

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБЩЕГО И ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОГО  
ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

САМАРСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

Кафедра иностранных языков

**GREAT BRITAIN  
AND  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**One Language - Two Nations**

Методические разработки по чтению  
страноведческих текстов

*для студентов 1 и 2 курсов языковых факультетов*

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Данные методические разработки по чтению страноведческих текстов имеют целью:

- развитие навыков чтения с быстрым извлечением необходимой информации;
- ознакомление студентов с местными реалиями Великобритании и США;
- удовлетворение потребности студентов в получении информации о странах изучаемого языка, которая необходима при выезде их в Великобританию и США для дальнейшего совершенствования знаний языка и в сфере получаемой специальности;
- развитие умений дискутировать и аргументировать на основе полученной информации.

Тексты заимствованы из оригинальных источников. При их отборе составители руководствовались требованиями программы для университетов, а также задачей дать информацию на основе новейших аутентичных материалов.

Методические разработки предназначены для студентов 1 и 2 курсов неязыковых факультетов университета.

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## Chapter 1. THIS IS BRITAIN

"Great Britain" has several different names. Some people say "Britain", or "the United Kingdom", or just "UK". There are four different countries in the United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (*see map*).

Everyone from Britain is British, but only people from England are English. People from Scotland are Scottish, people from Wales are Welsh and people from Northern Ireland are Irish. Don't call Scottish or Welsh people English. They won't like it!

Altogether more than 56 million people live in Britain, many of them in big industrial cities like London, Liverpool and Manchester, but people are often surprised by how much of Britain is open country, with lonely hills and woods, quiet rivers, lakes and farmlands.

Everyone in Britain speaks English. But in some parts of Scotland and Wales people speak an older language as well. The Welsh are especially proud of their language, and you can see road signs in Welsh all over Wales.

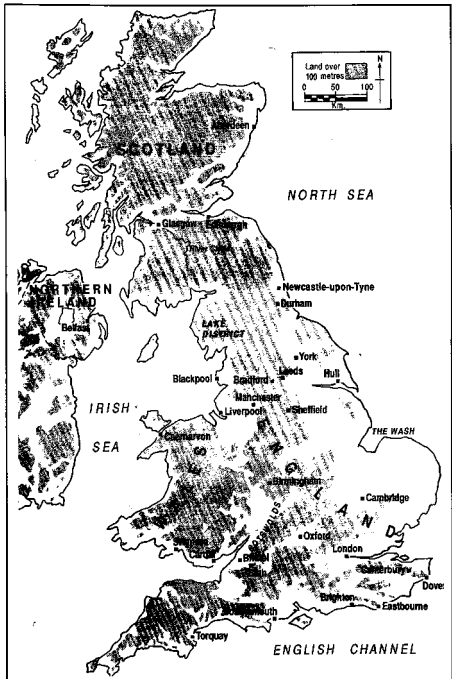
Everyone speaks English, but they do not all speak it in the same way. A Scottish person has to listen carefully if he wants to understand a Londoner. And when a Welsh person speaks, everyone knows at once where he comes from!

Many people think that the weather is cold and wet in Britain all the year round. But it isn't! True, it sometimes rains and even snows for days and days, but every year there are weeks of beautiful sunny weather when the British take off their sweaters and go out to sunbathe.

Britain is only a small country, but every part is different. Scotland is a land of mountains, lakes and romantic castles. The winters are cold, with plenty of snow, but the summers are often warm and sunny. Most farmers keep sheep, and there are many small factories which make fine sweaters from their wool.

Glasgow and Edinburgh are both large and busy, with all that is good (and bad) in modern cities.

Northern Ireland has its problems, but it has beauty, too. In the warm, wet climate, the grass grows a brilliant green, and much of the land is farming country. Belfast is a large industrial city with many fine buildings and a big port from which ships come and go to Scotland and England. But Belfast has had many difficult years, and it is not the busy place it once was.





A hundred years ago the north of England was the industrial heart of the country. From the factories came cloth, wool, machines, engines and china. Outside the towns, much of this part of England is beautiful countryside, with green hills, lakes and sandy beaches. Fishing is still a big industry in the North East, and every night (except Sunday) the fishing boats go out to sea. The centre of England (the "Midlands") is also an important industrial area, especially near the huge cities of Coventry and Birmingham, the centre of the car industry. But everywhere, even in the heart of a modern city, there are buildings from an older

Britain - cathedrals, castles, and houses built hundreds of years ago.

Wales is a special place, a country of high mountains and pretty valleys. But Wales has plenty of industry, too, with many factories and coal mines. The people of Wales are very musical. Every year they have a festival of Welsh music and poetry.

The west of England is rich farming country. It produces milk, cream, butter, cheese and apples, which go to make cider, a popular drink. In the villages, country people often grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers. Some areas of Britain are very crowded. Around Manchester, in north west England, and Glasgow, in Scotland, are large city areas of houses and factories.

The south east of England, too, has many towns and cities, including London, the giant capital. But quite near London there are still some quiet villages and peaceful farms.

Britain is an island, of course, and you are never far from the sea. Some of the coast, especially in the west, is wild and rocky, with small, sandy beaches, and romantic old harbours.

Other parts are industrial. The east coast of Scotland, for example, is busy with oil rigs and fishing boats. The most popular beaches are near the many



holiday towns on the south coast, where the weather is usually warmer. It is here that Londoners come to relax.

**Vocabulary:**

to come from	быть родом из ....
to sunbathe	- загорать
a castle	- замок
wool	- шерсть
an engine	двигатель
china	фарфор
huge	огромный
a cathedral	- собор
giant	гигантский
rocky	скалистый
oil rigs	буровые вышки

**Questions :**

1. How many different countries are there in the United Kingdom ?
2. What is the population of Great Britain ?
3. Is English spoken in the same way by everyone in Great Britain ?
4. What is the weather like in Britain ?
5. Is every part of the country very different ?
6. What important industrial areas can you name ?
7. How can you characterize the west of England ?
8. What can you say about Britain coastline ?

London has been a capital city for nearly a thousand years, and many of its ancient buildings still stand. The most famous of these are the Tower of London (where the Crown Jewels are kept), Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral, but most visitors also want to see the Houses of Parliament (seen below across the River Thames), Buckingham Palace (the Queen's London home) and the many magnificent museums.

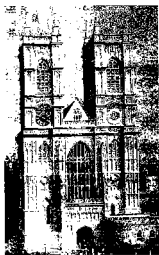


Once, London was a small Roman town on the north bank of the Thames, but slowly it grew into one of the world's major cities with more than seven million people. Fewer people live in the centre now, but the suburbs are still growing.

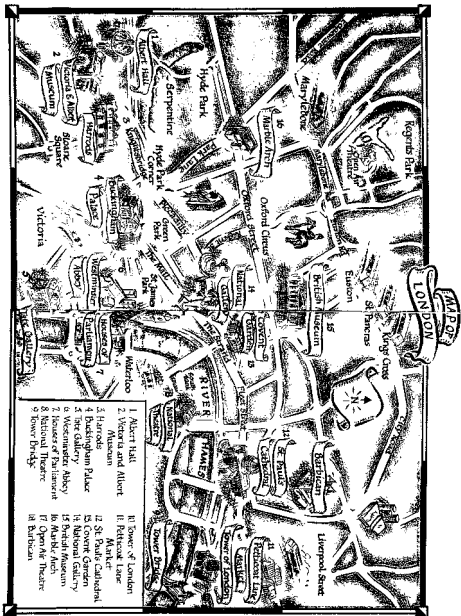
Places now in the heart of London, like Westminster, once stood in the middle of green fields. Many small villages, like Hempstead, Chelsea and Mayfair, became part of London, but they still keep some of their old atmosphere. Different areas of London seem like different cities. The West End is a rich man's world of shops, offices and theaters. The old port area is now called "Docklands". The great ships have gone, and the area is changing very fast. There are huge new office buildings, and thousands of new flats and houses.

Other parts of London are changing, too. Some of the poorer areas have become fashionable, and people with more money are moving into them. A hundred years ago, the river was crowded with ships, leaving for Java and Japan, New Zealand and New York, but now people travel by air, and London's main

airport, Heathrow, is one of the busiest in the world. Like all big cities, London has streets and concrete buildings, but, it also has many big parks, full of trees, flowers and grass. Sit on the grass in the middle of Hyde Park or Kensington Gardens, and you will think that you are in the country, miles away.







Many people live outside the centre of London in the suburbs, and they travel to work in the shops and offices by train, bus or underground. The trains are full - and expensive - and the roads are crowded with cars, but every day a million people make the journey. Some people come from far out of London, even from the coast, and spend up to four hours travelling every day.

Most people work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From 8 until 10 every morning, and 4.30 to 6.30 every evening, the trains are crowded with people, and after the morning "rush hour" the shoppers come.

