

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО
ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«САМАРСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

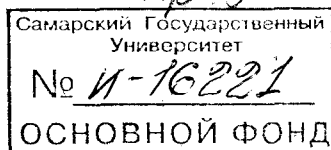
Кафедра английского языка

Н.М.Ильичева, И.В. Кожухова

National Character

Учебное пособие

*для студентов 2 курса филологического факультета
специальности "Английский язык и литература"*



САМАРА
2004

ББК 81.2
УДК 2/3(399)
И 468

Ильичева Н.М., Кожухова И.В. National character: учебное пособие.
Самара: Изд-во «Самарский университет», 2004. 64 с.

Настоящее учебное пособие предназначено для студентов 2 курса филологического факультета (английское отделение) и содержит аутентичные англоязычные тексты для чтения и аудирования, расширяющие возможность работы над темами, включенными в программу 2 курса РГО по основному иностранному языку (английскому). В задачи обучения на базе данного пособия входит активизация навыков профессионального владения иноязычным материалом, который ориентирован на совершенствование филологической грамотности.

Пособие состоит из разделов, включающих тематические тексты, словарь, подлежащий активному усвоению, задания, направленные на формирование грамматических и лексических навыков, разнообразные упражнения творческого характера, ориентированные на развитие коммуникативных навыков на основе овладения наиболее употребительными речевыми образцами коммуникативной лексики и идиоматическими выражениями современного английского языка.

Данное учебное пособие может быть использовано как для самостоятельной работы студентов, так и в аудитории для выполнения заданий под руководством преподавателя.

ББК 81.2
УДК 2/3(399)

Рецензент канд. филол. наук, доц. СамГУ М.В. Бондаренко
Отв. редактор проф. А.А. Харьковская

© Ильичева Н.М., Кожухова И.В., 2004
© Издательство «Самарский университет», 2004

PART ONE: National Character

Last year we discussed the concept of culture, how values and behaviour relate to culture, how a person's cultural background affects the way he or she behaves.

Behaviour, or how people act, is easily observable. Every culture has its own well-developed system of acceptable behaviours. **Values**, on the other hand, are ideas or beliefs which society have about what is considered important to have a high-quality life. These 'value systems' are the basis for the way people behave in a culture or society.

Think Ahead. Think about and discuss the following questions:

What is national character?

What helps to form it?

What are stereotypes?

1.1. Surveying combines both skimming and scanning. When you survey a passage, you are reading to find the general content of the text. There are several steps in surveying. First, read quickly (**skim**) the title, the main headings, highlighted words and the first sentence of each paragraph. When you **scan**, you are searching for specific information. When you have finished your survey you should have a clear idea of the content and organization of the text you are about to read.

a. Survey the text "National Character". What do you think this reading is about?

b. Now read the text "National Character".

Text 1. National Character

Almost every nation has a reputation of some kind. The French are supposed to be amorous, jolly, fond of champagne; the Germans – dull, formal, efficient, fond of military uniform and parades; the Americans – boastful, energetic, gregarious and ... vulgar. The English are reputed to be cold, reserved, rather haughty; people who do not yell in the streets, or change governments as often as they change their underclothes.

What is the difference between an American and a European? There's the rhythm of life, of course, but one can exaggerate this. It is not such a whirl as all that, not for the ordinary American and not outside New York. Still, there is all the time the urge for action, as opposed to reflection. Quite a civilised American woman once said to me: "I always feel guilty if I read a book during the day, when I ought to be doing something ..."

In Europe there are people who have lived in the same house or been in the same job for 20, 30, 40 years and who would hate to pull up their roots and change to something new. That's not the American way of life. They love change, they call it "the spirit of adventure", a spirit that they think is more characteristic of America than of Europe. There was a very interesting remark in a book by an English writer giving what he thought was a reason for this American characteristic. He wrote: "We in England, and the French, the Germans, the Italians, the Russians, have all got one thing in common – we are descended from the men who stayed behind. In the States they are descended from the folk who moved away."

And so they still like to "move away", to change homes and jobs. They seem to be constantly pulling down old and often quite beautiful houses or throwing away things merely because they are old. They have none of the Englishman's sentimental love for things because they are old.

One often hears of the Englishman's reserve; how he likes to "keep himself to himself"; and how on a long railway journey, with four Englishmen in the carriage, often there won't be a word spoken during the whole journey. That wouldn't be the case in America. The Englishman thinks it is ill-mannered to ask personal questions. The American taxi-driver in a short ride between the boat on which you arrived in New York and the hotel to which you are being driven will have told you all about himself, his wife and family and probably the towns in England that he was in during the war. He will inquire where you have come from, what your job is, how you like America and how long you're staying in New York.

The English are the nation of stay-at-homes. There is no place like home, they say. And when the man is not working he withdraws from the world to the company of his wife and children and busies himself with the affairs of his home. The Englishman prizes privacy, the American prefers sociability. The Englishman's suburban house has its little garden with a hedge or a fence all round it to shut him off from his neighbours. "The Englishman's home is his castle" is a saying known all over the world. The fire is the focus of the English home. What do other nations sit around? The answer is – they don't. They go out to cafes or sit around the cocktail bar. For the English it is the open fire, the roasting fork and the ceremony of English tea.

The American houses have no hedges or fences separating them from the pavement or from each other. There are none of those little shut-off gardens; generally just a strip of grass with trees on it. The American in his home doesn't object to being seen by everyone – he actually likes it. And inside the house, instead of the separate hall, living-room, dining-room so typical of the English house, the American has the "open plan" house, just one large room where all the family activities (usually noisy) go on, with, perhaps, a dining-recess or a kitchen-breakfast room.

With this sociability goes overwhelming hospitality. You get taken to parties at the houses of your friends and of your friends' friends; you are invited to theatres, dinners, sport meetings, motor trips; from the first minute you are on "first name" terms with the people you meet; they all show the keenest interest in your affairs and ask you to let them know if they can help you.

"Yes," said a somewhat cynical young American to me, "and by the following week they have forgotten all about you. They like new things – and they get rid of their friends as they do of their cars. No one strikes up acquaintance sooner than they do, and nobody finds it harder to make a real friendship."

Many Americans are terribly impressed with mere size: to them "bigger" and "better" seem to mean the same thing. The Cathedral in New York is the largest Gothic cathedral in the world; the finger of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour is 8 feet long and 40 people can stand inside its head; the Rockefeller Centre cost 100 million dollars to build, has 13 thousand telephones, and its hanging gardens are four times the size of the famous hanging gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world; Macy's (the famous department store) employs 11,000 shop-assistants and sells a million dollars' worth of goods every day; and if all the people in the sky-scrappers came out at once, the streets couldn't hold them. As for their newspapers, there is no doubt at all that, for the number of pages, they certainly take the prize – the Sunday editions remind you in size of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

However, American society must not be regarded as all of one piece. Chicago is decades away from Boston, the Middle West – a different country from New England, the south – from both, California – the West generally – a world away from all. No one who knows America even a little would make the mistake of thinking the Americans all alike. In other words, Italians or Germans, for example, form a largely homogenous society, white, Christian, and speaking one language, Americans do not. And whereas a country like Britain exhibits considerable variation in climate and landscape, the differences across the continental US are extreme.

Such differences, which stem from the enormous variety of America and Americans, are rather obvious. Less apparent at first thought is that much of what was once said to be typically American is often no longer just American. More and more American social and cultural habits have taken hold in Europe, from cornflakes and the televised news for breakfast to the evening barbecue or grill party.

