

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND: a profile



The **UK official flag** is called **the Union Flag** or **the Union Jack**. It consists of the **red cross** of **Saint George** (the patron saint of **England**), edged in white, the **diagonal red cross** of **Saint Patrick** (the patron saint of **Ireland**) and the white diagonal cross of **Saint Andrew** (the patron saint of **Scotland**).



The **Royal Coat of Arms** depicts the lions symbolizing **England** and the **Monarchy**, the chained **Unicorn** symbolizing **Scotland** and the **Harp** which is the emblem of **Northern Ireland**.

Motto

God And My Right

Anthem

God Save the Queen

Capital (and the largest city)

London

Official Language

English

National Languages

Scottish, Irish,
Welsh (валлийский)

Status

Parliamentary Democracy
and Constitutional
Monarchy

Government

the British Monarch
the Prime Minister

Area

244,820 km²

Population

60,587,300

Density

246 km²

Currency

Pound sterling
(£) (GBP)

Time zone

GMT UTC+0)

Internet TLD

.uk

Calling code

+44



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country to the northwest of **Europe**. It consists of the island of **Great Britain**, the northeast part of the island of **Ireland** and many small islands. The largest island, Great Britain, is linked to France by *the Channel Tunnel*.

Historically, the country is divided into counties. At present, the four main administrative parts consist of regions and areas, which are subdivided into counties and districts.



The Houses of Parliament are the seat of the British Parliament, the first parliament in the world (12th century).

ENGLAND: a profile

St. George's Flag
is England's Flag



The Royal Coat of Arms
is the symbol of the
English Throne



The national flower of England is the **red rose**. The flower has been adopted as England's **emblem** since the time of the **Wars of the Roses**, the civil wars (1455-1485) between the **royal house of Lancaster** (whose emblem was a red rose) and the **royal house of York** (whose emblem was a white rose).

The Royal Family



Queen Elisabeth II



Prince Charles
(the eldest son)



Prince William
(the eldest grandson)



Capital (and the largest city)

London

Motto

God and My Right

Anthem

God Save the Queen

Territory

130,395 km²

Population

50,762,000

Patron Saint

Saint George

St. George's Day

23rd April



The Yeoman Warder or the Beefeater
is a guard at the Tower of London



Stonehenge is a stone-age monument.
It was erected in the Bronze Age in 2000-2500 B.C.

SCOTLAND: a profile



The **Flag of Scotland**, known as **St. Andrew's Cross**, dates from the 9th century.



The Royal Coat of Arms



The national flower of Scotland is **the thistle**, which was first used in the 15th century as a **symbol of defence**.

Scotland has several unofficial anthems.

Motto

No One Provokes Me With Impunity

Capital

Edinburgh

Largest City

Glasgow

Official Language

English

National Languages

Scottish, Gaelic

Territory

78,772 km²

Population

5,116,900

Patron Saint

Saint Andrew

St. Andrew's Day

30th November



Ben Nevis (1,343 m.) is the highest peak in the **British Isles**



A **piper**, playing the **Great Highland Bagpipe**. The piper is dressed in a **kilt**, the Scottish national skirt, the textile pattern of which is **tartan** that often signifies a particular **Scottish clan**.

NORTHERN IRELAND: a profile

Northern Ireland consists of 26 districts. Together they are commonly called **Ulster**.



The river is dyed **green** on St. Patrick's Day because this colour is the colour of Ireland.

Some people call Ireland **the Emerald Isle** because the colour of the grass there is bright green.



Motto

Who Shall Separate?

Anthem

God Save the Queen

Londonderry Air (*de facto*)

Capital (and the largest city)

Belfast

Official Language

English

National Language

Irish

Territory

13,843 km²

Population

1,710,300

Patron Saint

Saint Patrick

St. Patrick's Day

17th March



The national flower of Northern Ireland is the **shamrock**, a plant with three heart-shaped leaves (a three-leaf plant), similar to clover. An Irish tale tells of how **Patrick** used the three-leaf shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. **St. Patrick's Day** is an official bank holiday in Northern Ireland.



The Holy Trinity

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND: A FACTFILE

The Map of the British Isles



There are two independent countries on the British Isles. They are:

- *the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* (consisting of *England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland*), the capital is *London*;
- *the Irish Republic or the Republic of Eire*, the capital is *Dublin*.

1. The Names of the Country

- *The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* – Соединенное Королевство Великобритании и Северной Ирландии (official) or *the United Kingdom* – Соединенное Королевство (less official) or *the UK* (spoken English).

- *Great Britain* (geographically, an island). It is also called *Britain*.
- *England* (geographically, a part of the country).
- *Britannia* is the historical name of the country. It means *the Land of Britons* in Latin; a Briton – бритт.
- *Albion* is the poetic name of the country, which is *a White Land* in Latin. It was Julius Caesar who called the country Albion in 55 B.C. because of the chalky cliffs, which he first saw on a bright sunny day.

2. The UK National Symbols



The British National Flag is the Union Flag, commonly known as the Union Jack. It has the flag of England (St. George's Cross), the flag of Scotland (St. Andrew's cross) and Saint Patrick's cross, representing Northern Ireland. Wales is not represented in the Union Jack.



The Royal Coat of Arms depicts the symbols which represent the parts of the country.



The Statue of Britannia in Plymouth is the symbol of the UK.



The national bird of the UK is Robin Redbreast (красногрудая малиновка).

God Save the Queen is the national anthem of the UK. In fact, it was a patriotic song, first performed in 1745. It became known as the national anthem at the beginning of the 19th century. The national anthem is played whenever the British monarch makes a public appearance. It is also played by the British Broadcasting Corporation (the BBC) every night before closedown. Besides, it is sung at the end of all important ceremonies, including football matches and other sports events.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

*God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen:
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.*

*O Lord, our God, arise,
Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall.
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all.*

*Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour;
Long may she reign:
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
God save the Queen.*



When the monarch is a man, “Queen” is replaced by “King”.

The motto of the UK is *Dieu et mon droit* (French) that means *God and My Right*.

3. The Status and the Government of the UK

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy.

The monarch of the UK represents *the royal power*. The king or the queen of the UK is the head of the state. This monarch is also the head of the state of the fifteen other Commonwealth countries. It is a well-known fact that the monarch of the country reigns but doesn't rule.



Buckingham Palace is the official winter residence of the Royal family in London. It was built by the Duke of Buckingham in 1705 and bought by King George III in 1761.



Windsor Castle is another official residence of the British monarch. It has been a Royal home and fortress for over 900 years. Today the Castle is a working palace, used as a summer residence.

