there have been attempts at (отделение) in the two countries.
2. It is also the name given to the (женское воплощение) of Britain, always shown wearing a (шлем) and holding a (трезубец).
3. The present-day English are the (потомки) of all the (захватчики).
4. Today English (господство) can be (выявлено) in the way in which various aspects of British public life are described.

5. One quarter of the (**щит**) contains the Irish (**арфа с серебряными струнами**).
6. The shield is supported by an English lion and the Scottish (**единорог**).
7. (**Гимн**) is based on a 17th- century song.

III. Complete the following sentences.

1. Great Britain is a geographical area consisting of the large island which is divided into.....,,
2. The name Great Britain was first used in a political sense after.....
3. In 1921 Ireland
4. The UK doesn't includewhich are Crown dependencies.
5.are the first part of England to be seen when crossing the sea from the European mainland.
6.is the name that the Romans gave to their southern British province.
7. About 2000 years ago the British Isles were inhabited by.....
8.came from Italy in AD 43.
9. In 1066.....invaded from France.
10. The people in Ireland, Wales and Highland Scotland belonged to.....; those in England and Lowland Scotland were mainly of
11. People in the Celtic areas spoke Celtic languages:.....
12. The flag of the UK is known as
13. The red diagonal cross on a white field is the cross of.....

IV. Test-translation. Express the following in English

1. Великобритания представляет собой большой остров, который делится на Англию, Уэльс и Шотландию.
2. Альбион – это первоначальное название Англии, данное римлянами; Шотландию они называли Каледония; Уэльс – Кембрия, а Ирландию – Гиберния.
3. Английский король Генри VIII объединил Англию и Уэльс в 1536 году.

4. В последние годы волна иммигрантов хлынула в Британию. Сегодня 2 миллиона британцев индусы и азиаты по национальности, свыше 50 процентов из них родились в Британии.

5. Сегодня в Британии существует расовое напряжение и расовые предрассудки.

6. Юго-восток – это самый густонаселённый регион Англии. Здесь живёт третья часть всего населения Англии.

7. Население Ирландии, Уэльса и высокогорной части Шотландии принадлежало Кельтской расе.

ORAL LANGUAGE PRACTICE

I. Correct the wrong statements. Begin with:

It's not true to fact. It's wrong. It's false. It's not so. It's true.

1. The United Kingdom was formed in 1922 when the Irish parliament was joined with the parliament for England, Wales and Scotland in London.

2. Most Welsh and Scots sometimes complain that they are dominated by Ireland.

3. Albion was the original Celtic name for Britain.

4. In the Reign of Richard I the spear of the symbolic figure of Britannia was replaced by Neptune's trident.

5. The Southeast is the most densely populated region of England.

6. The Vikings came from Germany.

7. As to the word Great in the name of the island, it was first introduced by the Romans.

8. There is only one government for the whole of Britain, and people have the same passport regardless of where in Britain they live.

9. The present queen of the country is universally known as Elizabeth I.

10. The red cross on a white field is the cross of St Andrew.

11. *Scotland isn't represented on the Union Jack.*

II. Have a talk based on the texts. Make use of the following questions.

1. *What exactly is Britain?*

2. *When was the name Great Britain first used? What is its official name?*

3. *Why was the United Kingdom formed in 1801?*

4. *.What happened in Ireland in 1921?*

5. *Were there any attempts at devolution in Scotland and Wales? Why?*

6. *What does Crown dependency mean?*

7. *How was Britain called in ancient times? Why?*

8. *Why are the White cliffs of Dover so popular with tourists and people all over the world?*

9. *When did the nation form on the British Isles? How did it form?*

10. *Why do so many differences exist between England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland?*

11. *Why was Britain called 'Great'?*

12. *Is it correct to call Britain by another name 'England'? Why?*

13. *How were the differences between nations on the British Isles reflected in the languages?*

14. *Have the differences between nations disappeared?*

15. *Can we deny the dominance of England nowadays?*

16. *What national symbols are important for Great Britain? Describe them.*

III. Watch the episode from the film "Window on Britain" (Introduction), "England" (Introduction). Translate the suggested video-information. Discuss it, using the following questions:

1. *What parts is Great Britain traditionally divided into?*

2. *What is the population of Great Britain?*

3. *Who is the Head of Government in Great Britain?*

4. *Who is the Head of State?*

5. *Where does Elizabeth II live in London? Is this place popular?*

6. *What cities and towns are popular in Great Britain?*
7. *Is the countryside as important as cities and towns in Great Britain?*
8. *How many National Parks are there in Britain? Why are these parks so popular for tourists and so important for Britain?*
9. *How many islands are there in Britain?*
10. *Why is Waterloo Station so popular in Britain and all over the world?*

ADDITIONAL WORK

Texts for discussion

I. *Read the texts. Give your impressions.*

Britain's other languages

The Celtic peoples who gave way to the Anglo-Saxons didn't disappear – they moved north and west, and their descendants live today in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man and Cornwall. They went on speaking their Celtic languages, but of course shared the islands with a very dominant majority culture. From the 17th century onwards, the English imposed their language on huge areas of the world, from the north of Canada to the south of New Zealand, so the chances of the Celtic language surviving in Wales were pretty slim.

In fact, it is the Welsh who have preserved their linguistic identity more than any of the other Celtic peoples. Gaelic in Scotland is spoken by no more than 80,000 people, mostly in the islands off the north-west coast. Irish Gaelic has about 100,000 speakers confined to small areas on the west coast. The Welsh language, by contrast, has a solid heartland in the north-west of the country and is spoken by half a million people: there is a TV channel and a lot of radio in Welsh, it is taught in schools and used by the nationalist political party.

In the 19th century, the English education system was imposed, and children were not allowed to speak Welsh at school: if they did, they were forced to wear a wooden board across their shoulders.

Dialects of English

A nasty shock awaits many visitors to Britain. Imagine you have learnt English for years, you can read newspapers and you have no problem following the television, but when you go into a fish and chip shop in Newcastle, you can not understand a word they are saying. The language has been standardized for a very long time, and regional dialects in Britain have largely died out – far more so than in Italy or Germany, for example. That is to say, the vocabulary of the dialects has died out, but the accents and a few bits of distinctive grammar remain. It is the accent which gives the visitor a problem in the fish and chip shop. Some accents are so strong that they present problems for British people, too. Variations within Britain are so great that accents from New York or Texas are often easier to follow than ones from Liverpool or Glasgow.



There is a kind of standard British English pronunciation, based on a confusing way on class and geography. It is the accent of the south-east, but not that of London itself. It could be said that the upper classes have a dialect of their own, with a pronunciation known as RP (Received Pronunciation). The majority of middle-class people speak a sort of classless, democratic version of RP, with a slight admixture of the local regional accent.

People's attitudes to the various regional accents depend on a whole range of historical and social factors. The Birmingham accent is considered ugly, cockney is associated with criminals, Scottish is thought of as serious and sensible, Irish as poetic. An interesting case is that of the so-called Westcountry accent. This comes from the south and west, which is the least industrial region; consequently the accent is identified with farm-workers, sometimes considered stupid by city folk. While all other varieties

of English have been increasingly accepted on mainstream television and radio, Westcountry remains the Cinderella among accents, confined to comedy and gardening programmes.

To see the likely direction of change for the future, we need to look at the speech of young people. Here we find some interesting developments. One is a spread of a light London accent over much of the country – especially in areas like the West Country where it replaces the low-prestige local accent. Another is an openness, through the media, to American and Australian influences. The Australian effect is quite recent, and results from the huge popularity of Australian TV soap operas “Neighbours” and “Home and Away”. Strangely enough, this doesn’t usually mean the adoption of vocabulary: nobody says ‘sidewalk’ instead of ‘pavement’ or ‘gas’ instead of ‘petrol’, however many American films they watch. It is rather the phrases, idioms and grammatical forms which are contagious. The use of the word ‘like’ as a sentence-filler has become very common: “She was like really upset, and she just like walked out”.

Americans and Australians sometimes use a rising, question-type intonation on statements, often in the middle or at the end of sentences: “I spoke with my teacher (rising intonation), and he said I had to redo the test.” This is used to engage the attention of the listener, it means “Do you remember my teacher?” or “Are you listening?” To the great dismay of the older generation, this intonation is becoming very popular in Britain.

Text for translation

1. Read the text, find in it the Russian equivalents of the following topical words and phrases:

The chalky cliffs, folk songs, a motorway, seafront tours, Roman conquerors, Perfidious Albion, promotion materials, destinations, to take smth for granted, to vary within small territories, “round the corner”, “less than life”, above sea level, to see all that is worth seeing, hedges.

2. Find the information about the following questions:

- *The chalky cliffs at Dover are included in the list of the so-called “natural wonders of the world”. Can you explain why? What is so wonderful about these cliffs? Where are they situated? What tours are organized by travel agents for the people who want to have a look at this “wonder of the world”?*

- *Why do the promoters of tourism never include the British Isles in the list of “beautiful islands”, together with Cyprus, Trinidad and Tahiti?*

- *What is the main charm of the British Isles? What strange feeling have the tourists while staying in Great Britain?*

Очарование Британских островов

Меловые скалы высятся по всему южному побережью Англии но ни одна из них не породила столько народных песен, стихов и картин, как скалы Дувра. От Лондона до Дувра недалеко – примерно 100 километров, и ехать очень легко по прекрасной магистрали. Но дуврские утёсы лучше всего осматривать с моря, и туристические компании разработали для этого несколько морских маршрутов. Скалы высятся над морем, их ослепительная белизна стала первой приметой приближения к острову Великобритания для многих поколений моряков. Их вид побудил римских завоевателей назвать Британию Альбионом. Название это и поныне употребляется поэтами и политическими обозревателями. Последние, правда, зачастую добавляют к нему эпитет «коварный», вслед за французами, обогатившими фразеологические словари многих стран мира этим словосочетанием – «коварный Альбион».

И всё-таки, когда пересекаешь Ла-Манш, не хочется думать о «коварстве» этого острова – одного из самых красивых островов в мире. Это факт, о котором даже сами англичане часто забывают. Когда видишь рекламную брошюру, приглашающую туристов на «прекрасные острова», можно быть уверенным, что среди них Британские острова не значатся. Скорее всего, имеются в виду Кипр, Тринидад или Таити. Спору нет, это прекрасные, романтические места, но они не идут ни в какое сравнение с Великобританией. Вероятно, это естественно для людей принимать как данное красоту тех мест, где они выросли, и не удивляться

ей. Но для иностранцев она очевидна, хотя красоту такой страны, как Англия, трудно описать, не рискуя показаться сентиментальным.

Думается, что её главная прелесть – в необычайном разнообразии ландшафтов на весьма ограниченной территории. Великобритания – в сущности, небольшой остров, где каждый живёт с ощущением, что море находится совсем неподалёку, «прямо за углом», как говорят англичане. И поэтому всё, что надо, у них «под рукой», сосредоточено на этом небольшом пространстве. Но всё вокруг кажется каким-то миниатюрным, «меньше, чем в жизни», как выражаются англичане. И действительно, гора высотой в пять или шесть тысяч метров над уровнем моря была бы здесь монстром, подавившим всё вокруг...

Пешая прогулка по любому из английских графств даст вам возможность в течение одного дня увидеть всё на этой земле, что достойно того, чтобы быть увиденным: зелёные долины, по которым текут реки, милые деревеньки, леса, ровные поля, разделённые на квадратики живой изгородью, вересковые пустоши, а уж через несколько часов пути вы увидите живописные скалы, с которых низвергаются потоки, и романтические пещеры.

