

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ
СХІДНОУКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
імені ВОЛОДИМИРА ДАЛЯ

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мова)

ЗАТВЕРДЖЕНО

на засіданні кафедри

«Іноземних мов та

професійної комунікації»

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Вивчення курсу «Лінгвокраїнознавство» розширює кругозір та ерудицію студентів, розвиваючи такі специфічні вміння як навик лінгвокультурологічного аналізу тексту, вміння користуватися культурологічними довідниками, словниками, посібниками. Всі ці навички формують у студента вміння працювати самостійно, створюють умови для розвитку потреби у самоосвіті. При цьому розвиваються пізнавальна та комунікативна функції мислення, здібності до таких логічних операцій як аналіз, синтез, співставлення. Знання загальнолюдських понять, регіональних особливостей, національно-специфічних рис культури народів світу є неодмінною умовою спілкування. Вивчення аспектів історії та культури, соціальних та політичних явищ, порівняння їх з відповідними аспектами життя України надасть студентам можливість простежити динамічний характер мовних процесів, удосконалити розуміння та використання англійської мови. Подані навчальні матеріали та завдання для надання студентам необхідного лексичного матеріалу з теми та стимулювання розвитку навичок читання, письма й говоріння англійською мовою.

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Foreign Languages in People's Life

Language Questionnaire

1. How long have you been studying English?

2. Why did you start learning this language?

Did you learn any other foreign languages before you started to study English?

3. Do you enjoy learning this language?

4. What do you like most of all?

a) speaking English to your friends, teachers and native speakers;

b) reading English books in translation and in the original;

c) listening to and understanding English songs;

d) watching video films in the original;

e) doing grammar exercises;

f) doing English crosswords and puzzles;

g) other.

5. What areas of the language do you find most difficult to study?

a) grammar; b) vocabulary; c) pronunciation.

6. Which language skill is your weak point?

a) speaking; b) listening; c) writing; d) reading.

7. Do you work at your language systematically or from time to time?

8. What is the most boring aspect of English for you?

9. What do you think is the best way to learn pronunciation (grammar, vocabulary)?

10. Do you prefer British or American English? Why?

11. Do you think it is possible to learn a foreign language perfectly?

12. What are you going to need foreign languages for in your future job?

a) To act as an interpreter.

b) To be entertained when you are abroad.

c) To entertain foreign guests.

d) To work as a foreign language teacher.

e) To make travel and hotel arrangements when you travel abroad.

f) To read articles in scientific and technical journals.

Task 1. Read and translate the text.

How many people speak English and why?

It is only in the course of the last hundred years that English has become a number one world language. In the year of 1600, in Shakespeare's time, English was spoken only by 6 million people and was a "provincial" language (as was Russian), while French was the leading foreign language of that century. Three centuries later 260 million people spoke English and now, at the end of the third this millennium, probably one billion people speak English. It has become one of the world's most important languages in politics, science, trade and cultural relations. In number of speakers English nowadays is second only to Chinese. It is the official language of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand. It is used as one of the official languages in Canada and South Africa and in the Irish Republic. It is also spoken as a second language by many people in India, Pakistan, numerous countries in Africa, where there are many different languages and people use English as an "official" or "second" language for government, business and education. Throughout the world many people use English as an international language: some use it for social purposes, others for business or study. In 1992 51 % of European schoolchildren studied English as their first foreign language and now this number is much higher.

Task 2. Decide if the following statements are true or false.

1. English was the leading world language in the 17th century. T/F
2. At the beginning of the 20th century about 300 million people spoke English. T/F
3. More people in the world speak Chinese than English. T/F
4. English is among official languages of Canada and South Africa T/F
5. English is often used as a second language by representatives of different nations within one country. T/F
6. English may be called the language of business and commerce. T/F

Task 3. Do you remember the pronunciation of country names? Pay attention to the transcription of the words and practice to pronounce them .

Country	Translation	Transcription
Austria	Австрія	['ʌstriə]
Belorussia	Білорусь	[bɛlə' rʌʃə]
Belgium	Бельгія	['bɛldʒəm]
Bulgaria	Болгарія	[bʌl' geəriə]
Hungary	Угорщина	['hʌŋgəri]
Great Britain	Великобританія	[greɪt 'brɪtn]
Germany	Німеччина	['dʒɜ:məni]
Greece	Греція	[gri:s]
Denmark	Данія	['dɛnmɑ:k]
Spain	Іспанія	[speɪn]
Italy	Італія	['ɪtəli]
The Netherlands	Нідерланди	[ðə 'neðələndz]
Poland	Польща	['pəʊlənd]
France	Франція	['frɑ:ns]
Ukraine	Україна	[ju:'kreɪn]
Switzerland	Швейцарія	['swɪtsələnd]

4. Do you know that ...

People have been learning foreign languages for thousands of years because they needed some second foreign language to understand each other. The ancient Egyptians learned the Greek language 2.500 years ago. In the 12-th century the French language was learnt in many countries of Europe. In the 16-th century Europe began to study the German language. The English language began to spread throughout the world in the 17-th century. In the 19-th century the nobility of different countries communicated in French again. Nowadays, the English language is the most widespread in the world. No wonder that one person in seven of the world's population knows English.

5. Read the text and discuss it.

Importance of Language – Why Learning a Second Language is Important

By Leonardo De Valoes, Adjunct Faculty

Language impacts the daily lives of members of any race, creed, and region of the world. Language helps express our feelings, desires, and queries to the world around us. Words, gestures and tone are utilized in union to portray a broad spectrum of emotion. The unique and diverse methods human beings can use to communicate through written and spoken language is a large part of what allows to harness our innate ability to form lasting bonds with one another; separating mankind from the rest of the animal kingdom.

The importance of communication is often overlooked. Despite our great prowess in communication, misunderstandings and mistranslations are commonplace. It is arrogant to believe that one can travel the world and expect all of mankind to understand his or her native tongue. In order to travel the world, whether for business or pleasure, a desire and willingness to adapt to new cultures and methods is necessary. Adaptability, of course, includes the ability to communicate with new people in various dialects. Being unable to communicate in a country is akin to living with a serious impairment; it is very difficult and near impossible, to adapt and get along with new people if there is no way to communicate with one another

Additionally, the ability to communicate in multiple languages is becoming more and more important in the increasingly integrated global business community. Communicating directly with new clients and companies in their native language is one of the first steps to founding a lasting, stable international business relationship. Being able to do this automatically puts any multilingual person miles ahead of his or her peers in the competition for jobs and high-prestige positions. Language is such a key aspect to setting up children for success in their future professional endeavors that high schools across the nation and in almost every Western country require at least two years of a foreign language. Most institutions offer opportunities to learn a foreign language at even earlier ages. In recent years, psychologists such as Agnes Kovacs have studied the intelligence and mental capacity of young bilingual children in comparison to monolingual children. As noted in the article *Why Bilinguals Are Smarter* by Yudhijit Bhattacharjee of the New York Times, the author states, “The collective evidence from a number of such studies suggests that the bilingual experience improves the brain’s so-called executive function — a command system that directs the attention processes that we use for planning, solving problems and performing various other mentally demanding tasks.” Furthermore, by instilling a reverence for foreign language at a young age, parents put their children miles ahead of their future competitors.