By day the whole of London is busy. At night, the offices are quiet and empty, but the West End stays alive, because this is where Londoners come to enjoy themselves. There are two opera houses here, several concert halls and many theatres, as well as cinemas, and in nearby Soho the pubs, restaurants and nightclubs are busy half the night.



Many people think that London is all grey, but in fact red is London's favorite colour. The buses are red, the letter boxes are red and the mail vans are all bright, bright red. London is at its best when people are celebrating. Then the flags, the soldiers' uniforms, the cheering crowds and the carriages and horses all

sparkle in the sunshine - if it's not raining, of course!

London has many large department stores, which sell everything: shoes and shirts, paper and perfume, footballs and frying pans. The most expensive department store is Harrods in Knightsbridge. Twice a year, in January and July, Harrods has a "sale". Some things are almost half price, and there are thousands of bargains. But on the first days of the sale the shop is very crowded.

Some people stand and wait all night so that they can be first in the shop when it opens.

The smartest and most expensive shops are in Knightsbridge, but more people come to Oxford Street, London's most popular shopping center. Most of the hundreds of shops sell clothes or shoes.

The street is more than a mile long. There are several big department stores in Oxford Street. The best known are Selfridges, John Lewis and Marks and Spencer. Oxford Street has the most shops, but in some ways King's Road in Chelsea is more fun. This is where fashionable young

Londoners buy their clothes in the many small "boutiques". You can buy what you like in the big shops, but the small markets have a lot to offer too. There are several big street markets in London, and many small ones. Some markets open only one day a week.

Go to Portobello Road on Saturday, or to Petticoat Lane on Sunday. Covent Garden market is open every day. Come here for antiques, old clothes, hand-made jewelry and many other rather special things.

British restaurants have not always been famous for their good food. Too often, they offered only fried food and chips with everything. But now, healthy food is in fashion and so is international cooking. The British have taken good ideas from all over the world. You can eat Chinese, Indian, French, Italian and Greek food in any big city, and in London there's a fantastic variety of restaurants.

Most British families only go to restaurants on special occasions, like birthdays, or wedding anniversaries. The restaurants' best customers are business people, who meet in them to talk business in a relaxed atmosphere away from the telephone. They can eat what they like because the company pays the bill! But when a man and a woman want to get to know each other better, they often go out to a restaurant together. After all, it's easier to talk in a quiet atmosphere, with soft music, wine and good food.

For visitors to London, eating out can be fun. Try Rules, in the West End. The traditional menu and decor are just like they were in Queen Victoria's day, a hundred years ago. Or take a walk round Soho or Covent Garden where there are dozens of small restaurants.

But if you want that special London feeling, go to the Ritz in Piccadilly for tea any afternoon at about half past four. Too expensive? Then try England's favorite food - fish and chips. Take it away and eat it where you like - in the park, on the bus or while you walk down the street. That's what Londoners do!

### Vocabulary:

ancient	- древний
the Tower of London	- Тауэр ( 11 век )
Jewels	драгоценности ( Crown - драгоценности Короны ) Королевские регалии
Westminster Abby	- Вестминстерское аббатство (11 век )
St. Paul's Cathedral	Собор св. Павла ( 1675 - 1710 гг. )
the Houses of Parliament	- здание Парламента ( 1840 - 1852 гг. )
Buckingham Palace	- Букингемский дворец ( 1703 г. )
suburbs	- пригороды

Heathrow	- Хитроу, крупнейший международный аэропорт Великобритании в 24 км к западу от Лондона( 1946 г. )
Hampstead, Chelsea, Mayfair	- фешенебельные районы Лондона
underground	- метрополитен, подземка
rush hour	- часы пик
Soho	- Сохо - центральный район Лондона, где сосредоточены рестораны, ночные клубы, казино и другие увесилительные заведения
Harrods	«Харродз», один из самых фешенебельных и дорогих универмагов Лондона и мира
Knightsbridge	- Найтсбридж, фешенебельный район Уэст-Энда, известен дорогими магазинами, в т.ч. ювелирными и антикварными
Oxford Street	- одна из главных торговых улиц в центре Лондона
Selfridges, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer	- крупнейшие универмаги Лондона
boutique	модный магазин дорогой одежды и предметов туалета
Portobello Road	- уличный рынок в Лондоне, известный антикварными лавками
Petticoat Lane	- улица в Ист-Энде, известная воскресными базарами
Covent Garden market	- главный лондонский оптовый рынок фруктов, овощей и цветов
to be in fashion	- быть в моде
to talk business	- вести деловые переговоры
Queen Victoria	- королева Великобритании (1819 - 1910 гг. )
Ritz	фешенебельные гостиница и ресторан на улице Пиккадилли

### Questions :

1. What do you think of London's age?
2. Where is it situated?
3. What is the population of London?
4. What are the main sights of London?
5. Would you like to live in the suburbs of London?
6. Comment on London's favorite colour.
7. Would you like to go shopping in London?
8. What place would you choose?
9. Compare food in simple places and in fashionable ones.

### **Chapter 3. OLD CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRES OF GREAT BRITAIN**

Edinburgh is Scotland's capital, and one of the most beautiful cities in Britain. The heart of Edinburgh is the thousand-year-old castle, where the kings of Scotland lived for centuries. From Edinburgh castle you can see for miles, north over the beautiful old streets and squares. Far away are the mountains of Central Scotland, often covered with snow. Edinburgh has a busy cultural life. Every year, in August, 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 theaters and the concert halls are full. In cafes and pubs, small groups sing, act and read poetry.

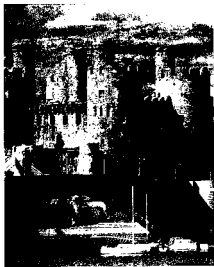


The castle is at its best in Festival time. Every night there is a magnificent military "Tattoo". Highland soldiers wearing "kilts" play the bagpipes and march to the music.

What is so special about Oxford and Cambridge, the two oldest universities in England? Why do so many students want to study there?

Both of these university towns are very beautiful. They have some of the finest architecture in Britain. Some of their colleges, chapels and libraries are three, four and even five hundred years old, and are full of valuable books and precious paintings. Both towns have many lovely gardens, where the students can read and relax in the summer months.

Oxford is the older university of the two. The first of its colleges was founded in 1249. The university now has thirty-five colleges and about thirteen thousand students, many of them from other countries. Oxford is, of course, famous for its first-class education as well as its beautiful buildings. Some of the most intelligent men and women in the country live and work here. Oxford gives them what they need: a quiet atmosphere, friendly colleagues, and the four-hundred-year-old Bodleian library, which has about five million books. It is not easy to get a place at Oxford University to study for a degree. But outside the university there are many smaller private colleges which offer less difficult courses and where it is easy to enroll. Most students in these private schools take business, secretarial or English language courses.



Some of the aristocratic families of Britain still have a lot of money, and some still live in magnificent "stately homes" built by their families hundreds of years ago. Castles with strong walls and towers may be almost a thousand years old, but most stately homes date from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and many are filled with wonderful collections of paintings and furniture. But even for the richest, life in these old houses is expensive. There are roofs to repair, hundreds of rooms to clean, and miles of parkland to look after. To make money, owners of stately homes often make their parks into playgrounds. They set up zoos, museums anything that people will

safari parks, model railways, small pay to see.

Not everyone is lucky enough to keep their old home. Many of the people who once owned the castles and palaces of Britain cannot afford to

look after them now. But the buildings still stand, full of wonderful antiques and art treasures.

**Vocabulary:**

Edinburgh	столица Шотландии, крупный культурный и образовательный центр (-Castle знаменитая крепость на вершине базальтовой скалы, 11в; -Festival ежегодный международный музыкальный и театральный фестиваль в августе - сентябре)
kilt	килт, юбка шотландского горца (в складку из шерстяной шотландки, часть национального костюма)
bagpipes	- волынки (народный музыкальный инструмент шотландцев)
Oxford	- главный город графства Оксфордшир, центр крупной автомобильной промышленности, знаменит своим университетом, основанным в конце 12 в. (Ох.Уп. имеет в своем составе 29 мужских, 5 женских и 5 смешанных самоуправляющихся колледжей, около 13 тыс. студентов).
Cambridge	- главный город графства Кембриджшир, известен своим университетом, основанным в начале 13 в. ( С.Уп. имеет в своем составе 18 мужских, 5 женских и 6 смешанных самоуправляющихся колледжей, около 11 тыс. студентов )
to afford to do sth.	позволить себе делать что-то

**Questions :**

1. Would you like to visit these old cities ?
2. What's your opinion of students' life in Oxford and Cambridge Universities?
3. Would you like to be educated there ?

## Chapter 9. THIS IS THE USA

The United States of America - the richest, and one of the biggest countries in the world - has several names. People say "the United States", "the States", "America", or just "the USA" or "the US".

There are fifty states in the USA (including Alaska and Hawaii), and over 200 million people live in them.