В. Овчинников. Корни дуба. 1987

Lesson 2

BRITAIN AND THE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



From Empire to Commonwealth

The countries ruled by Britain starting in the late 15th century are called the British Empire. For centuries British sailors and merchants travelled all over the world, discovered new

lands and claimed them for England. Large territories in North America, Africa, the

whole continent of Australia, New Zealand, India and a lot of islands in the ocean got under British rule. Thus, gradually, in the course of centuries, the large British Empire came into being. After World War II, with the growth of national liberation movement in the world, the countries which were dependent on Great Britain and formed parts of the



"Nothing in Common, and no Wealth."
*E.Powell's definition of the Commonwealth*¹

"The most important thing about the Commonwealth to remember is that it will always have difficulties."
*Th.Abrahamsen, D.Christenhusen*²

British Empire, began claiming independence. As a result of this movement, the British Empire fell apart. However, centuries-long economic, cultural and political ties of these former colonies and dominions with Great Britain were too strong for them to completely break away from each other, and it was found advisable to maintain the old ties. A new organization was established: **the British Commonwealth of Nations**.

The Commonwealth is an association of 53 independent nations and several British dependencies most of which used to be part of the British Empire. The British Crown is a symbol of this association. The British Commonwealth of Nations was set up in 1931 and has been known simply as the Commonwealth since 1949. A major part of Britain's modern history has been the withdrawal from the Empire. It started with a bang in 1947 when the Jewel in the Crown of the Empire, India, became independent. Then the union flag came down in one country after the other: Sri Lanka, Sudan, Cyprus, Jamaica, Kenya, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe and many more. The final act of the drama was played out in 1997, when Hong Kong was handed back to the Chinese.

The Commonwealth started with the independent, predominantly white countries, such as Australia, which had been part of the Empire. As decolonization took place, most of the new states decided to join this club. Although the Queen was the symbolic head of the Commonwealth, Britain was in fact, often obliged to accept the will of all the other members. In 1961, for example, South Africa under its apartheid regime was driven out of the Commonwealth by the hostility of many African and Asian countries, against Britain's wishes. Increasingly, the British government felt uncomfortable dealing with all these countries: they were troublesome, full of ideas of their own, and made the British feel guilty. Without Britain at the centre of the trading network, each region – Africa, the Caribbean, South-East Asia – was trading more locally. South Africa rejoined in 1994.

Modern business people are keen on networking, making a wide circle of useful contacts. It may be that countries around the world are looking to the Commonwealth as an opportunity for international networking.

Members of the Commonwealth have special links with the UK and with each other and agree to work together towards world peace, the encouragement of trade, the

defence of democracy and improvements in human rights, health and education. It also encourages joint cultural and sporting events, particularly the Commonwealth Games³. The British king or queen is the head of the Commonwealth and the senior official is the **Secretary-General**. A meeting of the heads of government of all Commonwealth countries called the **Commonwealth Conference** takes place every two years and is organized by the **Commonwealth Secretariat** which is based in London. The second Monday in March is celebrated in many member countries as Commonwealth Day.

Notes

¹ *E.Powell (1912-1998) – an English politician.*

² *Th.Abrahamsen, R.Christophersen - English politicians*

³ *the Commonwealth Games – a sports contest for competitors from Commonwealth countries. It has taken place every four years since the first Games in Hamilton, Canada, in 1930. The event was called the British Empire Games until 1970.*

GLOSSARY

Read the following words and word combinations according to the reading rules:

- *the British Commonwealth of Nations – Британское содружество наций*
- *the Secretary-General – генеральный секретарь*
- *merchants – купцы*
- *claimed them for England – объявили их владениями Англии*
- *fell apart - распалась*
- *dominions – владения*
- *the withdrawal – уход, выход*
- *association – общество, ассоциация, союз*
- *dependencies – зависимые страны*
- *bang – удар*
- *apartheid – апартеид, расовая изоляция*
- *hostility – враждебность*
- *the encouragement of trade – поддержка торговли*

Practice the following for pronunciation.

Proper names: North America, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Cyprus, Jamaica, Kenya, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe, the Caribbean.

The sovereignty of the union: Europe.

When the European Coal and Steel Community was formed in 1951, Britain thought it was an excellent idea, but nothing to do with Britain. Long years of an empire based on sea power meant that the traditional attitude to Europe had been to encourage stability there, to discourage any expansionist powers there, but otherwise to leave it well alone.

As the empire disappeared, and the role of ‘the world’s policeman’ was taken over by the USA, the British government decided to ask for membership of the newly-formed European Communities. It took more than ten years for this to be achieved (in 1973). From the very start, the British attitude to membership has been ambiguous. On the one hand, it is seen as the economic necessity and a political advantage. On the other hand, acceptance doesn’t mean enthusiasm. The underlying attitude – that Britain is somehow special – has not really changed and there are fears that Britain is gradually giving up its autonomy. Changes in European domestic policy, social policy or sovereignty arrangements tend to be seen in Britain as a threat. Throughout the 1980s-1990s it has been Britain more than any other member of the European Union which has slowed down progress towards further European unity. Meanwhile, there is a certain amount of popular distrust of the Brussels bureaucracy.

The sovereignty of the union: Scotland and Wales.



There is another reason for a distrust of greater European cohesion among politicians at Westminster. It is feared that this may not just be a matter of giving extra powers to the

regions of Britain, especially its different nations.

Until recently most Scottish people, although they insisted on many differences between themselves and the English, were happy to be part of the UK. But there has

always been some resentment in Scotland about the way that it is treated by the central government in London. In the 1980s and early 1990s this resentment increased because of the continuation in power of the Conservative party, for which only around a quarter of the Scottish electorate had voted. Opinion polls consistently showed that between half and three-quarters of the Scottish population wanted either ‘home rule’ (internal self-government) within the UK or complete independence.

Opposition parties in the early 1990s said they would give Scotland control of its internal affairs. The Scottish National Party wants complete independence. Now the Scottish have become the most enthusiastic Europeans in the UK. It seems certain that, sooner or later, Scotland will win greater control over its own affairs. But under the authority of London or Brussels? It might be the latter but is probably more likely to remain the former.



In Wales the situation is different. The southern part of this nation is thoroughly Anglicized and the country as a whole has been fully incorporated into the English governmental structure for more than 400 years. Nationalism in Wales is felt mostly in the central and northern part of the country, where it tends to express itself not politically, but culturally. Many people in Wales would like to have greater control over Welsh affairs, but not much more than some people in some regions of England would like the same.

The sovereignty of the union: Northern Ireland.

Politics here is dominated by the historic animosity between the two communities there. The **Catholic** viewpoint is known as ‘nationalist’ or ‘republican’ (in support of the idea of a single Irish nation and its republican government); the **Protestant** viewpoint is known as ‘unionist’ or ‘loyalist’ (loyal to the union with Britain).

By the beginning of the 20th century, when Ireland was still a part of the United Kingdom, the vast majority of people in Ireland wanted either home rule or complete independence from Britain. Liberal governments in Britain had accepted this and had attempted at various times to make it a reality. However, the one million Protestants in

Ulster¹ were violently opposed to this idea. They didn't want to belong to a country dominated by Catholics. They formed less than a quarter of the total population of the country, but in Ulster they were in a 65% majority.

In the late 1960s a Catholic civil rights movement began. There was violent Protestant reaction and frequent fighting broke out. In 1969 British troops were sent in to keep order. At first they were welcomed, particularly among the Catholics. But troops often act without regard to democratic rights. In the tense atmosphere, the welcome disappeared. Extremist organizations from both communities began committing acts of terrorism, such as shootings and bombings.



There have been many efforts to find a solution to 'the troubles'. There has been some progress. In 1972 the British government decided to rule directly from London. Most of the previous political abuses have disappeared, and Catholics now have almost the same political rights as Protestants. The British and Irish governments have developed good relations and new initiatives are presented jointly. However, the troubles are not over. Despite reforms, inequalities remain. The Catholics identify with the south. Most of them would like the Irish government in Dublin to have at least a share in the government of Ulster. The constitution of the Irish Republic includes a claim to Ulster (and, to emphasize the idea of a united Ireland, one of the colours of its flag is the orange of the Ulster Protestants). Recently the Republic has suggested that it could remove this constitutional claim if a power-sharing arrangement with Britain could be set up. However, the Protestants are strongly opposed to any idea of power sharing. The Ulster Protestants are distinct from any other section of British society. While it is important to them that they belong to the United Kingdom, it is just as important to them that they don't belong to the Republic of Ireland. From their point of view, and also from the point of view of some Catholics, a place for Ulster in a federated Europe is a possible solution. All groups appear willing to attempt to reach a settlement through negotiation.

Notes

¹ – is the name often used to describe the part of Ireland which is in the UK. It is the name of one of the four ancient kingdoms of Ireland.

GLOSSARY

Read the following words and word combinations according to the reading rules:

- *to discourage* – отбивать охоту что-либо делать
- *expansionism* – политика захвата чужих территорий
- *ambiguous* – двусмысленный, сомнительный
- *cohesion* – связь, сплочённость
- *resentment* – негодование, возмущение
- *opinion polls* – подсчёт голосов, мнений
- *consistently* - последовательно
- *animosity* – враждебность, злоба
- *political abuses* – политические оскорбления, ругань
- *jointly* – совместно, сообща

Practice the following for pronunciation.

Proper names: *Europe, Brussels, Catholic, Protestant, Ulster.*

VOCABULARY EXERCISES

I. Choose the word corresponding to the definition from those listed below:

- *a person who buys and sells goods in large quantities, especially one who imports and exports goods;*
- *a large official meeting, usually lasting for a few days, at which people with the same work or interests come together to discuss their views;*
- *a group of countries or states that are controlled by one ruler or government;*
- *a country that is governed by a president and politicians elected by the people and where there is no king or queen;*
- *freedom from political control by other countries;*
- *formal discussion between people who are trying to reach an agreement;*
- *a feeling of love for and pride in your country; a feeling that your country is better than any other.*

(empire, merchant, independence, nationalism, the Republic, negotiation, conference).

II. Suggest English equivalents for the Russian parts. Read the whole sentence and translate it into Russian.

1. For centuries British sailors and **(купцы)** travelled all over the world, discovered new lands and **(объявлять их владениями)** England.

2. As a result of this movement, the British Empire **(распалась)**.

3. A major part of Britain's modern history has been the **(выход)** from the Empire.

4. From the very start, the British attitude to membership has been **(сомнительный)**.

5. There is another reason for **(недоверие)** of greater European **(сплочённость)** among politicians at Westminster.

6. But there has always been some **(негодование)** in Scotland about the way that it is treated by the central government in London

7. **(Подсчёт голосов)** consistently showed that between half and three-quarters of the Scottish population wanted either 'home rule' **(внутреннее самоуправление)** within the UK or complete independence.

8. Politics here is dominated by the historic **(враждебность)** between the two communities there.

9. The British and Irish governments have developed good relations and new **(инициативы)** are presented **(совместно)**.

10. All groups appear willing to attempt to reach a settlement through **(переговоры)**.

III. Complete the following sentences, using the texts.

1. The countries ruled by Britain starting in the late 15th century are called the.....

2. After World War II, with the growth of national liberation movement in the world, the countries which were dependent on Great Britain and formed parts of the

British Empire, began.....

3. is a symbol of this association.

4. Although..... was the symbolic head of the Commonwealth, Britain was in fact, often obliged to accept the will of all the other members.