The Parliament or *Westminster Parliament* is *the legislative body* of the UK. It is located in the Palace of Westminster. The Parliament is made up of the monarch and two houses.

- *The elected House of Commons* is the lower house: it plays the major role in law-making and consists of 659 members of the Parliament (MPs for short); this house is presided over by the Speaker.
- *The appointed House of Lords* is the upper house: it consists of peers and lords (пэры, лорды); this house is presided over by *the Lord Chancellor* who sits on a special seat, called the *Woolsack*.

General elections to the Parliament are held *every five years*.

The UK's three major political parties are the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Party. They appeared in Britain at the end of the 17th century.

- *The Conservative Party*, which is the ruling party in the UK, is often called *the Tory Party*. The word “tory” means an Irish highwayman (разбойник) and was applied to the conservatives by their opponents.
- *The Labour Party* is the other ruling party that was founded by the Trade Unions, and has always been the opposition to the Conservative Party.
- The members of *the Liberal Party* were called *Whigs* by the Tories. A whig was a Scottish preacher, who could go on for four or five hours at a time preaching moralizing sermons. The party stopped existing in 1988.
- *The Party of Liberal Democrats* was formed in 1988 on the basis of the *Liberal Party* and *the Social Democratic Party*; the latter appeared in 1981.

The Conservative and Liberal Parties are the oldest parties. They were the only parties elected to the House of Commons until the end of the 19th century.



Westminster Palace is the place where the British Parliament sits. The north-eastern part of this palace is the clock tower Big Ben, named by the Londoners after Sir Benjamin Hall, who oversaw the installation of the Great Bell. As Sir Benjamin was a very tall man, his nickname was Big Ben.

The Prime Minister represents *the executive branch of power* and is the UK's head of the government. He/she is the leader of the largest party in the House of Commons and this very party forms the British government. The Prime Minister presides over *the Cabinet*, which consists of 20 ministers or *Ministers of the Crown*. They are traditionally chosen from the members of the Prime Minister's party. The first woman prime minister of Britain was *Margaret Thatcher*.



10 Downing Street or Number 10 in London is the official residence of the Prime Minister. It is situated near the Palace of Westminster, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace. Number 10 is almost three hundred years old and has 100 rooms.

The Shadow Cabinet or His or Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is the cabinet in opposition to the Prime Minister's cabinet. It consists of the members of the second largest party. The Shadow Cabinet's responsibility is to criticize the government and to offer alternative policies.

The UK is one of the three countries in the world, along with New Zealand and Israel, that has no single constitutional document. The main constitutional document is *the Magna Carta (Charta)* signed by King John in 1215. Although there is no written constitution in the UK, the UK's unwritten constitution governs the country and consists mostly of written sources, including statutes, court judgements and European treaties.

The judicial power in the UK is partially represented by the monarch, the constitution and the High Court.

Thus, the four branches of power in the UK are represented by:

- the Monarch (the royal power);
- the Parliament and its Houses (the legislative power);
- the Prime Minister and the Cabinet (the executive power);
- the Monarch, the Constitution and the High Court (the independent judicial power).

4. The Geography of the UK and its Location

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country to the northwest of Europe. The UK is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel and the Irish Sea.

The English Channel (Английский канал) is also called “Пролив Ла-Манш” (it is the official name of the channel in French). The narrowest part of the English Channel has two names. The English name is *the Strait of Dover* (Дуврский пролив) because Dover is an English town, but the French name of this strait is *Pas de Calais* (Па-де-Кале) as Calais is a French town. In French, it means “a step to Calais”. Great Britain is connected to France by means of *the Channel Tunnel*, which is constructed under the strait.

There are no very big rivers in the UK. The biggest are *the Severn* (the longest) and *the Thames* (the deepest).

There are quite many lakes in the UK. The sixteen of them are in *the Lake District*. This place is a very popular resort because of the beautiful lakes which give it its name. The deepest lake in the UK is *Loch Morar*. *Loch Ness* is the second deepest lake of the country, which is also famous for its monster and the legend about it.



Loch Morar



Loch Ness

There are a lot of mountains in the UK. The biggest mountain chains are *the Cheviot Hills (the Cheviots)*, which separate England from Scotland, and *the Pennine Chain (the Pennines)*, which is also called *the backbone of England*. The ten tallest mountains in the UK are all located in Scotland. The highest point of the UK, *Ben Nevis*, is in the Scottish Highlands, too.

5. The Climate and the Environment of the UK

The climate of the UK is usually cool, temperate and humid. The weather in Britain changes quite often because of the winds, the seas and the Gulf Stream. Summers are not hot and winters are not cold in Britain. As a rule, there is no ice on the water of the rivers and the lakes. The temperature seldom drops below $-10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($14.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) or rises above $+35\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($95\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$). So we may say that the British weather has three main features: it is mild, humid and very changeable. The well-known joke about it is: there is no bad weather, there are bad clothes.

The Fauna and the Flora of the UK

The UK is not really rich in animals, birds and plants. The animals are squirrels, rabbits, hares, hedgehogs and others. The birds are golden eagles, kingfishers (зимородки), pigeons and sparrows. But there are many trees and about 1,500 different kinds of wild flowers in Britain.

6. The Capital of the UK

The capital of the UK is *London* which is situated on both banks of the river Thames and has the population of seven million people. There are four areas or boroughs in London: *Westminster*, *the City*, *the West End*, and *the East End*.

Westminster is the governmental and political centre of London. *Westminster Palace* (the seat of *the Houses of Parliament*), *Westminster Abbey* and *Scotland Yard* are there. There are also such important streets as *Whitehall* (the street, in which the important government offices are located) and *Downing Street* (the London residence of the Prime Minister and the place where the Cabinet meets).



Westminster Abbey is used for the coronation of all the British monarchs. William the Conqueror became the first king, crowned in the abbey.

The City or *Square Mile* is the commercial and business centre of London with many offices, banks and the Stock Exchange. It is the oldest part of London, its area is about a square mile. Only five thousand people live here, but more than a million people work in this area. There are also some historical sights in the City. Among them are *the Tower of London*, *Tower Bridge* and *St. Paul's Cathedral*. The best-known street here is *Fleet Street*, where most newspapers have their offices.



St. Paul's Cathedral was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and built between 1675 and 1708.



The skyline of the City of London



Bishops gate in the City of London



The Tower of London. It was a fortress, a royal palace, a prison, and it is a museum now.