Abbreviations used in the map:

CT Connecticut	MD Maryland	RI Rhode Island	(D. C.) District of Columbia	States not shown on the r
DE Delaware	NH New Hampshire	VT Vermont	(federal area on the Potomac where the	Alaska AK, capital: Juneau
MA Massachusetts	NJ New Jersey	WV West Virginia	federal capital is, governed by Congress)	Hawaii HI, capital: Honolulu

There is no "American climate" or "American countryside". Every part of the country is different, from Alaska in the North, covered with snow and ice, to tropical Florida in the South.

Who are the Americans? Where did they come from? Why did so many people go across the sea to the New World?

The American Indians were the first people to live in that vast land. They had a fascinating, ancient culture, and a rich tradition of language and customs. When Christopher Columbus arrived, in 1492, there were probably about 1,500,000 Indians in North America.

But then, the immigrants came. By the early nineteenth century, the population was more than 17 million. Most came from Europe, but there were also many from the Middle East and the Far East, as well as millions of Africans, caught in the terrible slave trade.



Immigration went on growing. In 1907 alone, one and a quarter million people arrived. By 1914, the population was 92 million. Now there are more than 25 million British Americans (nearly half the population of Britain), about 23 million African Americans, 25 million German Americans and more Irish Americans than the whole population of Ireland.

You can find almost anything in America. There are mountains and deserts, old churches and moon rockets, homes with three cars and homes with no electric lights at all. There are people who speak Chinese, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Polish, Swedish, Japanese - in fact, almost every language under the sun.

Do you like wild empty lands? You'll love the great deserts of Nevada and Arizona, the high Rocky Mountains, and the miles of snow and ice in arctic Alaska.

Are you more interested in city life? You'll prefer the North East Coast, where 75% of Americans live on 1.5% of the land. You can drive from Boston through New York to Washington, D.C. and you will be in a town all the time. The three great cities of the East Coast, Boston in the north, New York in the middle Washington, D.C. in the south, are the most important centres of American culture, education and government. Boston is a city full of history and old world charm. Near it is Harvard, America's oldest university, New York, full of life and colour, also has wonderful museums, art galleries and concert halls. Washington, D.C., of course, is the capital city, where the President of the USA lives in the famous White House.

Perhaps you prefer a more peaceful, agricultural landscape? Then go to the Midwest, to Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin. There the huge, flat farmlands, covered in wheat, go on and on as far as the eye can see. Out in the country, small towns offer a meeting place for the farmers - a church, a few shops, and a hotel for visitors. But there are huge cities in the Midwest as well. Chicago and Detroit, near the Great Lakes, are the old industrial heartland's of America. Millions of people live and work here, making steel, cars, TV sets and everything Americans love to buy.



Everyone knows about the great cattle ranches of Texas, but not all American cattle farmers are big landowners. Some live on quite small farms, which a family can manage with no extra help.

If you like warm, sunny weather and an exciting atmosphere where new ideas are always welcome, California on the West Coast is the place for you. In this

perfect climate, oranges, peaches and grapes grow easily, and on the wonderful beaches giant waves roll in from the Pacific Ocean.

Near Los Angeles, California's largest city, is Hollywood, where film stars of past and present have their homes. A visit to the film studios here is something you will always remember.

Los Angeles is not only the "motion-picture capital of the world", it is a vast electronics centre and a major centre for oil refining and aircraft manufacture. San Diego, a naval port and a centre of aerospace industry, is the site of several large US Navy installations. It is the home of the Atlas missile, an aircraft producer and a leader in the electronics industry.

San Francisco is the major mainland supply port for the numerous US military bases in the Pacific.

California's claim to the title of the "science state" is based on a scientific establishment of awesome size. Its aerospace industry, much of it clustered in the Los Angeles area, boasts more than a third of the nation's aviation and space workers. In the San Francisco area alone, electronics is a leader in business. But the heart of California's science empire are its colleges. While industry and military contribute cash to California's science empire, its colleges are contributing trained manpower.

Is California not hot enough for you? Go to the deep South, to Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, where the old paddle boats still go down the great, wide river. Life is different here, quieter, slower, more old-fashioned. In the cotton fields of the South it is difficult to believe that the cities of the North East and the mountains of the North West are all part of the same huge country.

*Vocabulary :*

countryside	- сельская местность
fascinating	- зд. интереснейшая
custom	- обычай
Christopher Columbus	- Христофор Колумб
slave trade	- работорговля
to go on growing	- продолжать расти
Rocky Mountains	Скалистые горы
old world charm	- очарование старого света
Midwest	Средний запад
Great Lakes	Великие Озера
to manage without extra help	-управляться без посторонней помощи

motion-picture capital of the world	- мировая столица киноиндустрии
oil refining	- нефтепереработка
Navy installations	- военно-морские базы
awesome	- зд. мощный
to contribute cash	- делать «денежные вливания»
to contribute manpower	(trained) - готовить (обученные) человеческие ресурсы

### Questions :

1. How many states are there in the USA ?
2. Is it possible to compare the climate of the two countries ?
3. Comment on the Americans as a nation .
4. Comment on the US nature.
5. What parts of America can you name ?
6. Which large American cities can you name ?
7. What is the motion-picture capital of the world ?
8. What is California famous for ?

## Chapter 5. GREAT CITIES OF THE U.S.A.

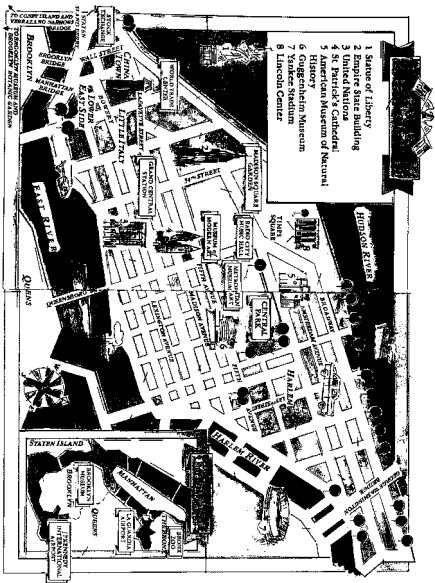
Everyone knows something about New York - the Statue of Liberty, the skyscrapers, the beautiful shops on Fifth Avenue and the many theatres on Broadway. This is America's cultural capital, and her biggest city, with a population of nearly eight million. In the summer it is hot and in the winter it can be very cold, but there are hundreds of things to do and see all the year round.

There are five "boroughs" in New York: Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Richmond. Only one of them, the Bronx, is not on an island.

Manhattan, the smallest island in New York, is the real center of the city. When people say "New York City" they usually mean Manhattan. Most of the interesting shops, buildings and museums are here, and Manhattan is the scene of New York's busy night life.

In 1605 the first Europeans came to Manhattan from Holland. They bought the island from the Native Americans for a few glass necklaces, worth about \$26 today.

Only 1,500,000 people live in Manhattan, but five million people work here every day. Many live in the suburbs and come to work on the subway.



- 1 Statue of Liberty
- 2 Empire State Building
- 3 United Nations
- 4 St. Patrick's Cathedral
- 5 American Museum of Natural History
- 6 Guggenheim Museum
- 7 Yankee Stadium
- 8 Lincoln Center



Wall Street in Manhattan is the financial heart of the USA and the most important banking center in the world. It is a street of "skyscrapers", those incredible, high buildings which Americans invented, and built faster and higher than anyone else. Perhaps the two most spectacular skyscrapers in New York are the two towers of the New York World Trade Center. When the sun sets, their 110 floors shine like pure gold.

Like every big city New York has its own traffic system. Traffic jams can be

terrible, and it's usually quickest to go by subway. The New York subway is easy to use and quite cheap.

The subway goes to almost every corner of Manhattan, But be careful. It's better not to go by subway late at night. You see more, of course, if you go by bus. New York buses are also easy to use, The "Shoppers Shuttle" (Monday to Friday) and the "Culture Loops" (Saturdays and Sundays) stop at some of the best known stores and tourist places. You can get on and off as many times as you like in one day with only one ticket.

There are more than 30,000 taxis in New York. They are easy to see, because they are bright yellow and carry large TAXI signs. Taxis do not go outside the city but they will go to the airports. People give the taxi driver a "tip" of 15% extra.

Central Park is a beautiful green oasis in the middle of New York's concrete desert, and it's surprisingly big, with lakes and woods as well as organized recreation areas.

New Yorkers love Central Park, and they use it all the time. In the winter, they go ice-skating, and in the summer roller-skating. They play ball, ride horses and have picnics. They go bicycling and boating. There's even a children's zoo, with wild birds and animals.

Families come here to enjoy the sun and fresh air. The children can play safely here, away from fast cars and busy streets. Musicians make music, office workers bring their lunches here in fine weather and give bits of bread to the water birds, and large New Yorkers, who have eaten too

many hot dogs and hamburgers from Monday to Friday, spend Saturday and Sunday walking and running to try to get slim again.