5. As the empire disappeared, the role of 'the world's policeman' was taken over by.....

6. wants complete independence.

7. The **Catholic** viewpoint is known as '.....' or '.....' (in support of the idea of a single Irish nation and its republican government); the **Protestant** viewpoint is known as' ' or '.....' (loyal to the union with Britain).

IV. Test-translation. Express the following in English, using the words and phrases from the texts.

1. Под Британским господством находились обширные территории Северной Америки, Африка, континент Австралии, Новая Зеландия, Индия и большое количество островов в океане.

2. У членов стран Содружества особые связи с Соединённым Королевством и друг с другом, а также согласованность работать вместе во имя мира на земле, торговых связей, защиты демократии и прав человека, улучшения условий в области здравоохранения и образования

3. До недавних пор большинство шотландцев, хотя и настаивали на многих различиях между ними и англичанами, были счастливы, что входят в состав Соединённого Королевства.

4. Национализм в Уэльсе чувствуется в основном в северной и центральной частях страны, где он выражается не в политике, а в культуре.

5. Экстремистские организации обоих сообществ начали совершать террористические акты.

6. Сначала Америка была Британской колонией, но с 1775 по 1783 американцы воевали за независимость.

7. Важной причиной дружбы Британии и Америки является то, что люди двух стран очень похожи: говорят на одном языке, на этом же языке читают литературу, смотрят фильмы и телевизионные передачи.

8. Английский язык является первым и родным языком для 300 миллионов людей, живущих в таких странах, как: Британия, Ирландия, Америка, Австралия, Новая Зеландия, Канада и Южная Африка.

9. Миллионы людей говорят на английском в странах, где он является вторым государственным языком: в Индии, Индонезии, в Бангладеш, на острове Шри-Ланка, в Малайзии, Сингапуре и т.д.

ORAL LANGUAGE PRACTICE

I. Correct the wrong statements. Begin with:

It's not true to fact. It's wrong. It's false. It's not so. It's true.

1. *The Commonwealth is an association of several British dependencies.*
2. *The Secretary-General is the head of the Commonwealth.*
3. *Until recently most Irish people, although they insisted on many differences between themselves and the English, were happy to be part of the UK.*
4. *The southern part of Scotland is thoroughly Anglicized and the country as a whole has been fully incorporated into the English governmental structure for more than 400 years.*
5. *However, the one million Protestants in Ulster didn't want to belong to a country dominated by Catholics.*
6. *The constitution of the Irish Republic doesn't include a claim to Ulster.*

II. Have a talk based on the texts. Make use of the following questions.

1. *What does British Empire mean? How was it created?*
2. *Why was the British Empire fall apart?*
3. *What new organization was established? Why?*
4. *What is the symbol of the Commonwealth?*

5. *Who is the head of the Commonwealth?*
6. *Why did the British government decide to ask for membership of the newly-formed European Community?*
7. *How can be explained the ambiguous attitude of Great Britain to membership of the European Union?*
8. *What was the reason for the resentment of the Scottish people in 1980s?*
9. *What was the political situation in Wales at the end of the 20th century?*
10. *What are the main problems between southern and northern parts of Ireland?*

III. Watch the episode from the film “British Empire”, “Queen’s visit to Canada”. Translate the suggested video-information. Discuss it, using the following questions:

1. *How many ambassadors were there in London in Victorian days?*
2. *What had changed in the foreign policy of Great Britain by Elizabeth’s reign?*
3. *How often do the diplomats from all over the world come to Great Britain?*
How many diplomats arrive in London nowadays?
4. *Are the countries of the Commonwealth colonial now? Do they depend on British Empire?*
5. *Where is the major centre of diplomacy?*
6. *What does the Queen do at such meetings?*
7. *Is she a good diplomat?*
8. *Do the diplomats come to Britain from the countries of the Commonwealth that were once part of the British Empire?*
9. *Is Britain considered to be Empire nowadays? Why?*
10. *How many countries and people are there in the Commonwealth now?*
11. *How did the people meet the Queen in Malta? Were there anti-British protests or were the crowds enthusiastic?*
12. *What was the major purpose of the Queen’s visit to Malta?*
13. *What is this organization like?*

14. *Is this organization dominated by the US?*
15. *How do the Commonwealth heads of governments appreciate the Queen's role at such meetings?*
16. *What is Saskatchewan and Regina?*
17. *Does the Queen often visit Canada?*
18. *What is the point about the Royal visit overseas?*
19. *Were all Queen's excursions to Canada triumphal?*

ADDITIONAL WORK

Text for discussion

I. *Read the text.*

Give your impressions.

"Great Britain has lost an empire and hasn't yet found a role." Dean Acheson - a US diplomat, 1962

Britain and the US

The relationship between Britain and the US has always been a close one. Like all close relationships it has had difficult times. The US was first a British colony, but between 1775 and 1783 the US fought a war to become independent. The US fought the British again in the War of 1812.

In general, however, the two countries have felt closer to each other than to any other country, and their foreign policies have shown this. During World War I and World War II, and more recently in the Gulf War and the Iraq War, Britain and the US supported each other. When the US looks for foreign support, Britain is usually the first country to come forward and it is sometimes called 'the 51st state of the union'.

But the *special relationship* that developed after 1945 is not explained only by shared political interests. An important reason for the friendship is that the people of the two countries are very similar. They share the same language and enjoy each other's literature, films and television. Many Americans have British ancestors, or relatives still

living in Britain. The US government and political system is based on Britain's , and there are many Anglo-American businesses operating on both sides of the Atlantic. In Britain some people are worried about the extent of US influence, and there is some jealousy of its current power.

The special relationship was strong in the early 1980s when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister in Britain and Ronald Reagan was President of the US. Since September 11 the support given by Britain under Tony Blair for US actions in Afghanistan and Iraq has led to problems at home and with Britain's partners in the European Union.

Text for translation

II. *Read the text and translate it.*

Британское содружество наций

К началу 1960-х гг. Британская империя прекратила существование, однако большинство бывших колоний предпочли сохранить связи с Великобританией. С этой целью еще до того было образовано Британское содружество наций (ныне Содружество).

Статус доминиона

Функции ответственного правительства ограничивались решением внутренних вопросов - «имперские» задачи оставались в ведении Великобритании. Например, в Новой Зеландии британцы оставили за собой право решать проблемы, связанные с коренным народом маори. Со временем местные правительства расширили сферу влияния, особенно после объединений английских владений в большие национальные государства, такие как Канада (в 1867 г.), Австралийский Союз (в 1901 г.) и Южно-Африканский Союз (в 1910 г.). Эти территории имели особый статус, поэтому назывались не колониями, а доминионами (англ. *dominion* - владение). К началу XX в. эти государства обрели почти полную независимость, хотя в вопросах внешней политики следовали политическому курсу Великобритании. Это отчасти объяснялось традицией, но,

кроме того, доминионы полагались на британскую военную мощь в защите своих территорий.

Доминионы поддержали Великобританию во время I мировой войны (1914-18), и солдаты государств из состава Британской империи храбро сражались и проливали кровь под британским флагом. Правительство Великобритании учредило специальное военное правительство, но премьер-министры доминионов заявили, что подчиняются только парламентам своих государств, поэтому даже в военное время планы создания централизованной, единой империи не рассматривались всерьез.

Статус равных

После I мировой войны в доминионах возросло стремление к самостоятельному развитию внешней политики. Кроме того, их правительства аннулировали юридические обязательства подчиняться Великобритании и таким образом обрели полную независимость. В 1931 г. был принят Вестминстерский статут, который закрепил решение Имперской конференции 1926 г. о самостоятельности доминионов во внутренних и внешних делах и постановил, что доминионы связаны лишь «преданностью британской короне». В те годы к доминионам также относились остров Ньюфаундленд, только в 1949 г. ставший частью Канады, и Ирландское Свободное государство, которое в 1949-м решило полностью отделиться от Великобритании и провозгласило республику. В Вестминстерском статуте 1931 г. вместо прежнего названия - Британская империя - было введено понятие «Британское содружество наций». Смена названия отражала упразднение империи и рождение Содружества - **символа взаимовыгодного партнерства**.

После II мировой войны (1939-45) Британская Индия в процессе деколонизации была разделена в 1947 г. на Индийский Союз и Пакистан. Через год была провозглашена независимость Цейлона (сегодня Шри-Ланка) и Бирмы (Мьянмы). В 1946 году название «Британское Содружество» было изменено на «Содружество». Решение Индии, Пакистана и Цейлона остаться членами Содружества означало, что оно вобрало множество разных культур и рас. Бирма и Ирландская Республика решили выйти из Содружества.

Правила членства в Содружестве стали намного гибче. До 1950 г. все члены Содружества официально оставались монархиями, и английский король Георг VI считался главой каждого из этих государств.

Однако, страны, в которых политические и религиозные традиции сильно отличались от британских, не желали признавать власть христианского английского короля. Чтобы избежать конфликтов, были приняты соответствующие законодательные поправки, позволившие Индии и другим странам получить статус республик внутри Содружества.

В 2003 г. в Содружество входили 54 государства, из которых 16 признавали Елизавету II в качестве правящей королевы, 5 имели собственных монархов, а остальные являлись республиками.

Содружество сегодня

На конференциях стран-членов Содружества в 1980-х гг. было много противоречий в связи с Южно-Африканской Республикой. Большинство членов предлагали бороться с апартеидом экономическими санкциями, и отрицательная позиция Британии в этом вопросе многими воспринималась с горечью. Однако с 1990 г. ЮАР отказалась от апартеида, и через четыре года ее членство в Содружестве было восстановлено.

Содружество взяло на себя новые функции, оказывая помощь в организации выборов, контролируя их прозрачность и способствуя развитию демократии. В начале XXI в. в Зимбабве возник серьезный кризис. Президент Мугабе стал применять методы тирании, а экономические проблемы привели страну на грань банкротства и нищеты. Великобритания призывала африканские страны Содружества к вмешательству, но те отклонили эту инициативу.

Некоторые политики подвергают сомнению единство в рядах Содружества, заявляя, что этот институт – пережиток колониального XIX века. Однако большинство членов Содружества полагают, что эта организация - уникальный и вполне динамичный орган, способный конструктивно решать различные вопросы на благо состоящих в нем стран.

UNIT II

NATURAL FEATURES OF BRITISH ISLES

Lesson 1

ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION

*"God made the country and man made the town" -
W.Cowper, an English poet (1731-1800)*

The countryside of Britain is well known for its beauty and many contrasts: its bare mountains and **moorland** ¹, its lakes, rivers and woods, and its long, often wild coastline. Many of the most beautiful areas are **national parks** ² which are protected from development. There are many threats to wildlife in such a densely populated and highly industrialized country as Great Britain. It is a comparatively small country. Because of these factors, its forests, fields, moorland, and even cliffs on the coast, are in danger of being swallowed up by industry: more than 3,500 million tons of industrial waste is pumped into the North Sea every year. It is to preserve the health and beauty of the land for the future generations that *the national parks* were created in many parts of the country. A national park doesn't mean that it becomes public property. In Britain the land is mostly in private ownership. But it does ensure that the areas of natural beauty will not be turned into farmland or built over.



In the mountainous regions of Great Britain the vegetation is represented by coniferous and mixed forests with the predominance of pine, oak and birch. Many parts of highland Britain have only thin, poor soils. In most areas of Scotland and Wales the farmers have cultivated only the valley lands and the plains where the soils are deeper and

richer. Most of countryside England is agricultural land, about a third of which is arable, and the rest is pasture and meadow.