Tower Bridge

The West End is London's main entertainment and shopping district. It is associated with wealth, luxury and goods of high quality. There are a lot of historical places in this part of London, such as *Buckingham Palace*, *Covent Garden* (the famous Royal Opera House), *Trafalgar Square* (named after the battle at Trafalgar) and *Piccadilly Circus*. London is also famous for its parks, which are *Hyde Park* with its *Speaker's Corner*, *Kensington Gardens*, *St. James's Park* and *London Zoo*. *The National Gallery*, *Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum* and *the Tate Gallery* (which was named

after its founder *Sir Henry Tate*) are well-known, too. The West London area is also known for its fashionable and expensive residential areas, such as *Notting Hill*, *Knightsbridge* and *Chelsea*.

The University of London is also in the West End. *Bloomsbury* is London's student quarter. (Cf: In Paris, the Sorbonne University is in Latin Quarter – Латинский квартал – a district, where students and artists live.)



Buckingham Palace



Piccadilly Circus at night



Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column



The Royal Academy



The Tate Gallery



The National Gallery



The Royal Opera House, also known as Covent Garden (=a convent garden), is the leading theatre of opera and ballet in London.

The East End is the eastern side of London, which is near the *Port of London*. It is also one of the poorest areas in London, where working people live. It is an industrial district, which is very important for the UK's commerce and trade.

Greater London (Большой Лондон) is an administrative part, which includes the city of London, its suburbs, outskirts and the surrounding counties.



City Hall is the headquarters of the Greater London Administration.



Many national newspapers edited in London have traditionally been associated with Fleet Street in the City, but they are now primarily based around Canary Wharf.

7. The Parts of the UK

The parts of the UK are *England, Scotland, Wales* and *Northern Ireland*.

- *England: London* is the capital. The English (англичане) – an Englishman (woman); British English is the state language.
- *Scotland: Edinburgh* is the capital. The Scots (шотландцы) = the Scottish and the Scotch: a Scotsman (woman) in English, a Scotchman (woman) in Scottish; British English is the state language, Scottish (шотландский) is the national language.
- *Wales: Cardiff* is the capital. The Welsh (валлийцы) – a Welshman (woman); British English is the state language, Welsh (валлийский язык) is the national language.
- *Northern Ireland (Ulster – Ольстер): Belfast* is the capital. The Irish (ирландцы) – an Irishman (woman); British English is the state language, Irish is the national language.

8. The Religions in the UK

Christianity is the largest religion in the UK. About 21% of the people living in England, Scotland and Wales are Christians and belong to *the Church of England*. The second and the third most popular religions in the UK are *Hinduism* and *Sikhism* (последователи сикхизма, секты в индуизме).

9. The History of the UK

900 B.C. – 55 B.C. (B.C. – Before Christ = до н.э.): The Celts (кельты) arrive in and settle on the isles. London is just a small settlement, called Llyn-din (*a lonely port* in Celtic).

55 B.C.: Julius Caesar invades the isles.

43 A.D. (A.D. – Anno Domini – in the year of Our God = н.э.): England is added to the Roman Empire. The Romans call the land Britannia and its Celtic inhabitants Britons (бритты). Llyn-din becomes *Londinium*. Latin, the language of Romans, influences the Celtic tongues.

410 A.D.: During *the Migration Period* (Великое переселение народов), waves of *Angles, Saxons and Jutes* arrive from the German lands. These Germanic tribes conquer the Celtic population (or Britons) and give England its name *Angle land*. They speak their languages. That is why the English and the German of this period resemble each other.

1066: The French-speaking *Normans* (short for *northmen*) arrive from Normandy, the dukedom in the north of France. At the battle near Hastings, they defeat the Anglo-Saxons, and the Norman Duke William becomes the English king *William I, the Conqueror*. London (which is no longer Londinium) becomes the capital of the country. It is from the union of the Norman conquerors and the defeated Anglo-Saxons that the English people and the English language are born. First the Norman noblemen speak Norman French; the common people speak their own tongue. Later the mixture of these languages gives birth to modern English. Thus Latin, German and French have influenced English greatly.

1215: *The Magna Carta (Charta)* is signed by *King John*, who is forced by the nobles. The document is a guarantee of rights and the rule of law (*Великая хартия вольностей*). The foundation of the parliamentary system is laid. *The House of Lords* is established.

1265: The first *House of Commons* is elected. Thus *the British Parliament* (the first in the world) is established. It consists of *the House of Lords* (the upper house) and *the House of Commons* (the lower house). The members are *MPs*.

1301: King Edward I defeats the Welsh and awards his new-born son the noble title of the Prince of Wales. Since then, the eldest son of the British monarch is *the Prince of Wales* (Принц Уэльский) and his wife is *the Princess of Wales* (Принцесса Уэльская).

1536: Wales is finally conquered and becomes the official part of England.

1642 – 1649: A bloody civil war is waged by the Parliament and the monarchy. King Charles I is executed; a republic is proclaimed under the leadership of *Oliver Cromwell*, a London brewer.

1660: The monarchy is restored.

1665: *The Great Plague* in London kills thousands of people.

1666: *The Great Fire* of London nearly destroys the town. It breaks out in the City and quickly burns London's wooden houses and buildings. Later London is rebuilt and becomes one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

1707: England and Scotland are united as *the Kingdom of Great Britain*.

1801: Ireland is conquered, and the union of Great Britain and Ireland is called *the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*. The national flag, *the Union Flag* (Союзный Флаг) or *the Union Jack* (sp. Eng.), is established: *Union* = союз (a union of four nations), *a jack* = морской гюйс, флаг корабля.

1805: At *the battle of Trafalgar* (a cape), *Admiral Nelson* defeats Napoleon's invasion armies. Admiral Nelson is deadly wounded. *Trafalgar Square* in London is named after this event. *The Nelson Column (or Monument)* is in its centre.

1912: *The Titanic* (the best and the largest ship then) collides with an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean and sinks. More than 1,500 lives perish.

1914 – 1918: *World War I:* Great Britain, France and Russia fight against Germany, Italy and Austria.

1921 – 1922: Ireland becomes a British dominion. Most of Ireland separates and becomes the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland (Ulster – Ольстер) remains part of the United Kingdom.

1922: The official name of the country is changed to *the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*.

1931: *The Statute of Westminster* recognizes the independence of the dominions. They are united as *the British Commonwealth of Nations*, an association of self-governing autonomous states.

1939 – 1945: *World War II:* the USSR, Great Britain, France and the USA fight against Germany, Italy and Japan.

