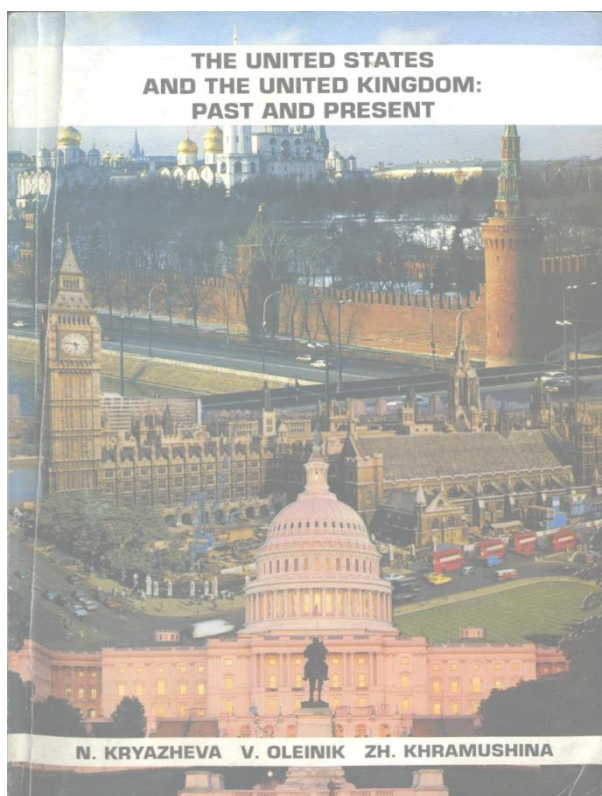


The United States and the United Kingdom: Past and Present



authors: N.Kryazheva V.Oleinik Zh.Khramushina

PREFACE

This book attempts to present a picture of the British country and the United States of America as they are at the present period. The main objective is to convey information about political, social and cultural life in the above mentioned countries. History is kept to a minimum. The emphasis is mainly on the features of life which seem to be distinctive or characteristic or which seem to be of special interest to observers from outside. It is not our purpose to praise or to blame, to attack existing order of things or to defend them.

The life of these countries has its difficulties and irrationalities. We have assumed a fair knowledge of ordinary literary English. Texts are not adapted. We have tried to use language understandable for the first and second year students of the technical university.

Texts are intended for class and out-of-class reading and for communication. Grammar is easy. There are almost no lexical difficulties. All unknown words are given. We hope the book will be useful for students who are learning English at higher schools and want to have definite knowledge about Great Britain and the United States of America and form communication skills.

PART I

THE UNITED STATES

The United States of America, commonly called the United States or simply America is a federal republic comprising 50 states and the district of Columbia - a federal area on the Potomac River, coextensive with the federal capital Washington, D.C., governed by Congress, and six territories and dependencies. The part of the country constituting the order 48 states and the district of Columbia is collectively referred to as the conterminous United States; the conterminous United States and the state Alaska are collectively referred to as the continental United States.

The USA came into being on July 4, 1776, when 13 British colonies had won their independence in America from Great Britain. The 13 colonies became the first states of the US. They are represented on the American flag, which is called the "Stars and Stripe and Old Glory" with 13 horizontal stripes alternately red and white with a blue background marked with 50 white stars representing the 50 states existing today. The national anthem of the USA is the Star- Spangled Banner.

The US is a big highly developed industrial country. It holds the leading position in the capitalist world and has been called the "Land of Opportunities", the "Melting Pot", the "Salad Bowl", "God's Country", and the "Pizza" and is referred to as by advocates of capitalism as a land of superlatives "the richest", "the greatest", "the most", but it is not the largest country in the world. The USA is the 4th largest country in the world with a population 309,794,000 ml. It is a very urbanized population, with 81% residing in cities and suburbs as of mid-2005 (the worldwide urban rate was 49%). California and Texas are the most populous states, as the mean center of United States population has consistently shifted westward and southward.

The United States is one of the few countries that has no "official" national language, or languages. English is the common language by use, but it is not the national language by law. The Americans are really a nation of nations, and the USA is the country where all the principal languages are spoken.

The United States has often been called "a nation of immigrants." There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, the country was settled, built, and developed by generations of immigrants and their children. Secondly, even today America continues to take in more immigrants than any other country in the world. It is not surprising, therefore, that the United States is counted among the most heterogeneous societies in the world. Many different cultural traditions, ethnic sympathies, national origins, racial groups, and religious affiliations make up "we, the people".

This country like any other one now faces urgent and serious problems: crimes, urban and racial conflicts, unemployment and drugs. In the United States as elsewhere, the causes of serious crime are hotly debated and many reasons for it suggested. Among these are unemployment, drug abuse, poverty, inadequate police enforcement, ineffective courts, racial discrimination, consumerism, television, and "a general decline in middle class values".

The Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty is a 225-ton, steel female figure, 152 ft in height, facing the ocean from Liberty Island in New York Harbour.

The statue was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi as a gift to the United States from the people of France.

The Statue of Liberty is more than a monument. It is a beloved friend, the symbol of freedom to millions around the world.

The woman is holding up a torch in her right hand and represents freedom.

The words written at the base of the statue are famous and well-known to most Americans. These words are:

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breath free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send this, the homeless tempest - tossed to me!
I lift my lamb beside the golden door.

Words and Phrases:

to refer to as - называть
to come into being - возникать
to represent - представлять
representative - представитель
crime - преступление
blue background - голубой фон
coextensive - сосуществующий
heterogeneous - разнородный

drugs - наркотики
drug abuse - злоупотребление наркотиками
to face problems - стоять перед проблемами
to win (won, won) independence - завоевывать независимость
conterminous - имеющий общую границу, смежный
to spangle- блестеть, украшать
to constitute - составлять
constitution - конституция
constitutional - конституционный
urgent problems - насущные проблемы
enforcement - давление
to count - считать
to mark - отмечать
affiliation - принадлежность
superlative - превосходная степень

Tasks:

1. Make up a plan of the text.
2. Ask your group-mate whether he(she) knows:
 - a. anything about the history of the country;
 - b. what the District of Columbia is;
 - c. anything about the US flag.
3. Speak about the "national language" of the US.
4. Ask your group-mate whether he(she) knows:
 - a. what the capital of the US is;
 - b. anything about the Americans as "nation of nations";
 - c. what serious problems this country faces.
5. Imagine that you are to make a report about the country, write down the most important sentences from the text.

THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The USA is a bourgeois republic. There are three levels of government in the US - federal, state, and local ones. All of these are elected by the people of the country. The federal government is made up of the Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court. Within the national government power is divided among three branches, namely the legislative, executive and judicial ones.

The legislative branch consists of the Congress, which is made up of the House of Representatives and Senate.

The Congress's main function is to make laws and to finance the operations of the Government. There are 100 senators (two from each state) and 435 representatives (the number from each state depends on the size of the state's population).



The executive branch, which includes the President, Vice-president and President's Cabinet is responsible for administering and executing the laws. The President's Cabinet consists of 10-12 members. The President is the head of the executive branch and the country. In addition to the President, the Vice-president, and their staffs, the executive branch consists of departments and agencies.

There are now 14 departments. Each department has different responsibilities. The President appoints the department heads, who together make up the President's Cabinet, or advisers. The agencies regulate specific areas.

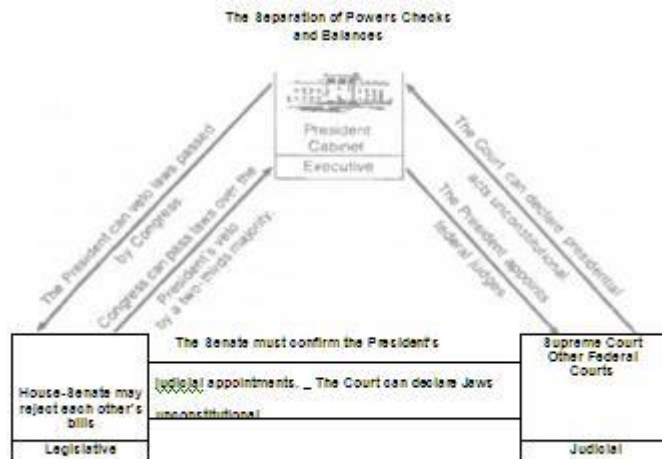
The judicial branch interprets the laws and makes sure that new laws are in keeping with the Constitution. There are several levels of federal courts. The US Supreme Court is the highest tribunal in the US. It is appointed by the President and approved by Senate. It has nine members, who are appointed for life.

The system of checks and balances, established by the Constitution, is aimed to prevent any branch from having too much power. Each branch has certain control over the other branches.

Each state has its own constitution. Like the national government, state governments are divided into legislative, executive and judicial branches. There are state senators and representatives and state court systems. Just as the President is the leader of the national government, each state has a governor as its leader. Below the state level of government, there are county and city governments.

The United States has two main political parties: the Democratic party also known as the **Democrats** was organized in 1820s and the Republican one which is sometimes called the Grand Old Party or GOP was organized in 1850s. Both Parties remain in fact

the parties supported and controlled by big business. Many other smaller parties play little if any role. There are not any clear differences between these two political parties.



In the twentieth century, as society has become more complex, government has taken a much more active role. However, many Americans worry about too much government interference in their lives. Still, compared to many other countries, the role of the US government remains limited.

Words and Phrases:

judicial branch - судебная власть
 to make up - составлять (правила)
 Supreme court - верховный суд
 to appoint - назначать
 appointment - назначение
 responsible - ответственный
 responsibility - ответственность
 to interpret - толковать
 department - министерство, ведомство
 agency - учреждение
 to make laws - составлять законы
 to be in keeping with - соответствовать
 to govern - управлять
 governor - губернатор, правитель
 government - правительство
 to interfere - вмешиваться
 interference - вмешательство
 to remain - оставаться
 to prevent - препятствовать, предотвращать

Tasks:

1. Speak about the highest branches of the US government.
2. Ask your partner about:
 - a. the head of the executive branch;
 - b. the main function of the Congress;
 - c. the leading parties of the USA.
3. Speak about the highest tribunal in the US.
4. Ask the question about the difference between a senator and a congressman.
5. Compose a dialogue about three branches of the US government.

THE FOURTH OF JULY - THE US INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Fourth of July is the biggest national holiday of the US. It is celebrated as the birthday of the country with parades, picnics, and fireworks. On July 4, 1776, when the American colonies were fighting a war against England, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution, which has come to be known as the Declaration of Independence. The resolution was written by Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), the leader of the democratic wing of the American bourgeoisie. Thomas Jefferson was the bearer of advanced views that have not lost their significance for the social struggle in modern America.

In fact, the Declaration of Independence was a letter from the Continental Congress to the king of Great Britain. Thomas Jefferson wrote to the king that the people in America did not want to pay taxes, if they were not allowed to decide how to spend them.

The letter declared that the people in America wanted to be free and independent of England from that time on. So, the letter was called the Declaration of Independence. But the Declaration was just a letter, it did not make the American people independent of England, the people had to fight for their independence. The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important political documents in the western world. It had a decisive influence on the development of the American Revolution. It was a great achievement of the popular movement, and it influenced bourgeois revolutions in Europe and elsewhere.

The United States Constitution was written in 1787, but it came into use in 1789. The Constitution established the country's political system and is the basis for its laws. The United States has experienced enormous growth and change. Yet the Constitution works as well today as when it was written. One reason is that the Constitution can be amended, or changed.

The United States has a federal system. This means that there are individual states, each with its own government, and there is a federal, or a national government. The Constitution gives certain powers to the federal government, other powers to the state governments, and yet other powers to both.

Words and Phrases:

to depend on/upon - зависеть от

independence - независимость

independent - независимый

wing - крыло

bearer - выразитель

to signify - означать

significance - значение

significant - значительный

to advance - продвигаться вперед

to decide - решать

decision - решение

decisive influence - решающее влияние

to influence - влиять

to establish - устанавливать

to amend - дополнять

amendment - поправка

advanced views - передовые взгляды

establishment - учреждение, организация

Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions:

a. When is the birthday of the US?

b. Who is the author of the US Declaration?

c. When did the United States Constitution come into use? d. What system does the US have?

2. True or False?

a. the Constitution of the US gives rights only to the federal government;

b. the US has not experienced great growth and change in its life;

c. the United States Constitution is not the basis for the country's laws.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

George Washington (1732-1799)

In 1775-1783 America fought against Great Britain for freedom and independence. It was an unusual war, which was fought on the American side by farmers, mechanics, tradesmen, fishermen and others. Ordinary men and women got up on their feet and after seven years' fighting with the help of France and French Fleet won. The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Congress on July 4, 1776. Since then the 4th of July has been considered to be a great public holiday in America.

Speaking about American Revolutionary War of Independence one must say a few words about the first American president George Washington. At the start of the revolution George Washington was a planter and his tastes were peaceful. But when his

country needed him, he left his "Mount Vernon", the house, which he loved so much, and served for seven years without pay as Commander-in-Chief of the American army.

On May 10, 1775, George Washington was elected by the Congress to command the American army against the British forces. When he arrived in Cambridge, he found the army without military training and set about drilling and training soldiers and the American army was soon able to drive the British forces from Boston.

On April 6, 1789, G. Washington was unanimously elected the President of the US. He was elected twice, but he refused to be the President for a third time. He was a firm, dignified, but cautious and unaggressive chief executive, strongly opposed to party lines in home affairs and advocating America's neutrality as its predominant foreign policy. Americans say about Washington that he was "first in war, in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen". In his honour the first permanent capital of the United States, founded in 1791, is named Washington. The US commemorated his memory for generations to come.

Words and Phrases:

fight - битва, сражение

cautious - предусмотрительный

to commemorate - увековечивать

to get up on the feet- подняться, восстать

to drill - обучать, муштровать войска

drilling - обучение, тренировка

predominant - преобладающий

Commander-in-Chief - главнокомандующий

to fight (fought) - сражаться

dignified - достойный

to drive - двигаться

tastes - зд. намерения

to adopt - принимать

adoption - принятие

permanent - постоянный

unanimously - единодушно

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Abraham Lincoln is one of the most famous presidents of the USA. He was born in the family of a poor farmer in 1809 in Kentucky, but soon his family left for the

wild forest land of Indiana. He was taught reading, writing and simple arithmetic, as his family could not afford better education. When he was 18, he went to New Orleans and there he saw a slave market. It made a deep impression on him and he began to hate slavery and decided to fight against it. In 1830 he went to Springfield and became a clerk in a store. He learned much and greatly improved his knowledge. He was a self-educated man of great will-power with practically no schooling. He managed to pass the examinations as a lawyer and for a number of years he practiced law in his native state Illinois. He entered politics and in 1872 became a candidate for the Parliament of his state. Soon he became a force in political life and in 1860 was elected the 16th President of the USA.

He was an enemy of slavery. Some of the Southern States left the Union and the war between the South and the North began.

At first the war went badly for the North, but Lincoln never lost his courage and soon they won. When the war was over, Lincoln

issued a proclamation to say that slavery was abolished.

1. Practice with your partner answering questions:

a. When did America fight against Great Britain for freedom and indepen-

dence?

b. What can you say about the first American President?

c. When did George Washington become the first American President?

d. How did Americans commemorate their first President?

2. True or False?

a. Abraham Lincoln was the first American President, was not he?

b. Abraham Lincoln was elected a candidate for Congress from the state California, was not he?

c. Abraham Lincoln was an enemy of slavery, was not he?

3. Explain your point of view to the words of Lincoln: "The Government that is of the people, by the people and for the people will never perish on this Earth".

NOW HE BELONGS TO THE AGES

The 14th of April 1865 was a tragic day in the history of the United States. On the evening of that day, President Abraham Lincoln went to Ford's Theatre in Washington to see a play, which was popular at the time and never returned.

The day had started for the President with the usual office duties. The city of Washington D.C. was still in a happy mood. The weather was fine, the sky was cloudless, a fresh spring wind was blowing about flags on private and government buildings. The war had only ended a few days before, and the whole country continued to celebrate.

The theatre visit for that evening was planned by Mrs. Lincoln. The President usually enjoyed going to the theatre and went very often. But this evening he had no wish to go. He felt very tired all day and looked upset. He finally decided to go, however, because it had been announced in the newspapers that the President would be present at Ford's Theatre.

The President arrived at the theatre when the play had already begun. When he appeared in the box, the audience greeted him with a storm of applause and the performance was interrupted for a moment. Then the play went on.

At about ten o'clock an actor named John Booth came into the theatre and walked directly towards Lincoln's box. He noiselessly opened the door, approached the President so that his gun was only a short distance from his head, took aim and fired. The President fell forward in his chair. Booth immediately jumped from the box to the stage. He landed heavily, gave a cry of pain and had to lie still for a moment. Then he got up with difficulty and slowly walked to the back of the stage. His leg was broken, but he was able to get outside where a horse was waiting for him. The audience saw him do all this, but they thought that it was all part of the play. Then suddenly they heard a woman's voice cry out: "The President has been killed." It was Mrs. Lincoln cry. Immediately a young doctor from the audience hurried to the box. After he examined Lincoln, he said that the President had only a few hours to live. Lincoln was lifted from his chair and carried to a house opposite the theatre, where he remained until his death the next morning. When he died, one of the people in the room said: "Now he belongs to the ages." These words have since become famous.

to return-возвращаться

return-возвращение

to greet-приветствовать

greetings-приветствия

to celebrate-праздновать

celebration-празднование

performance - постановка, исполнение

to perform - выполнять, делать

to be in good moods - быть в хорошем настроении

to announce - объявлять

announcement - объявление

to arrive- прибывать

arrival- прибытие

to be tired- уставать

to be upset-быть расстроенным

approach- подход

Tasks:

1. Describe the city of Washington D.C. on the eve of the tragic event.
2. Ask your group-mate about the event, which took place on the 14th of April in 1865 in the USA.
3. Whom do the words "Now he belongs to ages" refer to?
4. Make up a short dialogue about the President Lincoln's last day.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

At present the Union comprises 50 states administratively united by the Federal Government in Washington, D.C. Now the District of Columbia is a Federal district, not a state and does not belong to any state. The district is named after Columbus. It was established in 1790 on the territory, which was ceded from the State of Maryland by the Act of Congress to become the permanent seat of the Federal Government.

W.D.C. is, indeed, like no other city of the USA. It is unique among the bustling cities of the US; its population has topped the mark of 1 ml. Its the only industry is a government. As the nation 's capital and seat of the Federal Government, it is the heart of the country. It abounds in national monuments and historic buildings. Conceived by the French-born Piere Charles L'Enfant in 1791, the Federal City remains today much as it was originally designed. Washington, D.C. is rich in fine, freestanding outdoor sculptures.

The Capitol is the center of city. It is situated on Capitol Hill, which is the highest place in the city. Topping the dome is the 19-foot bronze statue of Freedom. There is a law that forbids to build houses higher than the Capitol.

The Capitol is the seat of Congress. It is made of stone and marble and contains 540 rooms. From the Capitol the streets are "lettered" E or W and "numbered". Broad avenues bear the names of states and run diagonally. From the Capitol to the White House runs Pennsylvania Avenue which is rich in history as the scene of every inaugural parade since Thomas Jefferson.



From left are the monumental carved heads of G. Washington, T.Jefferson, T. Roosevelt, A. Lincoln.

The **White House** on Pennsylvania Avenue has been the official home of every President since 1800 when the capital was moved to Washington from Philadelphia. The site was chosen by G. Washington;

the house was designed by James Hoban; the corner-stone was laid in 1792. It has 132 rooms. In the Blue Room the President and the First Lady receive guests and hold diplomatic functions. The Oval Office is the President's office.

The **Lincoln Memorial**, a marble building, situated at the west end of the Mall, was designed by Henry Bacon and dedicated to Memorial Day - May 30th, in 1922 and to the Great Emancipator 16th President of the USA (1861-1865). Within the broad framework of classical design, the structure has a motif that symbolizes the Union of the States. The 36 columns surrounding the walls of the memorial building represent the 36 States in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. The Marble Statue of Lincoln occupies the place of honor centrally located near the back of the chamber and facing the Washington Monument and the Capitol.

The **Washington Monument** is one of the city's most impressive sights. It is situated in Potomac Park. The W. Monument in the center of the Mall is a 555-feet marble and granite obelisk commemorating G. Washington. It was erected on February 21, 1885 and opened to the public in 1888. It is called "The Pencil", because it is one of the tallest stone constructions in the world and the tallest stone structure in the US. A National Independence Day Celebration featuring a spectacular display of fire-works is staged on the W.M. grounds each year on July 4.

There are many libraries, museums and art galleries in the city. The **National Gallery of Art** was completed in 1947 and was accepted by President Fr. D.Roosevelt on behalf of the people of the USA. The paintings and sculptures given by Andrew Mellon, comprising works by the greatest masters from the 14th to the 19th century, have formed a nucleus of high quality from which the collection has grown. It is one of the finest picture galleries in America. The NASA Museum -the US government organisation responsible for space travel and scientific study of space is devoted to the US achievements in the exploration of space.

The **Library of Congress**, the biggest existing library in the world, was opened on the 24th April, 1800. It contains more than 13 ml books in various languages. The law of 1870 makes it obligatory to send to the library 2 copies of every American book published. There is the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. which was built between 1941-43. The Pentagon is the large 5-sided building near Washington, D.C, which contains the main offices of the US Department of Defence.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts opened its doors to three perfect theatres in 1971. It is also famous for its Grand Foyer, Hall of States and Hall of Nations. Grand Foyer is one of the largest rooms in the world, which provides a central lobby for opera, ballet and music performances. It is the setting for the bronze head of President Kennedy.

There are many beautiful parks and gardens in the capital. One can see the famous cherry trees there which are the gift from Japan. They were brought there in 1912 as the symbol of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Words and Phrases:

nucleus - ядро

to abound - изобиливать

to bear - носить (название)

to dedicate - посвящать

on behalf of - от имени

mansion - особняк, дворец

Mall -парк в W., D.C.

to feature - отводить важнейшее место

to coincide with - совпадать

motif = motive - мотив, побуждение

to feature - изображать

statesman - государственный деятель

display of fire-work - показ фейерверка

to cede - передавать, уступать

to renovate - восстанавливать

cherry - вишня

Tasks:

1. Study the text and make up a plan for retelling.
2. Ask your group-mate:
 - a. about foundation of Washington, D.C;
 - b. about peculiarities of this Great City;
 - c. about the seat of the US Congress;
 - d. about the Capitol.
3. Speak about the White House.
4. Imagine that you are in Washington, D.C. What places of interest would you visit first of all?
5. Agree or disagree with the following statements:
 - a. Abraham Lincoln was the first American President of the US;
 - b. the White House has been the home of every President since 1800;

- c. the Library of Congress is the biggest existing in the world;
- d. John F. Kennedy Center opened its doors to three perfect theatres in 1975.

PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, which is informally called Philly, was the first capital of the US from 1790 till 1800. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is one of the oldest cities in the country. It is the 5th largest city with a population of more than 5 ml people. It is the administrative center of Pennsylvania. The port of Philadelphia is the second largest one after New York. It is also one of the largest oil centers in the North. In comparison with other American towns it looks rather old and its sky-line is not so high; many houses and buildings date back to the 20's and 30's. In the Penn Center, the city hub, there stand many mansions of the aristocracy, the oldest colonist families. Not far from the center one can see a small 6-cornered house with a tall lantern on the top, which is the watch-tower erected in the colonial period. And this is not the only building reminiscent of those days. Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed on the 4th July, 1776 and where the Liberty Bell is kept, the first Congress Hall, the 2-storied house of the first Treasury, the first Stock-Exchange are all buildings which Philadelphia is proud of.

The city center is crowned by the City Hall, the tallest building of the town, with ^a huge statue of William Penn, resembling Jonathan Swift's Gulliver, on the very top of

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Is the most important one in the US and has rich collections, which reflect the history of world art from ancient civilization to the present day and include hundreds of world-famous masterpieces.

NYC famous Empire State Building is 448 meters. Visibility on clear day is more than 80 miles, 73 elevators operate in speeds ranging from 200 meter* to 400 meters a minute.

The twin 110 story towers of New York's World Trade Center were ruined b\ terrorists' attack on the 11th of September in 2001.

Harlem is a poor area in NYC, where many African-American and Hispansk people live. There is not one Harlem, but three crowded into the area above Centra Park and this is the roosting place of violence. People are congregated together ir neigh-bourhoods that are old, in houses that symbolize the deprivation.

Many Italians wedged their way into East Harlem, located just east of B\ac\ Harlem. The area's name was derived from the Dutch town of Harlem. Many oi the boys here say: "Other kids are brought up nice and sent to Yale and Harvard, We are brought up like a mushroom". They learn their lessons the hard way. From the streets they learn a great deal, absorbing and assimilating like a sponge. Pride and anger swirl inside them, sometimes erupting, but mostly simmering, boiling and festering. They soon learned a new word. It was called Mafia. There are many legends about Mafia.

The Mafia, they believe, began in the middle of the 19th century as an underground political resistance movement. Bourbon rulers then dominated the land and the people of Sicily were taxed, tortured, imprisoned and executed. In defence and defiance, the Sicilian landowners organized into a Society. The society they formed had to be strong and its rules binding. The code of the first Mafiosi was forged.

The Lower East Side of Manhattan was and is a breeding ground for crime. The criminals grow and flourish there springing from the seeds of these slums, the slums born in the heart of the Monopoly Empire. And many young people here strip the freight yards. Burglary, robbery and murder are the subjects they study during their formative years, earning their diplomas in reformatories. The place that attracts the attention of all in Manhattan is Central Park, recreation grounds with a lot of greenery and beautiful ponds. It is a popular place during the day, but it is considered to be dangerous to go there at night.

Some people recommend: "If you should happen after dark to find yourself in Central Park, ignore the paths, hurry to the zoo and creep into the tiger's cage. Frankly, you'll be safer there".

Words and Phrases:

borough	район	picturesquerush	живописный
to fester	нагнаиваться	hours to	часы пик
luxuty	роскошь	congregate to	собирать, сходиться
exception	исключение	eruptto imagine	прерываться
straight	прямой	to simmer	представляться
to curve	искривляться	glamour	"кипеть" от негодования
imagination	воображение		обаяние, очарование

exhibit	выставка	deprivation	лишение
to flourish	процветать	burglary	кража со взломом
gateway	ворота	robbery	грабеж
to bend	изгибаться	reformatory	исправительное заведение
masterpiece	шедевр	defiance	неповиновение

to forge	ковать	sponge	губка
roosting place of violence	рассадник насилия	downtown	деловая часть города

Tasks:

1. Make up short dialogues about New York asking and answering questions.

- a. Has New York always been the gateway to the USA?
- b. What is the main law of life in New York?
- c. Could you name any boroughs in New York?
- d. What can you say about the Statue of Liberty?
- e. What do you know about the highest buildings in New York ?
- f. What do you know about the Lower Side of Manhattan?

2. Speak about:

- a. the architecture of New York;
- b. the United Nations Headquarters;
- c. Rockefeller Center;
- d. Wall Street.

LOS ANGELES (LA)

Los Angeles is the second largest city in the US, in California on the Pacific coast after Chicago. It was founded in 1781 by the Spaniards and for over 60 years belonged to Mexico. Then the Americans took it over. Its rapid development was closely connected with the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad - The Central Pacific. Another reason for its quick development was the discovery of oil.

Los Angeles was a typical representative of one-storied America. 1 or 2-storied houses of brick, stone or wooden were painted in different colors but looking so much alike that it was difficult for a stranger to find his way there. But all this was in the past. Now there are many sky-scrapers in downtown of LA

Several highways lead to LA with 8 lanes for cars rushing along them endlessly. But the city transport is not adequate to the needs. There is a sea of private cars in LA Los Angeles is not only an industrial center, but also a large cultural center. There one can see a lot of theaters, concert halls, museum, parks

and gardens. It can boast of such well-known educational establishments as Department of the University of California, the South California University, the Institute of Technology and the Observatory. „ The students of two big universities usually support the Afro-Americans and Coloured" people movements for defence of rights and all progressive movements.

A lot of people of different professions and specialities go on strike against low salaries and wages, against bad labour conditions. Los Angeles consists of 40



suburbs. One of them is Hollywood. It is world-known for its film-making industry. The Hollywood scene is changing. However, some of big studios have closed their doors, but there are many firms in Los Angeles area directly involved in movie-making. Hollywood Boulevard is the main street of the city of stars. Its restaurants and night-clubs are top flight tourist attraction.

Many rich and famous people, especially actors and entertainers, live in or near Hollywood, especially in Beverly Hills which is an expensive part of LA.

Words and Phrases:

to boast	хвастаться	to go on strike	бастовать
to found	основывать	support	поддержка
founder	основатель	to support	поддерживать
foundation	основание	highway	шоссе
suburb	пригород	discovery	открытие
harbor	гавань	to discover	открывать

Tasks:

1. False or True?

- a. Los Angeles harbor is the busiest on the East coast;
- b. Los Angeles is a big industrial center;
- c. Hollywood Boulevard is the main street in Los Angeles.

2. Practice with your partner asking and answering questions.

a. Imagine that you are in Los Angeles. What places of interest would you like to visit and why?

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco is one of the most beautiful cities in America. It lies on the hills next to a Bay. It is the largest and most important port and chief Naval base on the Pacific coast. It has several "sputnik" towns across the Bay - Richmond, Berkeley and Oakland. It was founded by Spanish settlers in 1776. The gold fever raging in California affected its economic development. When there was no more gold, the development of Pacific trade stimulated its further growth. Now it is a large industrial and financial center with the largest bank in the country, the Bank of America. The American Academy of Science and Berkeley University add greatly to the prestige of the city. The town when seen from above produces a silvery impression because for many years the Municipal Authorities made the people paint their houses white or silvery shades.

The population in San Francisco is mixed; in China town we find the Chinese, the Japanese. In the Latin district there live the Italians and the French in large numbers. There are also 50,000 Russians, the first of them settled on Russian Hills. There are several towns in California bearing such names as Sevastopol, Odessa, Kiev, Volga, Kremlin and others. Several towns and settlements are named Moscow. The bridges in San Francisco over the Bay are known everywhere. The Oakland Bay Bridge - the largest in the world - is 8 km long and two-storied, the lower part for heavy transport and the upper part - for cars. The other one is called The Golden Gate Bridge and painted an orange color; it looks like a giant sunbeam over the blue ocean.