In the early 1960's, for instance, it was still possible for an American to quip that "in the US, we take a shower every day and go food shopping once a week – in Europe, they do it the other way round". Today, of course, this is no longer the case. American habits have not changed that much, but European ones have, along with the increase in supermarkets and shopping centers, the number of cars, and the modernization of housing. So-called convenience and

frozen foods are now as popular in Europe as they are in America. Overall, trends in lifestyles have moved and still move across the Atlantic from west to east.

c. Do you know that ...

➤ the percentage of Americans owning the houses (and apartments) they live in is the highest among western nations?

➤ contrary to a common belief, only about 5 percent of all Americans live in mobile homes? For all practical purposes, most of these homes are not actually mobile but function as prefabricated housing units in stationary settings.

➤ in many American families children are expected to help around the house? They are assigned “chores” which might include, for instance, vacuuming the rugs, washing floors and cleaning windows, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, keeping the car(s) clean, and so on. Some families give a small amount of money, an allowance, in exchange for these chores. Other families simply expect such work to be shared by everyone in the family (“Do you pay me to wash your clothes?”).

➤ at the same time, many American middle-class families expect their children to find part-time jobs, especially as they enter their teens? This might be working at the local supermarket or service station, mowing lawns, delivering newspapers, or babysitting. In general, Americans feel that young people should appreciate the value of work and learn how to stand on their own two feet.

➤ most Americans expect their children to leave home at an earlier age than do parents in many other western countries? Beyond the certain age, they are often expected to contribute to, or pay for things that go beyond food, clothing and shelter.

➤ in the average American home, there is an enormous amount of activity, of coming and going, seemingly all happening at once? For the parents, there are perhaps courses at the local evening school or college. There are bridge and bowling clubs. There are PTA (Parent Teacher Association) meetings. The church is having a bake sale or a “potluck” dinner (everyone contributes a dish, of course). Many children take (or are made to take) piano or other music lessons, dancing or ballet classes, horseback riding, swimming, and just anything else that parents think will be good for their children. The social life is often hectic as well. One child is off to a party, another to the library, another to see a film. Messages (often put on the refrigerator door) remind one family member to do this or that.

➤ many adults and teenagers are involved in volunteer work? According to a recent Gallup poll, about 84 million Americans, that is, almost one out of every three Americans, donated some part of their time as volunteers. Teenagers, for example, volunteer to work in hospitals.

1.2. a. Divide into two groups. Each group is going to listen to a different tape. On tape A an English husband and wife, Bob and Sheila, talk about the time they lived in New York. On tape B Terry talks about her impressions of living and working in England. While you are listening to your tape, take notes under these headings:

- their general impressions of the country
- the people
- shops
- life styles.

When you have listened, pair up with a member of the other group and compare your notes.

b. Practise reading the dialogues after the tape:

A. America as seen by Britons

Bob and Sheila spent two years living in New York because of Bob's work as a banker. Neither of them had lived in a big city before. They now live back in England in a small village outside London.

I = Interviewer

S = Sheila

B = Bob

I – How long did you live in the States?

B – We were there for two and half years, in New York.

I – And did you enjoy it?

S – Oh, tremendously. We had a wonderful time.

B – Yes, what I liked best was that I could work and still lead a normal life. I mean, the shops are open till 10 o'clock.

I – All shops?

S – Yes, everything, food shops, chemists ...

B – There's a huge department store called Gimbles on the 86th Street that was open till 9 o'clock.

S – And some supermarkets are open twenty-four hours a day. Most shops don't open as early as in England, well, they don't open until about uhm ... 10 or 11 in the morning.

B – Yes, that's right.

S – Because they all work much later. And everything's open on Sundays.

B – And the holidays, the public holidays are much shorter than here, and in the States only the banks are shut. Everything else stays open, so it makes life much easier. You could do what you liked when you liked.

S – And it was easier with the children, because I could wait till you got back and we did the shopping together, didn't we?

B – Yes.

I – I see, um ... do you think New York is as cosmopolitan as London?

S – Oh yes, but it's not as mixed. Nationalities stay in their own areas; like there's the Ukrainian section, the Russian section ...

B – ... the German section. We were in German Town, York Town, which is called German Town. And there was a row of German shops, all German – speaking.

S – Yes.

B – But you didn't find that anywhere else. And the Ukrainians were down on the 14th and 2nd, and the Spanish kept to Spanish Harlem.

S – I think the major difference was the height of the place. Everything was up. We lived on the twenty-ninth floor.

B – And I worked on the sixty-third floor.

S – But I like heights. And of course, everything is faster. And the people are much ruder.

B – Which means, of course, that we're much ruder ourselves now we're back in Britain.

I – Oh, in what ways?

B – Well, pushing in the street.

S – Oh, I don't!

B – Fights about getting on the bus. No good old British queues.

I – But, are all Americans like that?

S – Oh yes. Well, all New Yorkers anyway. Not so much in other places. When we went to California, it was very different. There weren't the same pressures at all, were there?

B – I think we were aware that New York is quite a dangerous place. We never had any problems at all, but when there was a crime, it was horrendous.

S – Oh yes, the subways are unusable. They're dirty, uncomfortable.

I – Did you make any friends?

S – Well, that's what's interesting really. We made more friends there than we have after two years of living here. I think, Americans are more open, they, you know, they speak their minds, so if they don't like something, they actually tell you directly. Not like the British, who might think one thing and say another. So I suppose you could say that the English are ruder than the Americans.

B – Or that they're less honest.

S – Mmm. Yes.

B – Something else. We're actually moving from here back into London to try to find the things we liked in New York, but I don't suppose we'll find them.

B. England as seen by Americans

Terry Tomsha talks about her experience of living and working in England, where she has been for the past eleven years.

I = Interviewer

T = Terry

I – So, Terry. You've been in this country for quite a long time now.

T – Mmm.

I – What differences do you notice between the two countries?

T – Obviously the biggest difference is the people. The average Englishman is ... mm cold and not very open.

I – Oh.

T – In the States it's very different. We start conversations with people in the street, in the subway; we're a lot more enthusiastic and spontaneous than people here. You know, when I first came, I couldn't understand why I was getting so little reaction from people, but now I see that they thought I was overpowering and that I was trying to be too friendly too soon.

I – But, tell me: does the Englishman improve as you get to know him?

T – Oh yes!

I – Oh good!

T – Once you have made a friend, it's a friend for life, but it takes a very long time. I'll tell you something that I think is very important. An Englishman in America is respected. Everyone wants to talk to him. We're inquisitive, we love his accent and his country. An American though in England is thought to be a little inferior because of his behaviour and his language. One thing I've learned – it's funny now, but it wasn't at the time – I couldn't understand why when I was talking to someone he would move away, you know, move backwards, and I thought 'Do I smell? Am I boring him?' The reason was, you see, Americans stand closer when they're talking. Again, English people like a certain distance.

I – That's true. What about your impressions of living here? How does that compare with the States?