6th June, 1944: D-Day (D is short for “day”= День “Д”, i.e. “день с большой буквы”, важный день): The Allies (the UK and the USA) land in Normandy, France, and the Second Front is opened.

1947: The British Empire stops existing. The British Commonwealth of Nations becomes *the Commonwealth of Nations*.

The History of the British Empire

17 – 18 centuries: Under *Queen Elizabeth I*, England becomes a great sea power. In her reign and later, the English conquer countries and areas in the New World and the Orient. Ireland becomes the first English colony.

19th century: In the reign of *Queen Victoria*, England keeps on expanding its colonial domain.

1870: The term *The British Empire* gets into use.

1920: The British Empire becomes the largest in the world’s history (a quarter of the world’s population on a quarter of the planet’s land surface). The British ambitiously say, “The sun never sets in the British Empire.”

By 1931: The British Empire evolves into the British Commonwealth of Nations. Many colonies become dominions.

1940 - 1950: Due to the liberation movement, all the colonies get independent, and the British Empire stops existing. However, the British monarch is still the head of the state in many dominions, which are governed by governor-generals representing the British Crown. That is why the British monarch reigns but doesn't rule (even in the Mother Country or the Old Country).

The History of the Population

- Earlier: *the Iberians* (иберийцы), who were the early inhabitants and invaders; *the Celts* (кельты); *the Romans*; *the Anglo-Saxons* (Germanic tribes); *the Danes* (датчане); *the Normans* (= northmen).
- At present: *the British* (британцы, the nation as a whole), including *the English*, *the Scottish* (the Scots), *the Welsh* (валлийцы), *the Irish*; the nationality: *a Britisher* (британец) – a British subject (британский подданный) – *a Briton* (in a romantic, political or patriotic context).

The Royal House of Windsor

King George VI (died in 1952).

Queen Elizabeth (his wife) – the Queen Mother (Королева-мать).

Elizabeth II (his daughter) – the ruling monarch (1952 – up to now).

Prince Philip (her husband) – the Duke of Edinburgh (Герцог Эдинбургский).

Prince Charles (the eldest son) – the Prince of Wales (Принц Уэльский); his 1st wife (born *Diana Spencer*) was the Princess of Wales (Принцесса Уэльская); his 2^d wife (born *Camilla Rosemary*) is the Duchess of Cornwall (Герцогиня Корнуэльская).

Prince Andrew (the elder son) – the Duke of York; his wife is the Duchess of York (Герцог и Герцогиня Йоркские).

Princess Anne (the only daughter) – the Princess Royal (≈ Великая Княжна).

Prince Edward (the youngest son) – no title.

Prince William, Prince Henry (Harry) – Prince Charles and Lady Diana's sons.

Prince William – the Duke of Cambridge (Герцог Кембриджский); his wife (born *Catherine Middleton*) is the Duchess of Cambridge (Герцогиня Кембриджская).

10. The Currency and Economy of the UK

The currency of the UK is the *pound sterling* or the *British sterling*, represented by the symbol £. It is the third-largest currency after the U.S. dollar and the euro.



The *Bank of England* is the central bank of the UK, responsible for issuing currency.

The currency used at present

Coins: 1 penny, 2 pence, 5 pence, 10 pence, 50 pence, one pound, 2 pounds. All the coins carry the Queen's head on the front.

Notes: 5 pounds, 10 pounds, 20 pounds, 50 pounds.



On the 13th of March 2007, a new £20 note was issued by the Bank of England. The new note shows the image of *Adam Smith* (the 18th century economist), which makes him the first Scottish citizen on a UK banknote. However, the British monarch is depicted on the other banknotes. By the way, the £20 note is the most commonly used note nowadays.



All the coins carry the Queen's head.

The UK's economy is made up of the economies of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Today the UK is the *sixth largest economy* in the world and the *third largest* in Europe after Germany and France.

Manufacturing is a significant part of the country's economy. It includes the British motor industry (aerospace engines for civil and defence aircraft and Rolls-Royce) and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

The UK service sector is also highly developed. Financial services, especially in banking and insurance, form the biggest part of this sector.

Tourism is another important sphere of the British economy. The UK is the sixth major tourist country, and London is one of the most visited cities in the world.

11. The Educational System of the UK

Each part of the UK has its own educational system.

In general, there are three stages in the UK state educational system.

- *Primary education* includes *pre-schooling* (a nursery school playground or a kindergarten under 5 years) and a *primary school*: infant classes (5-7 years) and junior classes (7-11 years).
- *Secondary education* is compulsory and given in the *secondary (comprehensive) school*: at the age of 16 the pupils get the GCSE, i.e. the General Certificate of Secondary Education (an examination); at the age of 18 they get the A-level GCE, i.e. the Advanced Level General Certificate of Education (an examination to enter universities).
- *Higher education* is the university level education, which is not under the state control, i.e. students have to pay for it.

The most famous public schools in the UK are *Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Winchester*. The fees for the tuition in these schools are very high. Children can enter these schools only through preparatory schools at about 11-13 years of age on the basis of the examination, known as *Common Entrance*.

It is interesting to know that Rugby is a town, the public school in this town and a kind of football, that originated in Rugby School for boys (also called rugger).



Eton College



Harrow School



Rugby School

There are many colleges and universities in the UK. The total number is 100.

After three years of study, a university graduate gets a *Bachelor's Degree* (ученая степень бакалавра), i.e. a Bachelor of Arts or B.A. (бакалавр гуманитарных наук) and a Bachelor of Science or B.S. (бакалавр технических или естественных наук). After a year or two more of study, a university graduate gets a *Master's Degree* (ученая степень магистра), i.e. a Master of Arts or M.A. and a Master of Science or M.S. The highest degree is a *Doctor's Degree* (ученая степень доктора), traditionally called a Doctor of Philosophy or Ph.D. (доктор философии); research work for any number of years is necessary to obtain this degree.

Oxford and Cambridge are the two “intellectual eyes of Britain”.



King's College (part of the University of Cambridge)



The University of Oxford (the oldest)

Oxford is a town and the oldest university founded in the 12th century.

Cambridge is also a town and the second oldest university founded at the beginning of the 13th century.

Oxbridge is made up of the two words: Oxford and Cambridge.

Camford is also made up of these two words: Cambridge and Oxford.

The Redbrick universities are also well-known. They are called so because they were made of red brick in the 19-20 centuries in London, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and Birmingham.