California is the birthplace of many outstanding American writers: Mark Twain, Sinclair, Steinbeck, Saxton and Jack London lived there for the greater part of their lives.

Words and Phrases:

coast	побережье	to add	добавлять
hill	холм	impression	впечатление
to paint	красить	gold fever	золотая лихорадка
painter	художник	to affect	оказать воздействие
to grow	расти	to bear the name	нести название, называться
growth	рост	to look like	выглядеть
outstanding	выдающийся	sunbeam	луч солнца
settler	поселенец	to settle	принимать решение

Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Is San Francisco one of the most beautiful cities in the US?
 - b. Is it the largest and most important port on the Pacific coast?
 - c. By whom was it founded and when?
 - d. What is the population of San Francisco?
 - e. What Russian names do some settlements and towns have?
 - f. What outstanding American writers lived and live in California?

THE US MASS MEDIA

The US Press caters for all political views, different levels of education and wide range of interests. It is not subject to the US Administration control or censorship. The Press in the USA has the same freedom as the individual does and says what it likes provided it doesn't transgress the law.

Although pronounced views may be expressed in newspapers and their political leanings may be obvious, they may be financially independent of any political party and not obliged to follow any specific party line. The USA ranks first in the world in the number of newspapers circulated daily. 1,646 daily newspapers are sold every day with the total circulation of about 62 million copies.

The high daily consumption of newspapers in the country is partly due to the fact that the term "daily" covers both morning and evening newspapers and that most people buy both.

The average size of national morning newspapers varies between 14 and 30 pages and that of Sunday newspapers between 30 and 50 ones.

Newspaper ownership in the USA is concentrated mainly in the hands of a comparatively small number of large press groups. Many newspapers and magazines are financed by the money from publicity.

"New York Times", "Washington Post" and "Wall Street Journal" are considered to be the quality newspapers in the US.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

Broadcasting of sound and TV is regulated under powers conferred by the Law, which prohibits the sending or receiving of radio and TV communications except under license.

The radio and TV companies are independent authorities in the day-to-day operations of broadcasting.

The company Council has controlling and regulating powers of a wide and important character over the content and quality of programs.

The external broadcasting services are intended to provide a link of culture, information and entertainment between the people of the USA and other parts of the world.

Broadcasting TV, commercial and noncommercial, is provided by 1200 TV stations, of which about 860 stations are commercial and owned by the same biggest companies. The money for this is taken from the production of films, video cassettes, books and magazines, from sport clubs and also from many military enterprises they are partners of.

Cable Television is in the hands of the two main companies "Home Box Office" (HBO) and "Showtimes", that show mainly new films and also organize programs for a specialized audience through 30 channels in the evenings. The bulk of money to finance those companies comes from publicity.

Words and Phrases:

to cater for	угождать	range of interests	круг интересов
censorship	цензура	quality newspaper	качественные газеты
to prohibit	запрещать	to bulk of money	большое количество денег
to rank first	лидировать	to be obliged	быть обязанным
to confer	подтверждение	to transgress law	нарушать закон
to consume	потреблять	to be obvious	быть очевидным
consumption	потребление	entertainment	развлечение

Tasks:

1. Ask you group-mate whether she (he) knows:

- a. anything about freedom for Press in the US;
- b. whether the USA ranks first in the world in the number of newspapers;
- c. whom do newspapers belong to?
- d. what newspapers are considered to be the quality newspapers.

2. Answer the following questions:

- a. Are the radio and TV companies independent authorities in the day-to-day operations?
- b. How many stations are commercial ones?
- c. Whom does cable television belong to?
- d. How many cable channels work in the evenings?

3. Describe the term "daily" concerning the consumption of newspapers in the US.

THE CINEMA IN THE USA

When the American goes to the pictures, he expects to see a large program: a newsreel (which is usually the first item on the program), a cartoon, a documentary and a feature film (a full-length film in a cinema program). Sometimes two feature films are included in the program.

Foreign films are shown with subtitles or are dubbed into English.

The program may have one or two intervals during which is a continuous showing of the program from opening till closing time. In that case exact show times are not fixed and the seats are not reserved. You may enter or leave the hall any time during the show and take any seat you like.

There is a parking ground near big cinemas. For those who want to see a film without leaving the car there are drive-in cinemas (so-called drive-ins).

A great number of films are released in the USA every year. Hollywood films differ in genre and artistic value. Hollywood's early films were westerns, horror films, comedies. Then there were romance films.

There are films based on novels and films which describe historical events. In such films you see familiar characters brought to life.

Hollywood has changed greatly since the time of westerns. American films of today are realistic and up-to-date. They are made with great professional camera work, setting and acting are usually excellent. But there are also second-rate films, which critics call "stupid". Such films are not entertaining. Well, critics know best, but one thing is certain there is too much sex and cruelty and violence on the American screen. More than is good for the viewer.

SOME FACTS ABOUT HOLLYWOOD

When people think of Hollywood, they probably think of film stars like Marilyn Monroe, Gary Grant and James Dean. Indeed, there was a time when Hollywood was the most famous place in the USA, if not in the world.

The Hollywood story begins at the end of the last century. The Hollywood film industry was born in 1912. There were several reasons why film makers went to Hollywood. Firstly, there was a lot of space. Secondly, California's warm sunny weather was ideal for making films outside. Thirdly, there was a variety of locations for filming: the ocean mountains, deserts, villages, woodland and rivers.

In the 1950s and 1960s Hollywood became more international. Famous stars like Maurice Chevalier from France, Marlene Dietrich from Germany and Sophia Loren from Italy came to Hollywood. Even today many international stars like Gerard Depardieu and Arnold Schwarzenegger make films in Hollywood. A big film studio, like MGM or Warner Brothers, brought to life a lot of filmstars. They could make or break a star.

The Hollywood studios produced different types of films. There were the silent Charlie Chaplin comedies of the 20s, gangster films, Frankenstein horror films and Greta Garbo romantic melodramas of the 30s, the musicals of the 40s and 50s, the westerns (cowboy films) of the 50s, the historical epics of the 60s, the science fiction films of the 70s and the Steven Spielberg action films and violent horror films of the 80s. Who knows what the 21st century will be famous for?

THE FAMILY

The American family has changed greatly in the last 20 or 30 years. Many of these changes are similar to those taking place in other countries.

Young people are waiting longer before getting married. Women are also waiting longer to have children. It's not unusual today for a woman to have the first child in her mid-thirties. And families are having fewer children. The typical family used to have three children. Today most families have one or two children only.

The United States has a high divorce rate: approximately one in every two marriages ends in divorce. One result of this high divorce rate is that many American children live in single-parent families. Although some women wait until their thirties to have their first child, other women become mothers while they are still teen-agers. Many of these teen-aged

mothers are not married. Many are also poor. Poverty among children in homes headed by single mothers has become a serious problem in the United States.

Often people who are divorced get married again. This has led to a new kind of family - the "reconstituted family," in which there are children from previous marriage as well as from the present one.

The newest category of family, called domestic partnership, has been sanctioned by more than 25 cities in the United States. Unmarried couples over 18 years of age receive a paper similar to a marriage licence. To divorce from the partnership couples simply have to advise the city that they no longer live together as couples.

In the past, it was common for three generations - grandparents, parents and children - to live together. Now most older people live on their own. They generally stay in contact with their children but might live in a different part of the country. People are also living longer - often for 20 years after they've retired from their job. Modern American culture tends to value youth rather than age. All of this creates an interesting challenge for older people and for the country, since by the year 2020, one in every 6 Americans will be over the age of 65.

In the traditional family, the wife stayed home with the children while the husband earned money. Now 60 percent of all married women work outside their home. So, a majority of couples have two wage-earners. One reason for this change is that women want and expect to have careers. Another reason is economics. With rising prices, many families cannot survive on one person's salary.

Is the American family in trouble? People point to the divorce rate, to the fact that working mothers might have less time with their children, and to the "generation gap," or the problems that parents and children sometimes have in understanding each other. Experts say, however, that the family is as strong as ever. Family is still at the centre of most people's lives.

HOUSE AND HOME

The lives of most Americans revolve around their homes and houses. The percentage of Americans owning the houses and apartments they live in is the highest among western nations. Most Americans still live in "single-family dwellings," that is, houses which usually have a front and back-yard.

Most of America has a more or less four season climate; and the rhythms of life around the house tend to follow the seasons. Spring means that the storm windows must be taken down in those areas, where it gets cold in winter. The screen windows, so intended to keep out insects, need to be cleaned or painted and installed. After winter, the garden needs a lot of work to be done. In summer, the lawn must be mown every week or so. It is a good time to scrape and paint. The car gets washed every week or so. As soon as autumn leaves begin to fall, they must be raked, and the storm windows need to be ready and put up again. In winter, the walks and driveways must be kept clear of ice and snow. There is always something that needs to be done around the house, and most American home owners do it themselves.

Shopping, that is, the big food shopping, is usually done once a week at the local supermarket. One advantage of a service-oriented economy (and one §

foreigners frequently comment on) is that many businesses, with employees working in shifts, stay open late to provide services and possibilities for shopping. Most Americans, like most people everywhere, are always trying to keep their budget under control, and always going over. The food will often be paid for by check. (convenient and, moreover, as all checks are returned by the bank, you have record of everything spent. Most stores will pack your groceries for you, and may still take them out to your car. The big brown bags traditionally provided can be used later for a lot of things, from masks for the children to garbage bags and wrapping paper for packages. By the way, plastic bags are making their entry, but being resisted by many shoppers. The young men and women who pack the groceries are almost always neighborhood teen-agers who work part-time.

In many American families children are expected to help around the house. They are assigned "chores" which might include, for instance, vacuuming the rugs, washing and waxing floors, cleaning windows, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, keeping the cars clean, looking after the pets, and so on. Some families give small amount of money, an allowance, in exchange for these and similar chores. Other families simply expect such work to be shared by everyone in the family.

At the same time, many American middle-class families expect their children to find part-time jobs especially as they enter their teens. They might be working at the local supermarket or service station, mowing lawns, delivering newspapers, or baby-sitting. In fact, about 75 percent of high school seniors work during the average school week. Most of these teen-agers are working because their families can't afford buying things for them. Rather, the idea seems to be that the work experience is (as parents are so fond of telling their children) "good for you." One effect on American society is that middle-class children can do menial work without losing face. Sometimes, in fact, it's a way of gaining status. This has a subtle effect on customer-employee relations: the clerk who just packed your groceries or filled your gas tank could well be your neighbor's son or daughter. In general, Americans feel that young people should appreciate the value of work and learn how to stand on their own two feet.

Most Americans expect their children to leave home at an earlier age than do parents in many other western countries. Beyond a certain age, they are often expected to contribute to, or pay for things that go beyond food, clothing, and shelter. The image that American teen-agers "get whatever they want" from their parents comes from a time when the standard of living was much higher in the USA. than it was elsewhere. Many high school students have their own cars. But most of them were paid for by the students themselves (along with the necessary automobile insurance, which, by the way, is particularly expensive for teen-agers).

Most Americans today work not more than eight hours a day, five days a week at their jobs.

In the average American home, there is an enormous amount of activity, of coming and of going, seemingly all happening at once. For the parents, there are perhaps courses at the local evening school

or college. There are different clubs and public service organizations, many of them related to charitable work.

Many American children take (or are made to take) piano or other music lessons, cinq or ballet lessons, horseback riding, swimming, skiing, golf, tennis, and just about anything else that parents think will be good for their children. The social life is often hectic as well. One child is off to a party, another to the library, another to see a film Neighbors drop by, and the telephone keeps ringing. Messages (often put on the refrigerator door) remind one family member to do this or that, to pick up Marilyn on Monday for her violin lesson, or to bake the cake for the church dinner.

Many adults and teen-agers are involved in volunteer work. According to a recent Gallup poll, about 84 million Americans, that is, almost one out of every three Americans donate some part of their time as volunteers. More than half of them do over 100 hours of volunteer work during the year. Some of this work is done through the so-called service organizations and clubs.

In addition, there are so many other activities and clubs, groups, volunteer organizations, courses, and hobbies, that most Americans are involved in several at the same time. And, of course, there's always work and school, and the things that need to be done around the house. Americans also talk about a stress. Life is hectic, the pressure is on at work and school. The competition is intense. And working hard, Americans often have schedules that leave little room to just sit and do nothing. They are usually on the go most of the week, and have full week-ends as well. Americans also take shorter and fewer holidays and vacations than most people in other industrialized societies. They are under pressure to do well on their examinations and get into a good university, to get a better and better paying job, to improve themselves. Still, this emphasis on the stress of American daily life is frequently overdone, often by Americans who sometimes boast in telling others how busy they are.

In fact, in the past decade there has been a sharp decline in stress-related health problems such as heart attacks. A better diet and a radical change in exercise habits has meant that the number of heart attacks among American businessmen is going down, although they are still on the increase in other western nations. Also, the rules for competition in the US are well understood. Americans have shown their preference to a comfortable and convenient life style.

Words and Phrases:

to own - обладать

owner - хозяин

average -средний

lawn - газон

to install - вставлять

shelter - кров

to mow - скашивать газон

dwelling - здание, строение

baby-sitting - уход за детьми

rug - коврик, ковер, плед

teens - возраст от 13 до 19

menial work - лакейская работа

without losing face - не теряя достоинства

to rake leaves - сгребать граблями листья

hectic - лихорадочный

wrapping paper - оберточная бумага

to concern with - заботиться о

to be available - иметься в наличии

charitable work - благотворительность

garbage bag - мешки для мусора

grocery (ies) - бакалейные товары

insect - насекомое

subtle - зд. незначительный

adult - взрослый, совершеннолетне

to enter teens - достичь подросткового возраста

to gain status - зд.: завоевать самостоятельность (самоутверждаться)

"chores" - зд.: работа по дому (уборка мусора, готовка), поденная рабо)

to be on the go - зд.: быть занятым, быть "в бегах"

to shovel snow - расчистить тропинку в снегу

to stand on their own two feet - жить самостоятельно

enormous amount of activity - зд.: большое поле деятельности

Tasks:

1. True or False?

- a. most Americans expect their children to leave home at an earlier age than do parents in many other countries;
- b. many adults and teen-agers are involved in volunteer work;
- c. life is hectic, the pressure is on at work and at home;
- d. Americans have shown their wish for a comfortable and convenient life style.

2. Ask your group-mate whether she (he) knows:

- a. anything about rhythms of life around the house;
- b. anything about shopping;
- c. anything about children's help in families;

3. Make up a plan of the text.

SPORT IN THE UNITED STATES

Sports of all kinds are popular in the United States. Much attention is given to sports in the newspapers, magazines, on the radio and television. Baseball remains the most popular, although in recent years football has become almost as popular as baseball. All high schools and universities have their own baseball teams. Today it is very fast and exciting game and each year seems to grow more popular in the US. About 30 ml people attend league baseball games each year, and some 40 ml turn out for football.

Attention, however, is centered principally on the major league teams, which are made up of professional players. Each of the large cities the US is represented by a team carrying its name. There is great competition between these teams. Football is the second favourite sport in the US. Football games are particularly interesting to watch and excitement often runs very high. American football is a very different game. The players can run with the ball, touch and push each other. The field looks different and even the ball has a different shape. Like international football teams, American teams have eleven players.

The third most popular sport is basketball. In fact, the basketball season begins when the football season is over. Only five people play in each team. Basketball nets can be seen in the driveways of many American homes. "Shooting baskets" with friends is favourite pastime for young and old.

Horse-racing leads every other sport with attendance estimated at about 70 ml.

Golf and tennis are increasingly popular, though for great many years both snorts were the province of the rich.

Years ago **hunting and fishing** were prime sources of food for the table. Now they are considered as sports.

And there is no doubt at all that each year watching different games on TV, is America's favourite pastime. Americans love winter sports, and ice hockey is a great favourite. This does not mean, however, that Americans take all their sports sitting down. So, **ice hockey, baseball, football and basketball** are the four major sports' in the US. Golf, swimming, tennis, marathons, track-and-field, skiing skating, weight-lifting, boxing and wrestling are other sports and sports activities which attract millions of active participants. But statistics says that bicycling, fishing, swimming, jogging and gymnastics are American's favourite participatory sports.

They like to travel. They go to the mountains, sea-shore, national and state parks and recreation areas, to camping expeditions, boating trips. Ninety per cent of families on holiday use a car creating traffic jams of monumental proportions. Millions of Americans now travel abroad.

pastime - время отдыха

team - команда

major - главный

hunter - охотник

hunting - охота

wrestling - борьба

particularly - особенно

jogging - бег трусцой

competition - соревнование

province of the rich - сфера деятельности богатых людей

Tasks:

1. True or False?

a. football remains the most popular game in the USA;

b. not all high school and universities have their own baseball team;

c basketball is the most popular game in the US;

d. golf and tennis are not so popular nowadays.

2. Answer the following questions:

a. Which game do you prefer to play? b. Do you like to travel? c What kind of transport do you prefer for travelling?

3. Describe the most popular kinds of sport in Russia (in the Ural in Particular).

MEALS

American eating and drinking habits differ somewhat from eating and drink habits in other countries of the world.

As in most modern countries, people in the US eat three meals a day: breakft lunch and dinner.

The average American has breakfast each morning at about 7.30 or 8 a Breakfast is not a heavy meal. In most cases, it consists of orange juice, some dr\ prepared cereal, toasts and coffee or tea.

Lunch is also a light meal. The standard lunch at 1 p.m. is an hour period.

The average American probably has a sandwich for lunch and he may drink c fee, tea, milk or a soft drink such as Coca-Cola or Ginger Age. He may also eat sor light dessert for lunch.

It is at night therefore that the American has his heavy meal or "dinner". He ge erally eats dinner at about 6 p.m. It is the result of traditions. But the traditional [breakfast and dinner at 6 p.m. are losing their popularity. Dinner with family or frien is becoming a very special way of enjoying outdoors.

Americans are heavy wheat and meat eaters. The average American also es a lot of potatoes and drinks a lot of water with his meals. The US is famous for its so and unchanging diet of meat and potatoes.

Foreign visitors to the US are always surprised to find that each time they ent restaurants, lunch rooms, the first thing to be placed in front of them is a glass water. Water is available everywhere in the US. Fast food now prevails but a lot Americans began to think seriously about their physical state. Healthy food become more popular among them. Healthy food is fresh and natural, and it does not conta chemical preservatives.

Such is food and drinks in the US.

Words and Phrases:

habit - привычка	heavy eater - тот; кто любил- хорошо поесть, "обжор;
somewhat- отчасти	to surprise - удивляться
meal - трапеза, еда	to be available - иметься в наличии
average - средний	in most cases - в большинстве случаев
to prevail - преобладать	chemical preservatives - консерванты

Tasks:

1. Speak about American and Russian meals.

2. Answer the following questions:

- Do Americans have any dietary restrictions?
- Do Americans observe any definite rules of etiquette to avoid tension an< chaos at the table?
- Is there any difference between American and Russian dinner?
- When do usually Americans have their dinner?
- When do usually Russians have their dinner?

f. what are American favourite dishes?

g. What dishes are popular with Russian people?

h. What dinner is called "Typical Russian dinner"?

i. What surprises foreign visitors in the US?

j. What affects eating habits in the United States?

EDUCATION

The US does not have a national system of education. It is considered to be a matter for the people in each state. Since the Constitution does not state that education is a responsibility of the federal government, all educational matters are left to the individual states.

Schools

There are three basic levels in the educational system of schools: **elementary school**, which usually is from the kindergarten to sixth grade; **junior high school**, from seventh through eighth or ninth grade; and high school, from ninth or tenth through twelfth grade. Children are required to be in school from the ages of 6,7 through 16 (18). The care of most elementary school is 3 R's (reading, writing, arithmetic).

The school year usually runs from September to June. Today there are some 43 million pupils and students in public school at elementary and secondary levels and another 6 ml in private schools throughout the country. In other words, 88% of American children attend public schools and 12% go to private schools. Four out of five of the private schools are run by churches, synagogues or other religious groups. But only 50% of all high school graduates enter colleges and universities. The range of courses available in high schools throughout the US is enormous, including everything from computers in elementary schools to car design and construction in the vocational programs. As often as possible handicapped children attend the same schools that anyone else does.

High school students are often involved in non-academic activities that their school offers - for example, in drama clubs, sports teams, or school newspapers. Parents must view schools as a place where their children can gain skills and experience.

Education in America has also traditionally served and serves the goal of bringing people together that is of "americanization". Schools in the US served and serve to bring together the hundreds of various cultural and linguistic groups, religious and social and political backgrounds represented by the millions of im-m,9rants. 80 languages are used for instructions in American schools.

The first step up - whether the ultimate goal was money status, power or sim-P'Y knowledge - usually started at school door.

But needless to say, those children who come from families with better-educated parents often have advantage over those who don't. This remains a prob-em in the US where equality of opportunities is proclaimed. Not surprisingly, the ernbers of racial minorities are the most deprived in this respect.

Many schoolboys and schoolgirls, upon finishing high school, choose to c0* tinue their education. Although the number of years of schooling is going u there are signs that the quality of education may be going down. This is of gre concern, especially since education is considered crucial to the American idea that each person should achieve all that she or he can.

Words and Phrases:

adult - взрослый	a lot more - зд.: намного больше
to go down - снижаться	responsibility - ответственность
advantage - преимущество	responsible - ответственный
to proclaim - провозглашать	crucial - решающий, критический
to attend - посещать	grade - класс, ступень, оценка
attendance - посещаемость	in many cases - во многих случаях
rather than - а не	to emphasize - подчеркивать, обращать вниман
to achieve - достигать	to consider - считать, полагать, рассматривал
achievement - достижение	considerably - значительно
powerless - беспомощный	amount - количество, величина
concerned - озабоченный	to deprive - лишать чего-либо
tuition - обучение	opportunity - возможность
cost - цена	to run - бежать, идти, зд.: длиться
needless to say - не говоря уже, не приходится говорить	
handicapped - страдающий физическим недостатком	

Tasks:

1. Read the text carefully. While reading look for the answers to the questions:

- How many basic levels are there at schools?
- How many children of all attend schools?
- What is the care of most elementary schools?
- Is education in the US mainly the responsibility of federal state?
- What are non-academic activities for children?
- Is there any discrimination at schools ?
- What are the main goals for schooling?
- Is equality of opportunities observed in education in the US ?

2. True or False?

- Education in the US is not the responsibility of state, is it?
 - Many children upon finishing high school stop their education, don't they?
 - The tuition costs are very high in public schools, are not they?
 - Americans have taken steps to improve the school, to develop advanced programmes, have not they?
3. **Speak about the following statements: "Knowledge is power". "A man is never too old to learn". "It is never late to learn". "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy and wise". "Lost time is never found again". "Where there is a will, there is a way".**

Colleges and Universities

Educational institutions in the United States reflect the nation's basic values especially the ideal of equality of opportunity. From elementary school through college Americans believe that everyone deserves an equal opportunity to get a good education. Americans view their public school system as an educational ladder, rising from elementary school to high school and finally college undergraduate and graduate programs.

Higher education in the USA is the most extensive and versatile system of most school education in the world. Now a total of over 10 ml students study at almost 3 400 American colleges and universities. All of them are quite unique and their specific features are caused first of all by structural differences as for their sizes functions, training programs, financing and administrative bodies.

There are two main types of higher education: state (or public) and private. The main difference between the two is a financial one.

It is possible to classify institutions of higher education in the United States of America into four main categories:

1. **Technical institutions and "semi-professional" schools offering two-year or three-year courses.**

2. **Junior colleges or community colleges which provide two-year courses.**

3. **Liberal arts colleges, state colleges and independent professional institutions.**

4. **Universities, which may award the highest degree.** In most of large universities students can study all subjects, from humanities to applied sciences. Within a university, colleges provide undergraduate courses leading to the first university degree and graduate schools provide courses leading to higher (postgraduate) degrees.

The highest body of a college or university is traditionally the board of directors, whose members come from outside the institution and belong to industry or the world of finance. The president, elected by the board of trustees, is responsible for the administrative running of the institution.

An access to higher education is based on the high school diploma (primary and secondary school-leaving certificate) awarded around 18 years of age, after 12 years of primary and secondary studies.

Many institutions of higher education select candidates either on results in the high school diploma or through an entrance examination. There are two widely used and nationally administered standardized tests for high school students who wish to attend a college or university. Many universities publish the average scores achieved on these tests by students they admit.

In universities and colleges **the first two-year phase** almost always consists of broadly-based studies in humanities, social sciences, applied and natural sciences, fine arts. This phase is aimed at providing general education and preparation for more specialized studies. The first degree is the Bachelor degree.

The second stage of higher education leads, after one or more often, two years study in a university or in some colleges to **the Master's degree**. Candidates usually have to submit a thesis.

The third stage of higher education is reached after two or three years study in university or college either in faculties providing traditional teaching (arts, science, etc.) or in specialized schools of engineering, agriculture, architecture, economy, veterinary, medicine, etc. This culminates in **the Doctor's degree** which is the highest university degree.

The American academic year usually runs from some time in September to the end of June. Students have three terms with three holidays: Christmas, Easter and summer.

At the beginning of each term a list is published showing all the lectures being given during the term within each faculty and every student can choose which lectures he will attend. Attendance at University lectures is not compulsory, and no records of attendance are kept. Apart from lectures a system of individual tuition is organized. The advantages of the constant personal contact between teachers and students are obvious. Computer laboratories are also often used for science and foreign language drill. In general there is about one teacher to every ten students.

Achievements are measured by grades, which are given on papers and tests during the course of the semester and a final examination at the end of the term. Teachers and professors take various means of evaluation: tests, essay tests, quizzes, home-works and assignments.

The final grade is based on all the work done for the course. At the University level grades are usually given in the form of letters that correspond to numbers 1-5. All students hate "F" and are happy if their teacher gives them an "A". Students and lecturers must work hard, if they want good marks.

At all US universities there is now an exceedingly active life in the way of societies of many kinds. In general colleges and universities sponsor a variety of cultural activities including musical concerts, dance and theatre performances, literary readings and films. College and university campuses are often spread out over the towns in which they are situated. The largest campuses are the University of California, The City University of New York, Michigan State University and others. But the "leading" universities of the USA are Harvard [1636], Yale University [1701], Berkeley [1868], Stanford [1885], California Institute of Technology [1891] and some others. **Harvard University** is the oldest, famous and respected University in the country. Yale is an old and respected US university, too established in 1701 in New Haven, Connecticut. Yale is one of the IVY League colleges.

Words and Phrases:

to believe - верить, полагать
to deserve - заслужить
ladder - лестница
to culminate - заканчиваться
term - семестр
attendance - посещаемость
apart from - не говоря уже о
degree - степень
tuition - обучение

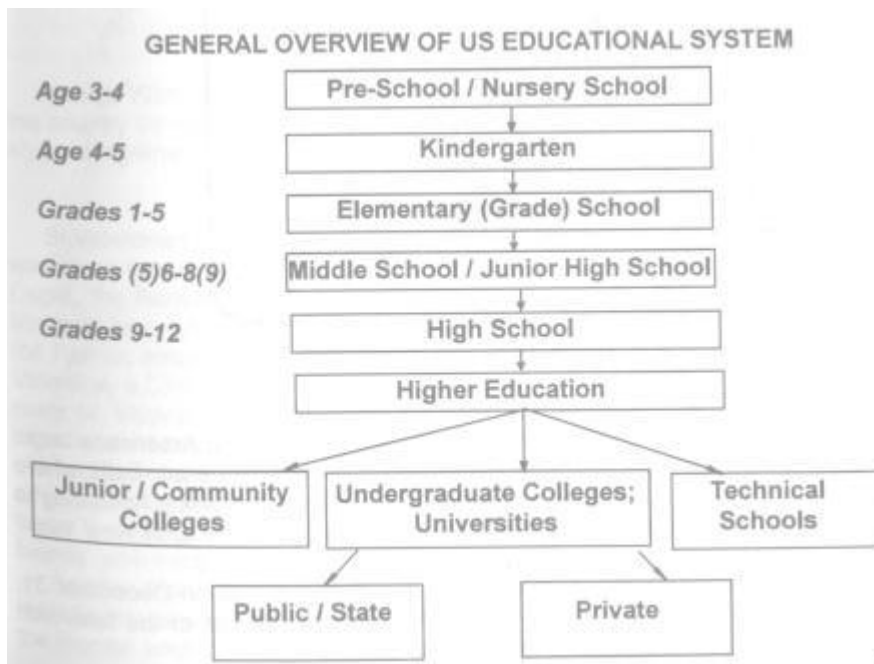
to submit a thesis - представить научную работу
versatile - разносторонний, изменчивый
to offer - предлагать
to spread out - зд.: разбрасывать
to award - присваивать звание (степень)
board of directors - совет директоров
trustee - попечитель, опекун
to be responsible - быть ответственным
exceedingly - чрезвычайно, очень, крайне

obvious - очевидный
to belong to - принадлежать
to admit - допускать
access - доступ
feature - характерная черта

to sponsor - финансировать, поддерживать
compulsory - обязательный
applied science - прикладная наука о
quiz - проверочный экзамен
means of evaluation - виды оценок

Tasks:

1. Situational practice.
 - a. Imagine that you are going to study at one of the American Universities...
 - b. Imagine that you are talking to the President of the Los Angeles University...
 - c. You want to find out the fee at the University...
2. Make up short dialogues about American colleges and universities.
3. Agree or disagree with the following statements:
 - a. universities in the US have complete academic freedom;
 - b. the highest body of a college or university is rector's board;
 - c. access to higher education is based on the results of entrance exams;
 - d. the average scores achieved on the tests by students are kept secret;
 - e. attendance at any university lectures is compulsory.
4. Compose an essay using one of these proverbs:
"Think today and speak tomorrow". "Two heads are better than one". "You cannot teach old dogs new tricks". "While there is life, there is hope".



HOLIDAYS IN THE USA

Although the United States is young compared to other countries, its culture and traditions are rich because of the contributions made by many groups of people (who have come to its shores over the past two centuries). Hundreds of regional holidays have originated from the geography, climate and history of the different parts of the country. Each State holds its own annual fair with local themes and music and some celebrate the day on which joined the Union and became state.