T – Well, mmm ... I think life's a lot easier in the States. It's easier to make money and it's easier to spend it. Shops are open all the time over there. Here you've got to race to reach the supermarket by 5.30. Generally though I find life more inefficient here. If you need an electrician, it takes days to get one, he doesn't do the job very well, the system is so old that he can't get the parts to repair it, and he doesn't care. This leads to another very important point. Americans work a lot harder than you do. To the English their private lives are important, their holidays are important, their gardens are important, their animals are important, but an American wouldn't admit that. For us, our work is the most important thing in our lives. You know, holidays seem

to be longer here, people make the most ridiculous excuses not to go to work – ‘My dog’s got a cold’, I heard the other day.

I – Oh, come on.

T – You have tea breaks that get longer and longer. In that respect we’re quite like the Japanese. Our jobs come first, but there are all sorts of services to make life easier around our jobs.

I – Well, I take it you have a pretty negative opinion of England.

T – You would think so from this interview, wouldn’t you? No, in fact I really love it here. I go home once a year and really look forward to coming back here. This is my home now. I find life safer, more relaxed, and much more enjoyable. Maybe I’ve gotten into English habits! England doesn’t have the dramatic beauty of the States, but, oh, it is very pretty and charming in a way that I find comforting.

c) Dramatize the talks on tapes A and B.

1.3. Stereotypes. Because most people are not aware of the underlying cultural values which influence behaviour, they often develop stereotypes to describe other people. A stereotype or a description of a group of people in general terms, is often based on lack of information about or contact with a culture. Although stereotypes may be based on facts, they often unconsciously reflect our own cultural assumptions and they don’t take into consideration relevant cultural differences.

a. We create national stereotypes and cling tenaciously to our prejudices. Parkland Research Europe (the market research firm) carried out a detailed study of European attitudes by questioning 185 business executives, lawyers, engineers, teachers and other professional people from seven European countries. These were Germany, France, Britain, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium. The resulting publication revealed many widely-held stereotypes but also came up with a few surprises.

Parkland Findings

Germans: liked themselves best of all. Most Europeans agreed that the Germans had the highest proportions of good qualities. They considered themselves very tolerant, but nobody else did. They saw themselves as fashionable. Others found them "square".

French: not really admired by anyone except the Italians. Other Europeans found them withdrawn, chauvinistic, brilliant, superficial, hedonistic. Also, not very friendly. The French agreed on the last point!

British: mixed reactions. Some found them calm, reserved, open-minded, trustworthy; others deemed them hide-bound, superior. Everyone was unanimous that the British had an excellent sense of humour. The British most admired the Dutch.

Swiss: showed considerable lucidity and power of self-analysis. Saw themselves as serious, trustworthy, but too money-minded and suspicious. Most Europeans agreed. The Swiss liked the Germans best.

Italians: generally considered by everyone to be lazy and untrustworthy, and the Italians agreed! Most also found them to be vivacious, charming, hospitable and noisy. The Italians admired the French and the Dutch. Hardly anyone loved the Italians except the French.

Dutch: most admired people in Europe – except their neighbours – the Belgians. Everyone agreed that the Dutch are hard-working, thrifty, good-natured, tolerant and business-minded. The Netherlands, however, was not considered to be a good place to live in.

Belgians: least admired in this group. They see themselves as easy-going and diligent workers. Other Europeans consider them undisciplined and narrow-minded – and lousy drivers.

Do people in your country have a stereotyped view of the British? Do you think these views true or false?

b. Complete the chart about Americans, Chinese and Russians with the first idea that comes to your mind. Then share your ideas with a classmate.

	Americans	Chinese	Russians
They are ...			
They look ...			
They like ...			
They always ...			
They never ...			

- c. First, listen to the conversation one time with your books closed. Then discuss the 'gist', or the main idea of the conversation.
- d. Listen to the conversation again. This time complete the chart below.

	Americans said	Chinese said
Americans are...	overweight, lazy, rich, great, friendly	independent, free, very modern, outgoing, realistic
Chinese are...	small, family-oriented, Communists, Asian	busy, conservative, diligent, very kind, enduring
Russians are...	highly competitive, big, nationalistic, Communists, orthodox	solemn, good at literature, conservative, serious
Americans look	_____, diverse, good, overweight	confident, _____, _____,
Chinese look	small, _____, _____	serious, polite, _____
Russians look	very pale, _____, _____	smart, _____, dark hair and beards
Americans like...	_____, watching TV, winning	animals, directness, _____
Chinese like...	competing, _____, _____, serenity	cooking, _____, watching TV
Russians like...	_____, Chekhov, history	complex and deep thoughts
Americans always	enjoy their free time, _____, resist categorization	are on a diet, drink, _____,
Chinese always	_____, are inscrutable	_____, ask personal questions
Russians always	compete well in the Olympics, kiss both cheeks	_____, live a hard life
Americans never	work/study as hard as most people in other countries	_____, feel shy
Chinese never	say never	ignore their parents
Russians never		have really hot weather

Were you surprised by some of the answers? Did you agree with the statements? Why or why not? If you think a statement is inaccurate, what do you think caused the person to believe that idea?

- e. Write what you think on the following points: What makes you Russian? Could you separate your 'Russian-ness', or the Russian part of your personality, from the rest of your personality? If you had to leave Russia and become a citizen of another country, which country would you choose? Why?

1.4. Texts for Rendering from Russian into English. Use words and expressions given after each text:

Text 1. Индивидуализм

Все смешалось: обычаи, расы, религии. Однако кое-что осталось от “доброй старой Англии” – то, что несомненно, бросается в глаза любому иностранцу: **nobody bothers you unless you want it** ~ *никто вас не побеспокоит, если вы сами этого не захотите*. На вас просто никто не обращает внимания.

Появись вы на улице в пижаме или в туфлях на босу ногу и в шубе, вас просто никто не заметит. Здесь считается неприличным вмешиваться в личные дела других, не дай Бог нарушить чье-то уединение или частную жизнь.

Наблюдательный зритель, посмотрев экранизацию “Десяти негритят” Агаты Кристи, не может не удивляться тому, что герои романа, прекрасно осознавая, что всем им угрожает смертельная опасность, тем не менее, покорно разбредались на ночь по собственным комнатам, отдавая себя на милость неизвестного убийцы.

My house is my castle ~ *мой дом - моя крепость*, **mind your own business** ~ *не лезь не в свое дело*, **this is an invasion of my privacy** ~ *это вмешательство в мою личную жизнь* и прочие высказывания отражают одну из особенностей характера англичан: боязнь показаться навязчивыми и любопытными.

Философия невмешательства в дела других достаточно популярна во многих странах, но нигде она не принимает такие гипертрофированные формы.

Стремление к уединению имеет и свою оборотную сторону – одиночество. В отличие от жителей континента, в особенности славян и южно-европейских народов, семейные узы англичан намного слабее. Молодое поколение более независимо от своих родителей, предпочитает жить, действовать самостоятельно и видеть друг друга достаточно редко. Вероятно, это можно объяснить также своеобразным чувством гордости старшего поколения, нежеланием связывать своим присутствием детей и приспособляться к привычкам и образу жизни других.

Некоторые случаи такой отдаленности между формально близкими людьми кажутся просто жестокими.

Молодая женщина из-за болезни позвоночника не встает с инвалидного кресла и ухитряется обслуживать себя сама, изредка прибегая к помощи соседей, хотя ее мать живет в ста километрах от Лондона и вполне здорова.