The charm of Britain lies in the variety of scenery. The variety of scenery in Britain is a reflection of the complex geological history of the islands. Geologically, Britain is a museum model. Successive ice ages brought polar ice down to cover most of the British Isles. The south of England escaped altogether; the middle of the country was covered by ice 300,000 years; the north and west, including Scotland and Wales, were affected just 18,000 years ago.

A typical English countryside, one of the most designed landscapes in the world, is divided into small fields, hedged with natural solid visible boundaries. It has become a comfortable and friendly place. Small fields separated by hedges or walls were first created in the Middle Ages and the process continued into the 19th century, mostly for the benefit of rich landowners, who wanted to keep the poor off their property. Common land, which used to be free for everyone to graze their sheep and cattle on, was made private by a long series of new laws. By 1860, half of the land in England was enclosed. In Scotland landlords burnt the homes of the peasants to make room for sheep.

Left untouched, Britain would be almost entirely covered by forest. At one time it was possible for a squirrel to leap branch to branch from the south of England to the north-east of Scotland without ever touching the ground. But deforestation has been going on for a long time. Five thousand years ago, humans started to cut down trees to make room for farms. They also used wood for



heating and cooking. Over the last millennium, other uses of wood have increased, especially house and shipbuilding. From the 16th century, the huge British navy required lots of oak. Today, less than 10 per cent of the land is forested, a lower figure than in any other European country except Ireland. The greatest density of woodland occurs in the north and east of Scotland, in some parts of south-east England and on the Welsh

border. The most common trees are oak, beech, ash and elm, and in Scotland also pine and birch.

The mild climate of Great Britain is favourable for plants and flowers. In the meadowlands wild flowers grow, from common *daisies* to rare *lilies*. From early spring the woodland glades are bright with flowers too. Especially numerous are *primroses*, the English symbols of spring. *The wild rose*, the badge of the Tudor kings of England, grows at the sides of woods. By the waterside, there are white and yellow water lilies, blue forget-me-nots, purple and yellow irises.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, about 20 million British people will leave the towns and cities and visit the countryside. The most popular activity in the countryside is simply walking through it. Many people associate the countryside with peace and relaxation. But where can they walk?

After hundreds of years, there is hardly any common land left. Every field, every moor, every river and every forest is owned by someone. In 1949, the Labour Government tried to change things radically with the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. As a result, seven lovely, but quite small, National Parks were created in England: five in the north (**Lake District**³, **Peak District**⁴, **Border Country**, **Yorkshire Dales**⁵, and **Yorkshire Moors**⁶) and two in the southwest (**Dartmoor**⁷ and **Exmoor**⁸). The first national park was set in the **Peak District**, at the southern end of the Pennine Chain, in 1949. In addition to the national parks, there are seven *forest parks* in Great Britain: **Snowdonia**⁹ in Wales, **Queen Elizabeth** and **Argyll** in Scotland; **Dean**¹⁰, **Border**, and **New Forest**¹¹ in England. The rules of a forest park are less strict. It is prohibited for the motorcars to enter national parks, while in forest parks special *caravan* and *camping sites* are provided. However, there is limited access for walkers, with a large number of fences and Keep Out signs.

For the last 50 years, there has been a cold war between the Ramblers' Association (rambling means country walking) on the one side and the Country Landowners' Association on the other. The ramblers want the legal right to walk everywhere, as long as they do no damage. The landowners say that all these townspeople will destroy crops and frighten animals. Far from compromising, landowners are actually trying to reduce the limited access which currently exists: there

are many thousands of kilometres of ancient paths, legal rights-of-way across properties, but more than 50 per cent of these have been hidden or obstructed by landowners.

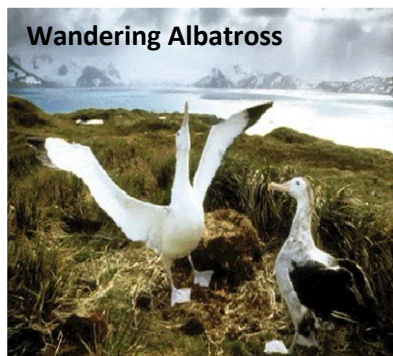
There are still some very big estates, and a few thousand families still own 95 per cent of the land in the country.

The animal life of the UK

The animal life of the UK is much like the rest of north-western Europe. Many larger animals like *bears* or *wolves*, *boars*, *the Irish elk*, *the deer* are rare because of the disappearance of forests but there are many *foxes* and *red deer*. Some 230 kinds of birds



live there, and another 200 are regular visitors, many are songbirds. *Robin Redbreast* is a national emblem of Great Britain. There are many sea-birds, which nest near the coasts and often fly far inland in search of food or shelter in rough weather. *Swans*, *pheasants*

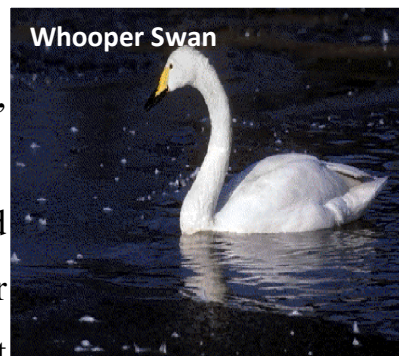


and other large and rare birds are protected by law. There are not many animals and birds classified as *the game* (the wild birds and animals as objects of hunting and shooting).

A most typical English *field sport* was fox-hunting with dogs had many critics who said that this sport was too cruel and should be prohibited by law. The law to ban it came into effect in 2005, but it's seen by many people living in the country as an attack on their way of life.

Of smaller animals there are mice, rats, hedgehogs, moles, squirrels, hares, rabbits and weasels.

The British are famous for being animal lovers, and many families have at least one pet. People from other countries often think British people are sentimental about



animals, and say that they fuss over them and treat them better than human beings.

At weekends people in Britain often visit **farm parks**, **safari parks** (parks where people can drive close to lions, zebras etc.), **zoos**, **bird parks** and **sea life centres**.

There are laws against cruelty to animals in Britain. People give generously to

animal charities such as the



RSPCA¹², and there are **animal hospitals** and **rescue centres**

from injured and abandoned

animals. Most are fairly modern,

and many animals live in a large

enclosure similar to their natural



habitat, rather than in a cage. Often zoos keep only animals that cannot survive in the wild or were born in captivity.

Many people care about wild animals. People feed wild birds in the winter and some have a bird table in the garden.

There are often campaigns to save species that are endangered, such as red squirrels and hedgehogs in Britain.



In Britain many people are

concerned about **animal rights**,

especially the use of animals in

scientific research and public

pressure has forced many cosmetics

manufacturers to stop testing



products on animals. Animal rights activists organize protests at laboratories where animals are used.

Notes

¹**moorland** - a high open area of land that is not used for farming, especially an area covered with rough grass and heather.

²**National Parks** are important areas in Great Britain.. The land is not in national ownership but is mostly owned by farmers and private landowners. Each park is managed by a National Park

Authority. The government provides 75% of the money to run the parks. National Park Authorities control development within each park, look after public footpaths and run information.

³**the Lake District** is a region of lakes and mountains in Cumbria, north-west England. It contains the highest mountain in England, Scafell Pike, and the largest lake Windermere. The area is associated with the “Lake Poets”, who lived there and wrote about it. Its beautiful scenery is very popular with tourists, and it was made a national park in 1951.



⁴**Peak District** is an area of hills, valleys, moors and caves. It has been a national park since 1951 and is very popular with people who enjoy walking and climbing.



⁵**Yorkshire Dales** is an area of countryside, valleys and villages in the north of England. The area became a national park in 1954. It is considered one of the most beautiful areas in England and is especially popular with British people on walking holidays or making tours around it by car.

⁶**Yorkshire Moors** – areas of high, open land with few trees, which have been a national park in 1952.



⁷**Dartmoor** is a wild, open and hilly part of Devon in south-west England. It is a national park and a popular place for walking and horse riding. This place is popular for its **Dartmoor ponies**, small, dark brown horses with long hair that live wild on Dartmoor.

⁸**Exmoor** – is an area of moorland. The **Exmoor pony** is a small but strong breed of horse, originally from Exmoor and often trained for children to ride.



⁹**Snowdonia** is a national park in north-west Wales. It's an important tourist centre, famous for its attractive mountain scenery.

¹⁰**the Forest of Dean** - is a forest in south-west England containing many very old oak and beech trees. In 1938 it became Britain's first forest park.

¹¹ **the New Forest** – an attractive area of countryside in southern England consisting of forest and open wild land covered with rough grass. It has belonged to the Royal family since William the Conqueror began hunting there in 1079. It is a popular tourist centre, and especially well known for **the New Forest ponies**, a breed of small horses living there in almost wild conditions.

¹²**RSPCA** – Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

GLOSSARY

Read the following words and word combinations according to the reading

rules:

- *moorland* – вересковая пустошь
- *vegetation* – растительность
- *coniferous* – хвойный, шишконосный
- *pine* – сосна
- *oak* – дуб
- *birch* – берёза
- *soil* - почва
- *valley* – долина
- *arable* – пахотный

- *pasture* - пастбище
- *meadow* – луг
- *hedges* – живая изгородь, ограда
- *to graze* – пастись (животных)
- *to enclose* – огораживать общинные земли
- *peasant* – крестьянин
- *squirrel* – белка
- *room* – место, пространство
- *beech* – бук
- *ash* - ясень
- *elm* - вяз
- *fence* – изгородь
- *estate* – поместье
- *rambler* – бродяга
- *to obstruct* - заграждать, преграждать
- *daisy* - маргаритка
- *lily* - лилия
- *the woodland glades* – лесные поляны
- *primrose* – первоцвет, примула
- *iris* - ирис
- *boar* – кабан, вепрь
- *the Irish elk* – ирландский лось
- *the deer* - олень
- *swan* - лебедь
- *pheasant* - фазан
- *hedgehog* - ёж
- *mole* - крот
- *hare* - заяц
- *weasel* - ласка
- *enclosure* – огороженное место

- *natural habitat* – *естественная среда обитания*
- *to be born in captivity* – *родиться в неволе*
- *to be endangered* – *подвержен опасности исчезновения*

Practice the following for pronunciation.

Proper names: *Lake District, Peak District, Border Country, Yorkshire Dales, Yorkshire Moors, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Snowdonia, Argyll, Dean, Border, New Forest.*

VOCABULARY EXERCISES

I. Choose the word corresponding to the definition from those listed below:

- *the land outside towns and cities, with fields, woods, etc.;*
- *a person who walks in the countryside for pleasure;*
- *a small brown European bird with a red breast;*
- *everything you can see when you look across a large area of land;*
- *a land covered with grass that is suitable for feeding animals on;*
- *a small animal with a long thick tail and red, grey or black fur;*
- *a large graceful bird that is usually white and has a long thin neck;*
- *a person who owns land;*
- *a field covered in grass, used especially for hay.*

(the countryside, pasture, meadow, landscapes, landowners, squirrel, rambler, robin, swan).

II. Suggest English equivalents for the Russian parts. Read the whole sentence and translate it into Russian.

1. In the mountainous regions of Great Britain the (*растительность*) is represented by(*хвойный и смешанный*) forests with the predominance of (*сосна, дуб, берёза*).

2. Most of countryside England is agricultural land, about a third of which is (*пахотный*) and the rest is (*пастбище и луг*).
3. The most common trees are oak, (*вяз и ясень*).
4. The (*землевладельцы*) say that all these (*городские жители*) will destroy (*урожай*) and (*напугать*) frighten animals.
5. Many larger animals like (*медведи, волки, кабаны, ирландские лоси, олени*) are rare because of the disappearance of forests.
6. (*Лебеди, фазаны*) and other large and rare birds are protected by law.
7. Of smaller animals there are (*мыши, крысы, ежи, кроты, белки, зайцы, кролики и ласки*).