These are the main holidays in the US:

1. **New Year's Day [January 1]**
2. **President's Day [traditionally February 22]**
3. **St Valentine's Day [February 14]**
4. **Martin Luther King [the third Monday in January]**
5. **Easter [a Sunday in March or April]**
6. **Mother's Day [second Sunday in May]**
7. **Memorial Day [last Monday in May]**
8. **Flag Day [June 14]**
9. **Father's Day [third Sunday in June]**
10. **The Fourth of July - The US Independence Day**
11. **Labor Day [first Monday in September]**
12. **Halloween [31st of October]**
13. **Columbus Day [second Monday in October]**
14. **Thanksgiving [fourth Thursday in November]**
15. **Christmas [December 25]**

New Year's Day [January 1]

New Year's Eve

In the United States, the legal holiday is January first, but Americans begin celebrating it on December 31. Sometimes people have masquerade balls, where guests dressed up in costumes and cover their faces with masks. According to an old tradition, guests unmask at midnight, and people say "Happy New Year!" to each other.

At New Year's Eve parties are across the United States on December 31. many guests watch television as part of the festivities. Most of the television channels show Times Square in the heart of New York City.

New Year's Day

On January first, Americans visit friends, relatives, and neighbours. There is plenty to eat and drink when you just drop in to wish your loved ones and friends the best for the year ahead. Many families and friends watch television together enjoying the Tournament of Roses parade preceding the Rose Bowl



football game in Pasadena, California. In the warmer regions all around the country there are other games whose names are characteristic of the state. People watch the Orange Bowl game in Florida, the Cotton Bowl in Texas.

In most cultures, people promise to be better, to change their lives in the following year. These promises are called New Year resolutions. Americans have inherited the tradition of writing down them. Whatever the resolution, most of them are broken or forgotten by February!

Words and Phrases:

legal - законный	all around - повсюду
midnight - полночь	to promise - обещать
to drop in - зайти	bowl - ваза, кубок
to precede - предшествовать	to inherit - унаследовать
resolution - обещание	to originate - происходить

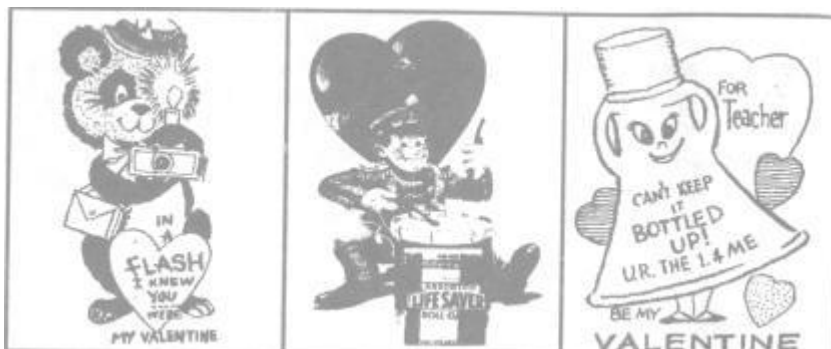
President's Day (traditionally February 22)

George Washington was the country's first president. Abraham Lincoln brought the country through Civil War. Their birthday were both in February and are celebrated together.

St Valentine's Day [February 14]

St. Valentine's Day has roots in several different legends that have found their way to us through the ages. One of the earliest popular symbols of the day is Cupid, the Roman God of Love, who is represented by the image of a young boy with bow and arrow. Three hundred years after the death of Jesus Christ the Roman emperors still demanded that everyone believe in the Roman gods. Valentine, a Christian priest had been thrown in prison for his teachings. On February 14) Valentine was beheaded, not only because he was a Christian, but also because he had performed a miracle. He supposedly cured the jailer's daughter of her blindness. The night before he was executed, he wrote the jailer's daughter a farewell letter, signing it, "From Your Valentine". Another legend tells us that the same Valentine, well loved by all, wrote notes from his jail cell to children and Friends, who missed him.

Another Valentine was an Italian bishop who lived at about the same time. He was imprisoned because he secretly married couples, contrary to the laws of the Roman emperor. Some legends say he was burned at the stake.



St. Valentine's Day is now a day for sweethearts, it is the day that you show your friend or the loved one your care. You can send candy to someone you think is special. Or you can send roses, the flower of love. Most people send "valentines", a greeting card named after the notes that St. Valentine wrote from jail.

"Valentines" can be sentimental, romantic, and heart-felt. They can be funny friendly, and anonymous if the sender is shy.

Americans of all ages love to send and receive valentines. Hand-made valentines, created by cutting hearts out of colored paper, show that a lot of thought was put into making them personal. "Valentines" can be heart-shaped, or have hearts, the symbol of love, on them. In elementary schools, children make "valentines" for their classmates and put them in a large decorated box, similar to a mail-box. On February 14, the teacher opens the box and distributes the "valentines" to each student. After the students read their "valentines" they have a small party with refreshments.

You can write short rhymes inside the "valentines":

I'll be your sweetheart,

If you will be mine
All of my life
I'll be your Valentine

February the fourteenth day
It's Valentine they say.
I choose you from among the rest,
The reason is I love you best
Sure as the grapes grow on the vine,
So sure you are my valentine.
The rose is red, the violet blue,
Lilies are fair and so are you.

Roses are red.
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet
And so are you!



Or you can buy valentines with messages in them. If you are shy, you can sign it: "Your Secret Admirer".

For teen-agers and adults, major newspapers throughout the country have a Valentine's Day offer. Anyone can send a message for a small fee, of course, to a sweetheart, a good friend, an acquaintance or even a spouse of fifty years. For a small fee, the message is printed in a special section of the newspaper on February 14.

Words and Phrases:

bow - лук	to pick mate - найти пару
arrow - стрела	sweetheart - возлюбленный
priest - священник	heart-felt - искренний
to throw - швырять	admirer - поклонник
to behead - обезглавить	fee - плата
stake - кол	not only ... but also - не только ... но и
miracle - чудо	farewell letter - прощальное письмо
spouse - супруг	jailer - тюремный надзиратель

Martin Luther King the third Monday in January

Martin Luther King - the man of peace was assassinated in 1968- In 1986 President Ronald Reagan declared the third Monday in January a federal legal holiday commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

Martin Luther King's death did not slow the Civil Rights Movement. Black and white people continued to fight for freedom and equality. Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the widow of the civil rights leader, established the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Atlanta in 1970.

On Monday, January 20, 1986, in cities and towns across the country people celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day, the only federal holiday commemorating the Afro-American.

Easter Sunday in March or April

People celebrate the holiday according to their belief and their religious denominations. Christians commemorate Good Friday as the day that Jesus Christ died and Easter Sunday as the day that He was resurrected. Protestant settlers brought the custom of a sunrise service, a religious gathering at dawn, to the United States.

In England children rolled eggs down hills on Easter morning, a game which has been connected to the rolling away of the rock from Jesus Christ's tomb when He was resurrected. British settlers brought this custom to the New World, and on Easter Sunday, people give chocolate Easter eggs as presents. Some mothers and fathers tell their children that the Easter Rabbit brings the eggs and hides them in the garden. The children must go outside and look for them,

Traditionally, many celebrants bought new clothes for Easter, which they wore to church. After church services, everyone went for a walk around the town. This led to the American custom of Easter parades all over the country. Perhaps the most famous is along Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Mother's Day [second Sunday in May]

In 1910, the governor of West Virginia proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and a year later, every state celebrated it.

On the second Sunday in May, American children of all ages treat their mothers to something special. It is the one-day out of the year when children, young and old, try to show in a tangible way how much they appreciate their mothers.

On Mother's Day morning, some American children follow the tradition of serving their mothers breakfast in bed. Other children will give their mothers gifts which they have made themselves or bought in stores. Adults give their mothers red carnations, the official Mother's Day flower. If their mothers are dead, they may bring white carnations to their graves. This is the busiest day of the year for American restaurants. On her special day, family members do not want Mom to cook dinner!

Memorial Day (last Monday in May)

Memorial Day is not limited to honor only those Americans from the armed forces, it is also a day for personal remembrance. Families and individuals honor the memories of their loved ones who have died. Church services, visits to the cemetery, flowers on graves, or even silent tribute mark the day with dignity and solemnity.

On Memorial Day, the President or Vice President of the United States gives a speech and lays a wreath on the tombs. Members of the armed forces shoot a rifle salute in the air. Veterans and families come to lay their own wreaths and say prayers. There is a chance that one of the soldiers buried here is father, son, brother or friend.

Words and Phrases:

Easter - пасха	settlers - поселенцы
belief - вера	to settle - селиться
to believe - верить	sunrise service - утренняя служба
to resurrect - воскреснуть	at dawn - на рассвете
Good Friday - страстная Пятница	to roll down hills - скатывать с гор
appreciation - оценка	tangible - доступный, осязаемый
to appreciate - оценивать	carnation - гвоздика
gift - подарок	to treat - угощать
to proclaim - провозглашать	grave - могила
to lay - возложить	to bury - хоронить
wreath - венок	solemnity - серьезность, важность
to pray - молиться	to shoot a rifle salute - дать салют

Flag Day [June 14]

National flags are not mere symbols of a country. Their colors and designs convey past history and future goals.

It is interesting to point out that the United States did not even have a standardized flag until 1912. Called the "Stars and Stripes and Old Glory" the flag is one of the most complicated in the world. No other flag has 64 pieces of fabric to make.

The American flag has also changed designs more than any other flag in the world. The first flag, called the Grand Union, was flown at the headquarters of the Continental Army on January 1, 1776.

On June 14, 1777, Congress proposed that the United States had had a national flag instead of the British "Union Jack" one. The thirteen stars of the flag represented the thirteen new states.

There were few public ceremonies honoring the Stars and Stripes until 1877, when on June 14, it was flown from every government building in honor of the centennial of the adoption of a national flag.

In August 1949, President Harry Truman proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. Since then the President proclaims the commemoration yearly and encourages all Americans in the country to display the "Stars and Stripes" outside their homes and businesses. Individual states determine how they will observe the day. Usually the flag is flown from all public buildings, speeches are made in public places, and ceremonies take place in towns and cities all over the country.

Father's Day [third Sunday in June]

The origin of Father's Day is not clear. Some say that it began with a church service in West Virginia in 1908. Others say the first Father's Day ceremony was held in Vancouver, Washington.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has an official day on which their children honor fathers. On the third Sunday in June, fathers all across the United States are given presents, treated to dinner.

In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge made it a national event "to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations." Since then, fathers had been honored and recognized by their families throughout the country on the third Sunday in June.

When children can't visit their fathers or take them out to dinner, they send a greeting card. Traditionally fathers prefer greeting cards that are not too sentimental. Most greeting cards are whimsical, so fathers laugh when they open them. Some give heart-felt thanks.

Labor Day [first Monday in September]

Eleven-year-old Peter McGuire sold papers on the streets in New York City. He shined shoes and cleaned stores, and later ran errands.

Many immigrants settled in New York City in the nineteenth century. They found that living conditions were not as wonderful as they had dreamed. Often there were six families crowded into a house made for one family. Thousands of children had to go to work. Working conditions were even worse. Immigrant men, women and children worked in factories for ten to twelve hours a day, stopping only for a short time to eat. They came to work even if they were tired or sick, because if they didn't, they might be fired out. They spoke of organizing themselves into a union of laborers to improve their working conditions. In the spring of 1872, Peter McGuire and 100,000 workers went on strike and marched through the streets, demanding a decrease in the long working day.

The idea of organizing workers according to their trades spread around the country. Factory workers, dock workers, and tool makers all began to demand and get their rights to an eight-hour workday, a secure job and a future in their trades. Peter McGuire and laborers in other cities planned a holiday for workers on the first Monday in September, half-way between Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

On September 5, 1882 the first Labor Day parade was held in New York City. Twenty thousand workers marched in a parade up Broadway. They carried banners that read "labor creates all wealth," and "eight hours for work; eight hours for rest; eight hours for recreation." Within the next few years, the idea spread from coast to coast, and all states celebrated Labor Day. In 1894, Congress voted it a national holiday.

So, Labor Day was originally established to honour workers. But now most Americans consider Labor Day as the last day of summer and celebrate it with picnics and barbecues. The beaches and other popular resort areas are packed with people enjoying one last three-day week-end.

Words And Phrases:

in honor to - в честь	centennial - столетие, столетни
honoring	to adopt - принимать
star - звезда	adoption - принятие
stripe - полоса	to encourage - поощрять
to ignore - игнорировать	whimsical - причудливый
banner - знамя	to flow - развиваться
to ban - запрещать	to pertain - относиться
to celebrate - праздновать	to convince - убеждать
to run errands - быть на посылках	to fire out - увольнять
to reel special - чувствовать себя особенно	
fabric - ткань	to give heart-felt thanks - искренно благодарить;
intimate relations - зд.: теплые отношения	

Halloween [31st of October]

Symbols of Halloween are evil spirits, witches, black cats, ghosts, goblins, skeletons. Black is one of the traditional Halloween colors. Pumpkins are also a symbol of Halloween. Faces are carved on pumpkins and a light is put inside. Therefore, orange color became the other traditional one.

On October 31st, dozens of children dressed in costumes knock on their neighbors' doors and yell, "Trick or Treat", when the door opens. The neighbors must either give them a treat (usually sweets) or the children will play a trick on them.

November 1st is a religious holiday known as All Saints' Day (or formerly, All Hallows' Day). The day before the Holy Day is known as All Hallows' Eve. The word "Halloween" comes from that form. Like some other American celebrations, its origin lies in both pre-Christian and Christian customs.

October 31st was the eve of the Celtic New Year. The Celts were the ancestors of the present-day Irish, Welsh, and Scottish people. On this day, ghosts walked and mingled with the living, or so the Celts thought. The town people baked food

all that day, and when night fell, they dressed up and tried to resemble the souls of the dead hoping that the ghosts would leave peacefully before midnight of the year, the people carried the food to the edge of town and left it for them.

Much later, when Christianity spread throughout Ireland, and October 31 was no longer the last day of the year, Halloween became a celebration mostly for "children." "Ghosts" went from door to door asking for treats, or else a trick would be played on the owners of the house. When millions of Irish people immigrated to the United States in the 1840s, the tradition came with them.

Today, school dances and neighbourhood parties are popular among young and old alike. More and more adults celebrate Halloween. They dress up like historical or political figures and go to masquerade parties. In larger cities, costumed children and their parents gather at shopping malls early in the evening. Stores give parties with games and treats for the children.

Columbus Day [second Monday in October]

In 1937 President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed every October 12 as Columbus Day. Since 1971 it has been celebrated although it is generally accepted that Columbus was the first European to have discovered the New World of the Americas, there is still some controversy over this claim. But 1992 marked the 500th anniversary of the Columbus discovery.

Thanksgiving [fourth Thursday in November]

In 1620, a boat filled with more than one hundred people sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the New World. This religious group had begun to quest on the belief of the Church of England and they wanted to separate from it. The Pilgrims settled in what is now the state of Massachusetts. Their first winter in the New World was difficult. They had arrived too late to grow many crops, and without fresh food, half the colony died from diseases. The following spring, the Indians taught them how to grow corn (maize), a new food for the colonists. They showed them other crops to grow in the unfamiliar soil and how to hunt and fish.

In the autumn of 1621 beautiful crops of corn, barley, beans and pumpkins were harvested. The colonists had much to be thankful for, so a feast was planned. They invited the local Indian chief and ninety Indians. The Indians brought deer to roast with the turkeys and other wild game offered by the colonists. The colonists had learned how to cook cranberries and different kinds of corn and squash dishes from the Indians. To this first Thanksgiving, the Indians had even brought Pop-corn.

It was George Washington who suggested the date November 26 as Thanksgiving day. Then in 1864, at the end of a long and bloody civil war, Abraham Lincoln asked all Americans to mark the last Thursday in November as a Day of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday of November, a different date every Year. The President must proclaim that date as the official celebration. Thanksgiving Menu consists of a roast turkey stuffed with herb-flavored bread, a cranberry jelly, white mashed potatoes, a pumpkin pie.

George Bush, president of the United States of America, called upon all American people to observe Thursday, November 22, 1990, as a National Day of Thanksgiving and gather together in homes and places of worship.

Thanksgiving is a time for tradition and sharing. Even if they live far away family members gather for a reunion at the house of an older relative. They give thanks together for the good things that they have. In this spirit of sharing, civic groups and charitable organizations offer a traditional meal to those in need, particular to the homeless. On most tables throughout the United States, foods eaten at the first Thanksgiving have become traditional.

Words and Phrases:

ghost - привидение	origin - происхождение
goblin - домовый, гоблин	to carve - вырезать
pumpkin - тыква	ancestor - предок, прародитель
to discover - открывать, обнаруживать	
mall - место для гуляния	
discovery - открытие	controversy - противоречие
game-ЗД- Дичь	anniversary - годовщина
to sail - ЗД.: плыть в лодке	corn - зерно
crop - урожай	unfamiliar - незнакомый
diseases - болезни	relative - родственник
place of worship - церковь	feast - праздник
trick and treat - шутка и угощение	to accept- принимать
squash dishes - размягченная пища	
claim -ЗД.утверждение	
to mingle - смешивать(ся)	
sharing - ЗД.:обмен мнениями	
Halloween = Hallow-e en - канун дня всех святых	

Christmas [December 25]

Christmas is a joyful religious holiday when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Christmas story comes from the Bible.

To people all over the world Christmas is a season of giving and receiving presents. In Scandinavian and other European countries, Father Christmas, or Saint Nicholas, comes into houses in the night and leaves gifts for the children. Saint Nicholas is represented as a kind man with a red cloak and long white beard. He visits houses and left gifts, bringing people happiness in the coldest months of



the year. Another character, the Norse God Odin, rode on a magical flying horse across the sky in the winter to reward people with gifts. These different legends passed across the ages to make the present day Santa Claus.

Immigrant settlers brought Father Christmas to the United States. Father Christmas's name was gradually changed to Santa Claus.

In the USA the spirit of Christmas arrives about a month before the holiday itself. Late in November, street lights and store windows are decorated with the traditional Christmas colors of red and green. Families decorate their homes inside and out, with colored lights and evergreen (especially green wreaths). **Christmas tree** is part and parcel of the holiday. It is believed that it brings good luck.

American children believe that Santa Claus lives at the North Pole with his wife. All year he lists the names of children, both those who have been good and those who have been bad. He decides what presents to give to the good children.

One of the important customs of Christmas is to send and receive Christmas cards, which helps to express the sentiment of the season. Some are religious in nature; others are more secular. Americans begin sending Christmas cards early in December to friends, acquaintances, and co-workers. The post office advises customers to mail early in the season and avoid the Christmas rush.

Going home for Christmas is a most cherished tradition of the holiday season. No matter where you may be the rest of the year, being at "home" with your family and friends for Christmas is "a must". The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are the busiest times of the year at airports, train stations, and bus depots. It seems that all America is on the move and Americans are on their way to spend the holidays with their loved ones.

The Christmas table looks much like a Thanksgiving feast of turkey or ham, potatoes and pie. No Christmas is complete without lots of desserts, and nothing symbolizes Christmas more than baked breads and cookies hot from the oven. Many American traditional desserts, like other Christmas customs were started long ago in other parts of the world.

People go from house to house **to sing Christmas carols** to their neighbours. Long ago, each child hung a stocking, or a sock, over the fireplace. Santa Claus entered down the chimney and left candy and presents inside the socks for the children. Today the tradition is carried on, but the socks are now large red sock-shaped fabric bags still called stockings. Each child can't wait to open his or her eyes to see what Santa Claus has left in the stocking.

Giving gifts is a Christmas tradition.

Christmas is too "commercialized," especially in large cities. Store owners begin advertising and decorating very early in hopes of selling more goods. To get extra money, many students get part-time jobs during December, delivering mail or selling gifts, trees or greetings. Commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ is the **real** reason for Christmas and should be central to the celebration. Thus, Americans install Christmas trees at Rockefeller Center in New York and Washington, D.C. in front of the White House.

Americans Rest

The rapid spread of videotaped movies watched nightly by millions of Americans in their homes has made movies even more popular and influential form of entertainment in recent years.

But performances in theaters, and exhibitions and museums are usually very well attended. It is difficult to get tickets despite their high prices.

But the most popular sources of entertainments are television, movies, radio and recorded music. Most Americans enjoy sport - both playing sports themselves and watching their favorite sports and teams.

Americans like to travel. Car travel is the most common leisure activity during holiday time. Many people fly to other cities and countries to visit their friends and relatives.

Words and Phrases:

the rest - остальная часть	"a must" - необходимость, потребность
secular - светский	chimney - труба, дымоход
to attend - посещать	gift - подарок
fire-place - камин	to advertize - рекламировать
influential - influential - влиятельный	advertisement (ad) - реклама
carol - воспевание	no matter - неважно
retailer - торговец	evergreen - вечнозеленый
cherished traditions - взлелеянные традиции	

Tasks:

1. Divide the group into 4 or 5 parts. Discuss American holidays and compare them with Russian ones.
2. Speak about prejudices (предвзятых) when celebrating holidays.
3. Speak about superstitions (приметах) when celebrating holidays.
4. Discuss with your group-mates:
 - a. What holidays do you consider to be the most dear to the American people in this country?
 - b. What do the people of the US and Russia have in common while celebrating the New Year's Day ?

IN THE END

The general picture given above is, of course, a generalization. A home owner in Arizona might not have any grass, but rather a gravel "lawn" and a rock garden. Other people don't have to change their term windows, because their climate is mild, or because the entire house is air-conditioned. When it gets to be 90 degrees (Fahrenheit) and 90 per cent humidity week after week, you wouldn't want to live there without it. Some children come to cosy homes or apartments. Others learn

their lessons at high cost in the streets. The pleasures and worries of a construction worker in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or a wheat farmer in Kansas are often different from those of a lawyer in Connecticut, a divorced mother of three in Chicago, or a medical doctor in Southern California.

Some Americans detest all clubs and organized activities. Some take care about their neighbors or the neighborhood. Some Americans go in for kidding and subtle humor. Some haven't been to a church since they were married, and won't again until they die. Some wouldn't marry, as this can lead to children. Some teen-agers can't find any jobs, part-time or full-time, and some children from wealthier families wouldn't try. Some Americans seem content to spend their days at everyday jobs and their week-ends fishing. Others feel trapped and bitter, because the chance they needed never came. Most Americans look forward to the Christmas season, or getting together with the family at Thanksgiving, or even remember Halloween as children and the excitement of "trick or treating." Others are afraid of holidays as the loneliest times of the year. And many Americans do not care much for public displays of patriotism: flag-waving and parades leave them cold.

The generalization refers to the variety of America and Americans. It's more or less middle-class life, in American terms, with everyday concerns.

The extremes frequently seen in films and on television have little in common with the lives of the vast majority of people, or what average Americans dream about. They look forward to the summer vacation, but in the meantime, the dog is sick and the furnace needs to be fixed.

Words and Phrases:

gravel - гравий	subtle humor - тонкий юмор
lawn - газон	the loneliest times - одиночество
term window - сезонная рама	to detest - ненавидеть
to seem content - казаться довольным	to refer to - относиться
to feel trapped - чувствовать себя в ловушке	
variety - разнообразие	
to go in for kidding - заниматься подшучиванием	
to feel bitter - чувствовать себя разочарованным	

Tasks:

1. Study the text.
2. Agree or disagree with the following statements.
 - a. Many men, many minds;
 - b. Rome was not built in a day;

c Experience is the mother of wisdom; d. You never know what you can till you try; e- Practice is the best master.

3. Try to recollect all you know about the USA.

4- Discuss the problems of life in the United States of America.

5. Express your likes and dislikes as to the customs and traditions in the US.

PART II GREAT BRITAIN

IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW ABOUT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH is losing its political and cultural associations and becoming the property of all cultures. Over 70 countries in the world use English as the official or semi-official language and in 20 more English occupies an important position. It is the main foreign language taught within most school systems. Worldwide, many newspapers are published in English and it is the language of much radio and television broadcasting. English is the language of international business, the main language of airports, air traffic control and international shipping. It is the language of science, technology and medicine, and it is estimated that two-thirds of all scientific papers are first published in English. It is the language of diplomacy and sport; it is one of the working languages of the United Nations and the language used by the International Olympic Committee. International pop culture and advertising are also dominated by English. 70 % of the world's mail is written in English, and 80 % of all information in electronic retrieval systems is stored in English.

But the English language began to spread throughout the world only in the 17th century, when the first English settlements arose in North America. The rapid growth of population in the United States in the following years increased the number of English-speakers greatly. In the course of massive migration of people in the 19th and 20th centuries English became a mother tongue or one of the official languages in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the South Africa Republic that finally established English as a world language.

Nowadays English is the most wide-spread language geographically, second only to Chinese in the number of people who speak it (there are 400 million speakers of English against 700 million Chinese speakers; 200 million speak Russian and 100 million German as a native language).

Many people believe that the English language is rather an easy one to learn because it doesn't have such a difficult grammar as modern Russian, German or Greek. But it is true only by half. One shouldn't forget the problems of English spelling, pronunciation and prepositions. Learning any foreign language is not an easy thing. If you want to master a foreign language, you must be ready to make efforts and be patient.

Words and Phrases:

settlement - поселение

to spread - распространяться

the number of - число

in the course - в процессе

to increase - увеличивать

increase - увеличение

one shouldn't forget - нельзя забывать

to establish - упрочить, устанавливать

wide-spread- широко распространенный

second to - быть вторым после

to make effort - прилагать усилия

to master a language- овладевать языком

patient - терпеливый

rather - слишком





BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

"England and America are the two countries separated by the same language."

G. B. Shaw

These two varieties of the English language are very similar to each other. Many people believe that these are the same languages with only a few minor differences in grammar, spelling and vocabulary. Differences in pronunciation are sometimes very noticeable, but most American and British speakers can understand each other without much difficulty.

These differences emerged during the isolation of America from Great Britain in the 18th century. The United States had long been the "melting pot" of the world. People of many nationalities came to America and they brought their native traditions and languages with them. Those people adopted the English language and the very flexible English language took a lot of innovations from them. Differences between English and American English are rapidly disappearing nowadays. Modern British English is strongly influenced by American English. A lot of Americanisms from the language of advertizing, journalism, technology, rock music and show business have come into everyday speech of British people.

There are too many common words which are spelled differently in England and the US, for example:

American	Word Translation	British
thru_	через_	through_

caliber__	калибр__	calibre__
center__	центр__	centre__
fiber__	волокно__	fibre__
theater__	театр__	theatre__
check__	чек__	cheque__
program__	программа__	programme
organization	организация__	organisation
honor__	честь__	honour__
behavior__	поведение__	behaviour__
labor__	труд__	labour__
traveler__	путешественник	traveller__

But American English is not British, they say. Compare the list of some other words:

_In America	Word Translation	_In England_
_railroad__	железная дорога__	railway__
conductor	проводник ж.д.__	railway guard
ticket window	билетная жд. касса	booking office

gas__	бензин, газолин__	petrol__
fall__	осень__	autumn__
side-walk__	тротуар__	pavement__
subway__	метрополитен__	underground
store__	магазин__	shop__
truck	грузовик	lorry
elevator	лифт	lift

Such words as **teen-ager, superpower, know-how, video, body building, shaping** and a great deal of others are well-known all over the world. There are a lot of such words in Britain and American English. It is highly advisable for the people who learn English to know both forms of those words which are in most common usage.