Вечером по темной улице медленно бредет фигурка с длинной веревкой в руке, на конце которой - маленькая, похожая на крысу соба-

чонка. Подходя ближе, различаешь неправдоподобно худенькую старушку. Трудно сказать, кто кого ведет. Сколько таких старушек, из последних сил цепляющихся за своего любимца: кошку или собаку, нередко доверяющих им свою жизнь. И, тем не менее, лучше умереть, чем признаться в своей беспомощности. Как нам объяснили, вполне возможно, эта старушка имеет детей, которые предлагали ей переселиться к ним, но она предпочитает одиночество и независимость.

Words and expressions to be used:

индивидуализм – individualism

покорно – humbly

отдавать себя на милость – to throw oneself at the mercy of

навязчивый – tiresome

гипертрофированный – hypertrophied

оборотная сторона – the reverse side of

невмешательство – non-interference

связывать своим присутствием – to tie smb with one's presence

цепляться за – to cling to

Text 2. Сдержанность

В Англии не принято демонстрировать свое горе, это всегда считалось **working class behaviour** ~ принадлежностью низших слоев общества. Если вы считаете себя представителем так называемого **upper middle class** ~ высшего среднего класса, вы должны **keep the stiff upper lip** ~ сохранять присутствие духа. И только дома, наедине с собой, позволено расслабиться и дать волю своим чувствам.

Восьмидесятилетняя старушка стоит над могилой мужа, которого она похоронила пару месяцев назад. Рядом с ней ее знакомая, пришедшая разделить горе. “До свидания, Артур,” говорит она, - **see you soon**, - имея в виду, что она скоро собирается навестить могилу снова. Старушка, которая только что еле сдерживала слезы, возражает: **Well, not so soon, darling, I hope.**

Жители континента легко принимают эмоциональную сдержанность англичан за лицемерие. Философия “**keep your emotions to yourself**” бывает слишком утомительна для европейцев, и, в какой-то мере, их реакция вполне естественна, но, с другой стороны, стремление не докучать своим горем окружающим, без жалоб переносить неудобства и неприятности, достойны восхищения.

Парадоксально, но любовь к проявлению индивидуальности ничуть не мешают англичанам быть самыми большими консерваторами в мире. Они очень не любят менять свои привычки, стиль жизни, пищу, одежду.

Королева не меняла прическу уже в течение пятидесяти лет, принц Чарльз предпочитает серый костюм всем другим.

Бутылки с молоком у дверей домов, доставляемые молочником в специальной тележке по утрам; неуклюжие двухпалубные автобусы. Где еще вы увидите такой анахронизм! А сколько проблем у пришельцев с континента с правосторонним движением! Впрочем, англичан это никак не волнует.

Это не просто вызывающие у нас улыбку примеры. Они отражают образ мышления народа и иллюстрируют сопротивление англичан всякого рода переменам. Наверное, поэтому многое в Англии существует неизменным уже в течение сотен лет.

Words and expressions to be used:

сдержанность – self-control

лицемерие – hypocrisy

доучать – to bother smb with

образ мышления – way of thinking

Text 3. Привет, лягушонок!

О необычной любви англичан к животным писалось много, некоторые авторы объясняют ее вечной тягой к сельской жизни. Как бы то ни было, животные не только спасают от одиночества и являются утешением в старости, их часто воспринимают как особей, равных себе. Одна дама, рассказывая о своем спаниеле, сокрушалась, что он некоммуникабельный и не любит играть с игрушками, так как в раннем детстве пережил нервное потрясение. В семье, где он жил, отношения между супругами не складывались, и однажды, в пылу ссоры, кто-то из них ударил другого ножом. И все на глазах у бедного пса! Естественно, этот шок до сих пор сказывается на его поведении. А что же бедный супруг? Кажется, умер, но это не так важно.

Одно наслаждение читать объявления с просьбой разыскать пропавшего любимца: каждое из них крик души: **Have you seen our lovely grey oriental short-haired cat with green eyes and long legs. She answers to the name Dilly and has a long yowl. If you have, could you call us on ... We live at ...**

Почти все подробные описания внешности и поведения пропавших заканчиваются словами о том, как тяжело переживают утрату члены семьи: **Very friendly and very missed.**

Любовь и уважение к животным даже не воспитывается, с ним рождаются и пронесут до конца жизни, потому что это – мировоззрение, то есть часть культуры.

Поэтому для нас бывает странным слышать от тридцатилетнего человека, сельского жителя, предупреждение: **Be careful when you remove the film, there can be snails, do not hurt them** ~ *Осторожно, когда убираешь пленку с поля, - там могут быть улитки, не навреди им.*

Он же утром приветствует лягушонка, выпрыгнувшего из травы: **Hello, froggy!** Не нужно подозревать его в инфантильности или в недоразвитости. Он более нормален, чем ребенок, который с наслаждением наступает на муравьев: "они кусаются".

Только в Англии можно встретить чудаков, часами наблюдающих за птицами **Birdwatchers** или за улитками **Snailwatchers**, и это считается серьезным занятием, не просто хобби. Рождественские подарки для домашних животных, психоаналитики – для особо "трудновоспитуемых" любимцев, специальные телевизионные передачи для собак, которым трудно мириться с появлением нового члена семьи, новорожденного, - все это не повод для шуток и считается необходимой частью цивилизованного общества: **We are trying to be civilised.**

Words and expressions to be used:

тяга, стремление – *longing for*
нервный срыв – *nervous breakdown*
в пылу ссоры – *in the thick of a quarrel*
пырнуть ножом – *to strike with a knife*
мировоззрение – *philosophy of life, world outlook*
инфантильный – *infantile*
недоразвитый – *retarded, backward*
психоаналитик – *psychoanalyst*
мириться с – *to resign oneself to*

Text 4. Мужчины и женщины

Женщину-иностранку в Британии удивляет отсутствие видимого внимания со стороны мужчин. На улице она не встретит открытого, заинтересованного или оценивающего мужского взгляда.

Никто не предложит подвезти женщину на машине. Напротив, заигрывание со стоящей на тротуаре женщиной карается законом. Для этого в английском языке есть специальный термин **kerb crawling**.

Если женщина старается соблазнить мужчину, сидящего в автомобиле, это называется **soliciting**. Наша привычка голосовать и просить подвезти первого встречного совершенно не приемлема в английских городах и будет истолкована превратно.

Подчеркнутое внешнее равнодушие между представителями противоположных полов психоаналитики объясняют несколькими причинами, например, робостью и эмоциональной неразвитостью англосаксонских

мужчин. С другой стороны, запуганные постоянной угрозой со стороны прекрасного пола быть обвиненными в сексуальном преследовании, мужчины боятся поднять глаза на женщин.

Англичанки слишком ревностно оберегают свою репутацию. Почти каждый день в средствах массовой информации обсуждается тема сексуального преследования секретарш со стороны негодаев-боссов, с удовлетворением сообщается о судебных процессах, выигранных преследуемыми жертвами и о кругленьких суммах, которые им удастся получить у обвиняемых за нанесенный, к счастью, только моральный ущерб.

Хирургические операции по омоложению лица и забота о фигуре – это не для англичанок, они стареют с достоинством, кроме того, по мнению английских мужчин, гораздо приятнее находиться рядом с женщиной, которая не занята постоянно спортивными упражнениями ради того, чтобы похудеть.