Go to the northern corners of Central Park, walk round the lake and through the woods, and you will understand a little of how Manhattan was in the days of the first New Yorkers nearly four hundred years ago.

Along the east side of Central Park runs Fifth Avenue, once called "Millionaire's Row". In the nineteenth century, the richest men in America built their magnificent homes here, and it is still the most fashionable street in the city, with famous department stores, like Lord & Taylor and Saks Fifth Avenue and wonderful jewelry shops, like Cartier's and Tiffany's.

Soaring 1,250 feet above Fifth Avenue in mid-town Manhattan, the Empire State Building is the world's quintessential skyscraper, affording on a clear day, a view of fifty miles from the 102nd floor observation deck.

During the peak of its construction, the building proceeded at a record pace of four-and-a-half stories per week. It took only two years to build, but due to the depression - more than a dozen years passed before all its office space was occupied. The "Empty State Building", as New Yorkers had come to call it, already had a storied history. It is frequently struck by lightning, and in 1945 an Army B-25 aircraft crashed into the 79th floor, killing 14 and causing \$1 - million damage.

Statue of Liberty, she stands alone on an island less than two miles from the southern tip of Manhattan. Lady Liberty, facing out to sea with New Jersey at her back, holds a golden torch aloft welcoming ships to the friendly shores of America. Indeed, for decades, shiploads of immigrants from all over the world passed before her gaze moments before landing at Ellis Island and entering their adopted country. The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France in 1886 to commemorate an alliance that dates back to the American Revolution.

New York is an international city, and its restaurants are international, too. You can spend a fortune or a few dollars. You can eat food from Lebanon, Japan, Mexico and Sicily and many other places. New York is the place to try something new. It may be an experience you will never forget.

Broadway, of course, is the street where you will find New York's best-known theatres, But away from the bright lights and elegant clothes of

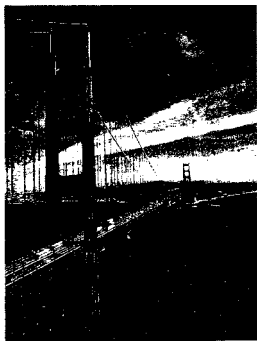


Broadway are many smaller theatres. Their plays are called "off-Broadway" and are often more unusual than the Broadway shows.

As well as many theatres New York has a famous opera house, the Metropolitan, where international stars sing from September until April. Carnegie Hall is the city's most popular concert hall.

But night life in New York offers more than classical music and theatre. There are hundreds of nightclubs where people go to eat and dance. One of the best of these is the Copacabana on East 60th Street. Jazz, America's great gift to the world of music, is still very popular in New York, and there are many small jazz clubs. Some of the musicians are well-known, and many are not, but their music brings with it a very special atmosphere.

What may be the world's most important meeting place, The United Nations, is situated on 18 acres of East River waterfront between 42nd and 48th Streets and 1st Avenue. This vast working monument to world peace and international diplomacy is one of the three most-visited attractions in New York, after the Statue of Liberty and Central Park. Each year nearly a million tourists shuffle through United Nations plaza and gardens. Guided tours are offered in thirty languages, and visitors can rub shoulders with diplomats in the UN Delegates' Dining Room.



San Francisco in California is a special place, very different from most American cities. It lies on a small finger of land with the Pacific Ocean on one side and a huge harbour on the other. The famous Golden Gate Bridge crosses over the mouth of the harbour. If you live in San Francisco, you get plenty of exercise, because it's a city of hills. Perhaps that's why the famous cablecars are so popular. And of course, the views from the hills are spectacular.

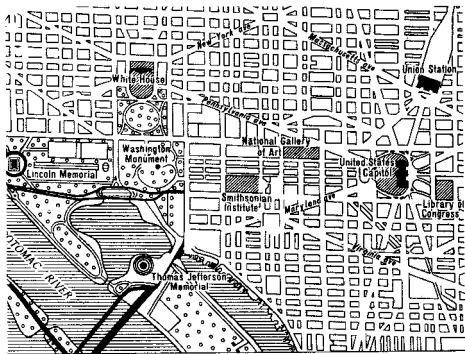
San Francisco's population is only about 700,000, but it is the biggest business center in the west of the USA. It is also America's most international city, with newspapers in thirty different languages.

The city is known as "the Paris of the West", "Baghdad by the Bay" and "Gateway to the Orient".

There are at least three small cities in San Francisco: "Little Italy", with its pizzerias and restaurants, "Chinatown", with wonderful shops and exciting food and "Japantown", with its \$15 million Japan Center. And everywhere you go, you will see boats out on the sea, smell fresh fish and salt and feel the sea wind on your face.

Most people enjoy the climate in San Francisco. It's never too hot and never really cold. The sea winds are healthy and they make you hungry. And it's good to be hungry in San Francisco, because the food is fabulous, with more than 2,600 restaurants serving food from all over the world.

New York is a place to have fun. San Francisco is great for a holiday, but Washington, D.C. is wonderful for tourists, because there are so many famous and historical places to see.



The best known building is the White House, home of American Presidents since 1800. The President works here, in the "Oval Office", but the White House is also a family home. The wife of John Adams, the first President to live here, used to dry her wet clothes in the East Room,



President Truman had a piano next to his desk and President Kennedy's children used to play under his office windows.



Next on the tourist's list is the Capitol. The 535 members of Congress meet here to discuss the nation's business. It is easy to get lost in this huge building, full of paintings and statues.

From the Capitol there is a magnificent view down the grassy Mall, and across a pool of water to the Lincoln Memorial.

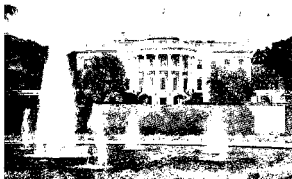
The Lincoln Memorial is set high on an artificial plateau at the end of the Mall. It is a big temple in Greek style with 36 marble columns to represent the states in the union at Lincoln's death.

The Washington Monument. From miles around can be seen this tall structure on the hill behind the White House. The Monument is 500 feet (about 152 m.) high and from this level the whole panorama of the District of Columbia and even parts of Maryland and Virginia can be seen. Its

shape is that of an obelisk, a white marble shaft with an aluminum tip. (Hence its nickname - the "Pencil".)

The Smithsonian Institute. It is almost everything: scientific institutes, art galleries, zoos - all the result of a capricious gift from an Englishman who never saw America in his life - a man named James Smithson who died in 1829 and left all his fortune (half a million dollars - a very large sum in those days) to the United States to found "an institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men".

Most people know about the government buildings of Washington, DC, but there are also some important museums. You can see all kinds of things: spaceships, the dresses of Presidents' wives, the original Declaration



of Independence, the largest blue diamond in the world and the biggest elephant on record (stuffed, of course!).

America is sometimes called the "New World", and it is easy to forget that it has many old (and a few very old) historic buildings and monuments.

Americans are interested in their history and look after old buildings carefully. Visitors to the States are sometimes surprised to find how many seventeenth- and eighteenth-century houses and churches still stand.

One of the most famous old towns is Williamsburg in Virginia which dates from 1632. Sixty years ago, millionaire John D. Rockefeller repaired the buildings and turned the town into a living museum showing American life in the eighteenth century. The beautiful houses are full of fine old furniture, and the people of Williamsburg even wear eighteenth-century-style clothes.

Americans have a strong interest in European history, too. Some people buy antique European furniture and paintings for their homes. But one man had even bigger ideas. He bought the old London Bridge, and took it stone by stone from the River Thames in London to the desert near Lake Havasu City in Arizona. There it still stands, beside an "English Village", a bridge between the old world and the new.

### Vocabulary:

5-th Avenue	- 5-я Авеню одна из самых фешенебельных улиц Нью-Йорка на Манхэттэне.
Broadway	практически главная улица на Манхэттэне идущая по всей его длине с Юга на Север, на ней расположены все ведущие театры Нью-Йорка (около 12 миль в длину).
borough	городской район - здесь: один из пяти районов Нью-Йорка
Manhattan	- название острова и центрального района Нью-Йорка
Brooklyn	Бруклин ( район Нью-Йорка )
the Bronx	Бронкс ( район Нью-Йорка )
Queens	Куинс ( район Нью-Йорка )
Richmond	Ричмонд ( район Нью-Йорка )
World Trade Centre	- «Центр мировой торговли» высочайшие в Нью-Йорке небоскребы, в которых размещаются конторы более 400 фирм и правительственных организаций 50 стран

«traffic jam»	- «пробка» в уличном движении
subway	- сабуэй - название метро в Нью-Йорке
Empire State Building	- один из самых высоких небоскребов Нью-Йорка со смотровой площадкой для туристов
Statue of Liberty	- Статуя Свободы в Нью-Йорке
Carnegie Hall	- «Карнеги-Холл» - концертный зал, один из самых больших и престижных в мире
The United Nations harbour	- Организация Объединенных Наций - залив
Golden Gate Bridge	- мост «Золотые ворота» - один из самых длинных и высоких (75м) в мире. С него открывается самый красивый вид на Сан-Франциско.
District of Columbia (D.C.)	- (федеральный) округ Колумбия
White House	- резиденция президента США
Oval Office	- «овальный кабинет» (рабочий кабинет президента США)
The Capitol	Капитолий (здание Конгресса США)
Lincoln Memorial	- памятник Линкольну
Washington Monument	- обелиск в честь Вашингтона
The Smithsonian Institute	- Смитсоновский институт (комплекс научных учреждений и музеев)

### Questions :

1. What places of interest in NY do you know?
2. What is the name of the main borough of NY?
3. Which sight of NY would you like to visit first?
4. What is San Francisco famous for?
5. Where is the capital of the US situated?
6. Comment on the main sights of Washington.
7. Can you name any American presidents?
8. Where would you prefer to live if you could choose between American cities?