Words and Phrases:

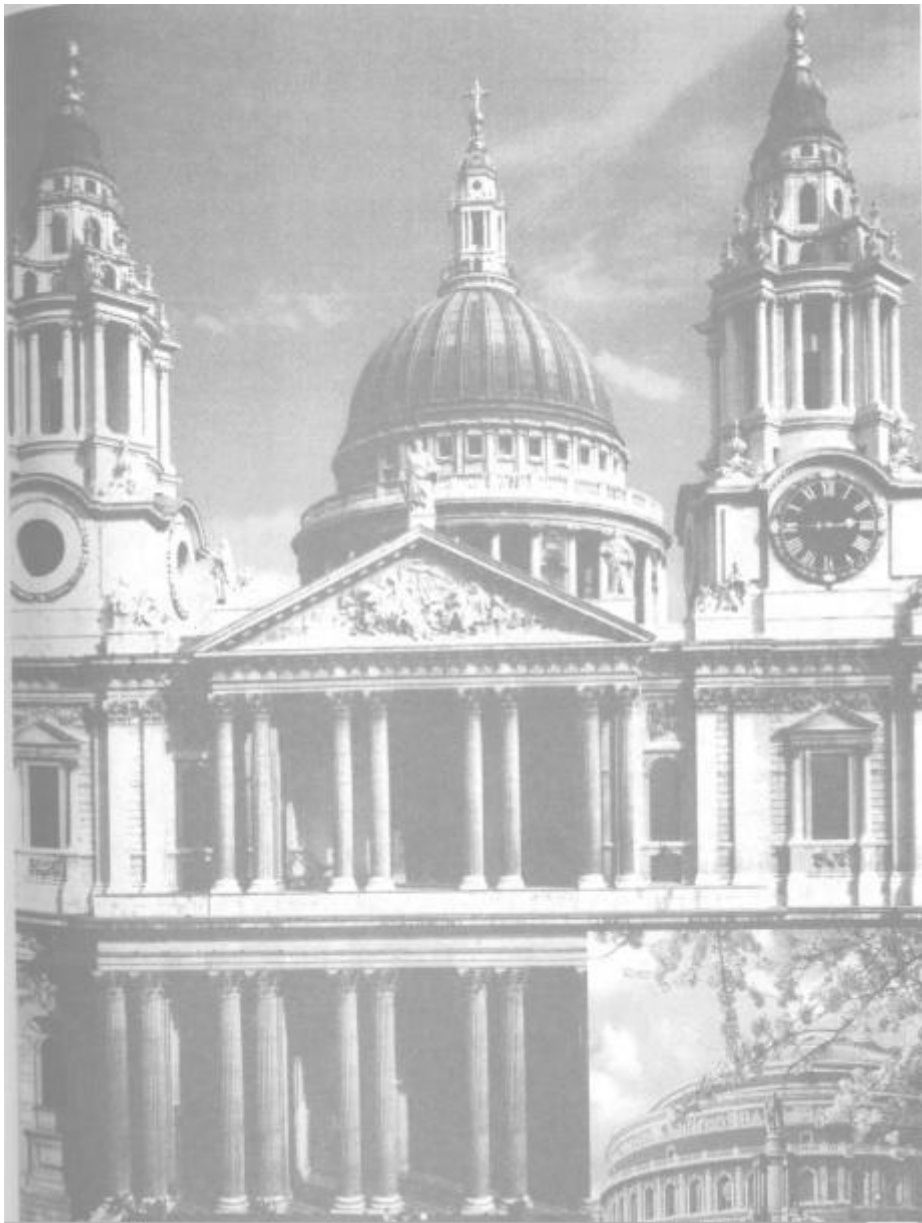
similar - похожий, подобный	teen-ager - подросток
the same - одинаковый, похожий	noticeable - заметный
to believe - верить, полагать	to advise - советовать
to emerge - возникать, появляться	advice - совет
"melting pot" - зд.: смеситель	advisable - рекомендуемый
flexible - гибкий	a great deal of - множество
to adopt - принимать, усваивать	a lot of - много
innovation - новшество, нововведение	
variety -разновидность	
know-how - умение; знание дела; секреты производства	

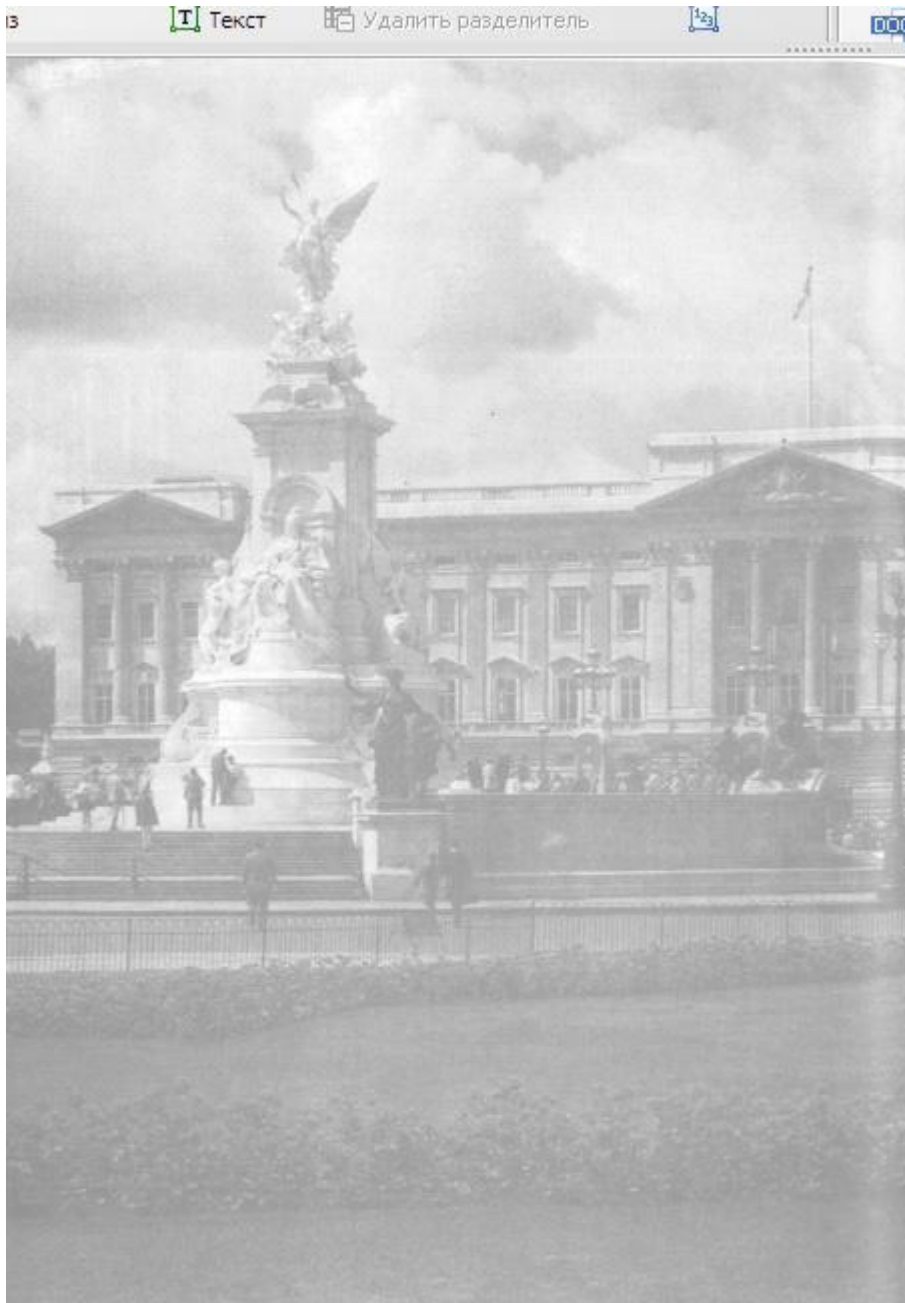
Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions.
 - a. Are differences in pronunciation sometimes noticeable?
 - b. What are the reasons of differences between modern British English and American English?
 - c. Are differences between the two languages disappearing or increasing ?
 - d. Is modern British English strongly influenced by American English nowadays?
2. Make up short dialogues about British and American English.

BRITAIN: PAST AND PRESENT

Great Britain is a purely geographical name. People often use this name as the name of the country but it is not its direct meaning. Why is it called Great Britain? In France there is a peninsula called Bretagne. When people from this province came to what they later called Great Britain they found some familiar conditions there and first of all its damp climate. Since this country was larg^{er} than their own Bretagne they called it "Great Britain". The official name of the country is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom includes four nations with marked differences: the Welsh, the Scots, the English and the Irish.





Each part of the UK has its capital. **The capital of England is London; Wales has Cardiff; Scotland has Edinburgh; the capital city of Northern Ireland is Belfast.** Only those people who live in England call themselves "English", Scottish and Welsh are called "British people" or "British", and Irish people call themselves "Irish".

Each country also has a national "emblem" or sign. The English emblem is a red rose. The Welsh emblem is a vegetable or flower - a leek or a daffodil. The Scottish emblem is a wild plant - a thistle. And the Irish emblem is another wild plant - a shamrock. The United Kingdom's flag is the Union Jack. It's red, white and blue. It is made of three flags-the crosses of St.George, St.Andrew, and St.Patric, which represent England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The British national anthem is God Save the Queen (King).

Almost every nation has a reputation of some kind. The English are reputed to be cold, reserved, rather haughty people who do not yell in the street, make love in public or change their governments as often as they change their underclothes. They are steady, easy-going, and fond of sport.

The fire is the focus of the English home. Even when central heating is installed it is kept so low in the English home that Americans and Russians get chilblains, as the English get nervous headaches from stiffness in theirs.

Most English people have been slow to adopt rational reforms such the metric system, which came into general use in 1975. They do not want to trouble of adapting themselves to new.

The conservatism may be illustrated by reference of the public attitude to the monarchy. The English are amongst the most amiable people in the world, they can also be very ruthless. They have a genius for compromise, but can enforce their idea of compromise on others with surprising efficiency.

They are generous in small matters, but more cautious in big ones. The Scots, the Irish and the Welsh are not the English. They have a lot of in common but all of them have their own national spirit, national pride and they cherish their customs and traditions.

Words and Phrases:

haughty people - надменные

to yell - вопить, визжать

underclothes - нижнее белье

steady - постоянный

to cherish - лелеять

cautious - осторожный

to house - вмещать

focus - центр

to focus - сосредоточивать

to get chilblains - получить озноб

stiffness - духота

to adopt - приспособлять

ruthless - жестокий, безжалостный

easy-going - легкие на подъем

generous - великодушный, благородный

headache - головная боль

amiable - дружелюбный

genius - дух

Tasks:

1- Render the text in your own words.

2. Draw a parallel between Russian and English.

3- Express doubts, hesitations or disbelief in the response to the text.



THE ROLE OF THE MONARCHY

The age of democracy has not produced any significant revolutionary movement in Britain. The monarchy survives, but has no power and does not want any Parliament to establish its rights. The

powers of the Queen are nowhere exactly defined. Theoretically every act of the state is done in her name; every letter sent out by any government department is posted in an envelope marked "On Her Majesty's Service". All ministers in the Government are appointed by her. But in reality everything that she does is done "on the advice of her ministers". Laws passed by two Houses do not become effective until she has signed them.

The Queen Elizabeth II was born in London 21 April 1926. She was crowned at Westminster on the 2 of June in 1953. She was the sixth Queen Regnant of Britain and second of her name. Today the Queen is not only the head of state, but also an important symbol of national unity.

Great Britain is a constitutional monarchy, i.e. the power of the Queen is limited by the Parliament. But the real power is concentrated in the hands of the great trusts and banks and the tiny section of rich property owners. They control the land, industry, finance, trade, armed forces, police, judiciary and mass media. The Monarchy is used by the ruling class as an ideological weapon of maintaining the stability of the regime. In the law the Queen is the Head of the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary. She reigns, but does not rule, although the Queen is the third richest woman in the world.

Vocabulary:

significant - значительный	to crown - короновать
to survive - выживать	in the law - по закону
to appoint - назначать	although - хотя
appointment - назначение, встреча	to reign - царствовать

Tasks:

1. Answer the questions.
 - a. What is the first name of the Queen?
 - b. Whom does the real power belong to in the UK?
 - c. What do banks and trusts control?
2. Make up short dialogues about the Role of Monarchy in the United Kingdom.

The Queen Mother, Elizabeth Bowes Lyon was born in 1900 at the very birth of the century. In her life she has been the greatest witness to the history. Two global wars. Many personal tragedies. Considerable triumphs. The creation of new sort of world, which has moved from horse and carriage to space travel, from ink pens to computers.

Her eyes have seen it all. Around her are the Royals. Diana was her favourite. The Queen Mother helped her a lot. In 2000 she was 100 and celebrated her birthday together with all Great Britain. But the Queen Mother died in 2002.

The story of Diana, Princess of Wales, began when she was just 16 years old and met her future husband Charles, Prince of Wales, when he joined a shooting party at her family home when she was a shy teen-ager. But on September 8, 1980 her life changed forever. The shy teen-ager blossomed into a Royal Bride. She adored children and soon she became a mother. William was born on June 1982 and Harry two years later. She never handed her sons to nannies. She was 'Ways there, if they needed her. Diana and Charles seemed united in their love for their small sons. There were no hints then of the dramas to come. But soon Everything has changed.

Diana began to strike out on her own and carry out official duties without her husband. And people began to take her seriously. She began to transform. She got 2,000 invitations to visit different places every year. Diana began to win awards for her humanitarian work. She gave a lot of money to different hospitals. She had no fear of AIDS. Diana shook hands and warmly embraced patients. Then "Di" turned her attention to lepers. By the end of the eighties the Princess had achieved her objective. The world regarded her as a woman of substance. She made a real contribution to her country and the Commonwealth. But by December 1992 the unthinkable had happened. The Prime Minister announced to a House of Commons that Charles and Diana were to part. But Diana found happiness in her independence. Keeping tears and frustration to herself she always produced smiles and jokes for those in need, especially children. She knew how important love was in people's lives, probably because she had not had much of it in her family and then in her marriage. And probably only with Dodi-Al-Fayed, it seemed, she had found a happiness that might have changed her solitude.

She was a star. Diana was a source of beauty and glamour. "Di" was a humanitarian. She had been killed in a car crash in Paris. She is irreplaceable. She was just 36.

Peoples have lost a unique woman who will be forever remembered with love and admiration. Prime Minister Tony Blair spoke of the Princess as a wonderful and warm human being and called her "the People's Princess".

Words and Phrases:

shooting - охота на дичь	objective - цель
shy - застенчивый	a man of substance - самостоятельный человек
hint - намек	frustration - расстройство, разочарование
AIDS - СПИД	marriage - брак, замужество
to embrace - обнимать	solitude - одиночество
leper - прокаженный	admiration - обожание

Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions.
 - a. Why does the Prime Minister call Diana the "People's Princess"?
 - b. What can you say about Royal family?
 - c. What do you know about Princess of Wales?
2. Speak about Diana's activities.

PARLIAMENT

Parliament is the supreme legislative authority in the United Kingdom. It consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They constitute on different principles, do different work in different places and meet only on occasions of symbolic significance such as the coronation and the opening of Parliament.

The life of Parliament is divided into periods called "sessions". A session normally lasts for about a year from late October of the last year to about the same date of the next year.

The House of Commons is elected, nonhereditary chamber. The House of Commons has 659 members who belong to different political parties, and its discussions are controlled by an official called the Speaker.

The House of Commons meets every day but Saturday. A light at the top of the Clock Tower, where the famous Big Ben strikes, is kept on for so long as the House is sitting. Only members of Commons are known as MPs - Members of parliament. The Commons is more important of the two Houses.

The House of Lords is nonelected, hereditary chamber. The House of Lords spends much time in discussing general and particular problems connected with governmental policy and administration. The Lords can reject Bill once.

Most bills are introduced by the Government. About 50 bills are passed each year. The preparation may take many months. At last the bill is ready to be submitted to Parliament. It will have passed by both Houses of Parliament, one after the other.

The two Houses of Parliament, the Lords and the Commons, share the same building, the Palace of Westminster. The present buildings of the Palace were erected between 1840 and 1852. Parts of the Palace including the Commons Chamber itself were badly damaged in an air raid made by fascists in 1941, and have been rebuilt since 1945.

Words and Phrases:

apart from - наряду	occasion - причина, случай
particular - особый	significance - значение
to reject - отклонять	for so long as - пока
to submit - представлять	nonhereditary - не переходящая по наследству
власть	

Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions.
 - a. What is the supreme legislative authority in the UK?
 - b. How long does "session" last in the Parliament?
 - c. How many Houses does the Parliament consist of ?
2. Practice with your partner asking and answering questions.

THE GOVERNMENT

The party, which has the largest number of members in the Parliament, is called the **Government**. The second largest party is called the **official Opposition**. The government sits on the right of the Speaker's chair in the Parliament and the Opposition on the left.

The Prime Minister is the head of the Government. He is usually the leader of the party, which has the most members in the House of Commons and is an elected member of the House. He chooses from the

Lords and Commons about 60 men to take the main offices and form the Ministry. 20 men are chosen from them to form the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister and the Cabinet represent the executive body. They are responsible for directing the national policy of the United Kingdom. The Prime Minister lives and works in his official residence No 10 Downing Street. One of the rooms is the Cabinet room, where the Cabinet usually meets once a week but sometimes more often.

The Cabinet and its committees work in great secrecy. No outside person is allowed to see any Cabinet papers until they become only of historical interest.

The Government cannot legally spend any money without the permission of the House of Commons. The money the Government spends is the people's money.

Words and Phrases:

outside person - посторонний
responsible - ответственный
badly - зд. очень

to permit - позволять, разрешать
permission - разрешение
to damage - повреждать

Tasks:

1. Answer the questions.
 - a. Who is the head of the Government in the UK?
 - b. How is the Cabinet formed?
 - c. Where does the Prime Minister live and work?
 - d. Is the Government controlled by the House of Commons?
 - e. Whom does the executive power belong to?
2. Speak about:
 - a. the Russian Government;
 - b. the role of our State Duma in our life;
 - c. the Prime Minister of Russia and the Prime Minister of GB.

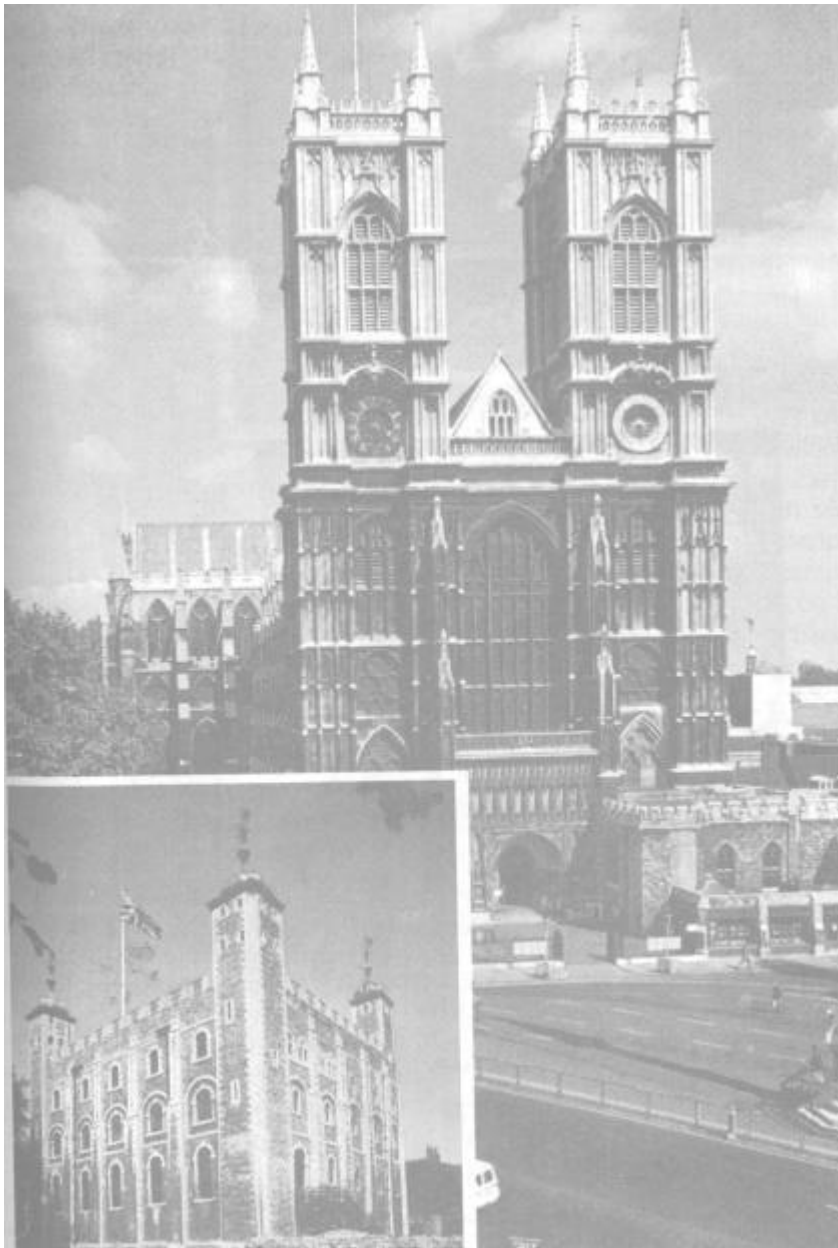
CITIES AND TOWNS

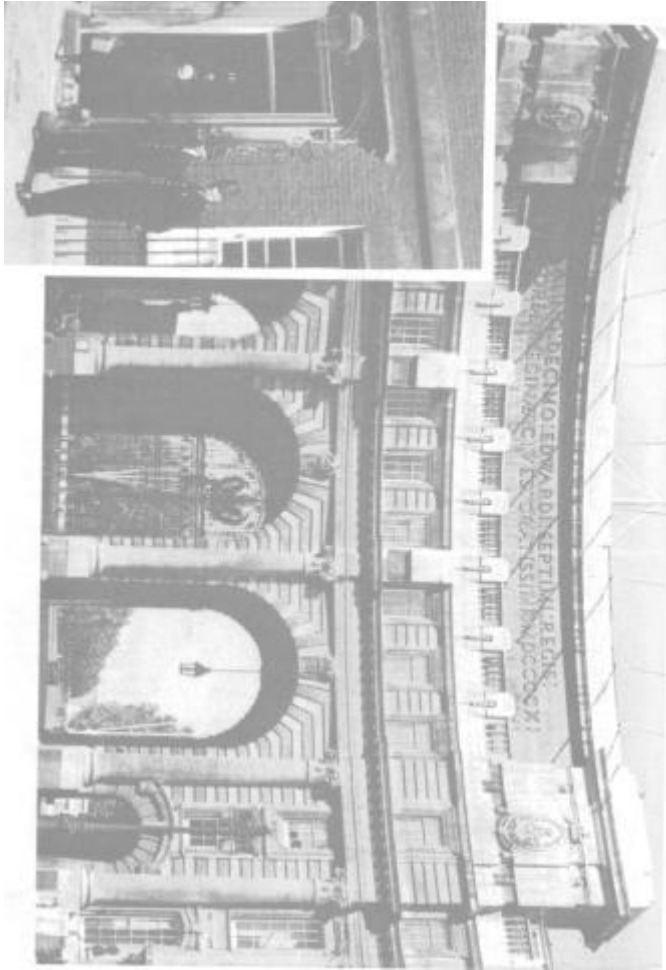
LONDON

London is the capital of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and it is the largest city in the British Commonwealth. The name "London" is Celtic in origin. London was originally established by the Romans, as Londinium in the 1st century BC, and became the capital of England in the 11th century. It is "A City" which arose from a number of towns and villages. It survived the Plague which killed nearly 100,000 people and the Great Fire which followed. Little damage occurred during World War I, but World War II brought tremendous destructions. Many buildings of great historic value were laid in ruins and to-day the face of London is changed.

Actually there are several Londons: **the City, the West End, Westminster and the East End**. Each of them is architecturally different from the others, each has its own main street and square, its own shopping center. Many monuments of London's history can be found in the city.

The oldest part of the metropolis is **the "City of London"**. The City extends over an area of about 2.5 square kilometres in the heart of London. It is about two thousand years old. Nowadays **the City is the financial center of Britain's banks,**





insurance companies, trading companies. It is full of life in daytime, but at night it is almost completely empty (5,000 people live here). St. Pauls Cathedral has always dominated its centre. The masterpiece of Sir Christopher Wren, **st. Paul's Cathedral** was built between 1675 and 1710 to replace the old Cathedral that was largely destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. This Cathedral can boast also of some superb carving by Grinling Gibbons. Wren himself is buried here, his tomb carrying the fitting injunction, "Lector, si momentum requires" (Reader, if you see his monument, look around you). It is an architectural masterpiece and one of the greatest English churches. Admiral Nelson is buried here, too.

The West End is the region for the rich. It is a very beautiful region with a lot of nice, cosy, old houses and a lot of expensive shops, cinemas, restaurants. All the historical places and famous parks are in the West End. The West End, spreading from the political centre Westminster includes Piccadilly Circus and the fashionable Covent Garden. For generations **Piccadilly** has been the heart of London West End. London's busiest spot was named by a long - forgotten tailor Higgins, whose fortune had been made largely by the sale of collars known as "piccadillies". When he retired Higgins built himself a grand house, which he called Piccadilly Hall. Every day over 50,000 cars, coaches and buses, carrying 200,000 people, pass the famous central fountain on the top of which stands a statue of Eros, the Greek God of love. **Piccadilly is a fine street** stretching from the circus to Hyde Park Corner. It has seen much history over the centuries, and it has changed considerably. Many Londoners resort to **Hyde Park** on Sundays. Speakers from various political parties often hold public meetings here.

Trafalgar Square is the natural centre of London. It hosts museums and galleries among them: **the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery and the British Museum**. The main feature of the Square is Nelson's Column with the figure of the great seaman on the top. Trafalgar Square is one of the busiest places in London.

Just behind the Trafalgar Square is **the National Gallery** where there is one of the finest collections of pictures in the world. The National Gallery contains mostly European art from all periods between 1200 and the end of the 19th century.

The British Museum is one of the greatest and best-known museums in the world, both in the diversity of its collection and in their wide range and high quality. Of the all major departments into which the museum is divided, the most outstanding are: the Assyrian, the Egyptian and the Greek and Roman Antiquities. There are also extremely important ethnological collections.

The library, which is contemporary with the museum, consisted initially of the election of books from the King's Library. The British Museum Library is a read-in room and a reference library, but not the lending one. It contains a collection of unique manuscripts and rare books.

The Houses of Parliament is the seat of the British Parliament. The official name of the Houses of the Parliament is the Palace of Westminster. It is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture. The Houses of Parliament were constructed a century ago. The Clock Tower, which contains the hour-bell called "**Big Ben**" is known all over the world.

Buckingham Palace is the official home of the British royal family in London containing 600 rooms. Today the Queen lives at the Palace for only a part of the year and when she is in her residence the Royal Standard is flown.

The Houses of Parliament and **Westminster Abbey** face each other across Parliament Square. Westminster Abbey is not a Cathedral. It is a "Royal Peculiar royal property. In this lovely building we can learn much. Most of the kings and queens of England since William the Conqueror have been crowned here, and one may see the ancient Coronation chair. Many great men have been honoured by burial in Westminster Abbey. And the church is full of memorials to kings, queens, statesmen, writers, and scientists, all of whom have played a part in shaping Britain's history.

No. 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister's residence, is over 200 years old. It has all modern conveniences. It has light, central heating, and several bathrooms. The Cabinet meets there. As "No. 10" two hundred years ago served rich men, so does the Executive of British Government, and its main administrative organs, tend to serve the rich men above all at present.

The Tower of London was first built in the 11th century by William the Conqueror for the purpose of protecting and controlling the city. The Tower has been a fortress, a palace, and a prison, and an arsenal of small arms and now it is a museum. The Tower of London is guarded by Beefeaters, who are dressed in old-fashioned traditional uniforms.

The East End is the region for the poor. The East End is as different from the West End as can be. This is a vast area running eastwards from the City. It includes all the main dock areas and is heavily industrialized. Despite many houses built by the council there are still miles of little dwellings and slums. The Port of London is also in the East End.

One can say that "**the CITY is the money of London**", "**the WEST END is the goods of London**", "**the EAST END is the hands of London**".

There are many parks and gardens in London. The best known are Hyde Park, Regent's Park and St James's Park. They are all within easy reach of the centre of London. Hyde Park is a royal park since 1536. It is famous for its Speaker's Corner, where people go when they want to tell other people about their political opinions. Regent's Park is in the north-west of London. It is the home of the London Zoo. St. James's Park is the oldest and the smallest of the royal parks. It is near the Buckingham Palace.

London is known by its system of public transport which includes red buses, black taxis, and an underground railway called "the Tube".

London is one of the world's most enjoyable capitals of Europe.

CARDIFF

Being the capital of Wales, financially and industrially, Cardiff is the most important city in an upland country. Hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants of Wales live and work here. In the roads leading to the docks of Cardiff you will find much as in Liverpool, Marseilles or any other great commercial port, the

extraordinary mixture of humanity that great ocean-going ships always seem to attract. Here you will find little that is typically Welsh, here is Tiger Bay.

But away from the docks Cardiff is a beautiful city. Cathay's Park, the centre of the civic life of the city, with its exceptionally fine group of municipal buildings and its National Museum of Wales, where you will find an enthralling collection of Welsh art and handicraft, both ancient and modern, is a splendid place. With the university and its animated groups of Welsh youths and maidens who swarm around its building, you touch upon one of the essential enthusiasms of the Welsh people, their passionate love and desire for knowledge.

There is much cultural activity in Wales, especially in literature, drama and music. Two of the major annual professional arts festivals are held at Swansea, Wales second largest city, in St. David's Hall in Cardiff. Numerous amateur festivals are held regularly. Welsh is the official language of the festival; the Welsh try to use the festival to keep alive the ancient Welsh language. Prizes are awarded for music, prose and poetry, art and drama.

The establishment of the University of Wales situated in Cardiff is closely connected with the founding of the National Library of Wales and the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and the revival of the largest of these festivals i.e. the Royal National Festival, known as Eisteddfod. It is the largest youth festival in Europe.

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland, it is in the east of the country on the river Forth, Edinburgh is the centre of business, industry and education of the country.

From the streets in the centre of the city you can see the ships coming to Edinburgh from different countries of the world. The highest hill, called "King Arthur's Chair", is 300 metres above sea level. In the "Old Town" the narrow houses with narrow windows are climbing up by narrow streets towards the ancient Edinburgh Castle. This building on the Castle Rock 150 metres high is one thousand years old.

The modern town is in the valley. The streets are straight and well planned, so that you can easily go about the town. Scotsmen say that St. Petersburg and Edinburgh are the only cities in the world with such a splendid layout. The main street, Princess Street, is a mile long with beautiful houses and a monument to Walter Scott. A road bridge over the river Forth was opened in 1964. It is now the fourth of its kind in the world.

Edinburgh has a busy cultural life. Every year, in September, the International festival takes place. Musicians, actors and singers come from all over the world and thousands of visitors fill the city. In the evening, the opera house, the theatres and the c^oncert halls are full. In cafes and pubs small groups sing, act and read poetry.

No wonder, that Edinburgh is sometimes called "*the Athens of the North*".

MANCHESTER

Manchester is the second biggest city in Lancashire after Liverpool. It is the industrial capital of the North of England. It has a climate, which is neither cold nor hot.

The highest summer temperature is 27°C, the lowest winter temperature is 6°C.



Manchester is the fifth largest port in Great Britain although it is 56 km away from the sea. It is connected with the sea by the Manchester Ship Canal. The city was founded in the Roman times. In later history Manchester was the centre of the cotton trade not only in Great Britain, but in the whole world. At present its mills and factories produce different electronic machines, chemical and plastic materials, rain-coats and other things. Manchester has a large and rich industry, it also produces different foods, clothes, soap and perfumes.

The population of Manchester is about 680,000 people. It was the first city in England, which built its own airport in 1919. Now the Manchester airport connects the city with different foreign countries. Manchester is also an important cultural centre. It is famous for publishing books and magazines, and it has many good libraries, museums and art galleries. The famous Hall Orchestra is in Manchester, and it gives concerts two times a week. Manchester has good theatres and they often invite the Royal Ballet from London and the Royal Shakespeare Company from Stratford-on-Avon to come and perform in Manchester.

Manchester has a distinctive atmosphere brought about by physical characteristics of the Victorian age. The manufacture of cotton goods was responsible for changing the town into the great city it became in the last century.

The first thing the visitor notices is the number of the enormous warehouses and factories, railway stations and markets, offices and banks, municipal buildings and museums. All seems to be very grand, well-built and magnificently solid.