Англичанки, в отличие от француженок, испанок, итальянок, никогда не отличались шиком и пристрастием к красивой одежде. Они скромны, предпочитают простую, неброскую одежду, редко употребляют косметику, часто просто безразличны к своей внешности. **Wives are supposed to be dull** ~ *Женам положено быть скучными.*

Конечно, все эти случаи несколько преувеличены. Скромность британских женщин отнюдь не свидетельствует об отсутствии вкуса или нежелании элегантно одеваться, просто их отношение к внешним проявлениям индивидуальности не столь явное, по сравнению с женщинами континента.

Рассуждая об отношении мужчин к женщинам, У. Сомерсет Моэм заметил, что во Франции мужчина, который разорился из-за женщины, будет считаться героем. В Англии на такого человека посмотрели бы как на последнего глупца, потому что в жизни есть более важные вещи, например, спорт и политика. По этому поводу Дж. Микеш сказал: **Continental people have sex life, the English have hot-water bottles.**

Все это, впрочем, не мешает англичанам жениться, разводиться и успешно вступать в брак по несколько раз. Достаточно убедительным примером может служить жизнь королевской семьи, где, в нарушение всех традиций, происходят семейные скандалы, разводы, заключаются вторичные браки. Видимо, проблемы личного плана везде одинаковы.

Words and expressions to be used:

видимый – apparent

оценивающий – appraising

заигрывать – to flirt

сексуальное преследование – sexual harassment

подчеркнутое (равнодушие) – assumed

быть обвиненным – to be accused of

оберегать репутацию – to protect one's reputation
ревностно – zealously
хирургические операции по омоложению лица – face lifting
забота о фигуре – keeping fit
стареть – to age, to grow old

Text 5. Английский юмор

Специфика английского юмора общеизвестна. Чувство юмора является национальной чертой, и многих иностранцев она пугает и раздражает. Ни в одной стране не умеют так смеяться над собой, как в Англии. Для юмора преград нет. Англичане смеются над всем, что может вызвать улыбку, в том числе и над тем, что у нас испокон веков считалось священным, над сильными мира сего, правительством и даже членами королевской семьи.

Хорошая шутка – чаще всего экспромт. Вы заходите в центральный магазин на Оксфорд-стрит, и слышите как продавец вынужден несколько раз обращаться к покупателям с просьбой не толпиться у входа. Видя, что на его просьбы никто не реагирует, он говорит деловым тоном: **Excuse me, are you stupid or are you not English?**

Юмор преследует вас везде: в телевизионных программах, объявлениях, рекламе. Носителями языка он уже не ощущается так остро, это – способ мышления, к которому надо приспособиться и адекватно реагировать. Вы спрашиваете у служащего в метро, как пройти к **Bush House** (святая святых теле- и радио компании Би-би-си) и вы услышите в ответ: **You should go to America** (имеется в виду резиденция Президента Буша). Вы можете получить и другой вариант ответа: **Turn left, at least in the morning it was there.**

На шутку обижаться не принято, а умение посмеяться над собой считается достоинством. Ваша реакция на юмор является своего рода проверкой на возможность дальнейшего сотрудничества. Ваш серьезный партнер оставляет вас на некоторое время в машине, припаркованной в неподходящем месте и дает инструкцию: **Sit still and if the policeman turns up punch him in his nose.**

Английский юмор имеет несколько разновидностей, например, **dry sense of humour** – иронический, **banana skin sense of humour** – достаточно примитивный, когда кто-то поскользнется на банановой корке и всем смешно, **shaggy-dog stories**, в которых смешное основывается на алогичности высказывания.

Нам труднее всего воспринимать юмор в политических программах, где вся соль шутки содержится в так называемых “фоновых знаниях”, т.е. предварительной информации, которая известна жителям Британии, но не всегда известна иностранцам. Неудачная шутка, автор которой не учитыва-

ет исторические и культурные особенности других народов, может отразиться на его политической или дипломатической карьере.

Например, стихотворение, которое все англичане воспринимают как остроумное высмеивание самих себя, может оказаться совсем не смешным для людей с другим историческим прошлым, о чем предупреждается в пособии по дипломатическому этикету:

I was playing golf
The day the Germans landed.
All our troops had run away,
All our ships were stranded,
And the thought of England's shame
Nearly put me off the game.

Юмор этого стихотворения основан на заранее ложном утверждении, т.к. остров Великобритании никто не захватывал в течение тысячи лет, но в странах, где людям пришлось действительно проливать кровь за свою независимость, соль шуток заключалась бы, возможно, в попытке англичан посмеяться над своим лжепатриотизмом.

Кстати, о возможности захвата Великобритании сами англичане – опять же с юмором – говорят следующим образом: *Самый подходящий момент захватить Англию – в четыре часа дня, ибо в этот момент англичане будут слишком поглощены своей ежедневной чашкой чая, чтобы что-либо заметить.* Чай для англичан – неотъемлемая черта их образа жизни. Вы огорчены или устали, или просто пришли поболтать, или ожидаете в приемной делового разговора, вам всегда предложат **a nice cup of tea.**

Words and expressions to be used:

священный – sacred
сильные мира сего – the cream of the crop
экспромт – improvisation
носитель языка – native speaker
ощущать – to be aware (conscious) of
приспособиться – to adapt oneself to
обижаться – to take offence
достоинства – virtues ~
двинуть в нос – to punch in the nose
воспринимать – to perceive
соль (шутки) – the point of the joke
высмеивать – to ridicule, to make fun of
захватывать – to capture

Text 6. Недомолвки и условности

Отличительная черта национального английского мышления – **under-statements** – *отсутствие прямых суждений, непосредственного выражения своего мнения*. Например, вместо *вы не правы* или *я с вами не согласен* англичанин скажет: **I'm afraid, you are not quite right** или **I'm afraid, I cannot agree with you**. Вместо того, чтобы сказать *вы лжете* или *я вам не верю*, англичанин предпочтет вежливое замечание: **You've been very economical with the truth**. В некоторых случаях недомолвки просто сбивают иностранца с толку: вы заскакиваете в поезд за несколько минут до отправления и спрашиваете у первого попавшегося пассажира: **Is this the train for Brighton?** В ответ вы слышите невозмутимое: **I hope so**. Вот и гадайте, выходить из поезда или оставаться.

Следуя строгому принципу не вмешиваться в чужие дела, боясь показаться назойливыми, англичане всячески стараются избегать прямых суждений о чем бы то ни было. Поэтому они не будут исправлять ошибки вашей речи, если вы сами об этом не попросите, они не “заметят” промаха в вашем поведении или постараются успокоить, показав своим спокойствием, что ничего, собственно, не случилось.

Помним, как вела себя англичанка, которую ввели в заблуждение, назвав ей неправильный номер дома (вместо 72 - 93). После долгих поисков ей удалось найти нужный адрес, и вместо того, чтобы выразить свое недовольство (ведь она потеряла столько времени!), что с нашей точки было бы вполне естественным, она лишь с сожалением констатировала: **Oh, 93! It is slightly different from 72!**

У англичан нет души, вместо души у них замалчивание, - делает вывод Джордж Микеш. И в настоящее время Британия остается страной замалчивания, в то время как США – типичный пример преувеличенных суждений.

В то же время в стране, где так популярны недомолвки, существует приверженность к откровенным высказываниям, связанным с естественными потребностями организма. Некоторые из них в других странах вряд ли смогли бы быть произнесены вслух и относятся к числу табуированных. Например, проблема переваривания пищи, вернее, результаты ее непереваривания могут обсуждаться без всякой ложной стыдливости, не говоря уж о простых вопросах местонахождения туалета, а также желания пойти туда. Для туалета существует множество названий. Кроме обычного **toilet**, используются слова: **loo, ladies', men's**, а также эвфемизмы: **bathroom, little room, cloakroom, restroom**.