III. Complete the following sentences.

1. The charm of Britain lies in the.....
2.made the country and made the town.
3. For the last 50 years, there has been a cold war between theon the one side and the..... on the other.
4. Many people associate the countryside withand.....
5. Many parts of highland Britain have only....., soils.
6. From the 16th century,required lots of oak.
7. National Parks were created in England: five in the north.....and two in the southwest:.....
8. The law to ban..... came into effect in 2005.
9. Animal rights activists organize

IV. Test-translation. Express the following in English.

1. Разнообразие пейзажа Британии – это результат сложного геологического процесса на островах.
2. Общие земли, которые раньше были свободны для каждого, кто пас на ней овец и скот, была приватизирована при помощи целого ряда новых законов.

3. *Правительство выделяет 75% общей суммы на содержание парков.*
4. *Многие английские парки в центральных районах страны были когда-то королевскими парками для охоты на оленей и представляли собой просто огороженное пространство.*
5. *В этой густонаселённой стране деревни разбросаны, как правило, через каждые два-три километра. В центре селения непременно высится церквушка, рядом с ней стоит дом священника.*
6. *Если селение не из маленьких, вы увидите кирпичное школьное здание, домик врача, лавку бакалейщика и «паб» - пивную со старомодным названием «Синий лев», «Орёл и единорог», «Король Гарри» или что-нибудь в этом же духе.*
7. *Озёрный край – это один из самых живописных районов Англии, потому что помимо самих озёр, которые необыкновенно красивы, там есть и зелёные долины, и покрытые лесом холмы, и низвергающиеся со скал водопады.*
8. *Большая часть Озёрного края, особенно места, связанные с поэтами-романтиками, взята под защиту «Национального треста».*

ORAL LANGUAGE PRACTICE

IV. Correct the wrong statements. Begin with:

It's not true to fact. It's wrong. It's false. It's not so. It's true.

1. *There are not any forests in Britain.*
2. *At one time it was possible for a monkey to leap branch to branch from the south of England to the north-east of Wales without ever touching the ground.*
3. *The landowners have always been happy to see the visitors on their land.*
4. *On a sunny Sunday afternoon, about 20 million British people will leave the towns and cities and go to the seashore.*
5. *Small fields separated by hedges or walls were first created in the Middle Ages.*

6. *In addition to the national parks, there are ten forest parks in Great Britain.*

V. *Have a talk based on the texts. Make use of the following questions:*

1. *What is countryside of Britain known for?*
2. *How is the vegetation represented in the mountainous regions of Great Britain?*
3. *How is the farmland cultivated in Scotland and Wales?*
4. *What was the reason for the variety of scenery in Britain?*
5. *What is the typical design of the English countryside? Why?*
6. *When did deforestation occur in Britain? Why?*
7. *What are the most common trees in Britain?*
8. *What is the National Park? Are there National Parks in Britain? Where?*
9. *What serious problems are the national parks connected with?*
10. *What is the difference between national parks and forest parks?*
11. *What is the flora and fauna of Great Britain?*
12. *What is the attitude of the British people to the wildlife of their country?*

VI. *Watch the films “The Lake District” and “Animals”. Translate the suggested video-information. Discuss it, using the following questions:*

1. *What is Windemere?*
2. *Who made the Lake District famous?*
3. *What is the best way to explore the Lake District?*
4. *Do people come here for fine weather? What do they do in summer and in winter?*
5. *What else can attract tourists in the Lake District?*
6. *What are the most popular farm-animals in Britain?*
7. *What are the main wild animals in Britain?*
8. *How do the British people protect their animals?*
9. *What are the most popular pets in Great Britain? How do the British people look after them?*

ADDITIONAL WORK

Text for discussion

II. *Read the text. Give your impressions.*

Villages and towns

There are about 13,000 villages in England. Nearly all of them existed before the Norman Conquest. Some of them are called “*street villages*” as they have been built along the road, with houses on both sides of it. Some villages are round and are called “*green villages*” because the houses are clustering around “*the village green*” a wide stretch of grass with a well and a playground. And the third type of village is called “*scattered village*”, as the houses are just scattered without any system around a middle meeting point consisting of a crossroads, a shop or two, and a village school, perhaps.

With all sentimental feelings about a village, most Englishmen live in towns. Nowadays less than 10% of English people are classified as ‘rural’ but, as a matter of fact, less than half of them really live in villages. The English people can never understand Russian visitors who sometimes proudly say that they live “in the centre of the city”. The city centres are not prestigious places to live in.

Text for translation

III. *Read and translate the text, using the dictionary. Give your impressions.*



Страна зелёных лугов

Зрительный образ Англии – страны зелёных лугов – впечатляет прежде всего сочетанием ухоженности и безлюдья. Как трудно увязать это с заочным представлением об одном из самых густонаселённых государств, о родине промышленной революции, которая слыла мастерской мира.

Сельский ландшафт Англии с его живыми изгородями на плавных изгибах холмов, хорошо ухоженными лугами и рощами, с извилистыми, как встарь, но одетыми в асфальт и бетон просёлочными дорогами – это ландшафт цивилизованный, созданный руками человека.

Статистика свидетельствует, что население Великобритании в своём большинстве является городским, а не сельским, промышленным, а не сельскохозяйственным. И тем не менее основополагающие черты английской жизни доныне коренятся не в городе, а на селе.

Англичанин не стремится жить в Лондоне, как француз мечтает жить в Париже. Предел мечтаний для него состоит не в том, чтобы быть земледельцем, а в том, чтобы стать землевладельцем. Именно владение землёй издавна служило тут вершиной человеческих амбиций, мерилom социального положения...

Чем состоятельнее человек, тем настойчивее стремится он иметь загородный дом. Сельская Англия с её усадьбами и парками, лугами и охотничьими угодьями несёт в своём облике несомненную печать быта и нравов старой земельной аристократии...

Нетрудно проследить, что наиболее традиционные, так сказать, классические виды спорта – верховая езда, гольф, теннис, крикет – родились в Англии как развлечения обитателей загородных поместий. Это, в сущности, форма досуга для людей, которые любят находиться на воздухе, но в условиях английского климата должны постоянно двигаться, чтобы получать от этого удовольствие...

В Англии редко попадешь в непроходимую лесную чащу. Но, пожалуй, реже, чем в других странах, видишь здесь и аллеи, где деревья росли бы строго в шеренгу да ещё были подстрижены на один манер. Здесь более типичны рощи, перелески, отдельные деревья, разбросанные среди лугов, потому что чаща – это

нечто уж слишком первозданное, а аллея – нечто уж чересчур искусственное. Сельская Англия являет собой поистине английский компромисс между природой и искусством.

«Если бы у меня спросил совета человек, желающий изучить Англию, я бы сказал: «Ходи по дорогам, просёлкам и тропинкам, постарайся сначала ощутить эту страну, а потом уже познать её, избавившись от предубеждений».

К этой стране нет волшебного ключа, она не поддаётся никакому единому и всеохватывающему объяснению. Но её можно почувствовать. И я убеждён, что её легче почувствовать изнутри – оттуда, где коренятся её самые ранние, самые подлинные и менее всего видоизменённые черты».

Пьер Майо (Франция). Английский образ жизни. 1945

«Но куда же подевались люди? Неужели все они остались в Лондоне, Бирмингеме или Оксфорде? За полдня пути я насчитал из окна вагона больше домов и наверняка больше овец, чем человеческих фигур. Однако, при этом всё так ухожено, так облагорожено столетиями труда, что незримое присутствие человека создаёт своеобразное чувство уединённости без одиночества.»

Прас Кольер (США). Англия и англичане – с американской точки зрения. 1912

В. Овчинников. Корни дуба. 1987

Lesson 2

INLAND WATERS

The western coast of Great Britain is washed by **the Atlantic Ocean** and **the Irish Sea**.

The Atlantic Ocean

Area 82 million square kilometres

32 million square miles

Maximum depth 8,605 metres

28,231 feet

Average depth 3,600 metres 11,812 feet



The Atlantic Ocean is the world's second largest ocean, covering 24 per cent of the global ocean area, or half the area of the Pacific Ocean. Today the North Atlantic Ocean separates North America from Eurasia, and the South Atlantic Ocean separates South America from Africa. Most of its coastal regions are low and geologically quiet.



The **seas** surrounding the British Isles are shallow, usually less than 90 m. because the islands lie on the continental shelf. The coastline is long and rugged and heavily indented with towering cliffs and numerous bays. There is a marked movement of tides.

The Irish Sea

An arm of the Atlantic Ocean, the Irish Sea lies between Ireland on the west and Great Britain on the east, covering an area of about 103,600 square kilometres (about 40,000 square miles). The sea is connected to the Atlantic by **the North Channel** on the northwest, and by **St George's Channel** on the south. Dublin and Liverpool are the largest ports on the Irish Sea.



The British Isles are separated from the Continent by **the North Sea, the English Channel and the Strait of Dover.**

The North Sea

Located in Europe

Area 570 square kilometres 220 square miles

The North Sea, positioned between the United Kingdom, northern Europe, and Scandinavia, is known for its many hazards to navigation. The tides of the North Sea are very irregular, because two tidal waves enter it, one from the north and one from the south. Rain and fog occur during all seasons, and the violent northwestern storms that blow towards the shoals on the southeastern coast make navigation dangerous, especially along the coast of the peninsula of Jutland. Despite the danger, North Sea fisheries provide support for inhabitants of the surrounding countries, and petroleum deposits in the area have been exploited since the late 1970s.

The English Channel

The English Channel is the area of sea between southern England and northern France. Although it is so narrow at one point that some people can swim across it, it has always formed a physical and cultural barrier between Britain and the rest of Europe. On a clear day, you can see the white cliffs of Dover from the French coast.

The English Channel is one of the world's most extraordinary pieces of water. For centuries, the Channel has been Britain's defense against invaders. It has also been the way to the Continent, a highway crowded with ships.

Sailors know it as perhaps the most dangerous sea channel in Europe. Half of all the world's ship collisions take place between the Western end of the Channel and the Baltic – and probably half of all the seasickness.

Several armies have crossed the Channel, but none have crossed for over nine centuries.

Over the years, people have crossed it by balloon, canoe, rowing-boat, parachute, water-skis, and swimming. The first person to swim the Channel was Captain Matthew

Webb in 1875 and in 1926 an American, Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to do so.

The English Channel coast is fringed with holiday resorts for people working in London.

There is a rail **tunnel** under the English Channel between England and France. There had been proposals for a tunnel since the 19th century, but political and practical problems prevented any progress being made until the 1980s. It was opened in 1994 and is managed by Eurotunnel, which also operates a train service through the tunnel for



cars and trucks and Eurostar passenger trains.

The first trains to link Great Britain with mainland Europe left **Waterloo Station** in London for Paris.

Although an undersea tunnel was first proposed

by a French engineer in 1802, it took more than 190 years for the Anglo-French link.

The rivers of Great Britain

The rivers of Britain are short; their direction and character are determined by the position of the mountains.

Due to the humid climate and abundant rainfall, the water level in the rivers is always high. The rivers seldom freeze in winter, most of them remain ice free. Many of the rivers are joined together by canals.

British rivers are not navigable for ocean ships, but they form deep estuaries where most of the large ports of Great Britain are situated.