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham is a surprising place. That's because there are so many different aspects to it. Historically, of course, it was a manufacturing city which grew up in the Industrial Revolution. But in the 1990s, although manufacturing industry and commerce were still vital to the prosperity of the region and made it a very exciting and energetic centre. But there are other signs due to which Birmingham has confirmed its position as a major European city.

The National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham International Airport bring visitors to the city from all over the world. The massive International Convention Centre, Symphony Hall - the acclaimed home of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra are all evidence that there is an optimistic and imaginative mood in Birmingham. The National Indoor Arena is the venue for major sporting events and concerts.

The Birmingham Royal Ballet is based at the Hippodrome. There are three Professional theatres in Birmingham. The City Art Gallery has an outstanding collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings.

The City is at the centre of the national motorway network. There are coach and rail services all over the country, and if you're going further, Birmingham International Airport has direct flights to European cities and connections all over the world.

But Birmingham, Britain's "second city", is the most important industrial town. Because of the great variety of its industries people call it "The City of 1,500 Trades" in the district called "Black Country".

All the pins and needles in English households are probably of Birmingham I make. The pens that people write with, the spoons and forks they use for dinner and the glasses which they drink out of are mostly products of Birmingham industry. It is quite possible that motor-cars, the bicycles, the railway-carriages and the rails they run on in England, the radio and television sets, etc., have come from Birmingham.

Birmingham is a busy, thriving and exciting city.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON

Stratford-on-Avon, famous the world over as the birthplace of William Shakespeare, is situated in the heart of England. Shakespeare's birthplace is a small house with small rooms in the centre of Stratford-on-Avon. When Shakespeare became successful in London he bought the biggest house in Stratford-on-Avon called New Palace to retire to.

The Royal Theatre was opened on Shakespeare's birthday in 1879 and destroyed by fire in 1926. The present building designed by Elizabeth Scott was completed in 1932. The theatre is now one of the most comfortable and best equipped in the world, with its own workshops, a library, a picture gallery and a restaurant. The whole season the Theatre gives only Shakespeare's plays. It's a great pleasure to see there "Romeo and Juliet", "Twelfth Night", "Hamlet" and many others. They are on not only in the Royal Theatre, but all over the world.

The Shakespeare Centre was built to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth (1556). The Centre serves a dual purpose. It is the headquarter of the British Trust which administers properties and memorials of the poet and provides facilities for educational and academic work.

BRISTOL

If a traveler wants to catch a glimpse of old and new together, he should go to Bristol. The story of Bristol is plainly told through its rivers and docks, through its sea faring past full of adventure. The

Romans moored their boats at the edge of the River Avon, while the Normans shipped wine and other goods into Bristol by sea

A few hundred years later in the gloomy Middle Ages John Cabot and his son set sail in the *Matthew* and reached North America. In those ages when so little was known about geography, Bristol merchants crossed the oceans, traded and brought back huge amounts of many expensive goods. Centuries later thousands of settlers went to the new land to find a brighter future.

The spirit of adventure and exploration is in the heart of Bristol. There are quite a few monuments in Bristol reminding of its historical past.

Words and Phrases:

to survive - выжить	honour - честь
damage - повреждение	to honour - удостоить чести
to damage - повреждать	tailor - портной
to occur - происходить	to retire - уходить в отставку
tremendous - огромный	to stretch - простираться
to destruct - разрушать	to resort - посещать, бывать
destruction - разрушение	rush hours - "часы пик"
empty - пустой	distinction - распознавание
Incorporation - объединение	distinct - отчетливый, ясный
to contain - содержать	distinctively - ясно, явно, определенно
abbey - аббатство	distinctive - характерный
layout - план	warehouse - товарный склад
Beefeaters - лейб-гвардейцы	to climb - подниматься
to incorporate - включать, объединять	
to thrive - процветать, преуспевать	

Tasks:

1. Study the text about cities and towns.
2. Ask your group-mate whether she (he) knows anything about historical places in London.
3. Make up short dialogues about famous places of the British capital.
4. Situational practice:
 - a. Imagine that you are in Edinburgh: what places of interest would interest you most of all?
 - b. Imagine that you are in Stratford-on-Avon: what theatre would you like to visit and why?
5. Speak about: .
 - a. the history of Manchester;
 - b. Cardiff as the great commercial port;
 - c. the city of Birmingham; cultural life in Wales.
 - d. the main street of Edinburgh;
 - e. the story of Bristol;

"AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE"

Everyone in Britain dreams of living in a detached house, which means a separate building. It is usually built of brick and slate. A detached house is of "non-classical" shape with a lot of little corners, which make the house very cosy. In front of the house there's always a beautiful garden with smooth lawn. The garage is hidden away so it doesn't spoil the rural feeling.

Every Englishman wants privacy. And a large, detached house not only ensures privacy, but it's also a status symbol. Such a house is a dream for most people. But even a small house with a garden is very dear to the hearts of many people in Britain.

Most people don't like blocks of flats, because they provide the least amount of privacy. Flats are usually much cheaper. (In fact, flats are the cheapest kind of home). People who live in them cannot afford to have a house of their own.

Their dislike of living in flats is very strong. In 1950s, for example, millions of poor people lived in old, cold, uncomfortable houses of the 19th century, with no bathroom. But when they were given new blocks of flats to live in, with central heating and bathrooms, more comfortable and cosy they hated their new home! They felt lonely without their gardens and neighbours.

In Britain these "tower blocks" (or "high-rise blocks") were a complete failure because they didn't suit British attitudes; while in other countries people are very happy in modern flats. Nowadays only 40% of the population live in high-rises.

Law and custom in Britain support a clear separation between what is public and what is private. To emphasize this division, people prefer to live in a house, set back from the road. This way they can have a garden in front of the house, which separates them from the world. This area may not be very big, but it allows people to have a low fence or a hedge round it. Such a fence announces that here the private property begins.

Flats don't give people enough privacy. Not having a separate entrance to the outside world doesn't suit British tastes. People like to choose the colour of their own front door or window frames. Besides, they can have a small garden of their own in front of the house, even if the outside territory is very small. English people usually have flower-beds with paths in between, or just patches of grass to express their individuality.

British houses are thought to be very cold, maybe the coldest in Europe. But it is not so. About 3/4 of houses now have central heating. The most important thing for British people is to feel cosy - that is to create a warm atmosphere (even if it's not warm in the house). In Britain many people have a great desire to have a "real fire". A fire-place is a traditional symbol of warmth. Nowadays, it may be an imitation of open fire with plastic coal. Most older houses have two living-rooms. It allows the front room to be used for formal visits while the family spend their time in the back room, hidden from public view. If there is one living-room in the house, then there is a hall into which the front door opens. Private houses usually have the back door for family or close friends.

In spite of people's great desire to have a house of their own they're not so much attached to the house itself. The house can be easily sold, if necessary and if the price is attractive. Most houses are sold on the open market by the "property developers" (these are private companies).

The desire to have a private house is great, but house prices are very high. About 70% of all the houses are occupied by their owners. Usually people borrow 80% of the price and then pay the money back month by month. Normally they pay the money back over the period of 20-25 years.

GARDENING

The love of gardens is deep-rooted in the British people. This is probably one reason why so many people prefer to live in houses rather than flats. Many people who have no gardens of their own have patches of land in especially reserved areas. Flower and vegetable shows, with prizes for the best exhibits, are immensely popular.

Every year, the British Queen holds several garden parties at Buckingham Palace. The guests are usually invited as a reward for their work or achievements, and it is considered a great honour.

PETS

Britain is a nation of animal lovers. Dogs are especially popular in the UK. People often give them a lot of attention and consider them to be part of the family. Everybody knows there are more than five million dogs almost as many cats, over three million budgies, cage birds, aquarium fish. 10 million pounds are spent annually on pets.

In Britain pets can send Christmas cards to their friends, birthday cards to husbands, wives, boy or girl-friends. Owners can buy for their pets jewelry, nylon, velvet collars, lace-trimmed panties, night-gowns, pyjamas. Newspapers sometimes have articles about dogs who have done clever things such as saved a child's life or travelled miles to find their owners after they have been lost. "The Sunday Mirror" has estimated that Britain spends six times as much on pet foods as on baby foods and roughly 16 times as much as on cancer research.

There are also many television shows, films and stories about dogs, including Lassie and Scooby Doo. Because dogs are generally considered to be loyal and friendly, they are sometimes called "man's best friend".

Words and Phrases:

to estimate - оценивать	patch of land - небольшой участок земли
reason - причина	deep-rooted - имеющий глубокие корни
to prefer - предпочитать	pets - любимцы
immensely - безмерно (очень)	to research - исследовать
owner - владелец	researcher - исследователь
night-gown - халат, пеньюар	research - исследование

Tasks:

1. Draw a parallel between pets in Russia and Great Britain.
2. Render the text in your own words.
3. Speak about your favourite dog (cat, cage bird, or aquarium fish).
4. Speak about your garden, if any.
5. Speak about the flower language.

SPORT IN GREAT BRITAIN

British people have always been known for their love of sports. Some people take part in sports themselves, others are only spectators. But there are few British people who have absolutely no interest for sports.

The most popular game for men are **golf** and **cricket** in summer and **football** in winter. Every schoolboy knows the names of the best teams and their players.

A crowd of loyal fans usually go after their favourite team to other towns to support the players. Football is the most popular of spectator games in the UK. Four kinds of racing come after football: **horse-racing, dog racing, motor racing and boat racing**. It is legal to place bets on the participants.

Tennis is played by both men and women all the year round, on grass courts in summer and on covered courts in winter. Many people like to watch tennis instead of playing. The Wimbledon championships in summer in which the best tennis players of the world take part attract crowds of people.

Boxing is popular in Great Britain as well. But many British people consider boxing too rude and cruel and boxing for women and children is forbidden now.

Sport in one form or another takes part in an average British person's daily life. In English schools sport is an important part of the system of education. Every student can go in for basketball, football, volleyball, table tennis, tennis, wrestling and karate. They care strongly about sporting spirit.

Words and Phrases:

spectator - зритель	cruel - жестокий
team - команда	rude - грубый
to support - поддерживать	to care - заботиться, ухаживать
to play bets - держать пари	to care for - интересоваться
fan - болельщик, любитель	care - забота, попечение

Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions.
 - a. Which is the most popular of spectator games in Great Britain?
 - b. Which is the most popular sport for both men and women?
 - c. What is Wimbledon known for?
 - d. Is it legal to place bets in horse-racing in Russia?
 - e. What kind of sports can be called a "national hobby" in England?
2. Speak about Russian sports.

FOOD

Customs and traditions always held by the Englishman are present in his eating. He is used to certain foods and never tires of them.

There are four meals a day in English home: **breakfast, lunch, tea, and dinner**.

Breakfast is the first meal of the day. It is about 8 o'clock in the morning, and consists of porridge with milk rarely with cream and salt or sugar, cornflakes, eggs boiled or fried, bread and butter with marmalade or jam, bacon or sausage, or liver, or cold ham, toasts. Breakfast toasts in England are traditionally cold. Some people like to drink tea, but others prefer coffee, though tea is part and parcel of British life. Instead of porridge they may have fruit juice, or they may prefer biscuits. The midday meal is called lunch. The usual time for lunch is 1 p.m. This meal starts with soup or fruit juice. Then follows some meat or poultry with

potatoes - boiled or fried, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, and peas. Meat is rather expensive in Britain. Rice and macaroni are seldom served. Then a pudding comes. Instead of pudding they may prefer cheese and biscuits. Last of all coffee - black or white. Englishmen often drink something at lunch. Water is usually on the table, but some prefer juice or lemonade.

Tea is the third meal of the day. It is between 4 and 5 p.m. the so-called **5 o'clock tea** or high tea; it is also a substantial meal and is eaten by families, which do not usually have a late dinner. On the table there is tea, milk or cream, sugar, bread and butter, cakes and jam. In well-to-do families it consists of ham or tongue, tomatoes and salad or a kipper, followed by fruit: pears, apricots, pineapples, strong tea with cream and a cake. Friends and visitors are often available at tea. **Tea making in England is an art.**

Dinner is the fourth meal of the day. The usual time is about 7 p.m. and all the members of the family sit down together. Dinner consists of soup, fish or meat with vegetables, potatoes, green peas, carrots and cabbage, sweet pudding, fruit salad, ice-cream or cheese and biscuits. Then after a talk they have black or white coffee.

Sunday dinner is a special occasion, (week-end). Beef or lamb are brought and eaten hot with vegetables. After this a large heavy pudding with custard will probably follow. Dessert may consist of fruit or many varieties of pies and tarts. They are eaten hot or cold.

There is the order of meals among English families. But the greater part of the people in the towns, and nearly all country-people, have dinner in the middle of the day instead of lunch. They have tea a little later between five thirty or six-thirty, and then in the evening, before going to bed, they have supper. So, the four meals of the day are either **breakfast, dinner, tea, supper or breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner.**

Legend about tea and coffee

Coffee and tea were not known in Europe three hundred years ago. People were afraid to drink them because they thought coffee or tea could kill a person. Once a King of Sweden decided to find out whether it was true or not. At that time there were two young brothers in prison. They were twins and were very much alike. They had committed a crime and had been sentenced to death. The King said: "I'll let them live but they must drink coffee or tea to the end of their lives. One must drink tea and the other coffee". Very soon the King died. Both brothers lived for many years. So, the length of the life does not depend upon drinking either coffee or tea.

In the days of Elizabeth beer was the normal breakfast liquid. By 1700 the English became a tea-drinking nation. The English are famous for the amount of tea they drink, "a nice cup of tea" is one of the most commonly heard phrases in Britain.

Most of English people drink their tea, but give little thought to what actually happens when they pour water over tea leaves.

Three substances contained in the tea leaves come out of the leaves into the water. **Theoflavins** give the tea its color, **theorubigins** affect its taste and caffeine makes tea a stimulant.

Scientific research confirms that using water, which is as near boiling point as possible gives the best cup of tea since it brings out more of all those substances from the tea leaves. But, however, hot water will always take a few minutes for the process to be completed. The hostess first of all must rinse the tea-pot with boiling water (this is called "warming the pot") before adding several tea-spoons of tea.

The amount of tea varies, of course, according to the number of the people present plus one spoonful for the tea-pot. The pot is then filled to allow the tea to infuse or draw for five minutes. English people seldom put lemon juice or rum in their tea.

No self-respecting Briton would drink tea, which has not been made in a teapot in a civilized way.

Why the Britons became addicted to tea when continentalers favoured coffee is a mystery as yet unexplained.

JOKES ABOUT TEA

The English know how to make tea and what it does.

Seven cups of it wake you up in the morning.
night.

If you drink it in the afternoon, it will relax you for thoughts.

Then of course you should drink a lot of it in off-hours.

Nine cups will put you to sleep at

If you are hot tea will cool you off.

If you are cold it will warm you up.

The taste of good tea is very simple. If a spoon stands up in a cup, it is strong. If a spoon starts to wobble, it is weak.

Words and Phrases:

to pour - наливать	pineapple - ананас
stew - тушеное мясо	amount - количество
chop - отбивная котлета	tea leaves - листья чая
cauliflower - цветная капуста	to confirm - подтверждать
lamb - телятина	to complete - завершать, заканчивать
custard - сладкий крем	tea-spoon - чайная ложка
kipper - лосось (копченая рыба)	tea-pot - чайник для заварки чая
apricot - абрикос	tea-party - чаепитие
substantial meals - питательная пища	
to infuse - настаиваться (о чае)	
part and parcel - неотъемлемая часть	
liquid - жидкость	
well-to-do family - хорошо обеспеченная семья	
tart - домашний торт, сладкий пирожок	

Tasks:

1. Render the texts about food in your own words.
2. Exchange ideas after reading articles about foods.
3. Compare Russian cuisine with English one.
4. Answer the questions:
 - a. How do you make tea?
 - b. How do you make coffee?
 - c. How often do you have your meals?
5. Make up mini dialogues in various situations: a. you have tea-party at home; b. at a cafe; c. at a restaurant.
6. Translate the following expressions and make up situations with them:

a. Neither fish nor flesh;	g. A hard nut to crack;
b. As like as two peas;	h. To stew in one's own juice;
c. To know what is what;	i. Appetite comes with eating;
d. Chop-chop;	j. Every cook praises his own broth;
e. Tastes differ;	k. Too many cooks spoil the broth;
f. To save one's bacon;	l. Eat with pleasure, drink with measure.

BRITISH EDUCATION

British education has many critics and much of the criticism has a political basis. The system is supposed to provide equality of opportunity for all, but it has some inequality.

The Education Act of 1944 was based on the philosophy that every child is to be educated according to his age, ability and aptitude. It places responsibility for carrying out this task on the shoulders of the school and the parents.

Now, there are about 12 million children and young people in full-time attendance at schools, colleges and universities. The great majority of schools are publicly provided or aided.

In Britain education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15. The academic year begins after the summer holidays and is divided into three "terms", with the intervals between them formed by the Christmas and Easter holidays.

Day schools mostly work from Monday to Friday only, from about 9 a.m. to between 3 and 4 p.m. Lunch is provided and parents pay for it. 28% of all children stay at school beyond the age of fifteen, only 8 % of unskilled worker's children do so and only 1 % of children of unskilled workers receive full-time education beyond the age of eighteen, in comparison with 34 % of children of people in the professional class. This situation was generally regarded as unsatisfactory.

Words and Phrases:

to suppose - предполагать	responsible - ответственный
great majority - большинство	responsibility - ответственность
to attend - посещать	respondent - ответчик
attendance - посещаемость	compulsory - обязательный
to provide - обеспечивать	teen-ager - подросток
to respond - реагировать, отвечать	age - з.д. возраст

Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Does British education have many critics?
 - b. When was the last Education Act adopted?
- c. Who is responsible for children's education in Great Britain?
- d. How many children and teen-agers study in Great Britain?
2. Draw a parallel between education in Russia and Great Britain.
3. Speak about your school years:
 - a. your favourite subject or subjects;
 - b. your school-mates;
 - c. your favourite pastime.

THE TEEN-AGER CULTURE

Most of the problems teen-agers are seeking to solve were created for them by adults. People forget that teen-agers belong to another generation, with all the changes and problems, but also new ones, of which parents are frequently unaware, but which teen-agers have to solve.

It is not a new problem. What has appeared, probably for the first time in the Western world is a teen-ager Culture, a way of life with which teen-agers as individuals identify themselves and which they find meaningful. The songs, the lyrics, the records, the dances, the clothes and the like are evidences of a clear dissociation from the adult world.

Teen-agers have declared their independence of the adult world. And in all this they are encouraged by the world of business. The teen-ager Culture is a very big business. Such phenomena as the Beatles and their innumerable imitations would be impossible without the support of teen-agers and their industry.

AEROBICS

The magazines for teen-agers are a very profitable industry, and a large number of TV programs are designed for the same market. The "aerobics" Craze for Youth.

Tens of thousands of people apply annually to run in the London, Manchester, Liverpool, etc. or other Marathons. Gymnasiums flourish today, people take up the "aerobic" system of exercise. You'll not find the word "aerobics" in many dictionaries but it means simply "with oxygen". "Aerobic exercise" is any form of exercises that increases your oxygen intake. Vigorous walking, jogging and running are forms of aerobic exercises, as well as dancing, swimming and cycling.

Apart from being fun aerobics has a scientific basis. There are several beneficial effects. The heart becomes stronger and larger. Blood pressure drops and blood vessels also become stronger and more elastic. All this means that you are less likely to have heart attack. It will give you the healthy glow that is associated with fitness. Finally there's the question of weight. Research has shown that runners have weight less than nonrunners, even if they eat more, so aerobics will keep them slim, too.

FREE SCHOOL

School Rules:

"You mustn't smoke or wear make-up". "You must do your home-work on time" "You mustn't fight in the play ground". "You must... you must...", etc.

Even if you like school, it seems that someone is always telling you what to do.

That is why a lot of children don't like school and now a few teachers believe this is why some kids don't learn. People learn better and faster when they have more choice in what they learn and when and how they learn it. At Free school, people believe that school should teach what the children need and what to learn. School should help a child to think for himself. There is no punishment for missing school. There are no compulsory lessons. Each child has one adult who follows his progress through the school. A lot happens outside school. They visit local factories, markets, shops, fire, police station. They visit exhibitions, go roller-skating, horse-riding, make trips to the country or the sea and go camping. They study special subjects such as photography, metal-work, pottery. Practical skills like painting and repairing a house are all done as part of the maintenance of the school. But there are very few Free schools in England.



HIGHER EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

There are different kinds of educational institutions in Great Britain including universities and colleges of various kinds. There is no single, universally accepted definition of what a university should be like. British universities are quite different and each of them has its own syllabus. Universities usually select students on the basis of A-level exam results [Advanced Level] and an interview. But colleges of Oxford and Cambridge choose their students mainly on academic merit.

All British universities can be roughly divided into three groups, namely **"ancient", "redbrick" or "modern" ("provincial") and the new ones**. But mostly each of these universities has its own approach to teaching. **Oxford and Cambridge** are the oldest universities in Great Britain. They are called Oxbridge to denote an elitarian education. They date from Middle Ages. Each consists of self-governing colleges. Some colleges tend to be rather keen to admit a few men who are very good at football or some other

sport, or sons and daughters of lords or million-aired. After all a rich man's son or daughter will be rich one day and may give a lot of money to his (her) favourite university. Colleges are very rich. They have Wonderful books in the libraries, botanical gardens, observatory and an anatomy School and even rich collections of pictures. **University is only an administrative body, which organizes lectures for all students of the colleges, arranges examinations and awards degrees.** The teaching is based on the tutorial (that means

the individual tuition) as well as lectures. Each student has a tutor who plans his work and requires him to write essays and papers on the subject he is studying, and submit them to him regularly about once a fortnight for correction and discussion. Until the 19th century they were the only universities in England, and offered no place girls. But, nowadays, most colleges admit both men and women Cambridge is more developed than Oxford in scientific studies. Four universities founded in Scotland i.e. **St. Andrews** (1411), **Glasgow** (1450), **Aberdeen** (1494) and **Edinburgh** (1583) are considered to be the ancient universities, too.

During the 19th century various institutions of higher education were founded in large centers of industry such as **Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds**. Their buildings were made of local brick, so they got the name "redbrick". But today they are referred to as "modern" or "provincial". There is no tutorial system there. These universities accept students from all over the country and are financed by local authorities. The government gives money to cover the universities current expenditure, but doesn't control them and they enjoy a large measure of academic freedom.

The **University of London** also refers to this group. It is rather old. It was given a Charter in 1836. Now there are about twenty colleges and schools of the university. The teaching is in the colleges, which are placed in various parts of London. It is the largest university in the country with over 40,000 students.

The **New Universities** were founded after the Second World War. Some of them quickly became popular because of their modern approach to university courses. One of the new developments in education of Britain is certainly the **Open University**. Being founded in 1971 it offers a wide range of courses at many different levels. The Open University was established to give educational opportunities to those people who want to continue their education at home. In its teaching the Open University employs a combination of television, radio, correspondence tests, broadcasts and personal tuition.

Colleges form an important part of higher education system in England and Wales. Colleges prepare young people for entry to specific job, or offer a specialist qualification. A college education is in most cases less academic and more practical than a university one, and usually vocational. They offer courses in teacher training, in technology and some professions connected with medicine.

Polytechnics are fairly new. The government in 1966 established them in order to concentrate the large amount of work of university standard being done outside the university. 30 of the technical colleges became polytechnics and their popularity is growing.

In many ways the polytechnics and universities are similar. But the former have more varied courses than any other higher educational institution. Any student has a wide range of choice, such as pure academic study, a study of an applied nature or a professional qualification. The Polytechnics play the main role in higher education.

A degree is an academic qualification awarded at most universities and colleges upon completion of a higher educational course (a first degree) or a piece of research (higher degrees).

In general **Bachelor's degree** [B.A. or B.Sc] is given to students who pass exams at the end of three or four years of study.

The first post-graduate degree is that of a **Master** conferred for a thesis based on at least one year's full-time work. And the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy** [Ph.D.] is given for a thesis, which is an original contribution to knowledge.

The highest governing body of most universities is usually a Council consisting of a few professors together with some local notables. Each department has its chief who has usually the title of Professor. Other teachers who have no title of "**professor**" are entitled "**Lecturers**", "**Readers**", "**Senior Lectures**". When a university teaching post is vacant it is usually advertised in newspapers.

Words and Phrases:

syllabus(es)- программа, расписание

Bachelor degree - степень Бакалавра

Master - Магистр (уч. степень)

to confer to - предоставлять

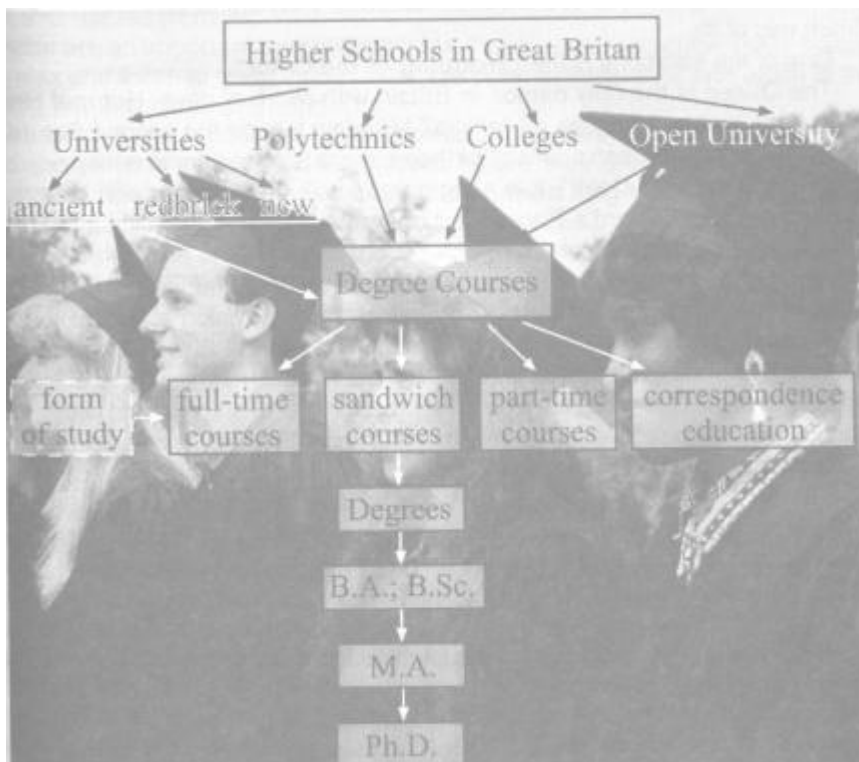
to adjust - приводить в порядок, приспособлять

to approach - приближаться

to comprise- включать

instead of - вместо

fee - взнос, пошлина, чаевые



Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions:
 - a. What types of universities are there in Great Britain?
 - b. When were Cambridge and Oxford universities founded?
 - c. What is the supreme governing body of the university?
 - d. What can you say about the Open University?
2. Speak about:
 - a. London University;
 - b. your University.
4. True or False?
 - a. British Universities are centers of research as well as teaching;
 - b. Ural Universities are centers of research as well as teaching;
 - c. colleges form an important part of higher education system, don't they?

TRADITIONS

Some British customs and traditions are famous all over the world. Britain has hats, tea, talking about the weather for example. From Scotland to Cornwall, Britain is full of customs and traditions. A lot of them have very long histories. Some are funny and some are strange. But all of them are interesting. They are all part and parcel of the British way of life.

One of the traditions is the **"Trooping of the Color"**.

The Queen is the only person in Britain with two birthdays. Her real birthday is on April 21st but she has an "official" birthday. It is on the second Saturday in June. And on the Queen's official birthday, there is a traditional ceremony called "The Trooping of the Color". It is a big parade with brass bands and hundreds of soldiers at Horse Guard's Parade in London, a "regiment" of Queen's soldiers, the Guards trooping the colour, march in front of her. At the front of the parade is the regiment's flag or "color". Thousands of Londoners and visitors watch Horse Guard's Parade, and millions of people watch it on television at home.

The changing of the Guard. This happens every day at Buckingham Palace, the Queen's home. Soldiers stand in front of the Palace. Each morning these soldiers (the "guard") change. One group leaves and another arrives. In summer and winter tourists stand outside the palace at 11.30 every morning and watch the Changing of the Guard.

The state opening of Parliament. Parliament, not the Royal Family, controls modern Britain. But traditionally the Queen opens Parliament every autumn. She travels in a golden carriage, the first Irish state Coach. In the Houses of Parliament the Queen sits on a "throne" in the House of Lords and reads the "Queen's Speech".

The Queen's Christmas speech. Now here's a modern royal custom. On Christmas Day at 3.00 in the afternoon, the Queen makes a speech on radio and TV. It's ten minutes long. In it she talks to the people of the United Kingdom. It was filmed a few weeks before. The Queen spends Christmas with her family in Windsor.

Lord Mayor's Show. The Lord Mayor of London is chosen every year in November. The new Mayor travels in a golden coach through the city. He goes from the Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand street.

The Tower of London. It was the custom for each monarch to lodge in the Tower before his coronation. The oldest military ceremony in the world is **the Ceremony of the Keys**, which has taken place every night at the Tower of London, for more than 700 years. At seven minutes to ten, sergeant of the guards with the «eys accompanied by four soldiers dressed in uniform and carrying rifles appears jn turn at the four main towers.

A soldier who keeps watch (sentry) shouts "Halt. Who comes there?" The sergeant says: "The Keys". "Whose Keys"? "Queen Elizabeth's Keys". "Pass, Queen Elizabeth's Keys" - says the sentry. Then the escort of the Keys passes through the archway.

DOMESTIC TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

There are lots of domestic customs, which go centuries back. There is the English custom of **afternoon tea**. It is about 300 years old. The British drink their 5 o'clock tea round the fire in winter and out in gardens on sunny summer's days.

Another tradition is **sitting at a fire-place**, which is found in every home. For many months of the year they like to sit round the fire and watch the dancing flames. Above the fire-place there is usually a shelf, on which there is often a clock and framed pictures.