Терпение англичан по отношению друг к другу, и в особенности к иностранцам, вызывает восхищение. Сколько раз, бывало, внутренне съеживаешься, не осмеливаясь взглянуть на клерка, в двадцатый раз объясняющего очевидные для него вещи, которые, однако, так и остаются

за пределами твоего сознания. Но вот поднимаешь глаза, а перед тобой снова вежливая улыбка, в глазах – готовность понять и сочувствие твоей тупости. А длинные очереди в кассу супермаркета, которые собираются в конце рабочего дня, где все покупатели терпеливо, без тени раздражения ждут старушку, пока она дрожащими руками достает деньги из кошелька.

Words and expressions to be used:

недомолвка – reticence
условность – convention
невозмутимый – cool, self-possessed
вмешиваться – to interfere
промах – a blunder
непереваривание пищи – indigestion
быть табу – to be taboo
за пределами вашего сознания – to be beyond you

Text 7. Очереди

Говорят, в Британии нет очередей. С этим утверждением можно согласиться только отчасти, потому что, во-первых, количество очередей зависит от времени года (летом – скопление туристов), а, во-вторых, понятие об очереди у нас и у англичан совершенно разное.

Нам, с нашей привычкой выстраиваться в ряд и дышать друг другу в затылок, бывает трудно распознать очередь где-нибудь в банке или на почте, если это не час пик. Люди стоят на приличном расстоянии друг от друга, кажется, они ожидают кого-то или рассматривают вывеску: **Respect your privacy**. Говорят, что, если на остановке стоят двое англичан, то это уже очередь. Однако если вы попытаетесь нарушить заведенный порядок и пройти раньше других, вам вежливо сделают замечание: **Excuse me, there is a queue over there**. В ответ можете извиниться: **Sorry, I didn't realise there was a queue there**.

Служащие и продавцы проявляют твердость и непреклонность к нарушителям святых правил, и никогда не обслужат клиента без очереди, правда, такие ситуации случаются крайне редко и чаще всего с иностранцами, да и то, скорее, по недомыслию, чем из злого умысла.

В банке или на почте клиент подходит к окошку только после приглашения: **Next, please**. Иногда загорается табло с такой же надписью. Не принято спрашивать, кто последний, но можно уточнить, стоит ли данный человек в очереди: **Are you queuing?** Не принято также выходить из очереди, но если уж возникла такая необходимость, то нужно предупредить о своем уходе: **Save my place, please**.

В некоторых учреждениях можно увидеть табличку: **Queue here**. Во многих универсамах и конторах очередь регулируется световым табло.

Взяв номерок, покупатель продолжает прогулку по торговому залу, время от времени бросая взгляд на табло, чтобы не пропустить свою очередь. Если ваша очередь прошла, приходится брать новый номерок и повторять всю процедуру сначала.

Words and expressions to be used:

стоять в очереди – to queue up

отчасти – partially

вывеска – sign

непреклонность – determination

злой умысел – malicious intention

недомыслие – lack / want of understanding

PART TWO. Habits and Ways

Holidays and Celebrations

2.1. a. Scan Text 2 to answer the following questions:

1. What traditions are mentioned in the text?
2. What public holidays are there in Great Britain?

b. Read Text 2 for detailed understanding.

c. Retell the text.

Text 2. British Customs and Traditions

Every nation has its own customs and traditions. In Britain traditions play a more important part in the life of the people than in other countries. Englishmen are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. For instance, it has been the law for about three hundred years that all the theatres are closed on Sunday. No letters are delivered, only a few Sunday papers are published.

To this day an Englishman prefers a house with a garden to an apartment in a block of flats because he doesn't wish his doings to be overlooked by his neighbours. "An Englishman's house is his castle," the saying goes.

Holidays are especially rich in old traditions and are different in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. For example, Christmas is a great English national holiday, but six days later, on New Year's eve the Scotch begin to enjoy themselves.

In the matter of holidays the British are less well-off than other Europeans. Most people have only three weeks of paid holiday per year, and the bank holidays put Britain at the bottom of the list of Common market countries as far as public holidays are concerned. British "bank holidays"* are New Year's Day, Good Friday,* Easter Monday,* May Day, Spring Bank Holiday,* Late Summer Bank Holiday,* Christmas Day and Boxing Day*. Only when the UK joined the E.E.C. New Year's Day became a public holiday. Most of these holidays are of religious origin, though it would be true to say that for the greater part of the population they have long lost their religious significance and are simply days on which people relax, eat, drink and make merry. All the public holidays, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day, observed on December 25th and 26th respectively, are movable, that is they do not fall on the same day each year. Good Friday and Easter Monday depend on Easter Sunday which falls on the first Sunday after a full moon or after March 21st. May Day falls on the first Monday in May. The Spring Bank Holiday falls on the last Monday in May, while the Late Summer Holiday comes on the last Monday in August.

The patron saints days* are not celebrated with a holiday. They are St. David's Day* (March 1st) in Wales, St. George's Day* (April 23d) in England

and St. Andrew's Day* (November 30th) in Scotland. Only Ireland, both North and South, has a holiday on St. Patrick's Day,* March 17th. There are many other festivals, anniversaries and simply days, for example, Pancake Day and Bonfire Night, on which certain traditions are observed, but unless they fall on a Sunday, they are ordinary working days.

Imagine you are in a medium-sized English town. It is Saturday morning in April and the market place is full of noise. You hear the sounds of music, at least one accordion, a drum, tin whistle and fiddle. As you come closer you see an interesting sight. There are some men dressed in white clothes but decorated in the strangest way with bright ribbons, flowers and small bells. They dance, leaping into the air, stamping their feet, and perform the most complicated pattern of movements. They perform morris dance* and what they are doing is anything up to eight hundred years old. Now you are at the seaside. It is the end of July and the school holidays have just begun. There is a strange little red and white striped tent, and sitting in front of it on the sand, a whole crowd of little children laughing and shouting. They are watching a puppet theatre, Punch and Judy*. Mr. Punch in his bright red clothes is, as usual, hitting Judy over the head with a stick, while Toby*, the dog, patiently watches. These are just two examples of customs which, despite television and other social changes, are alive and well in England. There are many, many more, some of them so local that they are only known in the villages where they take place.

In England and in the USA February 14th is St. Valentine's Day. Boys and girls, young people, as well as grown-ups send Valentines to their friends. A Valentine is a little picture, very often a funny one, with a poem or some kind words on it. Very often they write on the Valentine "From Guess Who?" and the person who gets it tries to guess the name of a sender.

There is a newer tradition in Great Britain. Every year a large number of ancient motor-cars drive from London to Brighton. Englishmen keep up the old veterans which were made before 1904. This demonstration takes place on the day when in 1896 the law was announced which said that a man with a red flag must walk in front of every motor-car when it moved along the streets. Those were the early days of motor-cars and people were afraid of them. These are just some of the English customs and traditions and there are many more which are worth our attention.