The Aston Webb building, the University of Birmingham



The Victoria Building, the University of Liverpool

The Open University is a special educational institution for people, who study in their free time and who “attend” lectures by watching TV, listening to the radio, using the Internet. They keep in touch with their teachers by phone, letter, e-mail and attend summer schools to have consultations, tests and exams. The graduates have no formal qualifications after graduation.

12. The Island of Great Britain

Great Britain is the largest of the two main islands of *the British Isles* and makes up most of the territory of the UK. It is also the largest island in Europe and the ninth-largest island in the world. It is surrounded by over 1,000 smaller islands and islets. England, Scotland and Wales are situated on the island.

England is a part of the Island of Great Britain. It consists of nine regions, divided into 45 counties, and Greater London (Большой Лондон). The main cities are

London (the capital), *Birmingham* (the UK's second largest city after London, "the workshop of the world" or the "city of a thousand trades"), *Manchester* (a textile centre), *Bristol* (a cultural centre), *Leeds* (the country's largest centre of business and finance), *Oxford* and *Cambridge* (the university towns), *Stratford-upon-Avon* (the native town of William Shakespeare).

The two main rivers of the UK, the Thames and the Severn, flow through England. Lots of England's best sights are located in the southern counties.



Canterbury Cathedral



Great Roman Ruins of Bath



Lincoln Cathedral

Scotland is the second part of the Island of Great Britain. It consists of nine regions and areas. The main cities are *Edinburgh* (the capital), *Aberdeen* (an industrial centre), *Glasgow* (a cultural centre), *Liverpool* (a port and the native town of *The Beatles*).

Scotland consists of *the Highlands*, *the Lowlands* and *the Southern Uplands* (\approx high hills). Castles are the main sights of Scotland.



Castle Stalker



Edinburgh Castle

The Edinburgh Festival of Music and Drama (the emblem of which is the thistle – чертополох) is famous all over the country. The Scottish Highland games, including sports, dancing and piping competitions, are very popular, too.

It is interesting to know that:

- *the kilt* is a traditional Scottish man's skirt;
- *the clan* is a large Scottish family;
- *Mc* or *Mac* is the prefix used in the Scottish family names, meaning *the son of* or *from the family of* (e.g. McGregor = from the family of Mr Gregor).



Wales is the third part of the Island of Great Britain. It consists of eight counties. *Cymru* is the name of the country in Welsh. The main cities are *Cardiff* (the capital), *Eisteddford* (formerly a gathering of bards, at present a festival of Welsh culture), *Newport* and *St. Davids*.

The Welsh Dragon is the name of the Welsh flag, which is not represented in the Union Jack.

Among the sights of this part of Great Britain is the wonderful countryside of Wales with its castle ruins, sandy beaches, green hilltops, Roman forts and the Welsh famous coal mine.



Castell Coch



Caerleon Amphitheatre

13. The Island of Ireland

The poetic name of Ireland is the *Emerald Isle* because the green grass makes the island look very green and beautiful. *Ireland* is the third largest island in Europe. It is separated from Great Britain by the Irish Sea. There are two countries on the island.

- *The Irish Republic* or *the Republic of Ireland* or *the Republic of Eire* is located on the five-sixths of the island and is independent of the UK. The capital of the Irish Republic is *Dublin*. Another famous city is *Limerick*. The nonsense verse of five comic and funny lines was named after this town, and *Edward Lear* is said to be the inventor of *the limerick*.
- *Northern Ireland* (Ulster = Ольстер), a part of the United Kingdom, covers the rest of the territory of the island. It consists of 26 districts. *Lough Neagh* in Northern Ireland is the largest lake in the UK. The main cities are *Belfast* (the capital) and *Londonderry*.

There are many interesting places in Northern Ireland. Among them is the *Giant's Causeway*, the eighth Wonder of the World.



The Giant's Causeway



The harp is the Irish national musical instrument.

Many Irish surnames begin with the prefixes “O’...”, “Fitz...”, “Kil...”, “Gil...” meaning *the son of* (e.g. O’Brien, Fitzgerald, Kilmartin, Gilmurrey).

14. The Culture and Science of the UK

Literature

As a result of the Norman Conquest, French displaced English as the language of the upper classes. Scholars continued to write in Latin. However, the English literature of this period is memorable and quite significant. The main literary genre was the romance, a story in verse or prose dealing with chivalric adventures.

There are numerous stories about *King Arthur*, the legendary king of Britons who led the Celtic resistance against the invading Saxons. Arthur gathered around himself the greatest warriors of Europe, and these knights met at the round table as all the places at it were equal. These knights were called *the Knights of the Round Table*. The stories about King Arthur are still popular, and he is regarded as a folk hero. Several stories say that some day King Arthur will return. Because of this belief, he is sometimes called *the once and future king* (король на все времена).

Another legendary hero is *Robin Hood*, a noble robber who lived in England in the Middle Ages. He stole from the rich and gave to the poor. Robin Hood's companions were called *Merry Men*, and his sweetheart was *Maid Marian*.

The British cultural heritage is one of the richest and greatest in the world. Culture, like language, unites people, and literature is an integral part of culture. The following list includes the few of the British most prominent masters and their best works.

Poets of England

Geoffrey Chaucer (14th century): the first great poet to write in English, *the father of the English poetry*; he is said to have created not only the English poetry but also the English language; the first to be buried in the Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey.

William Shakespeare (16 – 17 centuries): Britain's finest poet and playwright; the first of the best writers in the English language; an actor, a playwright and a manager

of the Globe Theatre in London. The tragedies: “Othello” (Отелло), “Hamlet” (Гамлет), “King Lear” (Король Лир), “McBeth” (Макбет), “Romeo and Juliet” (Ромео и Джульетта); the comedies: “As You Like It” (Как вам это понравится), “Much Ado About Nothing” (Много шума из ничего), “Twelfth Night” (Двенадцатая ночь); hundreds of sonnets showing his great talent. A sonnet is a poem of 14 lines. The Russian film “Hamlet” with Innokenty Smoktunovsky is considered the best even by the British critics.



Thomas Moore (18th century): “Those Evening Bells” (Вечерний звон); the Russian folk melody inspired the poet to write this poem, later translated into Russian by *Ivan Kozlov*, so the melody and the lyrics found each other in the famous Russian song “Вечерний звон”.

William Blake: “Songs of Innocence” (Песни неведения), “Songs of Experience” (Песни познания); in poetry, a song is a long poetical composition.



George Gordon Lord Byron: “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage” (Паломничество Чайльд Гарольда), “Don Juan” (Дон Жуан), “The Age of Bronze” (Бронзовый век), “My Native Land – Good Night!” (“Прощай, родная сторона!”, translated by several Russian poets); hundreds of poems.