The impact of multilingualism can be traced to even more fields. A doctor who can communicate with his or her patient in their native tongue is much more likely to have success at diagnosing them. A scientist or engineer capable of explaining his findings and ideas to his peers will be able to expedite and perfect their work, even if his peers could not understand him in his first language. Any hiring manager in any company in the world would tell you that the ability to speak a foreign language is a prized commodity. Learning to communicate fluently in multiple languages provides additional job security and advancement opportunities in uncertain economic times.

In order to prepare our nation’s children to be the next generation of future entrepreneurs, doctors, scientists, engineers, or whatever influential job they

choose, we must foster an environment from a young age that promotes multilingual learning. Through this we are setting up ourselves, our children, and our children's children, for growth, success, security, and ultimately, prosperity.

Therefore, it is up to you to create a warm and comfortable environment in which your child can grow to learn the complexities of language. The communication skills that your child learns early in life will be the foundation for his or her communication abilities for the future. Strong language skills are an asset that will promote a lifetime of effective communication.

I have always been interested in languages. I have traveled to over 125 countries in the last twenty years and have recently published a book series entitled, *Our Beautiful World*. Our language is the most important part of our being. I think it is important to learn other languages, other forms of communication besides our own because it helps us to learn about other peoples and cultures. The most important one, however, that we can learn is our own mother tongue as this is one of the most basic parts of our identity. If we were to lose our own tongue, for example, if we were to grow up in a country which is not our own, someplace that is not our home, in my opinion, we would be losing a part of ourselves.

Conversation Questions Learning a Foreign Language

- What is your mother tongue?
- How many languages do you speak?
- How did you learn your second language?
- What's the best way to learn a foreign language?
- What methods do you use to remember vocabulary better?
- Is it necessary to write words down?
- Is it possible to understand and write well but not be able to have a conversation?
- What is value of learning languages?
- Why do some people have more difficulty than others when learning a language?
- To what extent do you agree that it's better to learn language as a child? Why or why not?
- To speak its language well, how important is it to know something about the culture of a country?
- Are there some words that are similar in different languages?
- As a beginner, what are the first things that you need to be able to say?
- What are the problem areas that an intermediate learner may have?
- What are the problem areas that an advanced learner may have?
- When you travel to a foreign country, is it always easy to use your foreign language?
- How can the Internet be a helpful tool when learning a foreign language?
- Some people say that if you can teach something about your foreign language, then it you to understand it better. Do you agree?

- Have you ever tried learning a new language from a textbook with audio tapes?
- Is it good to sit an exam that shows your level in English?
- What do you know about IELTS and TOEFL?
- Can you learn a language by watching television?
- Do you use free language-learning exercises on the Internet?
- Have you ever paid for 1:1 lessons?
- Would you like to be a translator? Why? / Why not?
- Is the classroom the best place to learn?
- Can a good teacher influence how well you enjoy learning a language?
- Is it possible to teach yourself a language?
- What careers are possible if you speak a foreign language?
- What languages would you like to learn in future?
- What different techniques do you have for learning vocabulary?
- Do you need to write in a foreign language?
- Do you need to use your foreign languages at work?
- Do you think that knowing a foreign language might encourage you to live abroad in future?
- Is it a good idea to learn a language from a non-native speaker of that language?
 - Are there any disadvantages?
- Do you know how large your vocabulary is in your foreign language?
- Could you teach your mother tongue to someone else?
- What personal qualities do you need to be an effective language learner?
- What tools can help you learn a foreign language?
- Have you ever made a telephone call in a foreign language?
 - If yes, how did it go?
- Do you ever read websites in a foreign language?
- Is it possible to learn a language without studying grammar?
- Is knowing grammar more important than knowing vocabulary?
- Have teaching methods for language learning changed over the last 50 years?
- To speak a language well, why is it important to have an understanding of idioms?
- How did your best language teacher help you?
- Have you had any particularly poor language learning experiences?
- How old should a child be when a school introduces the first foreign language?
- Are teenage language exchange programs useful? Why? / Why not?
- Some people say "I'm no good at learning languages".
 - Is this just a question of attitude (because of a previous bad experience) or were some people born lacking the ability to learn a new language?

English-Speaking Countries

1. Get ready to answer the questions:

1. What are the most famous English-speaking countries?
2. What countries is the UK made of? What are their capitals?
3. What can you say about the climate and the weather of the country?
4. How many states does the USA consist of?
5. What city is the capital of the USA?
6. What other English - speaking countries do you know?

7. What English-speaking country would you like to visit?

Task 2. Study the text below. Can you prove that English is the universal language?

English as the universal language

The modern world is becoming smaller all the time. Every day distances between different countries seem less. For this reason it's becoming more and more important to know different languages, especially English. One billion people speak English today. That's about 20% of the world's population. 400 million people speak English as their first language. For the other 600 million people it's either a second language or a foreign language. English is the first language in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand. It is one of the official languages in Canada, the Irish Republic and the Republic of South Africa. As a second language English is spoken in more than 60 countries. It is used by the government, businessmen and universities. English is the language of politics and diplomacy, science and technology, business and trade, sport and pop music. 80% of all information in the world's computers is in English. 75% of the world's letters and faxes are in English. 60% of all international telephone calls are made in English. More than 60% of all scientific journals are written in English. To know English today is absolutely necessary for every educated person, for every good specialist. Learning a language is not an easy thing. It's a long and slow process that takes a lot of time and patience. But it's a must. English is taught throughout the world and a lot of people speak it quite well. In our country English is very popular: it is studied at schools, colleges and universities. Have you ever wondered how many people there are who speak English? It's quite a number! Geographically, English is the most widespread language on earth, and it is second only to Chinese in the number of people who speak it. It is spoken in the British Isles, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and much of Canada and South Africa. That's about 400 million people.

English is also a second language of another 300 million people living in more than 60 countries. If you add to this the enormous number of people who learn to

understand and speak English (like yourself), you will realise that English is indeed a "world language".

In Shakespeare's time only a few million people spoke English. All of them lived in what is now Great Britain. Through the centuries, as a result of various historical events, English spread throughout the world. Five hundred years ago they didn't speak English in North America: the American Indians had their own languages. So did the Eskimos in Canada, the aborigines in Australia, and the Maoris in New Zealand. Today, English is represented in every continent and in the three main oceans — the Atlantic, the Indian and the Pacific. A century ago, some linguists predicted that one day England, America, Australia and Canada would be speaking different languages. However, with the advent of records, cinema, radio, and television, the two brands of English have even begun to draw back together again. Britons and Americans probably speak more alike today than they did 50 or 60 years ago. (In the 1930s and 1940s, for example, American films were dubbed in England. It's no longer the practice today.

3. Read the text and discuss it.

English Speaking Countries

Today, more than 300 million people use the English language as their native language. Although English is the official or one of the official languages in over 45 countries, the most important English speaking countries are the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Irish Republic, and New Zealand.

The full name of the United Kingdom is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The capital of the UK is London.

Other important cities are Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Birmingham, and Cardiff. Great Britain is actually the biggest island in Europe containing England, Wales and Scotland. Population of the UK is about 60 million people. Almost 80% of the population which is 45 million people lives in England, in Scotland over 5 million, in Wales over 3 million, and in Northern Ireland about 2 million people.