Equally worth mentioning is the fact that one of the most striking features of English life is the self-discipline and courtesy of people of all classes. There is little noisy behaviour and practically no loud disputing in the street. People do not rush excitedly for seats in buses or trains, but take their places in queues at bus stops in a quiet and orderly manner. Visitors to Britain are often surprised by the strange behaviour of the inhabitants. One of the worst mistakes is to get on a bus without waiting for your turn in the queue. The other people in the queue will probably complain loudly! Drivers in cars can become quite aggressive if they think you are jumping the queue in a traffic jam. People respond to

queue-jumping in an emotional way. Newspaper headlines describe anger at people who pay to bypass a hospital waiting list to get an operation more quickly. Queuing is an national habit and it is considered polite or good manners to wait for your turn.

In recent years smoking has received a lot of bad publicity, and fewer British people now smoke. It is becoming less and less acceptable to smoke in a public place. Smoking is now banned on the London Underground, in cinemas and theatres and most buses, and there are special smokers' carriages on trains. It is considered rude – or bad manners – to smoke in someone's house without asking 'Do you mind if I smoke?'.

On the other hand, in some countries it is considered bad manners to eat in the street, whereas in Britain it is common to see people having a snack whilst walking down the road, especially at lunch time.

Englishmen are naturally polite and are never tired of saying "Thank you", "I'm sorry", "Beg your pardon". Many foreigners have commented on a remarkable politeness of the English people. They don't like displaying their emotions in dangerous or tragic situations and ordinary people seem to remain good-tempered and cheerful under difficulties. They don't like any boasting or showing off in manners, dress or speech.

Good or bad manners make up the social life of the country and are not always easy to learn because they are often not written in books! These rules may also change as the society develops; for example, women did not go into pubs at the beginning of the previous century because it was not considered respectable behaviour for a woman. Now both men and women drink freely in pubs and women are fully integrated into public life.

We may think that someone from a different country is being rude when their behaviour would be perfectly innocent in their own country. Social rules are an important part of our culture as they are passed down through history. The British have an expression for following these 'unwritten rules': "When in Rome, do as the Romans do".

References

bank holiday – официальный выходной день (общий день отдыха, помимо воскресенья)

Good Friday – великая пятница

Easter Monday – первый понедельник после Пасхи

Spring Bank Holiday – весенний день отдыха

Summer Bank Holiday – летний день отдыха

Boxing Day – день рождественских подарков

the patron saints days – дни святых, считающихся покровителями той или иной части Великобритании

morris dance – моррис (народный театрализованный танец: исполняется во время майских празднеств, мужчины в средневековых костюмах изображают легендарных героев)

Punch and Judy – “Панч и Джуди” – (традиционное уличное кукольное представление. Его главные действующие лица: горбун Панч с крючковатым носом – воплощение оптимизма; Джуди, его жена, неряшливая и нескладная)

Toby – Тоби (кличка собаки, одного из главных действующих лиц в представлении “Панч и Джуди”)

‘When in Rome, do as the Romans do’ – do you have a similar expression in your country? Have any of your social customs changed since your grandparents were born?

2.2 National Holidays:

- a. **In Russia.** Work in pairs and discuss the Russian public holidays listed below:

January 1 – New Year Day: Many Russians celebrate this holiday in the traditional style by going out a few days before New Year’s Eve to buy a real or artificial “Yolochka” or Christmas tree. A large dinner is prepared on New Year’s Eve and presents are exchanged with the help of “Ded Moroz” or Father Frost and his granddaughter “Snegurochka”. Afterwards the New Year is celebrated at 12 midnight, and the partying lasts until morning.

January 7 – Orthodox Christmas: Because the Russian Orthodox Church does not follow the Gregorian Calendar, some holidays are fourteen days after Western holidays.

January 25 – Student’s Day.

February 14 – St. Valentine’s Day: it is not so widely celebrated as in Europe but it is very popular among youth.

February 23 – Day of Protector of Motherland: in the USSR it was the Day of Soviet Army. Men (especially old) are given presents on this day.

“Maslenitsa Week”: a very old holiday symbolising the coming of spring. During “Maslenitsa” the most common dishes are pancakes.

March 8 – International Women’s Day: across Russia this day is celebrated by inviting family or friends over to dinner. Women are given presents of flowers and /or gifts. Foreigners view this holiday as Russia’s answer to Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day and Secretary’s Day all rolled into one.

Easter: The most important holiday in Russia, the dates of it vary as they do in the West. Many Russians go to church to take part in Easter services whether they are Orthodox or not.

May 1 and 2 – May Holidays: This day is no longer marked with military parades in Red Square. But there is more live music and general merrymaking.

May 9 – Victory Day: A day marking the Soviet Union's victory over Germany in World War II or the Great Patriotic War as it is referred to in Russia. Parades take place in Red Square in Moscow and there are celebrations all over the country.

June 12 – Independence Day: Every year the question "Independence from what?" or "What does 'independence' mean?" is debated publicly. Some take a more practical view of the holiday and consider it to be more of a "Self-identification Day" in the hopes of determining what exactly it means to be Russian in this day and age.

November 7 – Anniversary of the October Revolution or Day of Reconciliation and Accord: The changeover to the Gregorian calendar after the October Revolution means that this anniversary is now actually in November. In 1997, on the 80th anniversary, it was announced that this should be renamed Day of Reconciliation and Accord.

December 12 – Constitution Day: To commemorate the implementation of the Russian Constitution on December 12, 1993.

b. Collect additional material and deliver a talk on one of the American public holidays listed below. **In the USA** ten holidays per year are proclaimed by the federal government. They are as follows:

- **New Year's Day** (January 1st)
- **Martin Luther King Day** (traditional – January 15; official – 3d Monday in January)
- **George Washington's Birthday** (traditional – February 22; official – 3d Monday in February)
- **Memorial Day** (traditional – May 30; official – last Monday in May)
- **Independence Day** (July 4th)
- **Labor Day** (1st Monday in September)
- **Columbus Day** (traditional – October 12; official – 2d Monday in October)
- **Veteran's Day** (traditional – November 11; official – 2d Monday in November)
- **Thanksgiving** (4th Thursday in November)
- **Christmas** (December 25th)

Note: federal government offices, including the post office, are always closed on all federal legal holidays. Schools and businesses close on major holidays like Independence Day and Christmas, but may not always be closed, for instance, on George Washington's birthday or on Veteran's Day.

2. 3. Additional texts on the topic. Choose one of the texts given below and deliver a talk to the group:

a. Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Day is observed on the 25th of December. In Britain this day was a festival long before the conversion to Christianity. The English historian the Venerable Bede (673 – 735, historian, teacher and theologian) relates that “the ancient peoples of Angli began the year on the 25th of December, and the very night was called in their tongue *modranecht*, that is *mother’s night*.” Thus it is not surprising that many social customs connected with the celebration of Christmas go back to pagan times, as, for instance, the giving of presents. Indeed, in 1644 the English puritans forbade the keeping of Christmas by Act of Parliament, on the grounds that it was a heathen festival. At the Restoration Charles II revived the feast.

Though religion in Britain has been steadily losing ground and Christmas has practically no religious significance for the majority of the population of modern Britain, it is still the most widely celebrated festival in all its parts except Scotland. However, despite the popularity of Christmas, quite a number of English people dislike this festival, and even those who seem to celebrate it wholeheartedly, have certain reservations about it. The main reason for this is that Christmas has become the most commercialized festival of the year. The customs and traditions connected, for example, with giving presents and having a real spree once a year, made it an easy prey to the retailers, who, using modern methods of advertising, force the customer to buy what he neither wants nor, often, can reasonably afford.