Pubs are an important part of British life. People talk, eat, drink, meet friends and relax and listen to good music. They are open at lunch time and again in the evening but they close at 11 p.m.

The word "pub" is short for "public house". Pubs always serve food and beer. British people sometimes lift their glasses before they drink and say "cheers!" This means "Good luck!" Pubs' names often have a long tradition. Some come from thirteenth or fourteenth century.

Shaking Hands. Hundreds of years ago soldiers began this custom. They shook hands to show that they did not have a sword. Now, shaking hands is a custom. In Britain they don't shake hands with friends and family. But one must shake hands when one meets a person for the first time.

Parties. It's the custom to have a party to celebrate a person's birthday, new house, an engagement, a wedding, Christmas and New Years Eve. "**Happy Birthday to you**" song is known all over the world.

Talking about the weather. The British talk about the weather a lot. They talk about the weather because it changes often.

Advertizing. The British like advertizing and some of them depend on it in their daily lives. There are many ways for ads. Ads are carried by newspapers, magazines, ^oducts are announced on TV and radio. TV and radio ads are called "commercials". Even short films and video-films are produced for ads. Consumers often fall victims to ads. People buy well-advertised products, but they are not always good.

Snow on Christmas cards is according to traditions. Nowadays, a white Christmas snow on 25 December is rare on the British Isles. More usually it's "a Green Christmas" - no snow and little or no frost. Through the centuries winters in ^ British Isles have become gradually milder.

New Year Resolutions. What are your worst faults? Do you want to change them? What are your wishes? In Britain a lot of people make New Year Resold tions on the evening of December 31st. For example, "I'll get up early every rriorrv ing", "I'll not smoke any more", "I'll clean my shoes every day", "I'll not read while eating", "I will not eat cakes and ice-cream". But there is a problem. Most people forget their New Year Resolutions on January 2nd.

TRADITIONS IN FOOD

In a real English breakfast one may have boiled or fried eggs, bacon, sausage, tomato and mushrooms. Then there is a toast and "marmalade". There is an interesting story about the word "marmalade". It may has come from the French "Marie est malade", or "Mary is ill". That is because in 17th century Queen of Scotland, Mary Queen of Scots, liked it. She always asked for French orange jam when she was ill.

Roast beef and Yorkshire Pudding are eaten for lunch. It is a traditional Sunday lunch from Yorkshire. Pudding is not sweet. It's a simple mixture of eggs, flour, and milk, but it's delicious. Two common vegetables with a roast beef and Yorkshire Pudding are Brussels sprouts and carrots, and a thick brown sauce.

Pancakes are eaten by British people on Shrove Tuesday in February or March. For pancakes you need flour, eggs and milk. And then they are eaten hot with sweet sugar and lemon or savoury filling.

Every year Scots people all over the world remember famous poet Robert Burns (they call him Rabbie). They read his poems and eat haggis. It is a traditional food made of meat, onions, flour, salt and

pepper. The **haggis** is boiled in the skin from a sheep's stomach. Tea is not only a drink. It's also a meal in the afternoon. But one can eat it with cucumber sandwiches and scones. Scones are plain cakes. One may eat cream and chocolate cakes too.

Christmas pudding. Some people make these puddings months before Christmas. A lot of families have their own Christmas pudding recipes. Some, for example, use a lot of brandy, others put in a lot of fruit or add a silver coin for good luck. Real Christmas puddings always have a piece of holly on the top for decoration also, some people pour brandy over the pudding and light it with a match.

Hot cross buns is an English Easter tradition. The first Christians in Rome made hot cross buns 2000 years ago. Britain is changing together with the rest of the world, but traditions and customs are not changed.

Words and Phrases:

bowler hat - котелок	fire-place - камин
brass band - духовой оркестр	shelf - полка
continuously - постоянно	to shout - кричать
fortress - крепость	regiment - полк
arms - оружие	to shake hands - здороваться за руку
to lodge - ночевать	sword - меч, шпага (оружие)
sergeant - сержант	eve - канун
rifle - ружье	advertisement (ad) - реклама
sentry - солдат, часовой	Shrove Tuesday - вторник на масленой неделе
Trooping of the Color - вынос знамени	holly - остролист (рождественское украшение)
domestic traditions - семейные традиции (украшение)	
framed pictures - картины, фотографии в рамках	

Tasks:

1. Imagine that you are to make a report about customs and traditions in Great Britain. While preparing it use the main information. The plan must be available.
2. Ask your group-mate whether she (he) knows anything about such traditions as "Trooping of the Color" and the "Changing of the Guard".
3. Compare: a. domestic traditions in Great Britain and in Russia;
b. Russian and English breakfast.
5. Answer the following questions:
a. What do we have in common as far as domestic traditions are concerned?
b. Why do people shake hands?
6. Make up short dialogues about English and Russian traditions and customs.

ETIQUETTE

Englishmen are naturally polite and are never tired in saying: "Thank you", "I am sorry", "I beg your pardon".

If he follows anyone, who is entering a building or a room, he will hold a door open and they have saying "Ladies first".

Gentlemen always shake hands when they are introduced to each other even if they have to cross a room to do so. Ladies rarely shake hands, when introduced. When a gentleman is introduced to a lady, she generally smiles, bows slightly and says, "How do you do!" It is her place to offer her hand or not, as she chooses. There is a wide distance between rudeness and reserve. One can be Polite and at the same time reserved of matters.

Nearly all rules of English etiquette are to a certain degree elastic. For example, on formal occasions a hostess always stands at the door and a host nearby. Both shake hands with every arrival. On informal occasions they both rise and go forward to greet each guest.

When a visitor is ready to leave he or she simply stands but must not attract the attention of everybody because his (her) going must suggest leaving to others and so start breaking UP of a party. She (he) must simply look for the host or the hostess and say good-bye.

English people don't like displaying their emotions of joy, sorrow. They seem to remain cheerful under difficulties.

They are taught from childhood not to rush for seats in busses and trains, but take queues at bus stops in a quiet and orderly manner. Parents teach their children to sit gracefully.

No lady should cross her knees when wearing knee-length skirts. An arm akimbo is not a graceful attitude nor is twisted spine. The proper way for a lady is to sit in the centre of her chair or slightly sideways in the corner of a sofa. She may lean back, of course, and easily her hands relaxed in her lap, her knees together or if crossed her foot must not be hooked around the chair leg in a vine fashion.

A gentleman may even on very formal occasions lean against the back of his chair but he must give the appearance of sitting on a chair not lying at ease on a sofa.

People should be taught how to wear clothes. Fashion has the power to appear temporarily, but there is one unchanging principle which must be followed by everyone who would be well dressed suitably and not being dressed to a minute and following every turn of the latest fashion blindly. Vulgar clothes are those which are too exaggerated in style or have accessories out of harmony with the dress and the wearer.

All rules of table manners are made to avoid ugliness. To let anyone see what you have in your mouth is offensive; so is to make a noise, to make a mess is disgusting. Elbows are never put on the table while one is eating. There are others table don'ts. **Don't encircle a plate with the left arm while eating with the right hand. Don't push back your plate when finished. Don't lean back and announce, "I am through".** The fact that you have put your fork and spoon down shows that you have finished. **Don't ever put liquid into your mouth if it is already filled with food. Don't wait until all plates are served,** after a few guests have been served, it is perfectly all right to start eating.

If food has been taken into your mouth, no matter how you hate it, you must swallow it. It is offensive to take anything out of your mouth that has been put in it, except dry fish bones and equally dry fruit seeds.

Peaches and other very juicy fruits are peeled and then eaten with the knife and fork, but dry fruits such as apples may be cut and then eaten with fingers. Never wipe hands that have fruit juice on them on a napkin without first using a finger-bowl, because fruit juices leave stains. All juicy or soft fruit or cake is best eaten with a fork or a spoon without getting it all over your fingers. Napkins should match the table linen and lunch napkins must be much smaller than dinner ones.

The bread and butter plate must be put at the left side of each plate just above the forks. They are always removed immediately before dessert with salt-cellars and pepper-boxes. There are a lot of table manners and children are taught by their mothers every day. Teachers explain the order of the lunches service, afternoon teas without dancing and other afternoon parties, parties in the garden, how to set the table and the places and so on and so forth.

Words and Phrases:

slightly . слегка	suitability - удобство
to display _ выражать	blindly - слепо
gracefully . грациозно	accessaries - дополнительные украшения
fullness _ полнота	to exaggerate - преувеличивать
akimbo . подбоченясь	ugliness - уродство, безобразие
sideways . сбоку, боком	offensive - оскорбительный
to lean back - отклониться	disgusting - отвратительный, противный
lap - подол	elbows - локти
to hook around - обвивать	twisted spine - изогнутая, сгорбленная спина
in a vine fashion - как лиана	napkin - салфетка
at ease - свободно	in queue - в очередь

Tasks:

1. Make up short dialogues.
 - a. Imagine that you invited guests to a party. Speak about: a) seating at the table; b) about toasts; c) about table furnishing.
2. Say what information you've learnt from this text.
3. Agree or disagree with the statements:
 - a. The proper selection of guests is the first essential in all entertainments; I b. Very silent people should be sandwiched between good talkers; I c. Dull people should never be put near clever ones.
4. Finish the sentences: I a. If you don't know, whether to put on a ball dress or a dinner dress, wear... ;
b. Whether to wear wool or velvet to a lunch wear... ;
c. The duration of a formal visit should be



New Year and Christmas holiday

The celebration of New Year Eve is one of the oldest rites known to many. Julius Caesar had set January 1 as a starting date of the New Year. The symbol of the incoming year is the New Year Baby and New Year Tree. **The Celebrations** are surprisingly similar to our own ones composed of equal parts of noise, songs and hard drinks. Many people spend New Year's Day resting. That is because they stayed up most of the night greeting the New Year. Some went to parties at friends' homes or at night-clubs. Jolly fellow by the name Santa Claus usually brings gifts

This fellow gets his name from a man known as St. Nickolas. He lived in the North Pole, or may be in the Western Europe, during the fourth century. He gave his wealth to the poor. After he had died his feast day was celebrated with gift giving. The Dutch brought this legend to England and soon his Dutch name "Sinter Klaas" became "Santa Claus".

But Santa Claus begins to visit every house on Christmas Eve. He climbs down the chimney and leaves a lot of presents. Some people leave something for him too: a glass of wine and some biscuits, for example.

Traditionally people decorate their New Year Trees on Christmas Eve. They take down the decorations twelve days later on Twelfth Night.

Hanging wreaths at Christmas probably goes back to an ancient Roman custom of presenting wreaths as gifts.

An old tradition is **Christmas mistletoe**. People put a piece of this green plant with its white berries over the door. They say mistletoe brings good luck. At Christmas British people kiss their friends and family under the mistletoe. There is another tradition on the Eve of Christmas. Some people **light candles** in the window. The Bible says that Mary (Jesus mother) had troubles in finding shelter on the night Jesus was born. Now candles symbolize a welcome to cold and weary travellers.

In Britain the most important meal on December **25th is Christmas dinner**. **Nearly** all the Christmas food is traditional, but a lot of traditions are not very old. For example, there were no turkeys in Britain before 1800. And even in the nineteenth century, goose was the traditional meat at Christmas. But not now. British Christmas dinner is roast turkey with carrots, potatoes, peas, Brussels sprouts. There are sausages and bacon too. Then after the turkey, as usual there's Christmas pudding. Crackers are also usual at Christmas dinner. These came to Britain from China in the nineteenth century.

December 26th is Boxing Day. Traditionally boys from the shop in each town asked for money at Christmas. They went from house to house and took boxes made of wood with them. At each house people gave them money. So, Boxing Day comes from the boys' wooden boxes and is an extra holiday after Christmas Day

St. Valentine's Day. St. Valentine is the saint of people in love, and St. Valentine's Day is February 14th. On that day, people send V.cards and presents to their husbands, wives, boy-friends and girl-friends. One can also send a card to an unknown person. But traditionally it is not recommended to write somebody's name on it. Some British newspapers have a whole page for Valentine's Day messages on February 14th.

April Fool's Day is linked with the whole marvelous business of spring, the «turn of the sun and warmth. In Scotland an old name for April Fool's Day was jKjckoo. For some reasons the cuckoo is a symbol of daftness. The return of the cuckoo and arrival of spring is connected with all this fooling. It is a day for jokes and tricks. All jokes are very old, but still they make people laugh.

In some places tricks are played only in the morning of April 1st. Then, if anyone tries to fool someone later that day, or on the next he is met with these words: **"April Fool is past, and you are the biggest fool at last!"**

Hallowe'en is celebrated on the 31st of October. You are expected to meet witches and ghosts that night. Halloween is an old word for "Hallows Evening", the night before "All Hallows or All Saint's Day".

Guy Fawkes' Day is marked on November 5th. All over the country people build wood fires, or "bonfires", in their gardens. People make guys with straw, old clothes and newspapers. On top of each bonfire is a guy. That's a figure of Guy Fawkes. Who was Guy Fawkes? On November 5th 1605, he tried to kill King James I, but he was caught and beheaded in the Tower of London.

Every August, **Edinburgh** in Scotland has the biggest **art festival** in Europe. There are plays, concerts and exhibitions from countries all over the world. That's the official festival. Hundreds of artists of international reputation from all parts of the world are invited to the Festival. It has risen after World War II.

The Shakespeare Festival in Stratford was held in 1769. It had no particular chronological significance, but it was to become the prelude to all the festivals that followed. A wooden amphitheater was built, two wagons arrived with fireworks, and medals were issued in copper, silver or gold with Shakespeare's likeness on one side. There were ringing of bells, firing of cannons, breakfast in the Town Hall, Speeches, Oratoria in church and so on for three days. Only in 1864 it was decided to produce Shakespeare's plays. Now in the Festival season from April to September people flock to Stratford to pack its theatres.

May 1 was an important day in Middle Ages. In the very early morning young girls went to the fields and washed their faces with dew. They believed this made them very beautiful. Also on May Day the young men of each village tried to win prizes with their bows and arrows. People danced round the maypole. This holiday has nothing in common with May 1st (International Day of Solidarity of Workers).

Words and Phrases:

rite - обряд, ритуал	ghost - приведение
feast - празднество	bonfire - фейерверк
to go back - восходить	prelude - вступление
wreath - венок	fire-work -фейерверк
mistletoe - омела белая	to issue - выпускать
Whit Monday - духов день	cannon - пушка
haggis - бараний рубец	to flock - скапливаться
scone - пшеничная лепешка	dew - роса
bun - сдобная булочка	maypole - майское "дерево"

Tasks:

1. Answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the most popular holiday in Great Britain ?
 - b. What is your hobby?
 - c. What is your favourite holiday?
2. Ask your group-mate about any holiday he(she) likes.
3. Make up short dialogues about English holidays.
4. You are given 5 minutes. Look through the text and speak about the holiday you are fond of.

THE WEEK-END

Most people in Britain work for five days a week from Monday to Friday. Schools, colleges and universities are closed on Saturday and Sunday. The week-end consists of **Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday**. People who stay at home at the week-end try to relax, enjoy themselves.

Week-end starts on **Friday evening** when people leave work and wish each other a nice week-end. Those who work away from home may go home. Some people go away for the week-end. They stay in a hotel or boarding house in the country or at the sea. On Friday night people like to go to a bar for the happy hour, or the theatre. Nowadays it is not "in" to go to all-night parties, they get up early on **Saturday morning**. Saturday morning is the time for cleaning the house, washing the car, doing the laundry. Women usually do housework, sewing and gardening. Saturday morning is a busy time for shopping. On weekdays shops close between 5.30 and 6 p.m. (They are closed on Sundays.) The shops in the centre of big cities usually close at 1 p.m. in the afternoon.

At about one o'clock people go out for lunch. After lunch they go for a walk or do some sports. On Saturday afternoon sporting events take place - football, horse-racing, rugby, cricket and other sports. People either go and watch or sit and watch the sport programmes on television.

Saturday evening is the favourite time for going out: parties, dances or theatre, may be pictures. Some people like to go to watch a band.

Church bells are a typical feature of an English Sunday morning. On **Sunday morning** most people stay in bed till 9 o'clock. Then they have a cup of tea or coffee. They look through the newspapers. Reading Sundays papers is one of the numerous traditions in Britain. There are quite a number of papers which are published weekly on Sundays.

After breakfast most people go for a walk or to the local pub. Usually men go to the pubs alone and their wives and children prepare for brunch*.

At one or 1.30 people have brunch. It is a good time for all the family, when grandparents, parents and children go out to some restaurant and spend an hour or two over brunch. Brunch is a huge meal. They have all sorts of salads, vegetables, chicken, cold meat, pies, fruit, coffee, pudding.

Sunday evenings are rather quiet. Most people prefer to stay at home and watch television or just get ready for Monday. So, they usually have an early night.

* brunch - поздний завтрак.

PUBS IN BRITAIN

Most countries have a national drink. In England it is beer, and the "pub" is a peculiarly English institution.

The pub is the place where people can meet and talk in a friendly atmosphere. It is quite different from bars or cafes in other countries. In cafes people drink coffee and get out. The atmosphere is rather formal. But in pubs there is a general atmosphere of warmth and cosiness.

Every pub has a sign outside with its name. ("The Pig and Whistle", "The Red Lion", "The Duke of Cambridge", etc.). All pubs have one distinctive feature: there is no waiter service there, if you want something you have to go and ask for it at the bar. People usually sit at tables to chat in a small room, called the "bar", but the same term is used for great counter of wood, where people stand and have their drinks.

English people are proud of their traditions, that's why even modern pubs look as if they were several hundred years old. In earlier times people were served only drinks in pubs. Today you can get wine, coffee and some food in them.

The staff of the bar usually knows the regular customers and chat with them. The customers may play different games (the most popular is the game of darts) or just watch TV. Some pubs organize a pub quiz.

Nowadays nearly all pubs are owned by brewery*. The person who runs a pub (he is called "landlord") is employed by the brewery. But in earlier times all pubs were privately owned (they were called "inns"), and people could stay there for the night.

There are two important peculiarities about pubs. One is that they have strictly limited hours of opening. Pubs are usually open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Each local government authority has power to fix its own "licensing hours".

The second peculiarity is that most pubs are divided into at least two separated bars: the public bar and the saloon one.

The difference between them is that the saloon bar is less comfortable.

Children are not allowed inside a pub if the pub has no children's certificate.

TELEVISION IN GREAT BRITAIN

Television is the most popular entertainment in British home life today. In London people have four TV channels: **BBC I, BBC II, ITV = Independent Television (Channel III and Channel IV)**.

The BBC is known for its objectivity in news reporting. The BBC is financed by Payments which are made by all people who have TV-sets. People have to pay the licence fee.

In 1932 the BBC World Service was set up with a licence to broadcast first to Empire and then to other parts of the world. There is no advertising on any BBC programme.

ITV started in 1954. Commercial television gets its money from advertizing. The programmes on this channel are financed by different companies, which do not have anything to do with the contents of these programmes.

* brewery - пивоваренный завод.

ITV news programmes are not made by individual television companies. Independent Television News is owned jointly by all of them. So it has been protected from commercial influence.

There are different types of TV programmes in Great Britain. BBC and ITV start early in the morning. One can watch news programmes, all kinds of chat shows, quiz shows, soap operas, different children's programmes, dramas, comedies and different programmes of entertainment on these channels.

News is broadcasted at regular intervals and there are panel discussions of current events. Broadcasts for schools are produced five days a week during school hours. In the afternoon and early evening TV stations show special pro-grammes for children.

Operas, music concerts and shows are presented at various times. A large part of TV time is occupied by serials.

Britain has two channels (BBC II and Channel IV) for presenting programmes on serious topics, which are watched with great interest by a lot of people. These channels start working on early weekday mornings. But they translate mostly all kinds of education programmes.

Week-end afternoons are devoted to sport. Sport events are usually broadcasted in the evening.

These are the main channels in Great Britain. Only about a fifth of households receive satellite or cable.

LEISURE

The British may be conservative about the times at which they take their holidays. Holidays are much concentrated in the period between mid-July and mid-August. State schools and universities usually have six-eight weeks off in summer from July to the end of August. Industrial workers and employees have two or three weeks holidays, most professional workers have a month or more.

Coasts are the most popular objectives of English people for their annual holiday. But many families are ready to go to new places. They have always been pioneers in travelling far away. Now foreign travel is within reach of most working people and they become familiar with some parts of continental Europe. Many take their cars often with tents or caravans, others travel in groups. As to every day leisure the English are great lovers of competitive sports. Many games are English in origin and they have been adopted to other countries, but cricket has been seriously adopted only in Great Britain. Organized amateur cricket is played between club teams on cities, towns and villages. "Rugger" (rugby football) is played especially in summer. People visit horse races and dog races. The British have a mania for gambling. They can spend the whole day playing roulette or computer games.

Great numbers of people, especially women of middle class and middle age spend much of their leisure time working together for good causes, making clothes or food or collecting money for the benefit of various types of people who are in need. England is famous for its gardens, and most people like gardening.

Dancing is very popular, and there are numerous public dance-halls. They are visited mainly by young unmarried people. Lately night-clubs have spread from London to other towns. They arrange dances and balls as social occasions for their members. Everywhere there are plenty of pubs in which people play darts, talk and drink usually while standing up. Snack bars and espresso coffee bars have great success among young people.

IN THE END

Britain has more living symbols of its past than any other country. It still has a royal family and a small nobility. Its capital, cities and countryside boast of many historic buildings, castles, cathedrals and the rich houses. Every year there are historical ceremonies. These symbols are a true representation of the past.

When looking at Britain today, it is important to remember the great benefits (from the past. No other country has so long a history of political order, going back almost without interruption to the Norman Conquest. Few other countries have enjoyed such long periods of economic and social well-being. The government lays much about maintaining "traditional values", particularly law and order. But future is full of uncertainty.

These doubts resulted from disappointment with lost economic and political power. People are divided concerning the nation future possibilities. Some of them are optimistic and some of them are very pessimistic. They are worried by the weakening of the welfare state, particularly in the educational and health services.

The questions are almost endless, and the answers are neither obvious nor easy.



SUPPLEMENTARY READING

US INFLUENCE ON THE WAY WE SPEAK IS A HOT 'POTAYTO'

By A J McIlroy

The generations are at war over a surge in "Americanisms" entering our every day use of words, according to a survey for the authoritative Longman pronunciation dictionary.

Older people loyal to traditional pronunciation are complaining that the Queen's English is being abused by the young, who prefer "skedule" to schedule the survey says.

The research, the most comprehensive examination to date of the way we pronounce words finds that the young are giving in to the 11 all-pervasive influence of American English already marked by the different pronunciation of "tomato" at home and "tomayto" across the Atlantic.

Of 2,000 people in England, Wales and Scotland questioned on their pronunciation preferences, two-thirds of those aged under 26 referred to schedule as "skedule". This was in sharp contrast to the 95 per cent over 65 years old who insisted on using "schedule" and disapproved of the American influence.

John Wells, professor of phonetics at University College London, who is the dictionary's author, said yesterday that the survey, based on 100 words, had shown a growing trend among the young for Americanism. Those questioned used "veycation", placed the emphasis on PRIN in "princess" and turned "garage" into "guRARGE", stressing the final syllable.

Half of the young pronounced "ogle" as "oggle", while nearly all those over 65 used the traditional "oagle".

Prof. Wells, the world's leading authority on English pronunciation, said there other examples of the older generation's impatience with what was seen to be youthful lack of respect for the Queen's English.

"They are shocked at those under 26 preferring "misCHIEVous" to traditional "Mischievous" and who think that a shopping mall should be pronounced "mawl" and not after "the Ma// " leading to Buckingham Palace, he said.

"The young in their turn laugh at the older ones who don't know how to pronounce gigabyte [starts like giggle]".

He said his research had shown a tendency among young southerners to adopt a northern lilt in pronouncing some words. For example, chance was pronounced "chans" with a flattened vowel by 60 per cent of them while 80 per cent of the over 65s used "chance".

The new edition of Longman pronunciation dictionary is due to appear in November and will contains 80,000 words.

THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH AND THE PRESIDENT'S ENGLISH

The American vocabulary during the 19th century began to be exported abroad, and by the 20th century, with its economic, political and technological prominence in the world, America and its language became one of the greatest

forces for change and the expansion of English, American infiltration of the British Bord stock began before talking films, radio and television were ever thought of, lalthough they have certainly hastened the process.

In recent years many Americanisms have been introduced into British usage: "cafeteria, cocktail, egghead, electrocute, fan". American "radio" has replaced British "wireless". The ubiquitous OK seems to occur more frequently nowadays K England than in the land of its birth and may be found in quite formal situations, Buch as on legal documents to indicate the correctness of details. These and Bther

Americanisms have slipped into British English in the most unobtrusive way, so that their American origin is hardly regarded at all; since they are used by the English, they are "English", and that is all there is to it.

We can cite as firmly established in Standard British English "disk jockey", "natural" (something very suitable), "show business", "star" (popular performer) - all originally from the usage of the world of entertainment, enormously important in Modern America. Most words and usages are frequently borrowed from American English quite unconsciously. Even when they are consciously borrowed, the fact that they are of transatlantic origin is soon forgotten. To recognize American borrowings sometimes means to get a taste of American history and character: abolitionist, automobile, baby-sit, basketball, chewing gum, credit card, electric refrigerator, home-made, know-how and so on and so forth.

Many of the new American words added to the English vocabulary are based on old processes, such as compounding existing words, as in "boyfriend, bookstore, brainstorm". American English also tends to coin and use more freely nouns compounded from a verb and a preposition, such as "blowout, checkup, fallout, feedback", etc. New words are frequently created by shifting the function of an existing word. Nouns are used as verbs: to park, to package, to program, to vacation; adjectives can become nouns: briefs, comics, reds.

The convenient use of noun as verb in "to contract", meaning "to see, call, meet, get in touch with", seems to have originated in America, though it might just as well have done so in England, since there is nothing un-English about such a functional change. But this one word "contract" carries high symbolic importance because there will be no American language, for the simple reason that the Queen's English and the President grow together.

OXFORD

There is an old saying: "Cambridge is always trying to be like Oxford, but it will never be".

Oxford is the oldest, the most prestigious University of the Western civilization.

There are currently 39 colleges that make up the University of Oxford. Like in Cambridge, every college here is an independent institute of higher education, but put together they are referred to as the University of Oxford. It would be right to say that the whole city with all buildings, streets, shops is the university itself.

For almost 900 years the University of Oxford has been teaching both British students and foreigners.

The history of Oxford began in the early 12th century. Before that there was not any institute of higher education in England and everybody who wanted to study went to Europe, usually to France. When the English king Henry II quarreled with the French king, he forbade all English people to study in Paris and they started to gather in Oxford - a small town on the Thames, 88 km from London.

Today the University has about 17,000 students. Every college here is like a little world with its own dining halls, hostels, church, libraries, pubs, museums and bookshops and even its own jargon.

For example, at Christ College the head is called a dean, but at Lincoln College he is a rector, at Balliol College they call him a master. At most colleges the teachers are called "**fellows**", but for some unknown reason they are "**students**" at Christ College, and elsewhere students are called students, but at Merton College they are "**postmasters**".

Oxford is a mixture of traditions and eccentricity.

All colleges are open to visitors during summer months, if you enter the central building and take a look around, you will see gorgeous architecture, elegant furniture and you will understand why here in Britain we say: "Oxford is very aristocratic and rich".

Oxford has the greatest concentration of historic buildings in the UK - 900 per one square kilometer. We will not be able to see everything there is worth seeing in one day.

It is very interesting to visit the University Botanic Garden. It was founded in 1621 and is the oldest garden in Britain. The Garden has the largest plant collection in the world - 90 per cent of the world's plant families.

The University Cathedral of St. Mary is the most visited church in England, it receives about 300,000 visitors a year.

The Oxford Central Library - the oldest and the largest library in Europe - has about 7 million books. The library sprawls across several buildings all of which are masterpieces of architecture. Some reading rooms have not changed for 500 years. Students and scholars still take an oath not to remove books from the buildings.

The Museum of Art and Archaeology with fine collections of Eastern and European art and Middle Eastern archaeology, it was founded in 1683.

The best way to see all interesting places in the city is to take a walk down **the Broad Street** - the central street of Oxford. With every step you plunge deeply into history. A short stroll takes us past the

Observatory where an astronomer Edmund Halley discovered his comet, the library where Christopher Wren drew his plans for St. Paul's Cathedral, the pub where a teacher of English literature J. R. R. Tolkien liked to take a glass of beer after work and wrote his famous trilogy "The Lord of the Rings". And right opposite is there is another pub where Tolkien's fellow C.S. Lewis passed his free time and worked on his books about Narnia.

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge is the second oldest university in the UK after the University of Oxford.

Your visit to Cambridge will be a very interesting experience you will walk around this quiet place and feel a sense of peace and scholarship.

Here you will feel the past, the present and the future at the same time. The story of University goes back to 1209 when several hundred students and scholars arrived in the little town of Cambridge after they had left Oxford. These students and their teachers had to go away from Oxford after a strange accident, a skirmish which left one person killed. The Mayor of Oxford arrested three students and they were sentenced to death. In protest their friends rioted and many of them decided to move to another place. Some teachers supported them and this way the University of Cambridge came into being.

Today Cambridge is a system of faculties, departments, and 31 colleges which are separated from one another but are all parts of one institution of higher education.

The Colleges stand on the banks of the river Cam. If you go through a college gate, you will find yourself in a square the size of which varies from college to college. The square is surrounded by halls of residence where the students live and the lecture halls where they study. There is also a small church - practically every college has its own patron saint - a library and a dining-hall. Since in Britain Church is not separated from the State, religion plays an important role in the system of education. There is a special service in church every Sunday - the attendance is compulsory for all students.

The most famous scientist who worked and taught at Cambridge is undoubtedly Isaac Newton. Among famous graduates of Cambridge are: the leader of the English Revolution Oliver Cromwell, the poet John Milton; the scientist and creator of the evolutionary theory Charles Darwin. Besides, all kings of the reigning Windsor dynasty studied at Cambridge: Edward VII and George VI. Charles, Prince of Wales and heir to the throne of the United Kingdom, graduated from Cambridge in 1970.