Percy Bysshe Shelley: “The Necessity of Atheism” (Необходимость атеизма), “Song to the Men of England” (Песнь к людям Англии), “Evening” (Вечер); numerous poems.

The Lake Poets: *William Wordsworth*, *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, *Robert Southey*. They are called so because of their home during most of their lives in *the Lake District* of England, a beautiful area from whose landscape they got their poetic inspiration. They are also called *the Lake School poets* because they were friends and because they were similar in their poetic practices and critical principles.

Writers of England

Daniel Defoe: “Robinson Crusoe” (Робинзон Крузо).

Jane Austen: “Pride and Prejudice” (Гордость и предубеждение).

The Brontë sisters: “Jane Eyre” (Джейн Эйр) by Charlotte; “Wuthering Heights” (Грозовой перевал) by Emily; “Agnes Grey” (Агнес Грей) by Anne.

Lewis Carroll: “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (Алиса в стране чудес), “Through the Looking Glass” (В зазеркалье).



Charles Dickens: “Oliver Twist” (Оливер Твист), “The Pickwick Papers” (Записки Пиквикского клуба), “Bleak House” (Холодный дом).



Rudyard Kipling: the two “Jungle Books” (Книги джунглей) about Mowgli; the first English writer to be awarded *the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1907*.

Jerome K. Jerome: “Three Men in a Boat” (Трое в лодке); the successful Russian film with *Andrey Mironov, Alexander Shirvindt, Mikhail Derzhavin* starring as the main characters.

Agatha Christie: numerous detective stories and novels; her most famous characters are the detectives *Hercule Poirot* and *Miss Marple*.

Herbert George Wells: “The Invisible Man” (Человек - невидимка), “The War of the Worlds” (Война миров).

John Galsworthy: the trilogy “The Forsyte Saga” (Сага о Форсайтах) including “The Man of Property” (Собственник), “In Chancery” (В петле), “To Let” (Сдается в наем); the trilogy “A Modern Comedy” consisting of “The White Monkey” (Белая обезьяна), “The Silver Spoon” (Серебряная ложка), “The Swan Song” (Лебединая песня); the trilogy “End of the Chapter” (Конец главы): these nine novels make a family chronicle. *The Nobel Prize in Literature in 1932*.

Ian Fleming: many books about the secret agent (number 007) *James Bond*, later made into the successful films.

Graham Greene: “The Quiet American” (Тихий американец), “The Comedians” (Комедианты).

Aldous Huxley: “Crome Yellow” (Желтый кром), “Antic Hay” (Шутовской хоровод), “Brave New World” (О дивный новый мир).

David Herbert Lawrence: “Sons and Lovers” (Сыновья и любовники), “Lady Chatterley’s Lover” (Любовник леди Чаттерли).



William Somerset Maugham: “Of Human Bondage” (Бремя страстей человеческих), “The Moon and Sixpence” (Луна и грош), “Theatre” (Театр), hundreds of short stories; he is considered by critics *the best short-story writer in English*.

P. L. Travers: *Mary Poppins* (a nanny), the main character in his children’s book; “Mary Poppins” is the film based on this book: the nanny possessed magical powers, one of which is being able to fly.

Evelyn Waugh: “Decline and Fall” (Упадок и разрушение), “The Beloved One” (Незабвенная).

Virginia Woolf: “To the Lighthouse” (К маяку).

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien: “The Lord of the Rings” (Властелин колец); later the successful movie trilogy.

George Orwell: “Animal Farm” (*All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others* is a popular statement, often quoted at present).

The Angry Young Men (called so for their hostility towards the established traditions and the middle-class morality in their country, expressed in their works): *Kingsley Amis, John Wain, John Osborne, Wilson Collin*.

John Braine: “Room at the Top” (Путь наверх), “Life at the Top” (Жизнь наверху).

John Fowles: “The French Lieutenant’s Woman” (Женщина французского лейтенанта).

Iris Murdoch: “The Sandcastle” (Замок на песке).

Sir Peter Ustinov (a dramatist, an actor, a writer): “Romanoff and Juliet” (Романов и Джульетта), “The Loser” (Лузер).

Alan Sillitoe: “Key to the Door” (Ключ от двери).

Etel Lilian Voynich: “The Gadfly” (Овод).

William Golding: “Lord of the Flies” (Повелитель мух); *the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1983*.

J. K. Rowling: the *Harry Potter* fantasy novels, which have been the basis for the popular films. The *Harry Potter* novels include seven books and three supplements.

Writers and Poets of Scotland

Sir Walter Scott: “Ivanhoe” (Айвенго), “Rob Roy” (Роб Рой), numerous historical novels.

Arthur Conan Doyle: numerous *Sherlock Holmes* stories under the title “The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes” (the Russian actor *Vasily Livanov* is considered the best *Sherlock Holmes* even by the British critics); “The Lost World” (Затерянный мир), a science-fiction novel.

Robert Louis Stevenson: “Treasure Island” (Остров сокровищ), “Black Arrow” (Черная стрела), poetry for children.

Archibald Joseph Cronin: “Hatter’s Castle” = “Замок торговца шляпами” = in Russian translation “Замок Броуди”; “The Green Years” (Молодые годы), “Shannon’s Way” (Путь Шеннона).



Robert Burns (a poet): numerous lyric poems, such as “My Heart’s in the Highlands” (Мое сердце в горах), “A Red, Red Rose” (Красная, красная роза), “Auld Lang Syne” (the lyrics for the song) = the days of long ago.

Poets and Writers of Wales

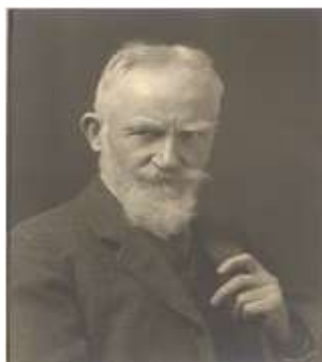
Ronald Stuart Thomas (a poet): poems about the Welsh old values.

Dylan Thomas (a poet): folklore-like poems under the title “Selected Poems”.

W.H. Davies (a poet and a writer): “Leisure” (Досуг), a collection of poems.

Writers of Ireland

Jonathan Swift: “Gulliver’s Travels” (Путешествие Гулливера).