The United States' flag is called the "Stars and Stripes". It has thirteen red and white stripes and fifty white stars on a blue square. One star is for each state of the United States now, and the stripes are for the first thirteen states of the union.

In the eighteenth century, America was a land of many flags. There were, for example, the ship of New Hampshire, the tree of Massachusetts and the anchor of Rhode Island. The Stars and Stripes first became the national flag after the Declaration of Independence, in 1776.

Americans enjoy their flag. They use the stars and stripes as a popular design on shirts, shoes, hats anywhere in fact. It is typical of American informality and their love of bright, cheerful colours.

But Americans are patriotic, too. Many of them think that America is the best, the first and the greatest nation in the world, and that their flag is the flag of freedom. The Stars and Stripes stands by the President's desk. The flag hangs in every classroom in America, and in many schools every day children salute it before the school day begins. And on July 4th, Independence Day, Stars and Stripes are everywhere: on the streets, on houses and in the big parades.

Britain's flag is called the "Union Jack". It is really three flags on top of each other: the red cross on white of St George for England, the white "X" on blue of St Andrew for Scotland and the red "X" on white of St Patrick for Ireland.

Like Americans British people have fun with their flag. They put it on biscuit tins, party hats and plastic bags. But unlike Americans, most British people do not like to talk about or show patriotic feelings! They feel too embarrassed. You will see the Union Jack on top of government offices in London, but you will not often find it in shops, in offices or in people's homes.

Every now and then, British people forget to be embarrassed. This usually happens on a royal occasion, like a wedding or an anniversary. Then they all bring out their Union Jacks, have picnics and fireworks, sleep out all night in the open to watch the soldiers and the royal family go past and even talk to strangers!

On really special occasions, some people arrange "street parties" They close the street so that cars cannot get through, and put up tables and chairs. People from the houses all around put out flags and bring food for everyone to share. There are games and races for the children, and in the evening everyone dances in the middle of the street where they live. It doesn't happen very often perhaps only once in ten or twenty years but it's an occasion that everyone remembers.

Many young Americans do not live with their families, but in apartment blocks or residential areas where everyone is more or less of the same age.

Young people often move away from home when they leave school (if they can afford it) into shared apartments or small, one-room "studio" apartments. They do their own cooking and cleaning, and go to the family home perhaps for the weekend.

Young married couples may move to new suburbs where most people have young families. In the country, some even build their houses themselves.

If a family's income goes up, they often move to another suburb, where the houses are bigger, with two or even three garages, a swimming pool, a games room for the children and everything a family could want.

Old people often do not live with their grown-up children. Many live in old people's homes.

Some live in special towns, built for old people, where there are no young children and the atmosphere is quiet.

Americans are always on the move, and some families change their homes every few years. Every year, 20% of Americans move house, Mr and Mrs Schultz could start life in an apartment in New York, go on to a white painted wooden home in New England with small windows to keep out the cold in winter, and end their life in a sunny house in California where oranges grow in the garden and big windows give a wonderful view of the swimming pool and the sea. British homes are usually smaller than American homes, but, like Americans, old people, young families and unmarried people do not usually live together.





Many British people love old houses, and these are often more expensive than modern ones. They also love gardening, and you will see gardens everywhere you go: in towns, villages and out in the country. Some are very small, with just one tree and a few flowers. Others are enormous, with plenty of flowers and enough vegetables and fruit trees to feed a family.

There are 22 million homes in Britain big homes and small homes, old cottages and new high-rise buildings, houses and flats. (Americans say "apartment", but British people say "flat".)

Two thirds of the families in Britain own their own homes. Millions of these "owner-occupied" houses are the same, with two or three bedrooms and a

bathroom upstairs, a sitting room, dining room and kitchen downstairs and a small garden at the back and front of the house. To pay for their house, home owners borrow money from a "building society" and pay back a little every month.

One quarter of British people live in rented state-owned homes, called "council houses". Many of these are flats, but some are houses, each with a small piece of garden. Other people rent their homes from private owners.

There are a great many different kinds of homes in Britain, but there are not enough. It is often very difficult for young people to find a home when they want to start a family.

British and American families are small. In fact the populations of both Britain and the USA have nearly stopped growing.

In the old days, a "typical" family had a father, a mother and two or three children, with grandparents living near. Most children still live in this kind of family, but in both countries there is a growing number of "single parent families", with only one parent.

Some parents are single because they are divorced, but many other young parents do not get married at all.

The typical British family has a car, a colour TV set, a washing machine and a cat or dog as well. They start the day at about 7 o'clock, have breakfast at 8 and are off to work by 8.30. More and more women now go out to work as

well as men. The children have lunch at school at about 12.30 and come home at 4 in the afternoon. Their parents are usually home by 6 o'clock, and the family eats together at 6.30 or 7. In the evenings, father may go to the pub for a drink or stay at home and watch TV with the others. Young children go to bed early, at about 8 o'clock, two or three hours before their parents.

The typical American family has more money than a British family. Some have two or three cars, large modern kitchens and more electrical goods. They eat more meat and spend more on clothes. But their daily programme is nearly the same. Like British children, American children eat lunch at school, come home mid-afternoon and go to bed earlier than their parents.

In the USA, different states celebrate different holidays, but everyone remembers July 4th, "Independence Day". On this day, in 1776, America signed the "Declaration of Independence" and started the fight for freedom from British rule. People go out into the streets on July 4th, dress up and take part in parades. In the evening there are always parties and fireworks.

The second big American festival is Thanksgiving Day. On the fourth Thursday in November, American families meet for a special dinner, usually with turkey and pumpkin pie. They give thanks to God for the past year, and remember the first harvest of the first European Americans in 1621.

Children always have fun at Halloween on October 31. They dress up as ghosts and witches. They cut up a pumpkin to look like a frightening face and put a light inside. They go from house to house and say "Trick or Treat?" If they get a "Treat" (something nice, like sweets or an apple), they go away happy. But if they don't, they play a "Trick" They might put soap on the windows, or throw rubbish into the garden.

There are two days in the year when both the Americans and British remember special people.

February 14th is St Valentine's Day. People in love send "Valentines" to each other, special cards with hearts, flowers and loving words. On "Mother's Day", people buy cards, flowers and chocolates for their mothers.

There are fewer public holidays in Britain than in most countries. There is Christmas Day, of course, and "Boxing Day" (the day after Christmas), New Year's Day, the Monday after Easter, and three more Mondays, two in May and one in August.

Public holidays in Britain are called "bank holidays", because the banks as well as most shops and offices are closed.

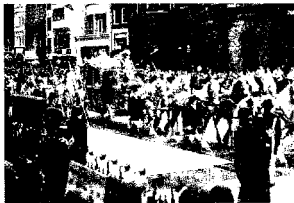
There is no national day in Britain, but there's one festival that everyone celebrates - Christmas. The fun starts the night before, on Christmas Eve, when children hang stockings at the ends of their beds for Father Christmas to fill with toys. Christmas Day is a family day. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and

cousins all meet for the big Christmas dinner of turkey and plum pudding, and everyone gives and receives presents.

In Scotland, New Year's Eve is the biggest festival of the year. The dancing goes on all night, and too many people drink too much whisky!

One special British festival takes place on November 5th. On that day, in 1605, Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. He did not succeed, but the children of Britain never forget him. Every year, on "Guy Fawkes night", they make "guys" to burn on bonfires, and let off fireworks.

There are smaller, local festivals all through the year. In the spring, village children dance round the Maypole. In the autumn, people take vegetables and fruit to church for the Harvest Festival, and once a year the Lord Mayor of London puts on a show and rides through the streets in his golden coach.