At present there are about 11,000 students at Cambridge. In Cambridge you can visit very interesting places: Fitzwilliam Museum, founded in 1816, houses a brilliant collection of archaeological objects; Sedgwick Museum of Geology; Scott Polar Research Institute named after Captain Scott who undertook several expeditions to the South Pole.

And do not forget to visit King's College Church, a 15th century building, famous for the beauty of its architecture.

All in all, to visit Cambridge is very interesting, exciting and mind-broadening!

OXBRIDGE

Oxford and Cambridge are the oldest and most prestigious universities in Great Britain. They are often called collectively Oxbridge. Both universities are

independent. ***Only the education elite go to Oxford or Cambridge.*** Most of their students are former public school leavers.

The normal length of the degree course is three years, after which the students take the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.). Some courses, such as language or medicine, may be one or two years longer. The students may work for other degrees as well. The degrees are awarded at public degree ceremonies. Oxford and Cambridge cling to their traditions, such as the use of Latin at degree ceremonies. Full academic dress is worn at examinations.

Oxford and Cambridge universities consist of a number of colleges. Each college is different, but in many ways they are alike. Each college has its name, its coat of arms. Each college is governed by a Master. The larger ones have more than 400 members, the smallest colleges have less than 30. Each college offers teaching in a wide range of subjects. Within the college one will normally find a chapel, a dining hall, a library, rooms for undergraduates, fellows and the Master, and also rooms for teaching purposes.

There are now twenty-four colleges for men, five for women and another five which have both men and women members, many from overseas studying for higher degrees. Among the oldest colleges are University College, All Souls and Christ Church.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The University of London is a federal University and is one of the oldest, largest and most diverse universities in the UK. Established by Royal Charter in 1836, the University is recognized globally as a world leader in Higher Education.

It consists of 19 self-governing Colleges of outstanding reputation together with the prestigious Institute of the School of Advanced Study and a number of other central academic activities. From its very beginning, the University has been a unique institution. Its Colleges and Institutes each have their own illustrious and distinctive history.

It has an outstanding international reputation for the quality of the teaching and research at our Colleges and Institutes. Whatever you want to study, we offer virtually every subject covered in any university curriculum.

Subjects can be studied at various levels and lead to the award of foundation, undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research degrees, or to diplomas or certificates.

The Colleges of the University differ in size, age and tradition as well as in the courses of study they offer. Some are multi-faculty institutions with large student populations, whilst others are specialist and smaller in size.

The School of Advanced Study brings together the specialized scholarship and resources often acclaimed postgraduate research institutes; it offers opportunities and facilitation for research across and between a wide range of subject fields in the humanities and social sciences.

If you are unable to come to London to study because of work or personal commitments, the University of London External System offers a flexible way to study wherever you are in the world.

The University has a Central Administration which supports the federal University and the central activities.

Academic dress in the University of London has been prescribed since the mid 19th century and has been modified and added to over the years.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

The University of St. Andrews is the oldest university in Scotland and the third oldest in the English-speaking world, having been founded between 1410 and 1413. The University is situated in the town of St. Andrews, in Fife, on the east coast of Scotland. It is a renowned centre for teaching and research and a member of the 1994 Group, a network of smaller research-intensive British universities.

Independent school intake is high, but the university has a widening participation policy. The library and many university departments are spread around the town centre. The town's population of 16,000 is boosted considerably by the University's 8,000 students. St. Andrews is frequently listed among the top universities in the United Kingdom. Until 1967, a large part of the University of St. Andrews was located in the nearby city of Dundee, separating to become the University of Dundee.

The Academic Senate is the supreme academic body for the University. Its members include all Professors of the University, certain senior Readers, a number of Senior Lecturers and Lecturers and three elected student Senate Representatives - one from the Arts/Divinity faculty, one from the Science/Medicine faculty and one postgraduate student. It is responsible for authorizing degree programmes and issuing all degrees to graduates. Another function of the Senate is to discipline students. The President of the Senate is the University Principal.

The University is divided into four academic Faculties: Arts, Divinity, Medicine, Science. Each is governed by a Faculty Council and administered by a Dean. Students apply to become members of a particular faculty, as opposed to any particular school or department.

Students at the university form various societies for academic, social, political, religious and other reasons.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The University of Edinburgh founded in 1582, is a renowned centre for teaching and research in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was the sixth university to be established on the British Isles, making it one of the ancient universities of Scotland. The university is also amongst the largest and most prestigious in the United Kingdom and the world.

In 2002, the University was re-organised from its 9 faculties into three Colleges, and now comprises the College of Humanities And Social Sciences (HSS), Science and Engineering (CSE), and Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (MVM). Within these Colleges are 21 Schools, which are of roughly equal sizes, generally significantly larger than the more-numerous departments they replaced.

There are College of Humanities and Social Science, College of Medicine and College of Science and Engineering in the University.

Edinburgh is considered by some as one of the greenest and most architecturally beautiful cities in Europe often referred to as the "Athens of the North". The University plays an integral role in the city, contributing to its vibrant atmosphere.

Student organizations. "The Student" is a weekly Scottish newspaper produced by students at the University of Edinburgh. Founded in 1887 by author Robert Louis Stevenson, it is the oldest student newspaper in the United Kingdom. It has held the title of Best Student Newspaper in Scotland, awarded by the Herald Student Press Awards, for two years running, having won in 2006 and again in 2007.

Edinburgh University is one of Britain's most successful sporting universities. Student sport consists of 65 clubs from the traditional Football and Rugby to the more unconventional Hot Air Ballooning and Korfball.

There have been many notable alumni and faculty of the university, including Adam Smith, Gordon Brown, Alexander Graham Bell, Charles Darwin, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, David Hume, James Clerk Maxwell, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Michael Atiyah and Ian Wilmot. Lord John Russell also matriculated there but, did not graduate.

THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The University of Glasgow was founded in 1451, in Glasgow, Scotland. It is a renowned centre for teaching and research, with an international reputation, being one of the ancient universities of Scotland, the fourth oldest in the English-speaking world and amongst the largest, and most prestigious seats of learning in Europe. The University has recently been named the Sunday Times Scottish University of the Year, 2007/2008.

Faculties. There are currently nine faculties at Glasgow University. These are: Arts; Biomedical and Life Sciences; education (formed when the university merged with St. Andrews College of Education); Engineering; information and Mathematical Sciences; Law, Business and Social Sciences; Medicine (includes Dentistry and Nursing); Physical Sciences and Veterinary Medicine.

The Veterinary School is perhaps one of Glasgow's most famous faculties.

The Medical School is also one of Glasgow's greatest strengths. Traditionally considered one of the top schools in the UK, it placed first in The Times' 2004 ranking of UK university medical departments.

Students. Unlike other universities in Scotland, Glasgow does not have a single students' association. Instead, representation and welfare services are provided by the Students' Representative Council and students may also join one of two students' unions which provide other services. Every student is automatically represented by the Glasgow University Students' Representative Council (SRC) and has the right to stand for election to this body and elect its members.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The University of Manchester is a university located in Manchester, England. Twenty-three Nobel prize winners have been students or professors at the University of Manchester. Both Rutherford's work in splitting the atom and the first modern computer were developed at Manchester.

According to the The Sunday Times, "Manchester has a formidable reputation spanning most disciplines, but most notably in the life sciences, engineering, humanities, economics, sociology and the social sciences".

The Manchester Business School enjoys triple accreditation by AACSB International, AMBA and EQUIS, an honor held by less than 1% of all business schools worldwide. In 2008, Manchester Business School was ranked by the Financial Times as the number 1 in the world for its doctoral program, and ranked MBS among the top 25 business schools in the world for the third time for its MBA program. The average starting salary of Manchester's MBA graduates is US\$111,774 -one of the highest of European business schools.

Each year, research conducted at the University earns funding of £216 million. The over 40,000 students still enjoy a staff to student ratio of only 4 to 1. More students try to gain entry into the University of Manchester than any other university in the country, with more than 60,000 applications for undergraduate courses alone. With a staff of over 10,000, an annual income of nearly £600 million, and over 500 academic programs offered, it is the largest single-campus University in the United Kingdom.

The University of Manchester is a member of the Russell Group and was named University of the Year 2006. This followed the awarding of the inaugural Times Higher Education Supplements University of the Year prize in 2005.

University today. The newly merged University of Manchester was officially launched on 22 October 2004 when the Queen 'handed over the Royal Charter. It has the largest number of full-time students in the UK, unless the University of London is counted as a single university. It teaches more academic subjects than (any other British University. One of the stated ambitions of the newly combined university is to 'establish it by 2015 among the 25 strongest research universities in the world on commonly accepted criteria of research excellence and performance'.

Manchester has the largest total income of all UK universities, standing at £640 million as of 2007. Its research income of £200 million is the fifth largest of any university in the country. Despite its size The University of Manchester is divided into only four faculties, each sub-divided into schools: Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences consisting of the Schools of Medicine', Dentistry, Nursing, Midwifery and

Social Work, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; and Psychological Sciences, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Life Sciences.

FIVE DIFFERENT WASHINGTONS

There are at least five different Washingtons and each has its supporters who earnestly believe that theirs is the only true Washington.

The first is **Washington-the-Capital**, an official city of great monuments and memorials, of vast bureaucracies housed in buildings of neoclassical or modern Congressional Grotesque design. Over 43 per cent of the land of the District is occupied by the Federal Government. This is the Washington of the Federal reservation.

The second is Old Washington, the sleepy Southern town of ceiling fans, sleeping porches, devoted Negro servants and old families who were actually born here. Old Washington is dying off now.

The third is **Washington-the-Town-of-Terror**, "**The Crime Capital of the World**", a horror of racial mixing producing violence too terrible to speak of.

The fourth Washington is University-Washington, largely low-income and low-education, though the city has a relatively large number of professional and middle-to-upper-income Negro families. But the majority of the Negro population lives in badly over-crowded row houses, its children go to decrepit schools, separated from and largely unseen by the other Washingtons.

Rock Creek Park is a symbol of the town's deep division. It is a wooded area of 2,000 acres that runs from the center of the city to Negroes fill the picnic tables, nature center and groves of the park, Negro community calls the park sometimes "The Chinese Wall" and sometimes "The Iron Curtain". For all practical purposes the community on one side of the park is white and upper income, on the other, black and lower income.

FAMOUS AMERICAN ART MUSEUMS

New York and Washington, leading centre in the USA, have several distinguished art museums forming the nucleus of a great national collection.

Many works by leading American artists can be viewed in the Museum of **Modern Art** in New York City which has come to represent the "establishment" in the 20th century art. Its original collection of modern art, daily film programmes and sculpture garden, with works by Robin and Matisse, have been discussed for many years. Its collection of Picasso painting and sculpture is the best to be seen on that side of the Atlantic. It is home of some of Matisse's most exquisite interiors, some of the most exciting Gauguins and Chagalls. There is an extensive display of the constructivist movement led by Malevich, and a collection of surrealist masterpieces.

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Gallery, opened in Washington in 1974, traces the evolution of art from the birth of modernism in the 19th century through the most challenging explorations by the artists working today. The core of the Hirshhorn's collection was the gift of Joseph H. Hishhorn, a financier, philanthropist and art collector. He called his gift of art "a small repayment for as immigrants". The museum's exhibitions focus on individual artists, artistic movements and developments in contemporary art. The late 19th century American realist painter Thomas Eakins is especially well represented in the collection.

The most interesting museums of the Smithsonian Institution are **the National Museum of American Art and National Gallery** of variety of art works were acquired for a future national collection. The museum reflects the nation's diversity over 250 years and contains a collection of 35, 000 paintings, graphics, folk art and photographs of such American artists as Washington Homer, Jacob Lawrence and others, featuring American life from the period of widespread westward expansion. The 19th century landscape tradition is represented by Thomas Cole, Frederick Edwin Church, and Albert Bierstadt. One of its highlights are the three panoramic views of the American West by Thomas Moran.

The National Gallery of Art was created for the people of the United States by a joint resolutions of Congress. Located in the heart of the nation's capital, the building was designed by architect John Russell Pope to implement a dream long held by its donor, the financier and art collector Andrew W. Mellon. Mellon started to collect paintings early in life and brought together a superb collection of art. The paintings and sculptures given by the founder, including works by the greatest masters of the 13th through the 19th centuries, have formed a nucleus around which the collection have grown. He believed that the gallery should bear not his name, but the nation's, and that its collections should grow through gifts of art from private citizens. Mellon's hope was soon realized in the form of major donations from Samuel and Rush Kress, Chester Dale, Edgar William and many others. Today the Gallery contains one of the world's finest collections of European and American paintings, sculpture and graphic arts, among which are masterpieces by Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, Monet, Degas, Picasso, Dali, Moore.

One of the largest and most comprehensive in the world is the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. It was founded by civic leaders, philanthropists and art collection. In 1866 a group of Americans in Paris gathered to celebrate the 4th of July. John Jay, a prominent lawyer, proposed to create a

"national institution and gallery of art". During the next four years they convinced American public to support the project and in 1870 the museum was opened. Its collections number nearly three million objects in every known artistic medium representing Cultures from every part of the world, from ancient times to the present. Popularly known as the Met, the museum is one of the most famous tourist attractions in the city. It is also a major educational institution offering a wide array of programmes for children and adults. The Museum's collection of American art is the most comprehensive in the world. Contemporary American art became a particular concern for the museum when in 1906 and 1911 George A. Hearn donated funds specifically designed for the acquisition of painting by living American artists. They have been the basis upon which the Met's collection of modern American paintings has been formed. The vast collection of American art includes paintings, sculpture, furniture, silverware, glass, ceramics, textiles and 25 unique period rooms featuring art from various time periods throughout American history.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Harvard University is the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States, founded 16 years after the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. Harvard College was established in 1636 by vote of the Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and was named for its first benefactor, John Harvard of Charlestown, a young minister who, upon his death in 1638, left his library and half his estate to the new institution.

During its early years, the College offered a classic academic courses based on the English university model, but consistent with the prevailing Puritan philosophy of the first colonists. Although many of its early graduates became ministers in Puritan congregations throughout New England, the College was never formally affiliated with a specific religious denomination. An early brochure, published in 1643, justified the College's existence: "To advance Learning and perpetuate it to Posterity: dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the Churches".

The 1708 election of John Leverett, the first president who was not also a clergyman, marked a turning of the College toward intellectual independence from Puritanism.

In the 17th century, Harvard University established the Indian College to educate Native Americans, but it was not a success and disappeared by 1693.

Between 1830 and 1870 Harvard became "privatized". While the Federalists controlled state government, Harvard had prospered, but the 1824 defeat of the federalist party in Massachusetts allowed the nascent Democratic-Republicans to block state funding of private universities. By 1870, the politicians and ministers that, heretofore, had made up the university's board of overseers had been replaced by Harvard alumni drawn from Boston's upper-class business and professional community and funded by private endowment.

During the twentieth century, Harvard's international reputation grew as a burgeoning endowment and prominent professors expanded the university's scope. Explosive growth in the student population continued with the addition of new graduate schools and the expansion of the undergraduate program. Radcliffe College, established in 1879 as sister school of Harvard College, became one of the most prominent school for women in the United States.

In the decades immediately after the Second World War, Harvard reformed its admissions policies as it sought from a more diverse applicant pool. Whereas Harvard "feeder schools" such as Exeter and Andover, increasing numbers of international, minority, and working-class students had, by the late 1960s, altered the ethnic and socio-economic makeup of the college. Nonetheless, Harvard's undergraduate population remained predominantly male, with about four men attending Harvard and Radcliffe admissions in 1977, the proportion of female undergraduates steadily increased, mirroring a trend throughout higher education in the United States. Harvard's graduate schools, which had accepted females and other groups in greater numbers even before the college, also became more diverse in the post-war period.

Today, Harvard is considered to be one of a handful of the world's premier centers of higher learning.

Harvard today has nine faculties, namely: the Faculty of Arts and Sciences I and its sub-faculty, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Harvard I Division of Continuing Education, including Harvard Extension School and Harvard Summer School, the Faculty of Medicine, including the Medical School and the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School. Harvard has several athletic facilities.

The Harvard University Library System, centered in Widener Library in Harvard Yard and comprising over 80 individual libraries and over 15 million volumes, is considered the fourth largest library collection in the world, after the Library of Congress, the British Library, and the French Bibliothèque Nationale. Harvard describes its library as the "largest academic library in the world" and prides itself for being the only one of the world's five "mega-libraries" to have open stacks.

The US News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges 2008" ranked Harvard as the most selective undergraduate college in the United States, and second in rank of the best national universities.

YALE UNIVERSITY

Yale University is a private university in New Haven, Connecticut. Founded in 1470 as the Collegiate School, Yale is the third-oldest institution of higher education in the United States and is a member of the Ivy League. Yale has educated five US presidents as well as many foreign heads of state. In 1861, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences became the first US school to award the Ph. D.

The university's assets include a \$17 billion endowment (the second-largest of any academic institution) and more than a dozen libraries that hold a total of 12.5 million volumes (making it according to Yale, the world's second-largest university library system). Yale has 3,300 faculty members, who teach 5,300 undergraduate students and 6,000 graduate students. Yale offers 70 undergraduate majors: few of the undergraduate departments are pre-professional. About 45% of Yale undergraduates major in the arts and humanities, 35% in the social sciences, and 20% in the sciences. All tenured professors teach undergraduate courses, more than 2,000 of which are offered annually. Yale's graduate programs include those in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences -covering 53 disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, biology, physical sciences, and engineering - and those in the Professional Schools of Architecture, Art, Divinity, Drama, Forestry & Environmental Sciences, Law, Management, Medicine, Music, Nursing, and Public Health.

Yale's residential college housing system is modeled after those of Oxford and Cambridge. Each residential college houses a cross-section of the under-1 graduate student body and has its own facilities, seminars, resident faculty and graduate fellows.

Yale and Harvard have been rivals in academics, rowing, and football for most of their history, competing annually in The Game and the Harvard-Yale Regatta.

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

California Institute of Technology (shortly Caltech) was founded in 1891 by Amos Troup as college in Pasadena, state California. One can say that the transformation from college to California Institute of Technology was started owing to astronomer George Hail, came to Pasadena in 1907 as the first director of the Observatory on Wilson Hill. He decided to make Pasadena the centre of scientific work and built well occupied laboratories. Then he invited two American scientists (chemist Artur Noise and physicist Robert Milliken) to become professors of Caltech. In 1925 Institute added geological faculty in division of humanities. In addition in 1926 aeronautics faculty was found. One may stress that biological faculty was found by Tomas Morgan, he was the discoverer of a chromosome.

So, now California Institute of Technology is one of the main universities in the USA, specializing on exact sciences and engineering. It is considered, that education in Caltech is more difficult than in many other institutes because the students are to learn huge amount of information in a short term.

Caltech is divided into six divisions, which include specializations. For example: Divisions of biology, chemistry, engineering (it includes: aeronautics, materials technology, civil engineering and others), geology, physics, math and astronomy and so on. One can say that the academic year consists of three terms. And in contrast to students of other universities, Caltech students have five courses. In addition specializations are not divided into "majors" and "minors". Each student can specialize in one or two subjects from different divisions. One may stress that collective execution among students their homework is allowed and countenanced. Many students take part in research work.

One can say that Caltech students have many yearly traditions. For example, in every Halloween students drop pumpkins frozen in liquid nitrogen from the highest place on the campus. Other interesting tradition is the Absence day. On this day 4th year students move off, leaving by doors different mechanical, electrical and computer devices and tasks, which must be solved by students so as to enter by the door. And this day professors cancel all classes.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton University is a private research university located in Princeton, New Jersey, United States. The school is one of the eight universities of the Ivy League and is considered one of the Colonial Colleges. It is ranked 8th internationally in the Academic studies.

In 1746 at Elizabeth, New Jersey, as the College of Jersey, it was moved to Newark in 1747, then to Princeton in 1756 and renamed "Princeton University" in 1896. (The present-day The College of New Jersey in nearby Jersey, is an unrelated institution.)

Princeton was the fourth institution of higher education in the US to conduct classes. The university, unlike most American universities that were founded at the same time, did not have an official religious affiliation. At one time, it had close ties to Presbyterian Church, but today it makes no religious demands of its students. The university has ties with the Institute Advanced Study, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Westminster Choir College Rider.

Princeton University has traditionally focused on undergraduate education, although it has almost 2,500 graduate students enrolled. A unique blend of research university and liberal arts, Princeton does not offer professional schooling generally, but it does offer professional Master's degrees (mostly through the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs) and doctoral programs in the , sciences, humanities, and social sciences, as well as engineering.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is a private research university located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States. MIT has five schools and one college, containing a total of 32 academic departments, with a strong emphasis on scientific and technological research. MIT is one of two private land-grant universities and is also a sea-grant and space-grant university.

Founded by William Barton Rogers in 1861 in response to the increasing industrialization of the United States, the university adopted the German university model and emphasized laboratory instruction from an early date. Rogers sought to establish a new form of higher education to address the challenges posed by rapid advances in science and technology during the mid-19th century with which classic institutions were ill-prepared to deal. The Rogers Plan, as it came to be known, reflected the German research university model emphasizing an independent faculty engaged in research as well as instruction oriented around seminars and laboratories. Rogers proposed that this new form of education be rooted in three principles: ***the educational value of useful knowledge, the necessity of "learning by doing", and integrating a professional and liberal arts education at the undergraduate level.*** Its current 168-acre (68.0 ha) campus opened in 1916 and extends over 1 mile (1.6 km) along the northern bank of the Charles River basin. MIT researchers were involved in efforts to develop computers, radar, and inertial guidance in connection with defense research during World War II and the Cold War. In the past 60 years, MIT's educational programs have expanded beyond the physical sciences and engineering into social sciences like economics, philosophy, linguistics, political science, and management.

MIT enrolled 4,172 undergraduates, 6,048 postgraduate students, and employed 1,008 faculty members in the 2007/08 school year. Its endowment and annual research expenditures are among the largest of any American university. 73 Nobel Laureates, 47 National Medal of Science recipients, and 31 MacArthur Fellows are currently or have previously been affiliated with the university.

Organization and administration. MIT is chartered as a non-profit organization and is owned and governed by a privately-appointed board of trustees known as the MIT Corporation. The current board, with 74 members drawn from scientific, engineering, industry, education, and public service leaders, is chaired by Dana G. Mead. The corporation approves the budget, new programs, degrees, and faculty appointments as well as electing the President to serve as the chief executive officer of the university and presiding over the Institute's faculty.

MIT is "a university polarized around science, engineering, and the arts. "It has five schools (Science, Engineering, Architecture and Planning, Management, and Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) and one college (Whitaker College of Health Sciences and Technology), but no schools of law or medicine. The chair of each of MIT's 32 academic departments reports to the dean of that department's school, who in turn reports to the Provost under the President. However, faculty committees assert substantial control over many areas of MIT's curriculum, research, student life, and administrative affairs.

Classes. Undergraduates are required to complete an extensive core curriculum called the General Institute Requirements (GIRs). The science requirement, generally completed during freshman year as prerequisites for classes in science and engineering majors, comprises two semesters of physics classes covering classical mechanics and electricity and magnetism, two semesters of math covering single variable calculus and multivariable calculus, one semester of chemistry, and one semester of biology. Undergraduates are required to take a laboratory class in their major, eight Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) classes (at least three in a concentration and another four unrelated subjects), and non-varsity athletes must also take four physical education classes. In May 2006, a faculty recommended that the current GIR system be simplified with changes to the science, HASS, and Institute Lab requirements.

Although the difficulty of MIT coursework has been characterized as "drinking from a fire hose," the failure rate and freshmen retention rate at MIT are similar to other large research universities. Some of the pressure for first-year undergraduates is lessened by the existence of the "pass/no-record" grading system. In the first (fall) term, freshman transcripts only report if a class was passed while no external record exists if a class was not passed. ***In the second (spring) term***, passing grades (ABC) appear on the transcript while non-passing grades are again rendered "no-record".

Most classes rely upon a combination of faculty led lectures, graduate student led recitations, weekly problem sets (p-sets), and tests to teach material, though alternative curricula exist, e.g. Experimental Study Group, Concourse, and Terra-scope. Over-time, students compile "bibles", collections of problem set and examination questions and answers used as references for later students.

Research. MIT employs approximately 3,500 researchers in addition to faculty. MIT faculty and researchers disclosed 487 inventions, filed 314 patent applications, received 149 patents, and earned \$129.2 million in royalties and other

income. The GNU project and free software movement originated at MIT. In electronics, magnetic core memory, radar, single electron transistors, and inertial guidance controls were invented or substantially developed by MIT researchers.

Traditions and student activities. The faculty and student body highly value meritocracy and technical proficiency. MIT has never awarded an honorary degree nor does it award athletic scholarships, or Latin honors upon graduation. However, MIT has twice awarded honorary professorships; to Winston Churchill in 1949 and Salman Rushdie in 1993.

Current students and alumni wear a large, heavy, distinctive class ring known as the "Brass Rat." Originally created in 1929, the ring's official name is the "Standard Technology Ring." The undergraduate ring design (a separate graduate student version exists as well) varies slightly from year to year to reflect the unique character of the MIT experience for that class, but always features a three-piece design, with the MIT seal and the class year each appearing on a separate face, flanking a large rectangular bezel bearing an image of a beaver. The initialism IHTFP, representing the formal school motto and jocularly euphemized as "I have truly found paradise", "Institute has the finest professors", and other variations, is featured on the ring given its historical prominence in student culture.

Faculties. MIT has 1,008 faculty members, of whom 195 are women and 172 are minorities. Faculty is responsible for lecturing classes, advising both graduate and undergraduate students, and sitting on academic committees, as well as conducting original research. 25 MIT faculty members have won the Nobel Prize. Among current and former faculty members, there are 51 National Medal of Science and Technology recipients, 80 Guggenheim Fellows, 6 Fulbright Scholars, 29 MacArthur Fellows, 5 Dirac Medal winners, 5 Wolf Prize winners, and 4 Kyoto Prize winners. Faculty members who have made extraordinary contributions to their research field as well as the MIT community are granted appointments as Institute Professors for the remainder of their tenures.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Stanford University or Stanford, is a private research university located in Stanford, California, United States. Stanford was founded in 1885 by former California governor and senator Leland Stanford and his wife, Jane Lathrop Stanford, as a memorial to their son Leland Stanford Jr., who died of typhoid in Europe a few weeks before his 16th birthday. The Stanfords used their farm lands to establish the university hoping to create a large institution in California.

Stanford enrolls about 6,700 undergraduate and about 8,000 graduate students from the United States and around the world every year. Its graduates are famous all over the world. They have founded companies like Hewlett-Packard, Sun Microsystems, Nvidia, Yahoo, Cisco Systems, Silicon Graphics and Google.

Stanford University is a tax-exempt corporate trust owned and governed by a privately-appointed 35-member Board of Trustees. Trustees serve for five-year term (not more than two consecutive terms) and meet five times annually.

The Board appoints a President to serve as the chief executive officer of the university and proscribe the duties of professors and course of study, manage financial and business affairs, and appoint nine vice president posts.

The university is organized into seven schools: School of Humanities and Sciences, School of Engineering, School of Earth Sciences, School of Education, Graduate School of Business, Stanford Law School and the Stanford University School of Medicine. Stanford University is a large, highly residential research university with a majority of enrollments coming from graduate and professional students. The Stanford University Libraries hold a collection of more than eight million volumes. The main library in the SU library system is Green Library.

Stanford University is the home to the Cantor Center for Visual Arts museum with 24 galleries, sculpture gardens, terraces, and a courtyard first established in 1891 by Jane and Leland Stanford as a memorial to their only child. Notably, the Center possesses the largest collection of Rodin works outside of Paris, France.

Stanford is considered to be one of the best universities in the world. The Stanford Law School is ranked second in the nation while its Education School and Business School are both ranked first. Stanford School of Medicine is currently ranked eighth in research according to US News & World Report. Stanford's current community of scholars includes: 18 Nobel Prize laureates; 135 members of the National Academy of Sciences.

OPEN UNIVERSITY (OU)

The Open University (OU) is the United Kingdom's only university dedicated to distance learning. There are around 150,000 undergraduate and more than 30,000 postgraduate students. 10,000 of our students have disabilities. The Open University's style of teaching is called supported open learning. Nearly all students are studying part-time. About 70 per cent of undergraduate students are in full-time employment. More than 50,000 students are sponsored by their employers for their studies. 11,000 people are currently studying for OU Higher Degrees. Most OU courses are available throughout Europe. Some of them are available in many other parts of the world. More than 25,000 OU students live outside the UK. A third of the UK undergraduate students have entry qualifications lower than those normally demanded by other UK universities.

The mission of the Open University is open to people, places, methods and ideas.

It promotes educational opportunity and social justice by providing high-quality university education to all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential.

Through academic research, pedagogic innovation and collaborative partnership it seeks to be a world leader in the design, content and delivery of supported open and distance learning.

The Open University was the world's first successful distance teaching university.

Born in the 1960s, the 'White Heat of Technology' era, the Open University was founded on the belief that communications technology could bring high qual-

ity degree-level learning to people who had not had the opportunity to attend campus universities.

New methods of learning also came to the fore with the rapid growth in the use of computers. New study methods were added to the multi-media mix.

In times of fast-changing technology, e-learning methods were incorporated into most of the university's courses, where such methods best met students' needs. As part of its commitment to educating all, the university began to commission peak-time series for broadcast on BBC TV.

The 1990s were a time for celebration too: 1998 saw the 25th anniversary of the university's first graduation ceremony and the conferment of the university's 200,000th graduate.

Today more than 180,000 students are interacting with the OU online from home.

- Each week, 25,000 students view their academic records online.
- When exam results were available, 85,000 students viewed them online
- The student guidance website receives 70,000 page hits per week.
- The Open Library receives more than 2.5 million page views each year.
- 110,000 students use the conferencing system.
- There are 16,000 conferences, of which 2,000 are organised and moderated by students themselves.

This intensity of usage allows colleagues to do pioneering research on the most effective approaches to online teaching and learning that gives the OU world leadership in this field.

The Open University's style of teaching is called 'supported open learning', also known as 'distance learning'.

Open learning means that you will be learning in your own time by reading course material, working on course activities, writing assignments and perhaps working with other students.