George Bernard Shaw (a dramatist and a critic): “Pygmalion” (Пигмалион) = “My Fair Lady” (Моя прекрасная леди), the musical based on this play, produced by *Alan Jay Lerner*, a contemporary American playwright; the music by *Frederick Lowe*; the American movie star *Audrey Hepburn* as Eliza Doolittle, *Rex Harrison* as Professor Higgins.



Oscar Wilde: “The Picture of Dorian Gray” (Портрет Дориана Грея), “An Ideal Husband” (Идеальный муж), “The Importance of Being Earnest” (Как важно быть серьезным), which are noted for their brilliant witty dialogues and sharp social observations (e.g. *Experience is the name everyone gives to his mistakes* from *Lady Windermere’s Fan*).

Joseph Conrad: “Lord Jim” (Лорд Джим).

Bram Stoker: “Dracula” (Дракула), a vampire legend; now the famous films about Count Dracula.

James Joyce: the collection of stories “Dubliners” (Дублинцы), the novels “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” (Портрет художника в юности), “Ulysses” (Улисс).

Sean O’Casey (a dramatist and a writer): “Juno and the Peacock” (Юнона и павлин).

Thomas Stearns Eliot (a poet and a dramatist): many lyrical poems and a number of verse dramas; *the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948*.

Samuel Beckett (a dramatist and a writer): a number of plays in the style of the Theatre of the Absurd (Театр абсурда); *the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1969*.

Music

London remains one of the major classical music capitals in the world. The major British classical composers are *William Byrd, Henry Purcell and Benjamin Britten*.



Henry Purcell (the 17th century): the founder of the British opera. The opera “King Arthur” is about the struggle for the independence of Britain.



Benjamin Britten (the best-known British composer, who was greatly influenced by Henry Purcell): operas and choral works; the opera “Peter Grimes”.

Britain is also famous for its *folk music*, and there are folk clubs in many towns.

Modern music

The most talented modern composers are *John Lennon* and *Paul McCartney*, the founders of the legendary group *The Beatles*, whose music still influences the new generations. Many British music bands and singers are popular all over the world. Among them are *Pink Floyd, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Queen, Duran Duran, Oasis, the Spice Girls* and *Elton John*.



The Rolling Stones



Elton John



Queen

Fine Arts

The famous British classical artists are *Sir Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable, William Turner* and others.



*John Constable
and his pictures*



Brighton Beach



The White Horse

Some modern British painters are *Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud* and *David Hockney*.



A self-portrait by Francis Bacon and his other pictures



Lucian Freud and his pictures

Sir Christopher Wren is one the most outstanding English architects. He is called the architect of London because, after the Great Fire in 1666, he rebuilt 51 churches in London including his greatest masterpiece *St. Paul's Cathedral*. It took the architect 35 years to build the cathedral, and he is buried in it. There is no monument on the architect's grave, but on it we read: "If you want to see my monument, look around."



Christopher Wren and his architectural works



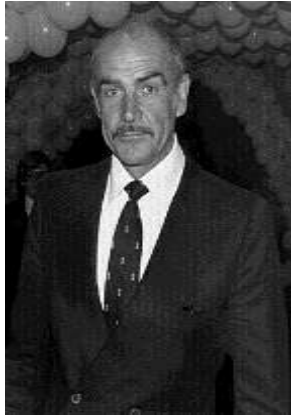
St. James Piccadilly



Kensington Palace

Acting

The British people are cinema- and theatre-goers. Many British actors and actresses are known all over the world.



Sean Connery: “The First Knight”
(Первый рыцарь), “Secret Agent
007”



Ewan McGregor:
“Moulin Rouge” (Мулен Руж),
“Big Fish” (Большая рыба)



Keira Knightley: “The Pirates of
the Caribbean” (Пираты
Карибского моря)



Kate Winslet: “Titanic”
(Титаник)



Julia Ormond: “The First Knight”
(Первый рыцарь)



Daniel Radcliffe: the series of films
about the young magician Harry Potter

Science

Sir Isaac Newton (the most famous English physicist): the Law of Universal Gravitation.

James Clerk Maxwell (a physicist): the founder of electrodynamics and electromagnetism.

Henry Cavendish (a physicist): studied heat and electricity.

Charles Darwin (a biologist): the founder of the theory of evolution.

Michael Faraday: the discoverer of benzene.

Ernest Rutherford (a New Zealand-born British physicist): the founder of nuclear physics; *the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1908*.

Sir Alexander Fleming: a pioneer in the vaccine therapy; *the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 1945*.

Alan Turing: the inventor of the turing machine, later the basis of modern computing.

Francis Crick: the discoverer of the genetic code of life and DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid = ДНК), *the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1962*.

Tim Berners-Lee: the inventor of the World Wide Web.



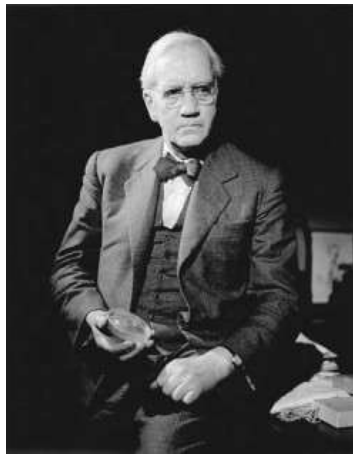
Isaac Newton



James Clerk Maxwell



Michael Faraday



Sir Alexander Fleming



Francis Crick



Tim Berners-Lee

Philosophy

George Berkeley: the founder of the theory of idealism.

Jeremy Bentham: the founder of the philosophy of modern utilitarianism.

Adam Smith: the founder of the classical political economy.



George Berkeley



Adam Smith



Jeremy Bentham

15. The Mass Media in the UK

The British national newspapers are *daily newspapers* (dailies), published on week days, and *Sunday newspapers*. Both can be *quality newspapers*, that cover serious home and foreign news and express the official political opinion, and *popular newspapers* (*populars*), whose main aim is shocking and personal stories, scandal and sport.

The quality papers are *The Times* (the oldest and the most important), *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Financial Times*, *The Independent*, *The Observer*, *The Sunday Correspondent*. The popular press includes *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express*, *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *News of the World*, *The People*.

The national radio and TV in the United Kingdom are controlled by *the British Broadcasting Corporation* (the BBC) and *the Independent Television Commission* (the ITC). The BBC is financed by the government, and it is the main television and radio broadcasting organization, which has five radio stations and two national TV channels. The ITC is responsible for the private companies.

The British TV and radio programmes are, as a rule, of a very high standard. But some people are worried about the amount of violence shown on TV and its effect on the young.