Ethnically, the country consists of English, Scots, Welsh, and Irish, although there are large immigrant communities representing India, Turkey and other countries.

Great Britain is administratively divided into 55 counties with certain amount of autonomy in local matters reserved by law. The UK is a parliamentary monarchy, although the monarch plays a rather symbolic role.

The British Parliament is one of the oldest in the world and consists of two houses: the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The United Kingdom is a highly developed country with many scientific and cultural centres. This country gave us a world language, almost all modern ball games and many other kinds of sport. It created a culture which influenced the evolution of the world civilization.

The biggest English speaking country is the USA. It occupies almost half of the continent of Northern America and borders on Canada in the north and Mexico in the south. Having the total area of over nine million sq km it is one of the largest countries in the world. The population is about 250 million people, most of whom live in towns and cities. The administrative and political of the country is its capital Washington D.C., named after the first US President George Washington.

Here are many federal institutions are situated such as Capitol, the main building of US Congress, and the White House, which is the official residence of the US President. At the same time, the main economic and financial of the USA is New York, lovingly called “Big Apple”. Second largest city in the USA is Los Angeles, an industrial and educational centre. The Wall Street in New York is the symbol of financial power of the USA. The biggest and most important stock exchange is situated on that street as well as head offices of hundreds of companies of world level. Other important US cities are: San Francisco, Chicago, and Boston.

The USA consists of fifty states. Each state has its own constitution, a parliament and a government headed by a governor.

The most powerful political parties of the USA are the Democratic and the Republican parties, which alternatively win the general elections for the president's

office. It is interesting that neither the constitution nor any other federal law of the USA contain anything about English as the official language of the country!

The importance of the USA in today's world politics, technology, and pop-culture cannot be overestimated and is evident.

Canada is situated north of the USA. Canada is second largest country in the world after Russia. Its climate and nature is very much like in our own country. Canada has two official languages with equal status: French and English. It is divided into 10 provinces and 2 northern territories. The population is about 25 million people.

Most developed territories are those adjacent to the US border. Ottawa is the capital of the country. In the past, the city was called Bytown but then given its present name in 1854. The country's largest city and major port is Montreal.

Australia is the only country in the world taking up the territory of a whole continent, which has the same name. This country is unique in many ways.

It has no land borders with any countries. Its flora and fauna has exotic plants and animals you can meet only there, such as kangaroos and humming-bird.

Most Australians are of British or Irish origin because it used to be the British colony and the local population used to be mercilessly killed by the colonists.

Canberra, the capital of the country, was founded in 1913 as a planned capital.

Australia is the largest wool producer in the world. According to some estimates, there are more sheep living in Australia than people! Australia's only close neighbouring **country is New Zealand**, which is situated on two islands: the North and the South Island. The capital of the country is Wellington. New Zealand has a population of nearly 3.5 million people, most of whom speak English and are of European origin. Officially, the country is headed by the British monarch, who is represented by the governor-general.

Ireland's official name is the Irish Republic. It is separated from Britain by North Channel. Its population is almost 4 million people. The official languages are English and Gaelic. The capital of the city is Dublin was the birthplace for many famous people such as James Joyce or Jonathan Swift. It is also the most

important commercial and financial centre of Ireland. For eight hundred years up until 1922 Dublin had been under the English rule. Country's favourable geographic position on the way of the warm ocean current called Gulf Stream makes it a nice country to visit. It is a wonderful country with striking coastlines and landscapes.

4. Do you know these idioms? Can you give Ukrainian equivalents to the phrases?

1. As American as apple pie – truly American; typically American;
2. The Big Apple – the nickname of New York City;
3. Carry coals to Newcastle – to bring something to a place which has plenty of such things already;
4. Grin like a Cheshire cat – to smile or grin inscrutably;
5. Indian summer – a period of warm weather in autumn;
6. In plain English – in simple, understandable language;
7. In Queer Street – in financial instability; in difficulty or trouble;
8. Madison Avenue – the advertising industry of the United States;
9. On Easy Street – in wealth; in financial security and comfort;
10. Silicon Valley – the world of computers and high technology;
11. Wall Street – American money market; American financial oligarchy;
12. The Windy City – Chicago.

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Where is the United Kingdom situated?

What is the area of the United Kingdom?

What countries does it consist of?

What is the highest mountain on the British Isles?

What is the longest river?

What is the highest mountain in Wales?

What is the northern part of Scotland called?

What is the population of the United Kingdom?

How many people live in London?

What industry is developed in South Wales?

What kind of state is the United Kingdom?

What houses does the British parliament consist of?

What are the main political parties?

Who chooses the Cabinet of Ministers?

What is the flag of the United Kingdom called?

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Where is the USA situated?

What area has the USA?

What mountains are there in the country?

What is situated between the Cordilleras and the Appalachian mountains?

What are the main rivers?

What kind of climate is there in the USA?

What is the population of the USA?

How many states are there in the USA?

What kind of state is the USA?

Who is the head of the state?

What is the capital of the USA?

What are the main parties?

What is the financial & business centre of the country?

When is Thanksgiving Day celebrated?

When is Independence Day celebrated?

CANADA

What is the capital of Canada?

What is the area of Canada?

Where is Canada situated?

What is Canada rich in?

What is the population of Canada?

What are the most important cities?

What are Canada's largest ports?

What are the largest lakes in Canada?

What mountains are there in Canada?

What are the longest rivers?

What is the largest island in the north of Canada?

What kind of state is Canada?

How many provinces and territories does it consist of?

What houses does the Federal Parliament consist of?

What are Canada's main agricultural products?

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

What is the official name of Australia?

What territories are there in the Commonwealth of Australia?

What area has Australia?

What is the capital of Australia?

In what hemisphere is Australia situated?

What is the population of Australia?

What are the biggest cities in Australia?

What is the main occupation in Australia?

What agricultural product is Australia famous for?

What are the longest rivers?

What mountains are there in Australia?

What does Australia consist of?

What houses does the Federal Parliament consist of ?

Who is formally the head of the state?

Who represents the Queen of England?

NEW ZEALAND

Where is New Zealand situated?

What islands does it consist of?

On which island are there many lakes?

What sea washes the western coast of New Zealand?

What is the highest mountainous range?

What is the national emblem of New Zealand?

What is the capital?

What are the main cities?

What is the nickname of New Zealand?

Which city resembles Edinburgh?

What is the population of New Zealand?

Who are the Maoris?

What are they famous for?

What houses does the Parliament consist of?

Who represents the Queen of England?

Unit 3. National traditions and hospitality customs in Great Britain

1. Can you tell your groupmates about the British traditions? Read the text and get ready to speak about the British traditions.

British nation is considered to be the most conservative in Europe. It is not a secret that every nation has its own customs and traditions. In Great Britain people attach greater importance to traditions and customs than in other European countries. Englishmen are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up.

The best examples are their queen, money system, their weights and measures. There are many customs and some of them are very old. There is, for example, the Marble Championship, where the British Champion is crowned; he wins a silver cup known among folk dancers as Morris Dancing.

Morris Dancing is an event where people, worn in beautiful clothes with ribbons and bells, dance with handkerchiefs or big sticks in their hands, while traditional music sounds.