Supported means support from a tutor and the student services staff at Regional Centres, as well as from centralised areas such as the Library or Open University Students Association.

Some courses include a residential or day school. These are held at various times and locations.

Many courses also include:

- tutorials, often held at your local Regional Centre,
- residential or day school, held at a variety of locations.

Tutorials are a good idea as they give you a chance to meet your tutor and some fellow students, but they aren't usually compulsory. Residential or day schools may be a required component to pass the course.

Most courses last for 6 or 9 months, so you will usually find that you are away, on holiday, or busy with other things for some part of the course. You'll do better if you try to get ahead so that you do some planned activities early, before you go

away, rather than trying to catch up when you return. If you fall behind, contact your tutor who will help you decide how best to get back on track.

Your tutor will support your progress throughout the course. You will receive details of your tutor around the course start date.

Your tutor will be an expert in the subject and appreciates what it is like to study at a distance.

Your tutor will support you by:

- Correspondence tuition. Your tutor will mark your course assignments and give you written feedback. Think of this as a way of using your tutor's expertise to further your knowledge and develop your learning skills.

- Tutorial support. For many courses, your tutor will arrange tutorial support for a small group of students. This support may be face to face, online or by phone, depending on the course and the circumstances of the group.
- Individual assistance by phone, in writing or by e-mail. Your tutor will explain when and how to make contact so do get in touch when you need help.



IVY LEAGUE

The Ivy League is an athletic conference comprising eight private institutions of higher education in the Northeastern United States. The term is most commonly used to refer to those eight schools considered as a group. The term also has connotations of academic excellence, selectivity in admissions, and social elitism.

Brown University. In Deo Speramus(In God We Hope)

Columbia University. In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen(In Thy light shall we see the light)

Cornell University. I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.

Dartmouth College. Vox clamantis in deserto(A voice crying in the wilderness, The voice of one crying in the wilderness)

Harvard University. Veritas(Truth)

Princeton University .Dei sub numine viget(Under God's power she flourishes)

University of Pennsylvania. Leges sine moribus vanae(Laws without morals are useless)

Yale University. Lux et veritas(Light and truth)

The term became official, especially in sports terminology, after the formation of the NCAA Division I athletic conference in 1954, when much of the nation polarized around favorite college teams. The use of the phrase is no longer limited to athletics, and now represents an educational philosophy inherent to the nation's oldest schools. In addition, Ivy League schools are often viewed by the public as some of the most prestigious universities worldwide and are often ranked amongst the best universities in the United States and worldwide. The

eight institutions are Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University.

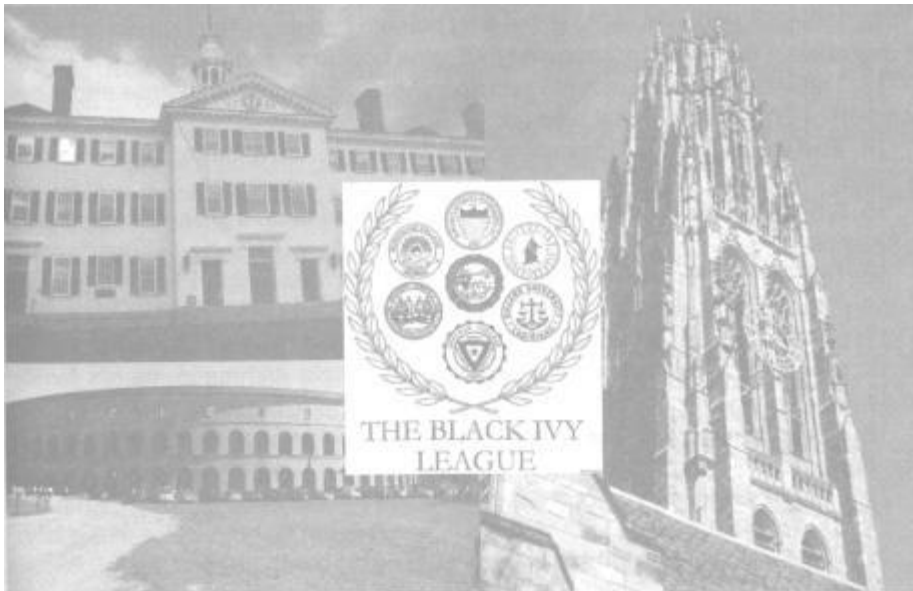
The Ivy League exists already in the minds of a good many of those connected with football, and we fail to see why the seven schools concerned should be satisfied to let it exist as a purely nebulous entity where there are so many practical benefits which would be possible under definite organized association. The seven colleges involved fall naturally together by reason of their common interests and similar general standards and by dint of their established national reputation they are in a particularly advantageous position to assume leadership for the preservation of the ideals of intercollegiate athletics.

The Ivy League is a group of old and very respected universities in the eastern part of the US.

The Ivy League colleges are generally considered to be some of the most respected and impressive places to study in the US. They claim to offer a very high standard of education, and they tend to choose their students very carefully. Most of the students who are accepted at these colleges have earned very high grades in high school, have very impressive skills and talents in sports, music, etc., have a parent or relative who went to the same college, or come from a rich or successful family.

Graduates from the Ivy League tend to become successful, powerful people in the US society, especially in professions such as law, politics and business.

Ivy League colleges are also some of the oldest, most expensive, and most traditional institutions in the US. Because of this, they are sometimes considered to be proud of their high social position.



REVISE YOUR GRAMMAR

1. The part of the country constituting the order 48 states and the district of Columbia is collectively referred to as the conterminous United States; the conterminous United States and the state Alaska are collectively referred to as the continental United States.
2. The United States is one of the few countries that has no "official" national language, or languages.
3. English is the common language by use, but it is not the national language by law.
4. The Americans are really a nation of nations, and the USA is the country where all the principal languages are spoken.
5. There are three levels of government in the US - federal, state, and local.
6. The Congress's main function is to make laws and to finance the operations of the Government.
7. The President appoints the department heads, who together make up the President's Cabinet, or advisers.
8. There are several levels of federal courts, the US Supreme Court being the highest tribunal.
9. The US Supreme Court has nine members, who are appointed for life.
10. There are state senators and representatives and state court systems.
11. On July 4, 1776, when the American colonies were fighting a war against England, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution, which has come to be known as the Declaration of Independence.
12. Thomas Jefferson wrote to the king that the people in America did not want to pay taxes if they were not allowed to decide how to spend them.
13. The letter declared that the people in America wanted to be free and independent of England from that time on.
14. The United States Constitution was written in 1787, but it came into use in 1789.
15. Since then the 4th of July has been considered to be a great public holiday in America.
16. But when his country needed him, George Washington left his "Mount Vernon", the house, which he loved so much.
17. He was elected twice, but he refused to be the Presedent for a third time.
18. Lincoln was taught reading, writing and simple arithmetic, as his family could not afford better education.
19. When the war was over, Lincoln issued a proclamation to say that slavery was abolished.
20. The President arrived at the theatre when the play had already begun.
21. Capitol is situated on the Capitol Hill, which is the highest place in the city.
22. There is a law that forbids to build houses higher than the Capitol.
23. The NASA Museum is devoted to the US achievements in the exploration of space.
24. There is the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. which was built between 1941-43.
25. One can see the famous cherry trees there which are the gift from Japan.
26. If you want to learn the history of America you have to learn something about the Liberty Bell which is a symbol of freedom.

27. If you arrive by air, you pass through the passport control at John Kennedy airport.
28. Washington Square is the place, where modern NYC begins, with its parallel rows of buildings, enclosed into blocks by avenues and streets.
29. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has rich collections, which reflect the history of world art from ancient civilizations to the present day and include hundreds of world-famous masterpieces.
30. If you should happen after dark to find yourself in Central Park, ignore the paths, hurry to the zoo and creep into the tiger's cage.
31. Los Angeles is not only an industrial center, but also a large cultural center.
32. The town when seen from above produces a silvery impression because for many years the Municipal Authorities made the people paint their houses white or silvery shades.
33. There are several towns in California bearing such names as Sevastopol, Odessa, Kiev, Volga, Kremlin and others.
34. The high daily consumption of newspapers in the country is partly due to the fact that the term "daily" covers both morning and evening newspapers and that most people buy both.
35. "New York Times", "Washington Post" and "Wall Street Journal" are considered to be the quality newspapers.
36. When the American goes to the pictures, he expects to see a large program.
37. There is a parking ground near big cinemas in the US.
38. For those who want to see a film without leaving the car there are drive-in cinemas.
39. There are films based on novels and films which describe historical events.
40. But there are also second-rate films, which critics call stupid.
41. There were several reasons why film makers went to Hollywood.
42. One result of this high divorce rate is that many American children live in single-parent families.
43. Although some women wait until their thirties to have their first child, other women become mothers while they are still teen-agers.
44. In the traditional family, the wife stayed home with the children while the husband earned money.
45. The percentage of Americans owning the houses and apartments they live in is the highest among western nations.
46. Spring means that the storm windows must be taken down in those areas, where it gets cold in winter.
47. As soon as autumn leaves begin to fall, they must be raked, and the storm windows need to be ready and put up again.
48. There is always something that needs to be done around the house, and most American home owners do it themselves.
49. The young men and women who pack the groceries are almost always neighborhood teen-agers who work part-time.
50. In many American families children are expected to help around the house.
51. Many American middle-class families expect their children to find part-time jobs especially as they enter their teens.
52. Most of these teen-agers are working because their families can't afford buying things for them.
53. Americans feel that young people should appreciate the value of work and learn how to stand on their own two feet.
54. Most Americans expect their children to leave home at an earlier age than do parents in many other western countries.
55. There are different clubs and public service organizations, many of them related to charitable work.
56. Today baseball is very fast and exciting game and each year seems to grow more popular in the US.
57. Each of the large cities the US is represented by a team carrying its name.
58. But statistics says that bicycling, fishing, swimming, jogging and gymnastics are American's favourite participatory sports.
59. Fast food now prevails, but a lot of Americans began to think seriously about their physical state.
60. Since the Constitution does not state that education is a responsibility of the federal government, all educational matters are left to the individual states.
61. High school students are often involved in non-academic activities that their school offers.
62. Parents must view schools as a place where their children can gain skills and experience.
63. Those children who come from families with better-educated parents often have advantage over those who don't.
64. From elementary school through college Americans believe that everyone deserves an equal opportunity to get a good education.
65. There are two main types of higher education: state (or public) and private.
66. The highest body of a college or university is traditionally the board of directors, whose members come from outside the institution and belong to industry or the world of finance.

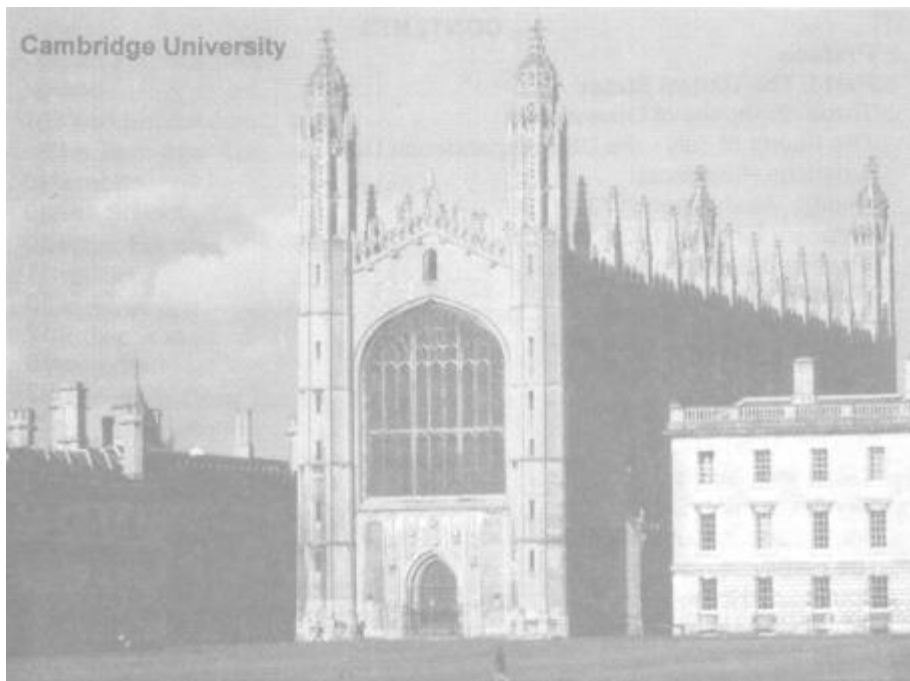
67. The president, elected by the board of trustees, is responsible for the administrative running of the institution.
68. Many institutions of higher education select candidates either on results in the high school diploma or through an entrance examination.
69. Many universities publish the average scores achieved on these tests by students they admit.
70. Computer laboratories are also often used for science and for language drill.
71. Achievements are measured by grades, which are given on papers and tests during the course of the semester and a final examination at the end of the term.
72. The final grade is based on all the work done for the course.
73. Students and lecturers must work hard, if they want good marks.
74. College and university campuses are often spread out over the towns in which they are situated.
75. Although the United States is young compared to other countries, its culture and traditions are rich because of the contributions made by many groups of people who have come to its shores over the past two centuries.
76. Sometimes people have masquerade balls, where guests dressed up in costumes and cover their faces with masks.
77. Many families and friends watch television together enjoying the Tournament of Roses parade preceding the Rose Bowl football game in Pasadena, California.
78. In most cultures, people promise to be better, to change their lives in the following year.
79. St.Valentines Day has roots in several different legends that have found their way to us through the ages.
80. Another Valentine was an Italian bishop who lived at about the same time.
81. Some legends say he was burned at the stake.
82. Americans of all ages love to send and receive "valentines".
83. Hand-made "valentines", created by cutting hearts out of colored paper, show that a lot of thought was put into making them personal.
84. After the students read their "valentines" they have a small party with refreshments.
85. Traditionally, many celebrants bought new clothes for Easter, which they wore to church.
86. Other children will give their mothers gifts which they have made themselves or bought in stores.
87. It is a interesting to point out that the United States did not even have a standardized flag until 1912.
88. Others say the first Father's Day ceremony was held in Vancouver, Washington State.
89. The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has an official day on which their children honor fathers.
90. When children can't visit their fathers or take them out to dinner, they send a greeting card.
91. Traditionally fathers prefer greeting cards that are not too sentimental.
92. Labor Day was originally established to honour workers.
93. The neighbors' must either give them a treat (usually sweets) or the children will play a trick on them.
94. November 1st is a religious holiday known as All Saints' Day.
95. The following spring, the Indians taught them how to grow corn (maize), a new food for the colonists.
96. The colonists had learned how to cook cranberries and different kinds of corn and squash dishes from the Indians.
97. It was George Washington who suggested the date November 26 as Thanksgiving Day.
98. The President must proclaim that date as the official celebration.
99. Even if they live far away, family members gather for a reunion at the house of an older relative.
100. To people all over the world Christmas is a season of giving and receiving presents.
101. It is believed that it brings good luck.
102. One of the important customs of Christmas is to send and receive Christmas cards, which helps to express the sentiment of the season.
103. No matter where you may be the rest of the year, being at "home" with your family and friends for Christmas is "a must".
104. It seems that all America is on the move and Americans are on their way to spend the holidays with their loved ones.
105. Each child can't wait to open his or her eyes to see what Santa Claus has left in the stocking.
106. To get extra money, many students get part-time jobs during December, delivering mail or selling gifts, trees or greetings.
107. Most Americans enjoy sport - both playing sports themselves and watching their favorite sports and teams.
108. Many people fly to other cities and countries to visit their friends and relatives.
109. A home owner in Arizona might not have any grass, but rather a gravel "lawn" and a rock garden.
110. Other people don't have to change their term windows, because their climate is mild, or because the entire house is air-conditioned.

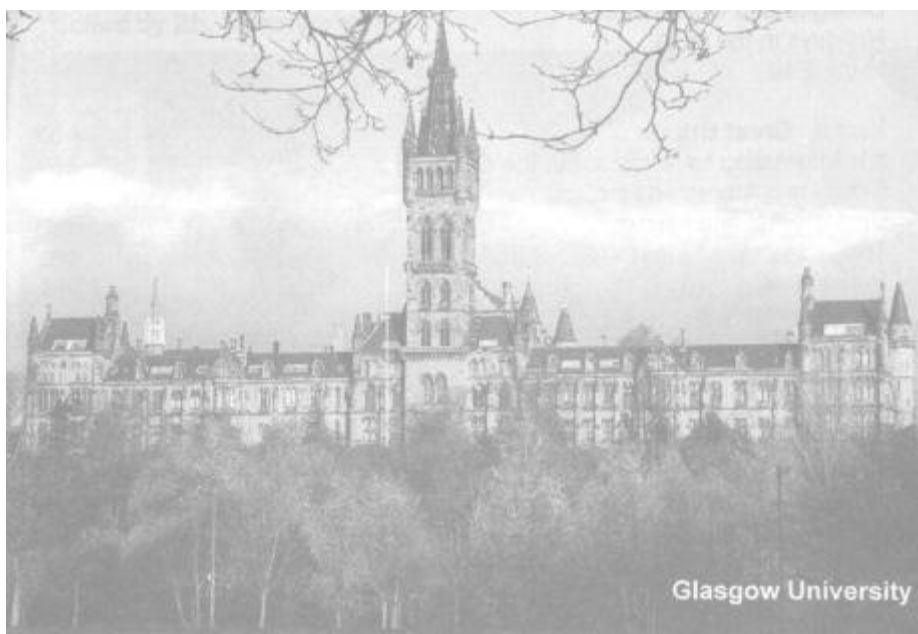
111. The extremes frequently seen in films and on television have little in common with the lives of the vast majority of people, or what average Americans dream about.
112. English is the main foreign language taught within most school systems.
113. But the English language began to spread throughout the world only in the 17th century, when the first English settlements arose in North America.
114. Nowadays English is the most wide-spread language geographically, second one only to Chinese in the number of people who speak it.
115. One shouldn't forget the problems of English spelling, pronunciation and prepositions.
116. Learning any foreign language is not an easy thing.
117. If you want to master a foreign language, you must be ready to make efforts and be patient.
118. Modern British English is strongly influenced by American English.
119. It is highly advisable for the people who learn English to know both forms of those words which are in most common usage.
120. When people from this province came to what they later called Great Britain they found some familiar conditions there and first of all its damp climate.
121. Since this country was larger than their own Bretagne they called it "Great Britain".
122. Most English people have been slow to adopt rational reforms such the metric system, which came into general use in 1975.
123. The English people do not want to trouble of adapting themselves to new.
124. The conservatism may be illustrated by reference of the public attitude to the monarchy.
125. The monarchy survives, but has no power and does not want any Parliament to establish its rights.
126. Laws passed by two Houses do not become affective until she has signed them.
127. Today the Queen is not only the head of state, but also an important symbol of national unity.
128. She reigns, but does not rule, although the Queen is the third richest .woman in the world.
129. The life of Parliament is divided into periods called "sessions".
130. Parts of the Palace including the Commons Chamber itself were badly damaged in an air raid made by fascists in 1941, and have been rebuilt since 1945.
131. The party, which has the largest number of members in the Parliament, is called the Government.
132. He chooses from the Lords and Commons about 60 men to take the main offices and form the Ministry.
133. No outside person is allowed to see any Cabinet papers until they become only of historical interest.
134. The money the Government spends is the people's money.
135. It is "A City" which arose from a number of towns and villages.
136. Many monuments of London's history can be found in the city.
137. St. Paul's Cathedral was built between 1675 and 1710 to replace the old Cathedral that was largely destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.
138. The West End, spreading from the political centre Westminster includes Piccadilly Circus and the fashionable Covent Garden.
139. When Higgins retired he built himself a grand house, which was called Piccadilly Hall.
140. Piccadilly is a fine street stretching from the circus to Hyde Park Corner.
141. Just behind the Trafalgar Square is the National Gallery where there is one of the finest collections of pictures in the world.
142. The British Museum is one of the greatest and best-known museums in the world, both in the diversity of its collection and in their wide range and high quality.
143. The British Museum Library is a reading-room and a reference library, but not a lending one.
144. The Houses of Parliament were completed a century ago.
145. Today the Queen lives at the Palace for only part of the year and when she is in her residence the Royal Standard is flown.
146. The Tower of London is guarded by Beefeaters, who are dressed in old-fashioned traditional uniforms.
147. Despite many houses built by the council there are still miles of little dwellings and slums.
148. Hyde Park is famous for its Speaker's Corner, where people go when they want to tell other people about their political opinions.
149. London is known by its system of public transport which includes red buses, black taxis, and an underground railway called "the Tube".
150. Being the capital of Wales, financially and industrially, Cardiff is the most important city in an upland country.
151. Cathay's Park, the centre of the civic life of the city, with its exceptionally fine group of municipal buildings and its National Museum of Wales, where you will find an enthralling collection of Welsh art and handicraft, both ancient and modern, is a splendid place.
152. There is much cultural activity in Wales, especially in literature, drama and music.

153. From the streets in the centre of the city you can see the ships coming to Edinburgh from different countries of the world.
154. Manchester is the fifth largest port in Great Britain although it is 56 km away from the sea.
155. It was the first city in England, which built its own airport in 1919.
156. The manufacture of cotton goods was responsible for changing the town into the great city it became in the last century.
157. People who live in them cannot afford to have a house of their own.
158. Law and custom in Britain support a clear separation between what is public and what is private.
159. To emphasize this division, people prefer to live in a house, set back from the road.
160. British houses are thought to be very cold, maybe the coldest in Europe.
161. If there is one living-room in the house, then there is a hall into which the front door opens.
162. The house can be easily sold, if necessary and if the price is attractive.
163. Most houses are sold on the open market by the "property developers".
164. This is probably one reason why so many people prefer to live in houses rather than flats.
165. Many people who have no gardens of their own have patches of land in especially reserved areas.
166. Newspapers some-times have articles about dogs who have done clever things such as saved a child's life, or travelled miles to find their owners after they have been lost.
167. There are also many television shows, films, and stories about dogs, including Lassie and Scoobie Doo.
168. Because dogs are generally considered to be loyal and friendly, they are sometimes called "man's best friend".
169. British people have always been known for their love of sports.
170. Most people don't like blocks of flats because they provide the least amount of privacy.
171. It is legal to place bets on the participants.
172. The Wimbledon championships in winter in which the best tennis players of the world take part attract crowds of people.
173. Customs and traditions always held by the Englishman are present in his eating.
174. Some people like to drink tea, but others prefer coffee, though tea is part and parcel of British life.
175. The English are famous for the amount of tea they drink, "a nice cup of tea" is one of the most commonly heard phrases in Britain.
176. Most of English people drink their tea, but give little thought to what actually happens when they pour water over tea leaves.
177. Scientific research confirms that using water, which is as near boiling point as possible gives the best cup of tea since it brings out more of all those substances from the tea leaves.
178. The pot is then filled to allow the tea to infuse or draw for five minutes English people seldom put lemon juice or rum in their tea.
179. Why the Britons became addicted to tea when continentals favoured coffee is a mystery as yet unexplained.
180. The system is supposed to provide equality of opportunity for all, but it has some inequality.
181. People forget that teen-agers belong to another generation, with all the changes and problems, but also new ones, of which parents are frequently unaware, but which teen-agers have to solve.
182. Apart from being fun aerobics has a scientific basis.
183. Research has shown that runners have weight less than nonrunners, even if they eat more, so aerobics will keep them slim, too.
184. Even if you like school, it seems that someone is always telling you what to do.
185. People learn better and faster when they have more choice in what they learn and when and how they learn it.
186. At Free school, people believe that school should teach what the children need and what to learn.
187. There is no single, universally accepted definition of what a university should be like.
188. All British universities can be roughly divided into three groups, namely "ancient", "redbrick" or "modern" ("provincial") and the new ones.
189. Each student has a tutor who plans his work and requires him to write essays and papers on the subject he is studying, and submit them to him regularly about once a fortnight for correction and discussion.
190. The teaching is in the colleges, which are placed in various parts of London.
191. Some of them quickly became popular because of their modern approach to university courses.
192. The Open University was established to give educational opportunities to those people who want to continue their education at home.
193. In general Bachelor's degree is given to students who pass exams at the end of three or four years of study.

194. Other teachers who have no title of "Professor" are entitled "Lecturers", "Readers", "Senior Lectures".
195. When a university teaching post is vacant it is usually advertised in newspapers.
196. There are lots of domestic customs, which go centuries back.
197. The oldest military ceremony in the world is the Ceremony of the Keys, which has taken place every night at the Tower of London, for more than 700 years.
198. Another tradition is sitting at a fire-place, which is found in every home.
199. They shook hands to show that they did not have a sword.
200. But one must shake hands when one meets a person for the first time.
201. They talk about the weather because it changes often.
202. There is an interesting story about the word "marmalade".
203. Pancakes are eaten by British people on Shrove Tuesday in February or March.
204. Gentlemen always shake hands when they are introduced to each other even if they have to cross a room to do so.
205. There is a wide distance between rudeness and reserve.
206. One can be polite and at the same time reserved of matters.
207. They seem to remain cheerful under difficulties.
208. They are taught from childhood not to rush for seats in busses and trains, but take queues at bus stops in a quiet and orderly manner.
209. People should be taught how to wear clothes.
210. To let anyone see what you have in your mouth is offensive.
211. The fact that you have put your fork and spoon down shows that you have finished.
212. If food has been taken into your mouth, no matter how you hate it, you must swallow it.
213. There are a lot of table manners and children are taught by their mothers everyday.
214. But Santa Claus begins to visit every house on Christmas Eve.
215. There is another tradition on the Eve of Christmas.
216. Nearly all the Christmas food is traditional, but a lot of traditions are not very old.
217. One can also send a card to an unknown person.
218. But traditionally it is not recommended to write somebody's name on it.
219. You are expected to meet witches and ghosts that night.
220. On November 5th 1605, he tried to kill King James I, but he was caught and beheaded in the Tower of London.
221. The Shakespeare Festival in Stratford was held in 1769.
222. A wooden amphitheater was built, two wagons arrived with fire-works, and medals were issued in copper, silver or gold with Shakespeare's likeness on one side.
223. Schools, colleges and universities are closed on Saturday and Sunday.
224. People who stay at home at the week-end try to relax, enjoy themselves.
225. Week-end starts on Friday evening when people leave work and wish each other a nice week-end.
226. People either go and watch or sit and watch the sport programmes on television.
227. The pub is the place where people can meet and talk in a friendly atmosphere.
228. But in pubs there is a general atmosphere of warmth and cosiness.
229. English people are proud of their traditions, that's why even modern pubs look as if they were several hundred years old.
230. The person who runs a pub (he is called "landlord") is employed by the brewery.
231. The second peculiarity is that most pubs are divided into at least two separated bars: the public bar and the saloon one.
232. Children are not allowed inside a pub if the pub has no children's certificate.
233. The BBC is financed by payments which are made by all people who have TV-sets.
234. Britain has two channels for presenting programmes on serious topics, which are watched with great interest by a lot of people.
235. The British may be conservative about the times at which they take their holidays.
236. Many games are English in origin and they have been adopted to other countries, but cricket has been seriously adopted only in Great Britain.
237. When looking at Britain today, it is important to remember the great benefits from the past.
238. No other country has so long a history of political order, going back almost without interruption to the Norman Conquest.
239. There are at least five different Washingtons and each has its supporters who earnestly believe that theirs is the only true Washington.
240. New York and Washington, leading centre in the USA, have several distinguished art museums forming the nucleus of a great national collection.

241. The paintings and sculptures given by the founder, including works by the greatest masters from the 13th through the 19th centuries, have formed a nucleus around which the collection has grown.
242. We will not be able to see everything there is worth seeing in one day.
243. If you go through a college gate, you will find yourself in a square the size of which varies from college to college.
244. There are now twenty-four colleges for men, five for women and another five which have both men and women members, many from overseas studying for higher degrees.
245. Edinburgh is considered by some as one of the greenest and most architecturally beautiful cities in Europe often referred to as the "Athens of the North".
246. In the decades immediately after the Second World War, Harvard reformed its admissions policies as it sought from a more diverse applicant pool.
247. Yale has 3,300 faculty members, who teach 5,300 undergraduate students and 6,000 graduate students.
248. So, now California Institute of Technology is one of the main universities in the USA, specializing on exact sciences and engineering.
249. Undergraduates are required to complete an extensive core curriculum called the General Institute Requirements (GIRs).
250. Stanford is considered to be one of the best universities in the world.
251. Manchester has the largest total income of all UK universities, standing at £640 million as of 2007.
252. The Open University's style of teaching is called supported open learning.
253. In the new millennium there is not a university in the land that does not make use of OU materials and study methods.
254. Ivy League colleges are sometimes considered to be too proud of their high social position.
255. The first thing you should do is contact your tutor before the cut-off date.





CONTENTS

Preface	2
Part I. The United States	3
Three Branches of Government	5
The Fourth of July - the US Independence Day	8
American Presidents:	10
George Washington (1732-1799)	10
Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)	10
Now He Belongs to the Ages	11
Washington, D.C.	13
Philadelphia	17
New York (NYC)	18
Los Angeles	23
San Francisco	25
The US Mass Media	26
Radio and Television	26
Cinema in the USA	27
Some Facts about Hollywood	28
The Family	28
House and Home	29
Sport in the United States	32
Meals	34
Education	35
Colleges and Universities	37
Holidays in the USA	40
In the End	50
Part II. Great Britain	52
It is Interesting to Know about the English Language.	52
British and American English	55
Britain: Past and Present	56
The Role of the Monarchy	60
Parliament	62
The Government	63
Cities and Towns:	64
London	64
Cardiff	68
Edinburgh	69
Manchester	69
Birmingham	71
Stratford-on-Avon	72
Bristol	72

An Englishman's Home is His Castle	73
Gardening	74
Pets	75
Sport in Great Britain	75
Food	76
British Education	79
The Teen-ager Culture	80
Aerobics	80
Free School	80
Higher Education in Great Britain	81
Traditions:	84
Domestic Traditions and Customs	85
Traditions in Food	86
Etiquette	87
Holidays in Great Britain	89
The Week-end	92
Pubs in Britain	93
Television in Great Britain	93
Leisure	94
In the End	95