The rivers of Great Britain

The most important rivers are **the Thames, the Severn, the Tyne, the Trent, the Mersey and the Clyde.**

The Thames is the longest and best-known river in Britain, which flows from the central England to the North Sea after passing through London.

The Severn is the second longest river in Britain. It starts in Wales and flows through western England into **the Bristol Channel**.¹

The Tyne and the Trent, the rivers in north-eastern England, pass through Newcastle and reach the North Sea.

The Mersey is a river in north-west England which flows through Greater Manchester and Merseyside and into the Irish Sea. It is usually associated with Liverpool because it flows through that city and has played an important part in its history. There are three tunnels under it, one for the underground railway and two for roads, and a ferry across it.

The Clyde is a river in south-west Scotland, flowing through Glasgow and into the Irish Sea. There were once shipyards along its banks but this industry has now almost disappeared in Britain.

The River Thames

The river Thames, 210 miles (338 km.) long, made London a centre of international trade. In the 19th century London became one of the busiest docklands in the world. A larger area in the east of London was formerly a major port on the river, but in recent times this Docklands area has been redeveloped. Now the River Thames is used mainly by pleasure boats.

There are many things to see along the Thames.

The Thames Barrier is a large barrier built across the river Thames to prevent London from being flooded. It was completed in 1982 and officially opened in 1984. It consists of ten gates, which lie on the bottom of the river when the barrier is not



required. If there is a danger of flooding, the gates rise to form a solid wall 50 feet (15 metres) high.

Cleopatra's Needle on Victoria Embankment is an ancient Egyptian monument named after Egyptian queen Cleopatra VII. Cleopatra's Needle is a popular name of either of two ancient stone obelisks (tall stone columns with four sides and pointed tops), one of which stands on the bank of the river Thames in London and the other in Central Park, New York.

It all began in Egypt, 3 500 years ago. The Pharaoh ordered a giant obelisk. Hundred of slaves dragged 186 tons of granite along the banks of the river Nile. They built a raft to carry the stone over the Nile to the Temple of Tum, the Sun God. The monument stood at the Temple for centuries until in 12 B.C. Caesar Augustus took it to Alexandria. The sea ate away the soil, and the obelisk fell on its side 1500 years later.

Everybody forgot about it, until the British discovered it. This huge obelisk was shipped to London and given to Queen Victoria and Great Britain in 1820. It was placed by the river in 1878, and a "time box", containing objects typical of the Victorian time, was buried beneath it. Among



these objects were a railway timetable, newspapers, a box of cigars, a razor, a baby's feeding bottle and a box of hairpins.

On the North Bank is the **Royal Hospital** is an elegant building designed by Sir Christopher Wren. In 1680 Charles II built it as a home for 440 old or injured soldiers.

On the South Bank there is a stark contrast – the rather forbidding **Battersea Power Station**, a very large building with four tall chimneys. It was built in 1937 to produce electricity for south London, but since it was closed down in the 1980s it has been completely empty.



At the riverside itself there is a row of charming Victorian lamp-posts decorated with ferocious-looking dolphins. Even the public benches are decorated with winged sphinxes.

There are many bridges across the Thames in London. **Tower Bridge** is one of the most famous structures of London. It was built between 1886 and 1894. Its towers are in the Gothic style and the part of the bridge with the road on it can be raised to allow ships to pass through. It is the only Thames Bridge which can be raised. Tower Bridge is a fine example of Victorian engineering. The Bridge has been opened to the public since 1982.



London Bridge is a bridge across the river Thames, connecting the ancient centre of the city to the district to the Southwark. Until 1750 it was the only bridge crossing

the Thames. The present bridge, built in 1973, replaced one that was sold to a businessman and rebuilt in Arizona.

A wooden bridge, called London Bridge, existed from Roman times until the 12th century. In 1014 Anglo-Saxons joined forces with Norwegian Vikings sailed up the Thames to defeat Danish Vikings who were occupying London. The Danish warriors stood on London Bridge hurling spears down at the Norwegian Vikings.

The bridge was rebuilt in stone with a street of houses and shops along it. The structure lasted more than 600 years.

Westminster Bridge is one of the best-known bridges over the river Thames in central London. The Houses of Parliament are close to the north end of the bridge. It is



popular with tourists, who like to take photographs of each other with the Houses of Parliament in the background.



Circular Cruise is London's premier sightseeing cruise. **Passenger boat services** operate during the summer months. Some people live in houseboats on the Thames. The boats are attractively painted and decorated with plant pots.

Notes

¹**the Bristol Channel** is a long area of water between south-west England and the south coast of Wales.



GLOSSARY

Read the following words and word combinations according to the reading rules:

- *shallow* - мелкий
- *continental shelf* – шельф, отмель
- *rugged* – неровный, изрезанный
- *indented* – изрезанная (береговая линия)
- *numerous bays* – залив, бухта
- *tide* – морской прилив и отлив
- *an arm of the ocean* – «рукав» океана
- *hazards to navigation* – препятствия для навигации
- *shoals* - мелководье
- *the peninsula* - полуостров
- *petroleum deposit* – хранилище нефти
- *barrier* - барьер
- *a highway* – основной путь
- *defense* – защита, оборонительное укрепление
- *collisions* - столкновения
- *the seasickness* – морская болезнь
- *balloon* – воздушный шар
- *fringed with holiday resorts* – окаймлённый курортными городами
- *tunnel* – подземный тоннель

- *estuaries* – устье реки, дельта
- *the humid climate* – сырой, влажный климат
- *abundant rainfall* – сильные дожди
- *dockland* – район доков
- *solid wall* – прочная стена
- *embankment* - набережная
- *the Pharaoh* - фараон
- *a raft* - плот
- *the Temple* - храм
- *a razor* - бритва
- *stark contrast* – абсолютный контраст
- *chimneys* – трубы (дымовые)
- *ferocious-looking dolphin* – свирепо выглядящие дельфины
- *to hurl spears* – бросать копья

Practice the following for pronunciation.

Proper names: *Pacific Ocean, Eurasia, the Irish Sea, St George's Channel, the Strait of Dover, Europe, Scandinavia, Waterloo Station, Paris, the Thames, the Severn, the Tyne, the Trent, the Mersey, the Clyde, the Bristol Channel, Liverpool, Glasgow, Cleopatra's Needle, Egyptian queen Cleopatra, Christopher Wren, Tower Bridge, London Bridge, Southwark, Arizona, Norwegian Vikings, Danish Vikings, Westminster Bridge.*

VOCABULARY EXERCISES

I. Choose the word corresponding to the definition from those listed below:

- *a structure that is built over a road, railway, river;*
- *the movement of ships or aircraft;*
- *the mass of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface;*
- *the wide part of a river where it flows into the sea;*

- a place where a lot of people go on holiday;
- the salt water that covers most of the earth's surface and surrounds its continents and islands;
- a passage built underground, for example to allow a road or railway to go through a hill, under a river;
- an area of land that is almost surrounded by water but is joined to a larger piece of land;
- a natural flow of water that continues in a long line across land to the sea/ocean;
- a wall of stone or earth made to keep water back or to carry a road or railway over low ground;
- a passage that water can flow along, especially in the ground, on the bottom of a river;
- a long straight passage dug in the ground and filled with water for boats and ships to travel along;
- an object like a fence that prevents people from moving forward from one place to another.

(the ocean, the sea, the channel, navigation, peninsula, resort, tunnel, canal, river, estuary, barrier, embankment, bridge).

II. Suggest English equivalents for the Russian parts. Read the whole sentence and translate it into Russian

1. The seas surrounding the British Isles are (**мелкий**), usually less than 90 m. because the islands lie on the (**континентальная отмель**).
2. **The North Sea**, positioned between the United Kingdom, northern Europe, and Scandinavia, is known for its many (**препятствия для навигации**).
3. The violent northwestern storms that blow towards the (**мелководье**) on the southeastern coast make navigation dangerous, especially along the coast of (**полуостров**).
4. Half of all the world's (**кораблекрушения**) take place between the Western end of the Channel and the Baltic.

5. *The English Channel coast is fringed with (курортные города) holiday resorts for people working in London.*
6. *Cleopatra's Needle on Victoria (набережная) is an ancient Egyptian monument named after Egyptian queen Cleopatra VII.*
7. *(Фараон) ordered a giant obelisk.*

III. Complete the following sentences

1. *Over the years, people have crossed the English Channel by.....,*
2. *Today the North Atlantic Ocean separates..... from.....and the South Atlantic Ocean separatesfrom..... ..*
3. *The Irish sea is connected to the Atlantic by.....on the northwest, and by..... on the south.*
4. *The English Channel is the area of sea between..... .*
5. *Although an..... was first proposed by a French engineer in 1802, it took more than 190 years for the Anglo-French link.*
6. *The most important rivers are,,,,,*
7. *..... is the longest and best-known river in Britain.*
8. *There are three tunnels under....., one for the underground railway and two for roads, and a ferry across it.*
9. *..... consists of ten gates, which lie on the bottom of the river.*
10. *..... was shipped to London and given to Queen Victoria and Great Britain in 1820.*
11. *Until 1750..... was the only bridge crossing the Thames.*

IV. Test-translation. Express the following in English

1. *На сегодняшний день Северный Атлантический океан разделяет Северную Америку и Евразию, а Южный Атлантический океан разделяет Южную Америку и Африку.*
2. *Британские реки не судоходны для океанских кораблей, но они формируют глубокие устья, где расположено большинство портов Британии.*

3. *Огромный обелиск был установлен у реки в 1878, под ним поместили «коробку времени» с предметами типичными для эпохи королевы Виктории: расписание поездов, газеты, коробка с сигарами, бритва и т.д.*

4. *Вестминстерский мост популярен у туристов, которые любят фотографироваться на фоне Зданий Парламента.*

5. *Каналы в Британии были построены в конце 18, в начале 19 веков.*

6. *Возле каналов построено много пабов, которые привлекают людей, отдыхающих там во время отпуска или в выходные дни.*

ORAL LANGUAGE PRACTICE

I. Correct the wrong statements. Begin with:

It's not true to fact. It's wrong. It's false. It's not so. It's true.

1. *An arm of the Atlantic Ocean, the Celtic Sea lies between Ireland on the west and Great Britain on the east.*

2. *The English Channel is so deep that some people can't swim across it.*

3. *Several armies have crossed the Bristol Channel, but none have crossed for over nine centuries.*

4. *Dublin and Liverpool are the largest ports on the North Sea .*

5. *Despite the danger, North Sea fisheries provide support for inhabitants of the surrounding countries, and petroleum deposits in the area have been exploited since the late 1970s.*

6. *St George's Channel is one of the world's most extraordinary pieces of water.*

7. *The rivers of Britain are long .*

8. *The Severn is the second longest river in Britain.*

9. *The Clyde is a river in north-west England, which flows through Greater Manchester and Merseyside and into the Irish Sea.*

10. *On the North Bank is the Royal Hospital is an elegant building designed by Charles II.*

11. *London Bridge is the only Thames Bridge which can be raised.*

12. *Westminster Bridge is one of the best-known bridges over the river Thames in central London. Westminster Abbey is close to the north end of the bridge.*

II. Have a talk based on the texts. Make use of the following questions:

1. *How is the western coast of Great Britain washed?*

2. *What did you know about the Atlantic Ocean?*

3. *What are the main seas washing Great Britain? What are the main features of the seas surrounding the British Isles?*

4. *Where are the Irish Sea and the Celtic Sea situated?*

5. *How are the British Isles separated from the Continent?*

6. *What is the North Sea known for?*

7. *Why is the English Channel considered to be one of the world's most extraordinary pieces of water?*

8. *What are the main features of the rivers in Britain?*

9. *What are the main rivers of Great Britain?*

10. *What interesting things can we see along the Thames?*

11. *Are there many bridges across the Thames? What are the most famous bridges?*

III. Watch the film "The Sea". Translate the suggested video-information.

Discuss it, using the following questions:

1. *How did the British endeavour to rule the waves?*

2. *How was British life dominated by the sea socially and economically?*

3. *Why does the sea still play an important part in the lives of British people?*

What do they say?