Another example is the Boat Race, which takes place on the river Thames, often on Easter Sunday. A boat with a team from Oxford University and one with a team from Cambridge University hold a race.

British people think that the Grand National horse race is the most exciting horse race in the world. It takes place near Liverpool every year. Sometimes it happens the same day as the Boat Race takes place, sometimes a week later. Amateur riders as well as professional jockeys can participate. It is a very famous event.

There are many celebrations in May, especially in the countryside, for example, May Day. It is the time of year when warmer weather begins and flowers and trees start to blossom. It is said to be a time of love and romance. It is the time when people celebrate the coming of summer with lots of different customs that are expressions of joy and hope after a long winter. Traditional English May Day celebrations include Morris dancing, crowning a May Queen and dancing around a Maypole.

Halloween is a day on which many children dress up in unusual costumes. In fact, this holiday has a Celtic origin. The day was originally called All Halloween's Eve, because it happens on October 31, the eve of all Saint's Day. The name was later shortened to Halloween. The Celts celebrated the coming of New Year on that day. Another tradition is the holiday called Bonfire Night. On November 5, 1605, a man called Guy Fawkes planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament where the king James 1st was to open Parliament on that day. But Guy Fawkes was unable to realize his plan and was caught and later, hanged. The British still remember that Guy Fawkes' Night. It is another name for this holiday. This day one can see children with figures, made of sacks and straw and dressed in old clothes. On November 5th, children put their figures on the bonfire, burn them, and light their fireworks.

In the end of the year, there is the most famous New Year celebration. In London, many people go to Trafalgar Square on New Year's Eve. There is singing and dancing at 12 o'clock on December 31st.

A popular Scottish event is the Edinburgh Festival of music and drama, which takes place every year. A truly Welsh event is the Eisteddfod, a national festival of traditional poetry and music, with a competition for the best new poem in Welsh.

If we look at English weights and measures, we can be convinced that the British are very conservative people. They do not use the internationally accepted measurements. They have conserved nine old measures.

For general use, the smallest weight is one ounce, then 16 ounce is equal to a pound. Fourteen pounds is one stone. The English always give people's weight in pounds and stones. Liquids they measure in pints, quarts and gallons.

There are two pints in a quart and four quarts or eight pints are in one gallon. For length, they have inches, foot, yards and miles.

If we have always been used to the metric system therefore the English monetary system could be found rather difficult for us. They have a pound sterling, which is

divided into twenty shillings, half-crown is cost two shillings and sixpence, shilling is worth twelve pennies and one penny could be changed by two halfpennies.

2. Compare the Ukrainian and the British holidays. Discuss them.

1. *Read and translate the text about the UK.*

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is an island state: it occupies the territory of the British Isles and is composed of some 5,500 islands, large and small. The two main islands are: Great Britain (in which are England, Wales and Scotland) to the east and Ireland (in which are Northern Ireland and the independent Republic of Ireland) to the west. They are separated by the Irish Sea. The UK is one of the world's smaller countries. However, there are only nine other countries with more people, and London is the world's seventh biggest city. The UK is separated from the European continent by the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. The highest mountains are in Scotland and Wales: There are many lakes in Great Britain. On the northwest lies the Lake District, containing the beautiful lakes that give it its name.

The largest cities of Great Britain are: London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds and Edinburgh. The most important ports are: London, Liverpool, Southampton, Belfast, Glasgow and Cardiff.

The climate in the UK is usually described as cool, temperate and humid. The weather is so changeable that the English often say that they have no climate but only weather. The weather is the favourite topic of conversation in the UK.

The population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is over 57 million people. The population lives mostly in towns and cities and their suburbs. Four out of every five people live in towns.

The UK is inhabited by the English, the Scottish, the Welsh, and the Northern Irish, who constitute the British nation. The British are the descendants of different peoples who settled in the British Isles at different times.

There have been many waves of immigration into Britain. Now there are many people of all colours and races in the UK. These are mostly former inhabitants of

the former British colonies. These people came to the UK in search of better living standards. Nowadays the policy is to encourage these new immigrant communities to continue speaking their own languages as well as English. The children of immigrants are often taught their own languages in school, and there are special newspapers, magazines, and radio and television programmes for these communities.

The latest wave of immigrants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Hong Kong has of course caused problems. There is certainly racial tension and racial prejudice in Britain today. In spite of laws passed to protect them, there is still discrimination against Asian and black people, many of whom are unemployed or in low-paid jobs. However, the atmosphere is improving and the different races are slowly learning to trust one another.

The UK is a constitutional monarchy. In law, the Head of State is the Queen. In practice, the Queen reigns, but does not rule. The country is ruled by the elective government with the Prime Minister at the head. There are three main political parties in Great Britain: the Labour, the Conservative and the Liberal parties.

3. Test yourself. The UK quiz.

1. What's the Queen's name?
 - a. Queen Ann I b. Queen Elizabeth II c. Queen Margaret II
2. Where does the Changing of the Guard take place?
 - a. Buckingham Palace b. Piccadilly Circus c. Victoria and Albert Museum
3. What is a double-decker?
 - a. A bus b. A disco c. A taxi
4. What is Harrods?
 - a. A bank b. A department store c. School
5. Where can you buy stamps?
 - a. At the post office b. At the stationer's c. At the department store
6. How many pence are there in 1 pound sterling?
 - a. 10 b. 100 c. 1000
7. What is the name of the famous stadium in the north of London?

- a. Wembley b. Westminster c. Wimbledon
8. Which Liverpool band was so popular in the 60s?
- a. The Beatles b. The Police c. The Rolling Stones
9. Where is Nessie supposed to live?
- a. Isle of Man b. Loch Ness c. River Thames
10. In Britain, cars are driven on the _____ side of the road.
- a. left-hand b. right-hand c. wrong-hand
11. Dame Agatha Christie wrote lots of _____.
- a. detective stories b. plays c. Poems
12. Where is Belfast?
- a. In Northern Ireland b. In Scotland c. In Wales
13. Manchester United is a popular _____ team.
- a. basketball b. football c. Handball
14. Which famous writer was born in Stratford-upon-Avon?
- a. Samuel Beckett b. James Joyce c. William Shakespeare
15. Which king had 6 wives?
- a. Henry IV b. Henry V c. Henry VIII
16. How many parts does Great Britain contain?
- a. 4 b. 3 c. 5
17. What is the British flag called?
- a. Union Patric b. Union Jack Lines and Crosses
18. What is the London underground called?
- a. the Tube b. the Metro c. the Subway
19. What is the most expensive part of London?
- a. West End b. East End c. the City
20. What colour are the taxis in London?
- a. blue b. red c. black
21. If you go to London, you'll see...
- a. White house b. St. Paul's Cathedral c. Capitol

4. Read the text and try to memorize the forms of addressing people in the situation of getting acquainted.

How to Address People in English

English learners often feel confused about how to address people properly. Many feel uncomfortable asking the question, "What should I call you?" Even native English people find this question awkward. For example, many women don't know how to address their boyfriend's mother. On the other hand, some parents don't know what to call their children's teacher.

Note that: For Mr we say —Mister; For Mrs —Misses; For Miss - —Miss.