Top of the Pops (Самые популярные) is a musical programme, that is shown on the BBC TV every week. The producers of this show choose the songs and the bands which have sold the most copies weekly and may become hits. At the end of the show the disc jockey (DJ) also announces which song is the number one single.

16. The British Habits and Ways or «В Британии принято так»

Holidays

There are not many official holidays in the UK. They are called *bank holidays* because the banks are closed and the people do not work.

The British bank holidays are *New Year's Day*, *Good Friday* (Страстная пятница), *Easter Monday*, *May Day*, *Spring Bank Holiday*, *Summer Bank Holiday*, *Christmas Day* (25th December) and *Boxing Day* (26th December, день рождественских подарков: a box – a Christmas box – рождественский подарок, i.e. a present in a box). *The Patron Saints' Days* are not bank holidays.

The special British holiday, celebrated throughout the UK on the 5th of November, is *Guy Fawkes Day* or *Bonfire Night*: a man, named Guy Fawkes, decided to blow up the Parliament, but the tragedy was prevented. Guy Fawkes Night is celebrated by burning bonfires and dummies (чучела) and fireworks.

Traditions, Customs and Meals

Every country has its customs. Englishmen are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. The English are stay-at-home people. “There is no place like home”, they say. When they don’t work, they like to spend their days off at home with their families.

Englishmen are very fond of the fireplace, that’s why many of them prefer the open fire to central heating. They also like to live in a small house with a small garden around it. People all over the world know the saying *The Englishman’s home is his castle*.



English people keep their traditions even in meals. *Porridge* is the dish they are very fond of. Many eat porridge with milk and sugar for *breakfast*. Breakfast time in England is between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Then, between 12 a.m. and 2 p.m. there comes *lunch time*. In some English houses lunch is the biggest meal of the day – they have meat or fish, vegetables, fruit or pudding.

In the afternoon, at *tea-time* (which is at about five o’clock), the English like to have a cup of tea with milk. *Five o’clock tea* became popular about one hundred and fifty years ago, when rich ladies invited their friends to their houses for an afternoon cup of tea.





The evening meal at about 6 p.m. is *dinner*, for which they have soup, fish or meat, vegetables, pudding or fruit.



For *supper* (the English eat it occasionally), they usually have a glass of milk and a cake or a cup of tea and a sandwich.

The English are *tea-drinkers*. They have tea many times a day. Some English families have *high tea* or *big tea* and no supper. For high tea, they may have cold meat, bread and butter, cakes and, of course, a lot of tea. The Englishmen always drink tea out of cups, never out of glasses.

The Saints, Saints' Days and Emblems

Country	Patron saint	Emblem	The Image of the Emblem
England	 St. George 23 rd April	Red and White Rose	
Scotland	 St. Andrew 30 th November	Thistle (чертополох)	

<p>Wales</p>	 <p>St. David 1st March</p>	<p>Leek/Daffodil (лук-порей/нарцисс)</p>	
<p>Northern Ireland</p>	 <p>St. Patrick 17th March</p>	<p>Shamrock/Flax (трилистник/лен)</p>	

Sports and Games

The British are proud that many sports originated in their country. These sports are *football, golf, cricket, table tennis, lawn tennis* and *darts*.

The most popular sport in Britain is football. Football was invented in Great Britain in the 19th century. At present, the official name of the game is *Association football*, after the name of their *British Football Association*, which established the modern football rules. Association football is also called *soccer* or *socker*: from *(as)soc(iation)+cer*. Another kind of football is *rugby football* or *rugger*, named after the Rugby public school for boys in the town of Rugby, where it originated.

There are many football clubs in the UK, such as *Rangers, Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal* and *Celtic*.

The other popular games are golf, cricket and steeplechase. The *steeplechase* is crosscountry running (бег с препятствиями) and it is very popular in the UK, too.



The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews is "Home of Golf".



English people love cricket.

The British people like *racing*, such as *horse-racing*, *motor-car racing*, *boat-racing*, *dog-racing* and *donkey-racing*. The most famous boat race in England is between the teams of Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Thousands of people come to watch it on the river Thames.

There are several places in Britain associated with a particular kind of sports.



The *Derby Stakes* (also *the Derby* or *the Epsom Derby*) is a horse race in Great Britain, that takes place each year in early June at the town of Epsom near London. The competition is named after the *Earl of Derby*, its founder in 1780.



Tennis is played in exclusive tennis clubs or on public tennis courts. People all over the world know *Wimbledon* (a suburb of London) as the centre of lawn tennis since 1877.



The new *Wembley Stadium* in London is the most expensive stadium ever built, costing £793 mln, where international football matches, the Cup Finals and other events have taken place since 1923.

17. Miscellaneous: Learn More about the British People

A cop: the same as a policeman (*to cop* – хватать, арестовывать; also a badge made of copper).

A hooligan: This word first appeared in 1898 in the London police reports. There was a certain Mr. Hooley, who had a gang. They did many bad things. Thus, the word hooligan is short for *Hooley's gang*.

A pound is also called a “quid” in the UK, which is a slang. It comes from *quid pro quo*, a Latin phrase meaning an equivalent amount for something.

Lbs: short for *pounds*, when pounds are used as a unit of weight. The form *lb* is actually the abbreviation of the Latin word *libra*, which means a pound and is short for *libra pondo* or *pound weight*. The second word of this phrase, *pondo*, by the way, is the origin of the English *pound*. The symbol £ is the Latin letter for *libra*.

A mackintosh: This rubber raincoat is named after its Scottish inventor *Charles Macintosh*, though the letter *k* is added.

Front-benches: «переднескамеечники», i.e. the leading members of the ruling parties who occupy the first two rows of the seats in the House of Commons.

Back-benchers: «заднескамеечники», i.e. the members of the minority political parties in the House of Commons.

A woolsack (a sack for wool): *The Woolsack* has been the official seat of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords since the 14th century when wool was the main item of the English export.

Cockney (кокни – лондонское просторечие) is the dialect used by a certain section of the London poorly educated or illiterate population. They drop some sounds and say ‘*urt* instead of *hurt*, *bein*’ instead of *being*; *them friends* is *their friends*; *you, they was* instead of *you, they were*; *ain’t* instead of *am not, is not, are not, have not* (e.g. *I ain’t hungry* means *I am not hungry*); *he/she don’t* for *he/she doesn’t*, etc.

A sandwich is named after *John Montagu, the Earl of Sandwich*, an English diplomat in 1792, who was fond of playing cards so much that he didn't stop even for eating. To keep his fingers clean, he put meat, egg, cheese or tomato between two slices of buttered bread.