4. *What are the most popular sport around the coast of Britain? What do the British people say about it?*

5. *Are there any lifeboat stations around the coast of the British Isles? Why? Is it so dangerous for people to go to sea on their boats?*
6. *Are the members of the crew for the lifeboats volunteers? Do they like their work?*
7. Is the sea dangerous? What is the attitude of the British people to the

ADDITIONAL WORK

Text for discussion

I. *Read the text. Give your impressions.*

The vanishing coastline

Britain is an island under constant attack from the surrounding sea. Every year, little bits of the east coast vanish into the North Sea. Sometimes the land slips away slowly. But at other times it slips away very suddenly. In 1993 a dramatic example of this process occurred near the town of Scarborough in Yorkshire.

The Holbeck Hotel, built on a clifftop overlooking the sea, had been the hotel in town for 110 years. But on the morning of 4 June, guests awoke to find cracks in the walls and the doors stuck. When they looked out of the window, instead of seeing fifteen metres of hotel garden, they saw nothing – except the sea. There was no time to collect their belongings. They had to leave the hotel immediately. During the day various rooms of the hotel started leaning at odd angles and then slipped down the cliff. The Holbeck Hotel's role in the tourism industry was over. However, by 'dying' so dramatically, it provided one last great sight for tourists. Hundreds of them watched the action throughout the day.

Text for translation

II. *Read and translate the text, using the dictionary.*

«Туземцы начинают с Кале»

Приведённая выше пословица многое говорит об отношении англичан к иностранцам. Она воплощает в себе врождённое представление о всех заморских народах как о существах иного сорта, подобно тому, как жители срединного царства тысячелетиями считали варварами всех тех, кто обитал за Великой китайской стеной.

Англичанин чувствует себя островитянином как географически, так и психологически. Дувр в его представлении отделён от Кале не только морским проливом, но и неким психологическим барьером, за которым лежит совершенно иной мир.

Известный заголовок лондонской газеты: «Туман над Ла-Маншем. Континент изолирован» - пусть курьёзное, но разительное воплощение английского эгоцентризма. Мы редко употребляем слово «континентальный» иначе, как со словом «климат», имея прежде всего в виду резкие колебания температуры. Для англичанина же в слове «континентальный» заложен более широкий смысл. Это, во-первых, отсутствие уравновешенности, умеренности... Во-вторых, «континентальный» означает для англичанина не такой, как дома, точнее даже – хуже, чем дома...

Ла-Манш для англичанина всё равно что крепостной ров для обитателя средневекового замка. За этой водной преградой лежит чуждый, неведомый мир. Путешественника там ожидают приключения и трудности, после которых особенно приятно испытать радость возвращения к нормальной и привычной жизни внутри крепости.

Главный водораздел в мышлении островитянина проходит, стало быть, между понятиями «отечественное» и «заморское», «дома» и «на континенте». В этом один из корней присущей англичанам настороженности, подозрительности и даже подспудной неприязни к иностранцам.

В.Овчинников. Корни дуба. 1987

Lesson 3

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

ECOLOGY

The climate of Britain is more or less the same as that of the north-western part of the European mainland. The popular belief that it rains all the time in Britain is simply not true. The image of a wet, foggy land was created two thousand years ago by the invading Romans. In fact, London gets no more rain in a year than most other major European cities.

The amount of rain that falls on a town in Britain depends on where it is. Generally speaking, the further west you go, the more rain you get. The most unpleasant feature of the English weather is frequent rains. It is the drizzles that the people remember while speaking about English rain. Pouring rains, which are called '*showers*' or 'the sweet showers of April' is a typical feature of April in England. For Englishmen, they are even pleasant.

The mild winters mean that snow is a regular feature of the higher areas only. The winters are in general a bit colder in the east and in the north of the country with

"When two Englishmen meet their first talk is of the weather" S.Johnson "We haven't a climate, we have only samples of weather"- an English saying

hard frosts and snow than they are in the west. A cold snap (period of very cold weather) or heavy falls of snow can bring transport to a halt. In summer, the south is slightly warmer and sunnier than the north. These differences are connected with the peculiarities of the relief: the Atlantic winds cannot affect the south and the east so much because of the mountains in the north and the west.

The Gulf Stream is the main source of the mildness of the British climate, which affects everyday life in many ways. Men ride to work on bicycles all the year round. Roses in the gardens are often in bloom until Christmas. In some places even palm trees can grow. Very seldom a hard winter may keep snow on the ground for some weeks. Then a thaw comes and the snow begins to melt away.

Why has Britain's climate got such a bad reputation? Perhaps it is for the same reason that British people always seem to be talking about the weather. This is its changeability. There is a saying that Britain doesn't have a climate, it only has weather. It may not rain very much altogether, but you can never be sure of a dry day; there can be cool (even cold) days in July and some quite warm days in January. Perhaps the main characteristic of



Britain's weather is that it is hard to predict. This is probably why people regularly listen to weather forecasts on radio and television. The weather is a safe, polite and impersonal topic of conversation.

In the minds of foreigners, the English weather is also associated with fogs and mists. They do happen in England, but not oftener than in other maritime countries. The bad reputation of London fogs was not a result of their frequency but of their being mixed with smoke. The English word '*smog*' (**smoke** + **fog**) was borrowed by many languages. Thick fogs are often yellowish in colour and are called "*pea soupers*".

Most British people would agree that bright sunny weather, not too hot and with enough rain to water their gardens, is good. The result is that on practically every day of the year, in every season, English people have always been able to spend part of the time out of doors. And perhaps it explains why the English are so fond of games and have invented so many different ways of amusing themselves in the open air.

The environment and pollution

Nature is under threat. The Government of Great Britain aims:

- to preserve Britain's nature;
- to encourage the more efficient use of energy;
- to make sure that Britain's air and water are clean and safe;
- to maintain Britain's contribution to environment research.

Recently the British have started to worry about losing their green and pleasant land under tarmac.

By burning forests, draining, polluting and overfishing mankind is driving many species to extinction. The government supports international efforts to protect species.

The past decade has seen double the area of the green belts around English cities. The government will continue to encourage tree planting.

It was in Britain that the word ‘*smog*’ was first used. As the world’s first industrialized country, its cities were the first to suffer this atmospheric condition. The government has sometimes acted to protect the environment. School geography books often have a section about the defeat of the London smog. With coal fires in home and industry, terrible photochemical smogs were common events 60 years ago. In fact, there



had been attempts to ban coal-burning in the city. In 1952, particularly thick smog covered London for four days and killed about 2,000 people. Four years later, Parliament passed ‘*the Clean Air Act*’; coal was replaced by oil and gas, and the problem was solved. The British are rather proud of this achievement.

Actually, the British have been so careless about pollution that the country has been called ‘*the dirty man of Europe*’. Britain has fallen below the standards set by its neighbours - acid rain, climate change, toxic waste, recycling and sewage management.

Acid rain was one of the first cases of Britain exporting pollution and upsetting the neighbours. Acid rain is produced when sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from factories or cars mix with water.

A recent study found Manchester to be the worst affected city in Europe – its buildings are being eaten away at an alarming rate. And 67 per cent of British forests have been damaged – the highest figure in Europe.

When the problems of acid rain and global warming became widely understood, those in the nuclear industry were delighted. Nuclear power is the clean alternative, they said. Of course, it’s true that in many ways it is clean, with none of the emissions of fossil fuel burning. If only it didn’t have two little drawbacks – the risk of catastrophic accidents, and the insoluble problem of lethally dangerous radioactive waste.

Radioactive waste is not, of course, the only type of dangerous waste which is produced by Britain’s consumer society. There are solvents, asbestos, heavy metals such as mercury and cadmium, and hundreds of other substances. Most developed

countries try to separate these things from harmless rubbish, and to dispose of them carefully or recycle them. Britain's record of recycling waste is poor. They recycle about 7 per cent, compared with 30 per cent in Germany and nearer 80 per cent in some parts of Canada. No batteries and hardly any plastic are recycled here. Paper and glass are the only things commonly collected; even on paper recycling Britain is only 11th in the European league table.

Water pollution is also a problem. In the 19th century it was once suggested that the **Houses of Parliament**¹ should be wrapped in enormous wet sheets to protect those inside from the awful smell of the river Thames. In the middle years of the 20th century, the first thing that happened to people who fell into the Thames was that they were rushed to hospital to have their stomachs pumped out.

In 1989 the government created **the National Rivers Authority**. 95% of Britain's rivers length is of good quality; the European Community average is 75%.

In 1988, 18,000 seals were killed by a virus in the North Sea. From the pollution the fish are becoming poisonous to eat. In the North Sea and other seas around Britain, the Government decided to cut inputs of dangerous substances to all coastal waters from rivers, to stop the dumping of sewage sludge at sea, to protect marine wildlife, to reduce pollution from off shore oil installations and so on.



The international organization **Greenpeace**² has over 200,000 members in Britain. Its policy is for high-profile publicity campaigns, and it won a historic victory against '*Shell*'³ in 1995, when it prevented the dumping in the North Sea of an old oil platform. '**Friends of the Earth**'⁴ is based on small local groups of activists; its membership in Britain is over 100,000 and growing steadily.

British attitudes have changed radically over the last few decades. Twenty years ago, it was quite normal to make fun of **Prince Charles**⁵ for his views on organic gardening and farming, and he was portrayed as an eccentric who talked to his flowers. Today, people are sick of food scandals, and organic food is now big business. When

the Prince recently spoke out against genetically modified foods, he received lots of public support.

Renewable energy such as wind power is becoming ever more popular. People are crying out for solutions to traffic jams and air pollution. This problem has become so serious that the television weather forecast now regularly issues warnings of ‘poor quality’. Now almost everyone has woken up to the environmental crisis that has been created. It is surely only a matter of time before these feelings are translated into political action.