Why is "What should I call you?" such a difficult question to ask? Perhaps it's because you are asking the other person to provide their status or position in the world in relationship to yours. This position may involve age, job, education, religion and even marital status. If you are unsure of what to call someone, it's best to use a formal address or simply ask one of these questions:

- What should I call your mum / the teacher / the manager?
- Is it okay if I call you [the nickname you've heard others use]?
- What's your name? (use in a casual situation like a party or classroom where first names are used)

Formal Titles in English

In business situations, use formal titles unless the people you meet tell you otherwise. To get someone's attention you can say: "Excuse me, Sir" or "Pardon me, Madam/Ma'am." To greet someone you can say: "Hello Sir" or "Good morning, Madam/Ma'am." Here are the formal titles English speakers use:

1. Sir (adult male of any age)
2. Madam (adult female)
3. Mr + last name (any man)
4. Mrs + last name (married woman who uses her husband's last name)
5. Miss + last name (unmarried woman)

6. Dr + last name (some doctors go by Dr + first name)

7. Professor + last name (in a university setting).

British Traditions To Experience In The UK

1. British Morris Dancing

The earliest records of Morris Dancing date back to the 15th Century where “peasants” would dance the evening away. With over 500 years of tradition, passed down through generations, Morris Dancers can usually be found at most Summer Fetes dressed and dancing to impress the crowds! If you ask nicely, they will even let you join in at certain points so you too can try the tradition.

2. British Maypole Dancing

Predominant in Britain and other parts of Europe, the Maypole is a tall wooden pole that people traditionally dance around on May Day or Whitsun. The earliest records of Maypole dancing occurred in 14th Century Wales. Historians believe that people danced around the Maypole for a number of reasons. 1) To possibly promote fertility 2) To create a symbolic place where local villages (often feuding) could come together in peace, or, 3.) Due to the Pagan notion of the universe being related to a tree (which I had no idea). Whatever the reason, it’s great fun...

3. English Cheese Rolling

Cheese rolling is held every year at Coopers Hill in Gloucester, usually on the annual spring bank holiday – where thousands of people will literally roll and chase a 9lb barrel of Gloucestershire cheese down the hill. It is thought that this festival comes from the Pagan celebrations for the end of winter, whereby barrels and burning bush would be rolled down the hill. Anyone can choose to take part.

4. A British Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night is an event that is filled with fireworks, bonfires, sparklers and lots of toffee apples! Yum! Each year we celebrate the failed plot of Guy Fawkes in trying to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 17th Century London. He had filled the whole cellar with hundreds of barrels of gunpowder and was ready to ignite – thankfully his plan was foiled and the Houses of Parliament were saved! Now we celebrate by lighting the “gunpowder” (eg fireworks) and creating a big fire.

5. BOG SNORKELLING

Bog Snorkelling has to be one of the strangest of our traditions. Each year a competitive event, in Llanwrtyd Wells, is held where locals and visitors alike can be crowned a champion “bog snorkeller”.

Usually, Bog Snorkelling happens in summer -just remember, if you want to take part make sure to pack a wet suit, the bogs are notoriously cold

6. Cornish Hurling

Played only in Cornwall and derived from the Celts, “Cornish Hurling” is a truly unique past-time! St. Ives in Cornwall holds an annual event on the

first Sunday of February. Everybody and anyone can join in, too... in truth, thousands attend to play. Whoever ends up with the silver ball at 12noon gets to go to the town mayor and receive their 5 shillings (olde' money) reward.

Unit 4. Holidays and Traditions in English Speaking Countries.

1. Read the text and discuss it.

Holidays and Traditions in English Speaking Countries.

Each country has its own set of national holidays and traditions. When somebody is learning a foreign language it is very important to know the holidays and traditions of the countries where this language is spoken. This will give one a better understanding of the culture of these countries. There are many English speaking countries. They are situated in different continents. This makes cultures of English speaking countries very different from each other because the conditions of life are so much dissimilar that it influenced the beliefs and folklore of these countries. Still, there some holiday and traditions which are common for all English speaking countries. Christmas is celebrated on December 25. It is observed as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. Christmas trees are decorated in every city or town. People get ready for this day weeks ahead buying presents for family members and close friends. One of the most loved holidays is St Valentine's Day on February 14. This holiday has religious origin and dates back to third century. It was originally commemorating two martyrs both named St Valentine. With time, it was associated with love. Lovers give each other a Valentine card saying how much they love each other. Not long ago, this holiday was gladly welcomed in our country as well. Easter is probably the most important religious festival in all English speaking countries. There is no specific date for this holiday but it usually occurs sometime between March 22 and April 25. Easter commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus. On Easter morning children start to look for Easter eggs hidden somewhere by the Easter bunny. The Friday before Easter is called Good Friday and commemorates the Crucifixion. On this day people eat traditional hot cross buns marked with a cross. On October 31, Halloween is

celebrated. This is the eve of All Saints' Day. Halloween is traditionally associated with telling ghost stories and bonfires. In the past, people believed that all witches, ghosts and other evil spirits wanted to take over the world on that day. To scare away the spirits, people started to get dressed in costumes, put on spooky masks, light bonfires and put jack-o-lanterns in front of their homes. Today, in many schools pupils organize jack-o-lantern contests. Jack-o-lantern is a hollow pumpkin with holes cut out to represent a human face. There is an interesting holiday in the USA, which is called the Groundhog Day on February 2. Strangely enough, but people believe that if a groundhog wakes after its winter-long sleep and sees its own shadow then the winter will continue for six more weeks. For Ireland, the most important festival is St Patrick's day on March 17. St Patrick was born in fourth century and grew in Ireland, which was worshipping many gods. Being a dedicated Christian, St Patrick put all his efforts to make Ireland a Christian country, establishing churches and schools everywhere. There is a legend that St Patrick was able to work miracles. One of the most popular miracle was when Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. Since then, Patrick is considered the Patron of Ireland. Let's now turn to traditions common for all English speaking countries. For example, getting up from the wrong side of the bed in the morning is generally considered the reason why a person is in a bad mood. By the wrong side people meant the left side of the bed, since the left was always associated with something evil.

Most *Americans* believe that every individual is unique, completely and marvellously unique totally different from all other individuals and therefore, particularly precious and wonderful. Americans think they are more individualistic in their thoughts and actions than they really are. They take pride in claiming more individualism than in fact, they actually have.

An American can take credit only for what he accomplished by himself without any outside assistance. It expresses initiative, another typical feature of the nation. Americans rely on themselves only. They know that they have to work hard to climb the difficult ladder of success. And they do work hard to gain the aim. The

fact leads to Americans being known as workaholics. But it does not mean they like to work – they just have to work. They are participants of a great race for success.

American ways of life lead them to be considered as a rather materialistic people. It means that they value and collect more material objects that most of the world's people would ever dream possible to own. It also means that they give a higher priority to obtaining, protecting and maintaining their material objects than they do in developing and enjoying personal relationships with people.

Their personal relationships are rather particular. They are considered to be direct and their directness does not observe the rule of subtle and highly ritualistic way of informing people of unpleasant news. Such kind of relationships is closely connected with another typical American feature as informality. They express it in their communication and dress. Besides American like change and believe the equality is one of their most cherished value. Americans see the values to be positive, though they are not aware of other people do so too.

There are certain stereotypes of national character which are known as **British traits**.