### Vocabulary :

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| «Stars and Stripes» | - «Звезды и полосы» - ( Американский флаг)  |
| «Union Jack»        | - флаг Великобритании   |
| Apartment blocks    | - кварталы многоквартирных домов  |
| residential area    | - ( фешенебельные ) жилые кварталы  |
| building society    | строительное общество (финансово-кредитное учреждение, представляющее индивидуальные долгосрочные ссуды для строительства или покупки домов и квартир за счет средств, привлекаемых в виде краткосрочных вкладов британцев) |



council houses	муниципальные дома (являются собственностью местных органов власти в Британии)
to rent	- арендовать, брать внаем (to ~ smth from)
Thanksgiving Day	- День благодарения
turkey and pumpkin pie	- индейка и тыквенный пирог
Halloween	- канун дня всех святых, 31 октября
ghosts and witches	- привидения и ведьмы
«Trick or Treat»	- игра «Кошелек или жизнь» (либо угощаешь, либо - проделка)
Boxing Day	- день подарков для слуг (2-ой день рождества)
Christmas	- Рождество
Easter	- Пасха
bank holiday	неприсутственный день в Великобритании, большой праздник
Eve	- канун
Guy Fawkes night	годовщина «порохового заговора, когда 5-го ноября сжигается чучело Гая Фокса
Maypole	- майское дерево (столб украшенный цветами и лентами)
Harvest Festival	- праздник урожая
Lord Mayor of London	- лорд-мэр Лондона

### Questions :

1. Comment on the US and Great Britain flags, are they quite different?
2. Compare American & British way of life, is there much in common?
3. Do American and Britain holidays differ much? If so, why?

America has had a great respect for education from its earliest times. Education is now the most important factor in determining a person's social role and economic prospects.

The social education of young children tries to make them accept the need for human beings in a society to work together for their common good in all sorts of ways. The emphasis is on cooperation rather than competition throughout most of this process. This may seem curious, in view of the general idea that American society is highly competitive, but the need for making people sociable in this sense has come to be regarded as one of the main functions of education.

In America, all children from six to sixteen go to school. They spend six years in "elementary" school and four or six years in "secondary" or "high" school. School education is free.

At the end of every school year, the child takes a test. If he does well, he goes into the next class ("grade "). If he doesn't do well, he has to repeat the grade.

Some schools have modern teaching equipment, like computers and closed circuit television, but there are also small country schools, with just one classroom.

At the end of their time at school, most students get a high school diploma. If they want to go on to college, they take college admission tests. Nearly half of all Americans go on to college (a place of higher education) when they leave school. Some colleges are small, with only a few hundred students, but some of the big state universities are huge, with up to 60,000 students. There are more than 2,600 universities in the USA, and nearly all colleges have both men and women students.

You can study many interesting subjects at college, in short or long courses, but if you want to get a degree, you have to study for at least four years. Classes usually start in September and go on to early June with a break in the middle.

In Britain, all children from five to sixteen go to school. They spend six years in "primary" school, and then go on to "secondary" school.

In Britain (as in the USA) there are "state" schools, which are free, and private schools for which parents pay. Many British private schools are "boarding" schools. The children stay at school all the time, and only come home in the holidays. They usually wear uniforms.

Teaching in both countries is usually quite informal. Students often work together in groups, and go to the teacher only when they need help.

In Britain, you can get a degree in a university, in a "polytechnic", or in some of the many colleges of further education. There are 42 universities in

Britain. There are also many colleges in Britain that teach English as a foreign language. Some have short courses (a few weeks or months), and some have one- or two-year courses.

University classes start in October and go on until mid-June with two breaks, one at Christmas and one at Easter. Most degrees take three years, but some take four.

### The college system at Oxford and Cambridge



The college system at Oxford and Cambridge is unlike that of any other university, whether in Britain or America. In order to enter the university, a student must first apply to a college and become a member of the university through the college. The colleges are not connected with any particular study and are governed by twenty to thirty "Fellows". Fellows of a college are "tutors" (teachers, often called dons). They teach their own subject to those students in the college who are studying it, and they are responsible for their progress.

The university is like a federation of colleges. The university arranges the courses, the lectures, and the examinations, and awards the degrees. Most dons give one or two lectures a week which students from any college may attend. No lectures are compulsory and tutors usually advise their students which lectures they should go to.

Each college has its own completely separate living quarters, its own dining hall and its own chapel. Cambridge and Oxford both have two women's colleges. Today most of the colleges are co-educational.

The University of London could also be called a kind of federation of colleges, but the system is entirely different. The largest of the London colleges are like universities in themselves, having many different faculties and

departments. Others specialize in certain subjects, for example the London School of Economics and Political Science or the Imperial College of Science and Technology. All arrange their own lectures and classes, but the university organizes the examinations and awards degrees. At most universities an honours degree is taken in one main subject and one subsidiary, or secondary, subject. A general degree is taken in a variety of subjects, but carries less weight than an honours degree. If students pass their final exam, they get a degree marked first, second or third class. Some universities divide their second class into 2(1) or 2(2). Oxford offers a fourth class. Few students get first class degrees, so these are a valuable qualification for a job. Students with any class of degree become Bachelors of Arts or Science, and can put B.A. or B.Sc. after their name. If they want to go a step further and become Master of Arts or Science, they have to write an original paper, or thesis subject. Oxford and Cambridge graduates have a rather unfair privilege. They can *buy their* M.A.s and M.Sc.s for a small sum of money. All they have to do is wait for a few years before applying! If students wish to become academics and perhaps teach in a university, then they will work for a higher degree, a Doctor of Philosophy a Ph.D. For this they will have to carry out some important research work.

University terms are:

October - December; January - March; April - June.

Total: thirty weeks.

### Vocabulary :

cooperation	- сотрудничество
competition	- соревнование
may seem curious	- может показаться странным
to be highly competitive	- весьма соревновательно
elementary school	- начальная школа ( США )
secondary or high school	- средняя школа
primary school	общая начальная школа ( 5-11 лет в Англии ), включает infants school ( для малышей ) junior school ( начальная )

free	- бесплатный
to apply to	- обратиться с просьбой о приеме
fellow ( tutor or don )	член совета колледжа, руководитель группы студентов, наставник ( в колледжах Оксфордского и Кембриджского университетах ), научный сотрудник
living quarters	жилой квартал для студентов и преподавателей
honours degree	степень бакалавра ( присуждается после сдачи выпускных экзаменов по усложненной программе в университете ) с отличием
general degree	- степень бакалавра без отличия
Bachelor of Arts	бакалавр искусств ( по одной из гуманитарных или математических наук в университетах )
Bachelor of Science	бакалавр наук ( в Оксфордском университете, эта степень выше степени бакалавра ), 1-ая ученая степень
Master of Arts	- магистр искусств, 2-ая ученая степень
Master of Science	- магистр естественных наук, 2-ая ученая степень
Doctor of Philosophy	доктор философии, низшая ученая степень доктора
Doctor of Science	- высшая ученая степень доктора

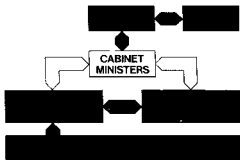
## Questions :

1. How does the system of education in America work ?
2. What famous American Universities do you know ?
3. What's your opinion of British system of education ?
4. How old are Oxford and Cambridge universities ?
5. How many universities are there in Britain ?
6. Comment on the college system at Oxford and Cambridge.
7. Compare British system of taking a degree with ours.
8. Would you like to study in the USA or Great Britain ?

## **Chapter 8. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.K. and the U.S.A.**

The British method of government has developed very slowly over hundreds of years. This is perhaps why it can be rather difficult to understand. For example, the Queen is the head of state, but she has no real power.

Parliament is the real government of Britain. It has two "Houses", the House of Lords, and the House of Commons. The "Lords" are members of the old aristocracy, bishops, lawyers and retired politicians. They have little power now, but they can suggest new laws and change or delay laws that the House of Commons wants to pass.



The House of Commons makes laws, agrees on policy and decides what taxes the people must pay. The British people choose the 650 members of the House of Commons every five years. In each area there are usually two or three main political "parties" to choose from. The party which gets most members into parliament makes the new government.

The Prime Minister is the leader of the winning party. Only party members (not the whole British people) choose their leader. The Prime Minister chooses the members of the Cabinet, who are called ministers. Each minister has a special job to do, for example education or health or transport.

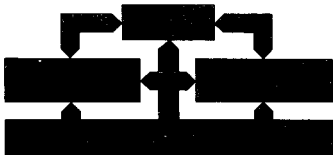
Washington, Lincoln, Eisenhower, Kennedy - some of the great names of American history, the names of her Presidents.

These days, the American President is one of the most powerful man in the world. He can make war, or peace. He can touch the lives of millions in many different countries. But the President cannot do just what he wants. The Congress must agree first.

In some ways, the United States is like fifty small countries and not one large one. Every state has its own governor, its own police and its own laws. For example, in some states you can buy an alcoholic drink when you are 18. In others, you must wait until you are 21.