Notes

¹**Houses of Parliament** – *the group of buildings beside the River Thames in central London where the House of Commons and the House of Lords meet.*

²**Greenpeace** – *a large international pressure group that aims to protect the environment. Its members are well known for taking direct action and putting their own lives in danger in order to stop people from harming the environment.*



³**Shell** – *a large international oil company that was formed when the British company Shell combined with the Dutch company Royal Dutch in the 1890s. It is now involved in producing oil and gas in Asia, the Middle East, the North Sea and South America.*

⁴**Friends of the Earth** – *an international pressure group which began in the US in 1969 and aims to persuade people, companies and governments to do less damage to the environment. It has many members in 70 countries, and organizes a wide range of activities, from international campaigns to protect tropical forests to local communities’ demands for clean water.*



⁵**Prince Charles** – *the first son of Queen Elizabeth II and the heir to the throne (is expected to become the next British King).*

GLOSSARY

Read the following words and word combinations according to the reading rules:

- frequent rains – частые дожди

- *drizzle* – мелкий дождь
- *to affect* – влиять, воздействовать (на кого-либо)
- *palm* - пальма
- *thaw* – оттепель, потепление
- *changeability* – изменчивость, непостоянство
- *to predict* - предсказывать
- *impersonal topic* - беспристрастный
- *maritime* - морской
- *the environment* – окружающая среда
- *pollution* - загрязнение
- *tarmac* – гудронированное шоссе
- *to drain* - осушать
- *to drive many species to extinction* – привести к вымиранию многие виды
- *green belt* – зелёная зона
- *to ban* - запрещать
- *acid rain* – кислотный дождь
- *toxic waste* – токсические отходы
- *recycling* – переработка (отходов)
- *sewage management* – умение справляться с нечистотами, сточными

водами

- *sulphur dioxide* – двуокись серы
- *nitrogen oxides* – окись азота
- *the nuclear industry* – ядерная промышленность
- *emissions of fossil fuel* – выделение ископаемого топлива
- *drawbacks* - недостатки
- *lethally dangerous* – смертельно опасный
- *solvent* - растворитель
- *asbestos* – асбест (минерал)
- *mercury and cadmium* - ртуть и кадмий
- *to dispose of* – ликвидировать
- *seals* - тюлень

- *to cut inputs* - прекратить ввод
- *the dumping of sewage sludge at sea* – сбрасывание грязных густых отходов в море
- *marine wildlife* – морская живая природа (обитатели)
- *genetically modified foods* – генетически видоизменённые продукты

VOCABULARY EXERCISES

I. Choose the word corresponding to the definition from those listed below:

- *a time of great danger, difficulty or uncertainty when problems must be solved or important decisions must be made;*
- *a form of air pollution especially in cities;*
- *materials that are no longer needed and are thrown away;*
- *the regular pattern of weather conditions of a particular place;*
- *causing death or illness if swallowed or absorbed into the body;*
- *light fine rain;*
- *rain that contains harmful chemicals from factory gases and that damage trees, crops and buildings;*
- *a thick cloud of very small drops of water in the air close to the land or sea, that is very difficult to see through;*
- *to treat things that have already been used so that they can be used again;*
- *the process of making air, water, soil etc. dirty;*
- *the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and to their environment;*

(climate, ecology, drizzle, fog, smog, pollution, acid rain, waste, recycle, poisonous, crisis).

II. Suggest English equivalents for the Russian parts. Read the whole sentence and translate it into Russian.

1. (**Проливные дожди**), which are called 'showers' or 'the sweet showers of April' is a typical feature of April in England.
2. In some places even (**пальмовые деревья**) can grow.
3. Then (**оттепель**) comes and the snow begins to melt away.
4. Most developed countries try to separate radioactive waste from harmless rubbish, and (**перерабатывать**) them.
5. It is the (**изморось**) that the people remember while speaking about English rain.
6. By burning forests, draining, polluting and overfishing mankind is driving many (**виды к вымиранию**).
7. The Government decided to protect (**морских обитателей**).

III. Complete the following sentences.

1. is the main source of the mildness of the British climate.
2. The Government of Great Britain aims: to preserve Britain's, to encourage the more efficient use of, to make sure that Britain's are clean and safe, to maintain Britain's contribution to.....
3.is produced when sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from factories or cars mix with water.
4. Actually, the British have been so careless about pollution that the country has been called '.....'
5. In 1989 the government created

IV. Test-translation. Express the following in English.

1. «Весёлая зелёная Англия»(Merry Green England) – так часто называют свою родину английские поэты.
2. Типичная английская зима – это туманы и изморось, приносимые западными ветрами.

3. Небо над Англией редко бывает безоблачным. Эти наполненные влагой Атлантики быстро бегущие облака создают переменчивое, своеобразное освещение.

4. *As the world's first industrialized country, its cities were the first to suffer this atmospheric condition.*

5. If only it didn't have two little drawbacks – the risk of catastrophic accidents, and the insoluble problem of lethally dangerous radioactive waste.

6. *From the pollution the fish are becoming poisonous to eat.*

ORAL LANGUAGE PRACTICE

I. Correct the wrong statements. Begin with:

It's not true to fact. It's wrong. It's false. It's not so. It's true.

1. *Why has Britain's climate got such a bad reputation? This is its rainy weather.*

2. *Perhaps the main characteristic of Britain's weather is that it is easy to predict.*

3. *It was in Europe that the word 'smog' was first used.*

4. *In 1988, 18,000 whales were killed by a virus in the North Sea.*

5. *Twenty years ago, it was quite normal to make fun of Elizabeth II for her views on organic gardening and farming.*

II. Have a talk based on the texts. Make use of the following questions:

1. *Who was the first who created the image of the climate of Britain?*

2. *Is the weather always rainy in Britain?*

3. *Are winters cold in Britain? Are summers hot in Britain? Why?*

4. *What is the main source of the mildness of the British climate? How does it affect everyday life in many ways?*

5. *Why has Britain's climate got such a bad reputation?*

6. *What is smog?*
7. *Do the British people like Britain's climate and weather?*
8. *How does the government try to preserve Britain's nature?*
9. *How did the British government struggle against smogs?*
10. *Why has the country been called 'the dirty man of Europe'?*
11. *What types of dangerous waste are produced by Britain's consumer society?*
12. *What does the government do to make sure that Britain's water is clean and safe?*
13. *What are the main aims of the international organizations?*
14. *What is the British people's attitude to the environmental crisis?*

III. Watch the episodes from the films "The Weather" and "The environment". Translate the suggested video-information. Discuss it, using the following questions:

1. *What did the British government create in 1949?*
2. *Where is the Peak District Park situated?*
3. *How did the Industrial Revolution change the face of the British countryside?*
4. *What does 'smog' mean? Why had it lasted for centuries? How did the government solve the problem?*
5. *What new threat to the environment appeared in Britain nowadays?*
6. *Are there many visitors to the National Parks today? Why do they come there?*

ADDITIONAL WORK

Text for discussion

I. Read the text. Give your impressions.

The Climate

Like the scenery, the climate is not remarkable for great extremes. The winters are mild and the summers not particularly warm, judged by Continental standards. A joker once said that the English climate was the best in the world, but the weather was terrible. The weather is certainly rather unpredictable, and yet in a way this gives it a charm of its own – which you may not appreciate if you are caught in a shower of rain without a waterproof, or find yourself driving in a thick fog along the M1.

Why is the climate so mild, even though the British Isles are situated as far north as, for example, Labrador? One reason is the Gulf Stream, and the prevailing westerly winds (or south-westerly) from the Atlantic, and another is the fact that Britain is an island.

The result is that on practically every day of the year, in every season, English people have always been able to spend part of the time out of doors. And perhaps it explains why the English are so fond of games and have invented so many different ways of amusing themselves in the open air. It certainly explains why they build their houses the way they do. Snow and frost are not the permanent feature of the winter scene to most Englishmen, nor is it ever so warm in summer that people have to take a siesta, as they do, for instance, in Italy and Spain.

The Britons do, however, tend to fool themselves a little about the prevailing mildness of the climate. Very occasionally an easterly wind from the Continent brings a cold type of weather which may persist for several days or weeks. This is when the water-pipes always freeze because of outside plumbing (a foreigner who timidly suggests that it would be more sensible to build houses with internal plumbing gets the

maddening answer that it is much easier to have the water-pipes on the outside so that they are accessible when they do freeze).

By the same token, the very occasional fall of snow always seems to take the English by surprise, and studded winter tyres are practically unheard of. English homes, with their open fires, rattling sash windows and no thresholds strike the foreigner as draughty and cold, whereas the English wander about in their shirt-sleeves and make their children wear knee-stockings all the year round.

Take a look at the map of the British Isles. You will see that the country to the west and north of a line drawn very roughly from Exeter in the extreme south-west to Newcastle in the north-east, is mainly high ground, while most of the low ground lies to the south and east. You will also see that, running rather like a spine or backbone down from the Scottish Border to somewhere in the middle of England, we have a line of hills known as the Pennines. As a rule, the land to the west has a much higher rainfall than the land to the east of this line of hills.

Perhaps the most typically English season is spring, when the country is putting on its gay coat of colours after the drabness of winter. Foreigners are astonished at the beauty of the parks, the greenness of the fields and soft colours that are part of this season, which is the theme of so much of England's best known poetry, from the Elizabethan "Sweet lovers love the spring" to Browning's "Oh to be in England now that April's there".

(From *Day-to-Day Britain* by Th.Abrahamsen, R.Christophersen, R.Nessheim.)

Text for translation

I. Read and translate the text and find in it the Russian equivalents of the following words and phrases:

an annoying nuisance, a notion, the Patron Saint, cotton thread, shareholders, mixed with soot, ginger-haired, with sad eyes, the subjects of the King, to be fined for smth., marketing barriers, to get sour, hunting for a job, Swanky Liverpool, antic temples, the Gifts of Manchester.

Нить, оказавшаяся прочнее великой империи

В Манчестере барометры не в ходу, и никто там не говорит о погоде. Дождь здесь не досадное происшествие, не сезонный гость, не «столько-то дней в году». Дождь входит в само понятие «Манчестер»: не будь дождя, не было бы и самого города; дождь здесь идёт каждый день, летом и зимой, утром и вечером; этот дождь вечен. Он святой покровитель города, нечто вроде архангела Георгия или Михаила, он его основатель и защитник – холодный угрюмый дождь: ведь только потрясающей сырости климата обязана вырабатываемая на фабриках Манчестера хлопчатобумажная нитка своей прочностью, какой бы тонкой она ни была.

Как грибы растут под дождём сотни и сотни заводских труб. Дождь обеспечивает акционерам высокие дивиденды, рабочим – гороховый суп. Смешиваясь с гарью, дождь становится чёрным, и грязная вода беспрестанно льётся на городские тротуары. Люди никогда не снимают с себя плащей; даже летом местные красавцы, рыжеватые, грустные, обуты в высокие сапоги. Пальцы обитателей этого благословенного города – инженеров и актрис, ткачей и спекулянтов – скрючены, как древние сучья. Люди чихают даже во сне, аптеки с утра до ночи торгуют салицилкой...

Двести лет назад английский парламент после длительных дебатов разрешил подданным короля носить хлопчатобумажную ткань; до этого указа женщина, осмелившаяся показаться на людях в ситцевом платье, уплачивала 5 фунтов штрафа – такова была верность традициям (а также могущество фабрикантов шерсти). В 1736 году Англия убрала заслон на пути развития текстильной промышленности. Поставляя ткань всему миру, Манчестер оплёл его, как паук, тонкой, но крепкой паутиной. Если теперь паук скис, если по мокрым улицам ходят голодные ткачи, разыскивая работу, в этом нить не повинна – она по-прежнему прочна. Притих и сосед Манчестера – кичливый Ливерпуль с конторами пароходств, похожими на античные храмы: заморские страны не хотят больше даров Манчестера... Тишина. Слабый звук, будто что-то рвётся. Это рвётся не бумажная нить, это трещит по всем швам бумажная империя...

И.Эренбург. Виза времени

CONTENTS

Предисловие.....	3-4
------------------	-----

PART I

Unit 1: Britain in brief

Lesson 1 UK basic facts.....	5-24
------------------------------	------

Lesson 2 Britain and the World. International Relations.....	25-39
--	-------

Unit 2: Geographical features of the British Isles

Lesson 1 English countryside. Wildlife and Vegetation.....	40-54
--	-------

Lesson 2 Inland Waters.....	55-69
-----------------------------	-------

Lesson 3 Climate and Weather. Ecology.....	70-82
--	-------

Contents.....	83
---------------	----

Sources.....	84-85
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SOURCES

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