People in modern Britain are very conscious about class differences, though many people say they don't approve of class divisions. The main criteria for class division are money and accent.

The British are cling to intellectualism. Teachers and academic staff although respected, don't have as high status as they do most other countries. Even the word "clever" has negative connotation.

Britain is usually claimed as "the land of tradition", but in their private lives the British are less inclined to follow traditions. They just like old things, old houses, pubs looking old, regarding them as symbols of stability and safer times.

The British are individualists: they are proud of being different. Tourists usually describe the British as a very unfriendly nation, but that is not true. One should differentiate between unfriendliness and informality. When people aren't playing a public role – there seem to be no rules at all. The key is this: being friendly in

Britain often evolves showing that you are not bothering with the formalities. The British also tend to have essential attitudes to animals.

The values and assumptions listed above are not complete. We can enumerate them endlessly but still the best way to know the country is to visit country.

2. Read the text and discuss it.

Cultural facts to take into account when visiting an English speaking country

If you need the meaning of the word “culture”, you can easily find it even in the pocket dictionary. The notion of English speaking culture can be interpreted in many various ways, by the representatives of this or that country. The culture may cover both – spiritual and material aspects.

As for the culture of **English speaking countries**, it is widely known as a model of conduct with inborn and trained behavior. Once you make a decision to travel to the English speaking country, take into account all the aspects of its culture, such as social and historical traditions, rules, etc.

Are you going to the United States?

American culture covers ideals, traditions, beliefs, customs, arts and values that are imported by means of immigration and colonization. Ideals and ideas brought from Europe such as democracy and capitalism are combined with those that were generated domestically (holidays, military traditions, art innovations and entertainment). As a tourist, you have to know that Americans are a competitive country with individual independence. Moreover, their race to success, hard work, freedom and material wealth are the basic points of the American character.

You have given your preference to the United Kingdom?

Once you get here, you will definitely notice that people here describe themselves as Welsh, British, Scottish and English. It is important to note that as a result of the British Empire, cultural influence can be traced on the cultures of Australia, Canada, the USA, New Zealand and the territories located over the sea (India, Pakistan).

Once you pack your bags to the United Kingdom, remember that its culture is known also for representative democracy and Protestantism. Besides that, the culture of the United Kingdom is respected all over the globe for famous cinema, British poetry, literature and the high level of the television and music.

Canada is one of the most popular English speaking countries that hook attention of people from all over the world. The elements of the culture of Canada are similar to the ones from Europe (Great Britain, France). All the cultural aspects have been shaped by the migration waves that formed the traditions, cuisine recipes and left their mark on the cultural development of the whole society.

You have to remember that Canada is the bilingual and multicultural nation, with one of the highest level of industrialization. Besides that, Canada is the country with a huge surface area, and, what is more, what goes with it is a really diverse culturally and ethnically. When you will be moving between different provinces and towns of Canada, you will definitely pay attention to the remarkable differences in culture and traditions. The thing is that the immigrants continue arriving here from all parts of the world. This, in turn, causes the significant multiculturalism all over the land.

In case you make a decision to travel to the coast of far and away land **Australia**, make sure you know all little bits of its cultural and historical aspects.

Australia is a well developed land with a really multicultural society. In contrast to the majority of countries, Australia comes to your mind when it comes to the highest level of health care, quality of life, educational level, average life expectancy and also Human Development Index (this country is located in third place after Iceland and Norway), individual freedom, the freedom of economic activity and freedom for political rights.

How about traveling to the Irish Republic?

Before going there, make sure to get to know more about its cultural aspects. First of all, you need to know that people in Irish Republic are well known for their hospitality. In Ireland people tend to believe that a reversal back to the stranger in need, the house brings bad luck. While a lot of various prejudices and old beliefs

slowly disappear, the hospitality and warmth of people in the Irish Republic are the significant features of the whole nature. By the way, warmth and hospitality are practiced not only in houses but also in famous pubs. Once you enter the pub, feel free to join the group of people who drink there. It will automatically set all queues!

The key to not just having a good time in any of the countries mentioned above, but to actually making new friends for life is being a friendly person. Just care about the others and do your best to make them feel comfortable!

Unit 5. The United States of America

1. Read the text and discuss it.

The USA is situated in the central part of the North American continent. Its western coast is washed by the Pacific Ocean and its eastern coast — by the Atlantic Ocean. The area of the USA is over nine million square kilometres. It is a very large country, so it has several different climatic regions. The coldest regions are in the north and north-east. The south has a subtropical climate.

The population of the USA is more than 236 million people. Most of the people live in towns.

The capital of the USA is Washington in the district of Columbia (D. C). It is an administrative city without much industry. Washington has many famous monuments in the streets and squares. One of them is the Abraham Lincoln memorial with 36 columns representing the states of the union at the time of Lincoln's death. The main part of the memorial is the figure of Lincoln.

The Capitol, where the Congress meets, is a very high and beautiful building with white marble columns. It is in the very centre of the city. Not far from the Capitol there is the Library of Congress. It holds five million books. The White House, the residence of the President, is the oldest public building in Washington and one of the most beautiful.

2. Do you know what cities are the largest in the USA?

There are very many cities in the USA. One of the largest cities in the world is New York. It is situated at the mouth of Hudson River. New York was founded by the Dutch. It's interesting to know that Manhattan Island—the central part of New York — was bought from the local Indians for 24 dollars by the Dutch. In the eighteenth century New York grew into the largest city of the United States of America. Now New York is a great seaport, the leading textile and the financial centre of the country. Manhattan Island with the Wall Street district is the heart of America's business and culture. New York is the city of sky-scrapers.

The highest of them is the 102-storey Empire State Building. There are many other places of interest in New York: Central Park, Times Square, Rockefeller Centre, the shopping districts and the United Nations Building. In Manhattan at Broadway there is Columbia University, one of the biggest universities of the USA.

Another large city of the USA is Boston, one of the first cities which were built on the Atlantic coast of America. It is an important port and a financial and cultural centre. It has three universities.

Chicago is one of the biggest industrial cities in the USA and the second largest after New York.

Philadelphia, near the east coast, produces agricultural machines and locomotives. Light industry is highly developed here. Philadelphia is an important cultural centre with many fine buildings and a university.

Los Angeles, in California, is a centre of modern industries. Not far from Los Angeles is Hollywood, the centre of the US film business.