The government of the whole country (the "federal" government) works from Washington, D.C., the capital city. This is where Congress is based. Congress has two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 100 members of the Senate (senators), two from each state. The President cannot act without the Senate's agreement. The House of Representatives has 435 members. Like the senators, they can make new laws.

Americans choose a new President every four years. The election is a great occasion. It is a serious business, of course, but the Americans make sure that it is fun, too. In America, the President is the head of state. He makes the most important decisions and chooses the members of his cabinet who will help him to govern the country.



The President also represents the United States on official occasions. He receives ambassadors from other countries, gives parties for important visitors from abroad and takes the first place in any national ceremony.

Americans are always interested in the President's wife and children – the "first lady" and the "first family". They expect their Presidents to have a good family life and to be an example to the country.

In Britain, the Queen is the head of state. She represents Britain (and the Commonwealth). She travels about the UK, meeting people, visiting schools and hospitals and going to important local events.

British people enjoy their "royals". They like reading about them in newspapers and seeing them on TV. To some they are like filmstars, interesting just because they are rich and famous. Other people feel that the Queen is a symbol of Britain's long history and national traditions.

### Vocabulary :

the House of Lords	- палата лордов ( верхняя )
the House of Commons	- палата общин ( нижняя )
governor	- губернатор ( штата )
the Senate, the House of Representatives	Сенат, Палата представителей (2 палаты Конгресса, верхняя и нижняя)
ambassador	- посол ( иностранных государств )
British Commonwealth of Nations	- Британское содружество Наций

### Questions :

1. Which people have the more powerful head of state ?
2. Which «house» possesses more power :
  - in the USA ?
  - in the UK ?



It was the 1920s in New Orleans, and sad, beautiful music filled the streets and cafes. The singers were black, and most of them were poor. They sang about their lives, their loves and the tough world they lived in. Their music - jazz, ragtime and blues ("I've got the blues" means "I'm unhappy") soon travelled to Europe and all over the world.

It was the 1950s in Memphis, Tennessee, and Elvis Presley was the king of rock 'n' roll. The new sound travelled to Britain as well. Teenagers disagreed with their parents, wore their tight blue jeans and danced to their rock 'n' roll records. The days of the pop star and the huge pop concert were here. The fans rushed to hear their favourite music, screamed, fainted and came back for more. Pop music was now the world of young people everywhere, moving fast, always changing.

It was the 1960s in Liverpool, England, and four young men were making a new sound. They called themselves the Beatles, and their music quickly travelled to America and all over the world. For the first time, British pop music was important abroad.

Before The Beatles, British pop music was based on *rock 'n' roll* exported from the USA by singers like Elvis Presley.

Then in the early 1960s the new British sound was heard, very different from anything which had so far come from the American side of the Atlantic. This was the Liverpool, or Merseyside, "beat". Situated on the River Mersey in the northwestern corner of the industrial Black Country, Liverpool was not a place which anyone visited for fun. Until the 1960s it was known only as one of Britain's largest ports. Then, almost overnight, it became world famous as the birthplace of the new pop culture.

In 1970 - 71 the partnership of The Beatles broke up, but their influence continued, both in Britain and the USA. When John Lennon was murdered in New York, in December 1980, he was mourned by millions of people all over the world, not only because of his fame as a Beatle, but because he had dedicated this fame to the cause of peace.



Many British singers and musicians have been popular not just for the music and the words of their songs but also because of the ideas and attitudes behind them. Singers like Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones, Rod Stewart, David Bowie, Elton John and Boy George have challenged previous standards of "good" and "normal" behaviour.

It was 1969 in Woodstock, near New York. A great pop

festival attracted nearly half a million young music fans. Most of them were hippies, who shocked the world with their beads, long hair, old jeans and their calls for peace and love. Rock music was loud and fast, but there was a gentler sound, too. The great folk singers, like Joan Baez and Bob Dylan, touched millions of people with their protest songs. They sang about the war in Vietnam and about violence in the world.

It was the mid 1970s. Things change fast in pop music. Elvis was dead. The Beatles were no longer together. The gentle mood of the '60s was gone, and in Britain punk music was in fashion. The punks wore green and pink hair, leather clothes, and tried to shock people with their violence. In the 1980s a new star was rising. An older American tradition, country and western music, was becoming internationally known. This simpler music was more old-fashioned, bringing back memories of a farming life away from the big cities. One of country and western's big stars was Dolly Parton. With her blonde hair (a wig, actually), her glamorous clothes, but at the same time her strong ideas about family life and morality, Dolly Parton was "as American as apple pie".

Now in the 1990s the big stars are bigger than ever. Madonna and Bruce Springsteen from the USA, Sting and George Michael from Britain - they all have huge numbers of fans.

At the same time the music scene is changing. Young people all like different kinds of music, and they're not afraid to say it. Some like disco music they can dance to. Some like loud, heavy rock music. Some like the popular black reggae sound. Some like South American rhythm. Many are going back to the good old days of jazz. Fashions in music come and go, and the fashion now is to follow any fashion you like.

### Vocabulary :

beads	- бусы
he was mourned by	- его оплакивали

### Questions :

1. What kind of music appeared in the 1920s in New Orleans ?
2. When did rock 'n' roll appear ?
3. Who put Britain at the front of the pop revolution of the 1960s ?
4. Which great pop-music stars do you know ?
5. Who is your favorite ?

## **Chapter 10. "HOBBIES" AND RECREATION**

"Hobbies" are a great British and American tradition. A "hobby" is a special interest or activity that you do in your time off.

Some people have animals as hobbies. They keep rabbits, or go fishing. They train dogs to do tricks, or keep pigeons to race and carry messages. Some are crazy about plants. They try to grow cacti or rare tropical flowers in their kitchens and sitting rooms.

Others are mad about their car or their motorbike. They spend their Saturdays and Sundays washing them, painting them or buying new bits and pieces to make them go even faster.

Children and teenagers are great collectors. They collect stamps or postcards or matchboxes or pictures of a favourite footballer or pop star.

Many people make things as a hobby. Some teach themselves at home, but a lot of people go to evening classes at their local college. A "hobby" is usually something that a person does alone. But American (and British) families sometimes like to do things together, too. Some American families have quite a lot of money to spend on their recreation. They can all enjoy their holiday home or their boat somewhere in the country away from home.

Americans love to get out of town into the wild, and many go for holidays or long weekends into the thirty-five fabulous national parks. These magnificent areas of countryside include tropical forests, high mountains, dry deserts, long sandy coasts, grassy prairies and wooded mountains full of wild animals. The idea of these parks, which cover 1% of the whole area of the USA, is to make "a

great breathing place for the national lungs", and to keep different parts of the land as they were before man arrived. There are camping places in the national parks as well as museums, boat trips and evening campfire meetings.

But Americans do not only spend their free time having fun. They are very interested in culture, too. Millions take part-time courses in writing, painting and music, and at the weekends the museums, art galleries and concert halls are full.

Most British people take a two-week holiday in July or August, when the schools are closed, but shops, offices and factories do not usually close for the holidays. Some people have a short holiday in the winter or spring as well. If they can afford it, they go abroad, to sunny Italy, Spain or Greece.

In the States, the school summer holidays are longer than in Britain (nearly three months in the States, six or seven weeks in Britain). Richer American families often go out of town to the country for the hot summer months. Many fathers stay at work in the cities and visit their families at weekends.

When some people are on holiday, they like just sitting in the sun, but others want a bit more. "Special interest" holidays are very popular, and you can find a hundred interesting things to do in Britain and the USA for a week or two.

Do you like riding ? Why not see the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA, on horseback ? What about a winter holiday ? There are hundreds of ski resorts in the mountains of the USA: the Rockies, the Sierra Nevada and the Appalachians. You can ski in Britain, too.

Perhaps you prefer to be less energetic ? Try a painting holiday or a musical holiday or even a computer holiday. You get some hours of teaching every day, meet other people who share your special interest and have time to relax as well in a pleasant country hotel or college campus.

### Vocabulary :

recreation	- зд. отдых и развлечения
time off	- свободное время
to be crazy ( mad ) about	- быть помешанным на ...
cacti	- множ. от cactus - кактусы
to have fun	- веселиться, приятно проводить время

## Questions :

1. Can you give a definition of a «hobby» ?
2. What variety of «hobbies» do American and British people have ?
3. What kind of recreation do American people prefer ?
4. Where do the British usually go for their holidays ?

## Chapter 11.      **WAYS AND HABITS**

If you can speak English, you know a lot of English words. You can read, speak and understand. But there is another kind of language you need to know - the language of the body.

All over the world, people "talk" with their hands, with their heads and with their eyes.

Americans are more informal than the British. They like to be friendly. They use first names, they ask questions and they talk easily about themselves. When they sit down, they like to relax in their chairs and make themselves comfortable.

British people are more reserved. They take more time to make friends. They like to know you before they ask you home.