3. Are you an expert on the USA?

1. What is the capital of the USA?

a) Ottawa b) Washington, D.C. c) New York

2. How many states are there in the USA?

a) 52 b) 50 c) 51

3. What is the American flag called?

a) Union John b) Union Jack c) Stars and Stripes

4. The cartoon symbol of the American government is

- a) Uncle Ben b) Uncle Mike c) Uncle Sam
- 5. What is the New York underground called?
 - a) the metro b) the tube c) the subway
- 6. When did Christopher Columbus discover America?
 - a) in 1492 b) in 1592 c) in 1392
- 7. How often do American people choose a new President?
 - a) every 5 years b) every 3 years c) every 4 years
- 8. What is the most expensive part of New York?
 - a) Long Island b) Manhattan c) Staten Island
- 9. What colour are the taxis in New York?
 - a) black b) yellow c) green
- 10. If you go to New York, you will see
 - a) Big Ben b) The Capitol c) The Empire State Building
- 11. What is the home of the President?
 - a) The Capitol b) The White House c) the House of Representatives
- 12. What do people call New York?
 - a) small pot b) big apple c) melting pot

UNIT 6. The UK

1. Read the text and discuss it.

The United Kingdom

The UK is the most fascinating country for me. We have learned a lot about its history and culture at school I got interested in it so much that I have read lots of info about this country besides my school books. The UK is situated off the northwest coast of Europe between the Atlantic Ocean on the north and northwest and the North Sea on the east and is separated from the European continent by the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. Britain forms the greater part of the British Isles. The full name of the country is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The area of the UK totals 2 hundred 44 thousand square miles. The scenery in the Britain Isles varies greatly from region

to region. There are moors and mountains, lakes and forests. The longest river in the UK is the river Severn, but the Thames is the deepest and the most important. The highest mountain in the UK is Ben Nevis in S. It is 1 thousand 3 hundred 44 meters high. The British climate has three main features: it is mild, humid and changeable. The English sometimes say that they have three variants of weather: when it rains in the morning, when it rains in the afternoon, or when it rains all day long. Over 57 million people live in UK. About 48 million people live in E, 5 million live in S, 3 million live in W and 1,5 million people live in Northern Ireland. For centuries people from overseas have settled in Britain either to escape political or religion persecution or in search of economic opportunities. Each country in the British Isles has a national symbol. The E's symbol is rose, S has thistle, W has daffodil and shamrock is the emblem of Ireland. The state system of the UK is very interesting. It is a parliamentary monarchy. It means that the head of the state is a queen or a king who reigns but doesn't rule. The legislative power belongs to the parliament. The parliament consists of two houses which are the house of lords and the house of commons. The head of the house of lords is lord-chancellor. One can become a member of the house of lords by heritage or by receiving the title of "sir", "duke" and so on by a queen or a king. The members of the house of commons are elected. The party which has the majority in the parliament forms the government. The government consists of the prime minister and his cabinet. The executive power belongs to the government. The party which has the minority in the parliament forms the shadow cabinet. The flag of the UK, known as the Union Jack, is made up of three crosses. The upright red cross is the cross of St. George, the patron saint of E. The white diagonal cross (with the arms going into the corners) is the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of S. The red diagonal cross is the cross of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. St. David is the patron saint of W. GB is one of the most important commercial and trading centres in the world. But Britain buys more goods than she sells. Not being a great agricultural country E has

to obtain her food supplies largely from abroad. She also has to import many raw materials (wool, petrol, cotton).

2. Answer the questions.

1. Where is the UK?
2. What countries make up the UK?
3. What is the official title (name) of the UK?
4. Why is the whole Ireland not part of the UK?
5. What is the Union Jack?
6. What is the highest mountain in the UK?

3. Read the following text, translate it into Ukrainian.

This is the popular name given to the flag of the United Kingdom. Usually it is called the Flag and it consists of several flags.

It all began in 1603, when Scotland was joined to England and Wales. The Scottish Flag, St. Andrew's Cross, blue with a white cross from corner to corner, was joined to the English Flag, St. George's Cross, white with a red cross. The flag of St. George can still be seen on churches in England today.

Later, in 1801, the Irish Flag of St. Patrick's Cross was added, white with a red cross from corner to corner.

In this way the British people got the Union Flag, which is red, white and blue. King James I (1566-1625) ordered the British Flag to be flown on the main mast of all British ships, except on ships-of-war. Here the flag was flown at the front of the ships, on what was called the bowsprit.

The end of the bowsprit was called the Jack Star and so we get the name of Union Jack. A "jack", by the way, is an old word for a "sailor".

"God Save the Queen/King" is the British national anthem. The words and tune probably date back to the 16th century, but the song took its present form during the 18th century.

3. Read the text.

If we look at English weights and measures, we can be convinced that the British are very conservative people. They do not use the internationally accepted measurements. They have **conserved** their old measures. There are nine essential measures. For general use, the smallest weight is one **ounce**, and then 16 ounce is equal to a **pound**. Fourteen pounds is one **stone**. The English always give people's weight in pounds and stones. Liquids they measure in **pints**, **quarts** and **gallons**. There are two pints in a quart and four quarts or eight pints are in one gallon. For length, they have **inches**, **feet**, **yards** and **miles**.

- Ounce = 28,3 grams
- Pound = 453,6 grams
- Stone = 14 pounds = 6,34 kilograms
- Pint = 0,57 litre in Britain
- Quart = 2 pints
- Gallon = 4,54 litre
- Inch = 2,5 centimetres
- Foot = 30,48 centimetres
- Yard = 3 feet = 914,4 millimetres
- Mile = 1609 metres

Unit 7. Canada.

CANADA

People

Indians and Eskimos were the **original inhabitants**. The **first settlers** were the French in the 17th century, who called their colony **New France**. **English** is the mother **tongue** of the majority of Canadians. 30 % are **French** Canadians.

Due to the natural and climatic conditions, the density of population is very low. Most people live in **the southern part of Canada**.

Geography

Canada is **the second largest country in the world** and is **situated** between the

Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic Oceans. Canada occupies the northern part of North America (except Alaska).

Climate

Canada is **one of the coldest countries** in the world and most of the inhabited parts of Canada have a **continental climate** (warm and sunny summers, long and cold winters). **On the Pacific coast** the climate is **milder**. **In the uninhabited north** the winters are very severe = **arctic climate**.

Mountains:

The western part of Canada is mountainous; **the Cordilleras** and several famous ranges form it, e.g.

- **The Rocky Mountains**
- **The Mackenzie Mountains**
- **The Melville Hills** and others

The highest peak is Mt. Logan (6 050m).

Rivers:

The principal rivers are:

***The Mackenzie** ***the St. Lawrence,** ***the Fraser,** ***the Yukon,** ***the Saskatchewan,** ***the Nelson,** ***the Colombia.**

Lakes:

The interior of Canada possesses many **lakes:**

*** Great Slave Lake** ***Great Bear Lake** ***Lake Winnipeg** ***Athabasca .**

There are also **The Niagara Falls** between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

Lakes and rivers in the north are ice-covered for a great part of the year.

Sports:

For Canada is sport very important. Most important sports are these: **curling** (it's related to shuffle board), **fishing,** **football** (100% Canadian rules), **golf,** **hockey** (NHL is composed from 7 Canadian teams), **horse racing,** **lacrosse** (officially Canada's national sport), **skiing** (finest skiing areas), **snowmobiling** (mainly for recreation, major snowmobiling region is Ontario) and hunting (Canada is hunter's paradise).

The system of Government

Canada is a **federation of ten provinces** (famous are Alberta, Ontario, Quebec-the biggest province and so on)

- **The capital is Ottawa**
- **The official head of state is Queen Elizabeth II.** She is represented in Canada by **the General – Governor** but the actual head of the executive is the Canadian Prime Minister
- There is a Federal government for the whole of Canada, and provincial Governments in each of the provinces.
- The Canadian **national symbol is the Maple Leaf**, which is the most noticeable in the red and white national flag.

Canada is an independent federation within **the Commonwealth.**

National economy

Currency used in Canada is **Canadian dollar.**

Canada has mainly **coal, metal, oil and gas**, machine-buiding and chemical industries which are gighly developed. Other important **agricultural items** are **live-stock production, oats, vegetables, tobacco, leather.**

1. What is the capital of Canada?
a) Ottawa b) Sydney c) Columbia d) Washington
2. What is the symbol of Canada?
a) Sun b) Leaves c) Bear d) Maple leaf
3. Who is the head of the state?
a) King b) Queen c) President d) Prime-minister
4. What is the territory of the country?
a) about 5 mln. b) about 7 mln. c) about 10 mln. d) about 9 mln.
5. What is the biggest waterfall in the world?
a) Victoria Falls b) Angel Falls c) Iguazu Falls d) Niagara Falls
6. What languages are official in Canada?
a) English-German b) English-French c) English-Spanish d) Spanish-French

7. What sport is national in Canada?
- a) Ice-hockey b) Baseball c) basketball d) football
8. In what continent Canada is situated?
- a) In North-America b) in Europe c) in Africa d) in South America
10. What are official colours of Canada?
- a) Red and blue b) white and red c) red and gold d) green and red
11. What the Great lakes are there in Canada?
- a) Michigan b) Baikal c) Balkhash d) Como

UNIT 8. Australia

1. Read the text and translate it.

Australia is a country in the Southern Hemisphere with a population of about 17 million people. It's an independent member of the Commonwealth. The capital of the country is Canberra. The official language is English. Australia consists of an island Tasmania and six states: New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.

Australia has always been influenced by Britain. Speaking about the history of the country, it should be mentioned that at first it was a big colony for prisoners. Later, it became an ordinary country.

The main economic sector of the country is the service one, which includes tourism, education and financial services.

Australia's biggest city is Sydney, which is situated in the state of New South Wales. This place is famous for its Blue Mountains, covered with forests of blue coloured eucalyptus trees. So, the air above is full of microscopic drops of eucalyptus oil and it is of a real blue colour in the sunshine.

The driest of all the states is South Australia with the only big river flowing there, that is called the Murray River. In former times it used to be South Australia's

main road, which transported people and goods. Tourists can ride old riverboats that are still kept in some towns on the river.

Tasmania, located in the south of Australia, differs from the other states. There are no deserts on the island. Most of the territory is covered with wild beautiful forests. There are lots of rains both in winter and summer. The population of Tasmania is about half a million people.

It should be said that Australia is home to beautiful nature as well as to such exotic animals as kangaroos, echidnas, koalas, dingoes and many others.

2. Answer the following questions

1. How big is Australia?
2. Where is Australia situated?
3. Why is January the hottest month in Australia?
4. What can you say about Australian animals? Are they different from those on other continents?
5. Can you name the bird living in Australia which cannot fly?
6. What animals are represented on the emblem of the country?
7. In what way do the Australians spend their week-ends?
8. Why have Australians produced so many good athletes?

3. Read and discuss.

1.

No matter where you stand in Australia, you are never more than 1,000 km away from a beach. 2.

Australia is the 6th largest country in the world, with a land mass of over 7.6 million sq km.

3. In 1838, it was declared illegal in Australia for people to go swimming in public beaches during the daytime.

4. This no-daytime-beach-swimming law was enforced right up until 1902.

5. Australia is home to the Great Barrier Reef, the longest coral reef in the world, extending beyond 2,012.5 kilometers.

6. It is said that a typical Australian can expect to consume 10 tons of vegetables, 8 tons of fruits, half a ton of cheese, 165,000 eggs, 92 sheep, 17 beef cattle, and 406 loaves of bread in the span of his lifetime.

7. In 1954, a man named Bob Hawke entered the Guinness Book of Records for gul

ping down 2.5 pints of beer in just 11 seconds. In 1983, the same Bob Hawke became prime minister of Australia.

8.

In 1967, Prime Minister Harold Holt went swimming at the Cheviot Beach. He was never seen again. This event has been called “the swim that needed no towel” (and may have made lawmakers even for just a second consider reinstating that law against swimming in beaches).

9. Australia has more than 150 million sheep – about 7.5 times more than its human population.

10. Australia’s population is so undense that while other countries usually compute how many people they have per square kilometer, Australia computes how many square kilometers it has available per person.

UNIT 9. New Zealand

1. Read the text and answer the questions.

New Zealand comprises three islands: the North and South Islands and Steward Island, a small land just to the South of the South Island. From north to south the whole territory of New Zealand extends for about 1,000 miles and is washed by the Tasman Sea in the west and by the Pacific Ocean in the east. The South Island is mountainous. Seventeen peaks in the Alps reach a height of more than 10,000 ft, the highest of them, Mount Cook, is 12,349, New Zealand’s highest point. Only one-tenth of the North Island’s area is mountainous and only four peaks exceed 6,000 ft. Two of them are active volcanoes. Almost one-quarter of the country is forest-covered and one-third of the rest is devoted to agriculture. There are areas of the desert-like tracts in the central North Island. New Zealand’s climate resembles that of the northern Mediterranean.

Population and Language

The population of New Zealand is over three million.

The differences between New Zealanders and Britons are subtle and not easy to detect. The non-Maori New Zealand has a skin the colour of a white man, he speaks the same language, though with a different accent.

The Maori¹ people make up 7 per cent of the total population. They are concentrated in certain districts such as Northland and the East Coast of the North Island.

Maori, a language of the Polynesian group still is spoken among the Maori population. A large number of people, born and bred in New Zealand, speak English as correctly and with as pure an accent as the best speakers in England. About 8 per cent of the population speaks England with a more or less marked London, or “Cockney” accent.

¹ – Maori – коренное население Новой Зеландии.

Economy

Although lacking the mineral resources required for most heavy industry, New Zealand has established light foundries and engineering works, and builds locomotives, small ships, coaches, as well as assembling imported motor vehicles and machines.

Light engineering especially in the field of electrical goods has increased since World War II. Other industries include the manufacture of textile and leather goods, fruit and vegetable packing and canning; the production of tyres, tubes and other rubber goods. The pulp and paper industry is now producing a variety of commodities. The clothing and footwear industry must also be mentioned.

About 40 per cent of all goods available in New Zealand are imported from other countries. New Zealand factories rely on overseas countries for heavy machinery and for much of their raw materials, such as iron, steel, and aluminium.

Government

New Zealand is a self – governing Dominion with a governor – general, an Executive Council to advise him, a General Assembly (Parliament), which is now consist of the Governor – General and the House of Representatives (the Upper House) having abolished since 1951 and the usual local government bodies.

The Queen of the United Kingdom is still Queen of New Zealand. Her personal representative is in New Zealand. There are two political parties resented in Parliament at present: National and Labour.

A General Election is held every three years or when specially called for.

The Governor – General is appointed for three years and has his main residence in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand.

- 1 How many miles is it from the New Zealand north and south coasts?
- 2 What sea and ocean wash New Zealand?
- 3 What is an outstanding feature of the New Zealand topography?
- 4 What is the New Zealand's climate?
- 5 Is agriculture developed in the country?
- 6 What can you say about the population of New Zealand?
- 7 Is New Zealand rich in mineral resources?
- 8 What industries are developed in New Zealand?
- 9 What country is New Zealand?
- 10 Who is the head of the New Zealand government?

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