When British and American people meet someone for the first time, they shake hands. They do not usually shake hands with people they know well. Women sometimes kiss their women friends, and men kiss women friends ( on one cheek only ). When a man meets a man friend, he just smiles, and says "Hello". Men do not kiss each other, or hold hands. Even fathers and sons do not often kiss each other. These days, most people in Britain and the USA do not wear very formal clothes. But sometimes it is important to wear the right thing.

Many British people don't think about clothes very much. They just like to be comfortable. When they go out to enjoy themselves, they can wear almost anything. At theatres, cinemas and concerts you can put on what you like from elegant suits and dresses to jeans and sweaters. Anything goes, as long as you look clean and tidy.

But in Britain, as well as the USA, men in offices usually wear suits and ties, and women wear dresses or skirts (not trousers). Doctors, lawyers and business people wear quite formal clothes. And in some hotels and restaurants men have to wear ties and women wear smart dresses. Jeans and open shirts are sometimes not allowed.

In many ways, Americans are more relaxed than British people, but they are more careful with their clothes. At home, or on holiday, most Americans wear informal or sporty clothes. But when they go out in the evening, they like to look elegant. In good hotels and restaurants, men have to wear jackets and ties, and women wear pretty clothes and smart hairstyles.

It is difficult to say exactly what people wear in Britain and the States, because everyone is different. If you are not sure what to wear, watch what other people do and then do the same. Or ask the advice of a friend or your host. You'll feel more relaxed if you don't look too different from everyone else.

In Britain and the USA most people are careful about time.

If they want to see a friend or meet a business colleague, they telephone first to make an appointment. A lot of people don't like surprises. They want to know when a visitor is going to arrive.

Have you arranged to meet someone at 3 o'clock? It's polite to arrive a few minutes early. Of course, everyone is late occasionally. Cars break down, trains are delayed and meetings go on too long. If you're late, just say sorry, and explain what happened. Sometimes it's impossible to keep an appointment. But if you don't arrive, the other person will be upset. Call them to explain.

Some people usually spend time chatting and drinking tea or coffee before they start a business meeting - but not in Britain or the USA. There, they like to talk about business first and chat later - if there's time.

Office hours in Britain and the USA are from 9 am until 5 pm, but some offices open at 8.30 or 9.30 and do not close until 5.30 or 6. People usually take about one hour for lunch (between 12 and 2). Shops open at 9 or 9.30, and stay open until 5.30 or 6. Most shops are open all day on Saturday, and are closed all day on Sunday.

"Tipping" (giving money to people for small services) is always a difficult business. You don't want to give too much or too little, or tip the wrong person. In Britain and America, people usually tip waiters in restaurants, porters, taxi drivers and hairdressers. They do not tip people in offices, cinemas, garages, or airports. American taxi drivers get a tip of 15% or 20%. Give British taxi drivers 10%. Hairdressers get about \$1 in the States, or 10% in Britain. Give a porter \$1 for each bag in the States, or 50p in Britain.

Waiters always expect a tip. Give 10% of the price of your meal. But if you see "Service Included" on your bill, the tip is part of the bill. Don't give anything more.

Did you invite your friend to the restaurant? Then you pay the bill. Did your friend invite you? Your friend pays. If there are men and women in the party, the men usually pay.

These days, men and women are equal in many ways. If you work in Britain or America, your boss could be a man or a woman. There are increasing numbers of women in important positions in politics, law, medicine and in the business world. But it is still polite for a man to open doors for women and to ask them to go first. And it is polite for men to stand up when they are introduced to women. On informal occasions, of course, everyone is more relaxed. American and British people have two names: a "first" name, and a "surname" or "family" name.

**Here are some examples:**

FIRST NAME	SURNAME
Marilyn	Monroe
George	Michael
Margaret	Thatcher
Elvis	Presly

Family members and friends always use first names, but Americans are more informal than British people, and they use first names with nearly everybody. But it's usually a good idea to use surnames until people ask you to use their first names. When people want to be formal, or when they do not know each other very well, they use surnames with "Mr" (pronounced "mister"), "Mrs" (pronounced "missis") for married women and "Miss" for unmarried women. Some women don't like to say if they are married or not. When they write their name, they use "Ms", not "Mrs" or "Miss". Miss Monroe, Mr Michael, Mrs Thatcher, Ms Warwick. People never use "Mr", "Mrs", "Miss" or "Ms" with first names alone.

Some people have middle names:

Jacqueline Lee Onassis, Winston Spencer Churchill

British people do not use their middle names, but Americans often give the initial:

John F. Kennedy, Richard M. Nixon.

When a woman marries, she usually does not use her old surname any more, but takes her husband's surname. The children have their father's surname, too. So, John Smith marries Susan Brown. She becomes Susan Smith and their children are Elizabeth Smith and Tom Smith.

Some American men have the same first name as their father. The son puts Jr. (Junior) after his name, and the father puts Sr (Senior) after his name:

Sammy Davis Jr, Martin Luther King Sr. "Sir" is a British title for men who have done a lot for their country. "Sir" is used with the first name, not with the surname alone; Sir Winston, or Sir Winston Churchill ( not Sir Churchill ).

Many English names have short forms. They sound more friendly and informal than the whole name. But some people don't like the short form of their name. Listen to what other friends say before you use a short form.

Most parties are quite relaxed these days, especially young people's parties. You don't have to wear an expensive dress or a black tie when you want to have a good time. In fact, you can usually wear what you like - anything from jeans to suits and dresses. British and American people are often very informal.

People will expect an answer even to an informal invitation. Just call to say if you can or cannot come.

Some people of course (especially older ones) still enjoy formal parties and you must write a letter or telephone to say if you can or cannot come. People often send out invitations weeks before a party. It's polite to answer as soon as possible.

What do you do if someone asks you to "tea"? Or to "drinks"?

For some British people, "tea" means a cup of tea and a biscuit at 4.30 or 5 pm. For others, "tea" means a meal at 6.30 or 7 pm.

"Formal dress" usually means a suit and tie for men and a smart dress for women. "Black tie" means that the men wear dinner jackets and the women wear evening dresses. "Black tie" is only for very special occasions.

Some British and American people like to invite friends and colleagues for a meal at home. But don't be upset if your English friends don't invite you home. It doesn't mean they don't like you!

Dinner parties usually start between 7 and 8 pm and end at about 11. Ask your hosts what time you should arrive. It's polite to bring flowers, chocolates or a bottle of wine as a gift.

Usually the evening starts with drinks and snacks, (Ask for a soft drink if you don't like alcohol. ) Do you want to be extra polite? Say how much you like the room, or the pictures on the wall. But remember - it's not polite to ask how much things cost.

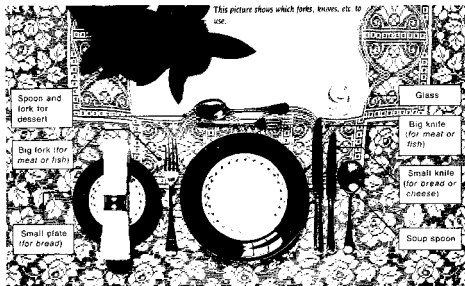
Dinner will usually start at about 8 or 9 o'clock. In many families, the husband sits at one end of the table and the wife sits at the other end. They eat with their guests.

You'll probably start the meal with soup, or something small as a "starter", then you'll have meat or fish with vegetables, and then a dessert (sometimes called a "sweet" or a "pudding"), followed by coffee. It's polite to finish everything on your plate and to take more if you want it. Some people eat bread with their meal, but not everyone does.



Most people ask "Do you mind if I smoke?" before they take out their cigarettes after the meal.

Did you enjoy the evening? Call your hosts the next day, or write them a short "thank you" letter. Perhaps it seems funny to you, but British and American people say "thank you, thank you, thank you" all the time !



### Vocabulary :

informal	- зд. непринужденный, раскованный
reserved	- сдержанный, замкнутый
they take more time	- у них уходит больше времени
to ask somebody home	- приглашать кого-либо домой
formal clothes	- строгая одежда
to make an appointment	- условиться о встрече, записаться на прием
to be delayed	- задерживаться

«tipping»	- давать «чаевые»
relaxed	- нестрогий, гибкий ( о дисциплине, правилах )
«starter»	- закуска
«pudding»	- зд. любое сладкое блюдо ( фруктовый пирог, крем, желе и т.п. )

**Questions:**

1. Compare Americans and British people in communication.
2. What kind of clothes do most people in Britain and the USA like for everyday wear ?
3. What do they usually wear in offices ?
4. What is worn in fashionable hotels and restaurants ?
5. How should you make appointments and arrangements in Britain and the USA ?
6. What do you know of usual office hours and shops being open in both countries ?
7. What should you know of «tipping» in both countries ?
8. Comment on women and men relations in public.
9. Which names do they use in formal and informal situations ?
10. What way are people invited to informal and formal parties ?
11. What should you know of behaving at parties ?
12. What way are you to thank for an enjoyable evening ?

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