It is not only children and members of the family that exchange presents nowadays. Advertising has widened this circle to include not only friends and distant relations, but also people you work with. An average English family sends dozens and dozens of Christmas cards, and gives and receives almost as many often practically useless presents. For people who are well off this entails no hardship, but it is no small burden for families with small budgets. Thus saving up for Christmas often starts months before the festival, and Christmas clubs have become a national institution among the working class and lower-middle class. These are generally run by shopkeepers and publicans over a period of eight weeks or longer. Into these the housewives pay each week a certain amount of money for their Christmas bird (traditionally, turkey or goose) and joint, their Christmas groceries and so on, the husband as a rule paying into the club run by the local pub, for the drinks.

As much of this spending is forced upon people and means that a family has to do without things they really need, it inevitably leads to resentment towards the festival. Needless to say that it isn’t the old customs and traditions that are to blame, but those who make huge profits out of the nationwide

spending spree which they themselves had boosted beyond any reasonable proportions.

b. The Night of Hogmany

In England the New Year is not as widely or as enthusiastically observed as Christmas. Some people ignore it completely and go to bed at the same time as usual on New Year's Eve. Many others, however, do celebrate it in one way or another, the type of celebration varying very much according to the local custom, family tradition and personal taste.

Nowhere else in Britain is the arrival of the New Year celebrated so wholeheartedly as in Scotland. Hogmany is a Scottish name for New Year's Eve and is the time for merrymaking. Throughout Scotland, the preparations for the greeting the New Year start with a minor "spring-cleaning". Brass and silver must be glittering and fresh linen must be put on the beds. No routine work may be left unfinished; stockings must be darned, clocks wound up, musical instruments tuned and pictures hung straight. In addition, all outstanding bills are paid, overdue letters written and borrowed books returned. At least, that is the idea!

Most important of all, there must be plenty good things to eat – plum puddings and currant buns, apples and lemons, tangerines and toffee. In mansion and farmhouse, in suburban villa and city tenement, the table is spread with festive fare. Essential to Hogmany are "cakes and kebbuck"*, shortbread, and either black bun or currant loaf. These are flanked with bottles of wine and the "mountain dew" that is the poetic name for whisky.

In cities and burghs, the New Year receives a communal welcome, the traditional gathering-place being the Mercat Cross*. Many families prefer to see in the New Year at home, with music or dancing, cards or talk. As the evening advances, the fire is piled high – for the brighter the fire, the better the luck. The members of the households seat themselves round the hearth, and when the hands of the clock approach the hour, the head of the house rises, goes to the main door, opens it wide, and holds it thus until the last stroke of midnight has died away. Then he shuts it quietly and returns to the family circle. He has let the Old Year out and the New Year in. Now the greetings and small gifts are exchanged, glasses are filled – and already the First-Footers are at the door.

In parts of Northern England and in Scotland the old custom of First-Footing is still observed. It was believed that the first person to visit one's house on New Year's Day could bring good or bad luck. Tradition says that the first person to enter a house on New Year's Day should be a dark-haired man, never a woman, otherwise ill-luck will follow. Therefore, people tried to arrange for the person of their own choice to be standing outside their houses ready to be let in the moment midnight had come. It is also advisable that the person should

bring with him a gift – a piece of coal to wish warmth, a piece of bread to wish plenty of food and a silver coin to wish wealth.

The First-Footer, on crossing the threshold, greets the family with “A gude New year to one and a’!”* or simply “A Happy New Year!”, and pours out a glass from the flask he carries. This must be drunk to the dregs by the head of the house, who, in turn, pours out a glass for each of his visitors. The glass handed to the First-Footer himself must also be drunk to the dregs. A popular toast is: “Your good health!” The First-Footers must take something to eat as well as to drink, and after an exchange of greetings they go off again on their rounds.

* cakes and kebbuck – oatcakes and cheese

* the Mercat Cross – in Scottish burghs, a market cross or square

* A gude New Year to one and a’! – (Sc) – A good New Year to one and all!

c. The Welsh Eisteddfod

No country in the world has a greater love of music and poetry than the people of Wales. Indeed, the Welsh are a nation of singers. Wherever you get a crowd of Welshmen, whether they’re down the mine, in the factory or waiting on the platform for a train, they just can’t help bursting into song. “Anyone,” said Mr Evans, “who has heard a crowd of 50,000 Welshmen before a Rugby match at Cardiff singing *Land of my Fathers*,* will never forget it.” You could hardly find a town in Wales, however small, that hasn’t a choir. Its conductor isn’t a trained musician; he may be only a miner, an agricultural labourer or “Jones the milk”*; but the university lecturer or the doctor’s daughter will be happy to work under his leadership. The choir will gather in the little chapel almost every night for practice – for they are preparing for the Eisteddfod,* and the pieces set for competition (this year they may be two difficult works by Bach and Brahms) need a lot of practice to bring them to perfection. I should think the Welsh are the only people in the world whose only national festival is devoted to music and poetry. For that is what Eisteddfod is. During the week of competition about a hundred thousand people will travel to the Eisteddfod to hear the competitors and listen to the judges’ decisions.

The Eisteddfod is one of the oldest of all Welsh customs; the first one of which we have any record was held in the 6th century, and as early as A. D. 940 the prize for the winning “bard” (poet) was a chair of throne. And that is still the prize today. In medieval times every chieftain used to keep a bard, and there were other bards who wandered about the country singing songs and making poems. There must have been quite a lot of poor singing and bad poetry then, for Queen Elizabeth I ordered an Eisteddfod to be held every year with the object of raising the standard of music and getting rid of the lazy, worthless bards.

By a stroke of great good fortune for Frieda and me, the Eisteddfod was due to take place this year at Caernarvon* at the very time that we were in

Wales. So, early next morning we all went to a large grassy field or park just outside Caernarvon. The streets were busy with people and in the field there was a large crowd gathered round a circle of big stones, with an "altar stone" in the middle. Soon I could see a procession coming slowly towards the stone circle. And very colourful it was. First there were four men carrying on their shoulders a kind of platform on which was an enormous horn. ("That's the *Hirlas Horn*, the 'Horn of Plenty'," said Mr Evans. "It's kept all the year in the museum at Cardiff.") Behind them walked men in white robes. "The Druids," said Mr. Evans. "Druidism was a culture and a religion that existed in Wales in the very earliest times. Caesar* and Tacitus wrote* about the Druids against whom the Romans fought in Aglesey. They were white-robed priests and law-givers who held their meetings in the woods where they offered up human sacrifices."

By this time the "Druids" had come to the stone circle and now stood in a double row before the altar stone. And then, between the lines of Druids came a man dressed in green and carrying a long two-handed sword. Behind him came a tall, bearded man in white, and wearing a great breast-plate. "The chief Druid," whispered Mr. Evans.

Then the ceremony of the Gorsedd began. The sword-bearer drew the great sword from its sheath. One by one the Druids came forward and put their hands on it. Then the chief Druid called out in a loud voice something in Welsh. "He says, 'Is it peace?'" whispered Mr Evans. The Chief Druid shouted this three times, and each time the crowd called back, 'It is peace.' A woman dressed in red and carrying the golden horn came forward to the Chief Druid. He touched it, and she slowly walked back to her place. Then the Chief Druid stepped on to the altar stone and made a long speech in Welsh. I didn't understand a word of it but the audience loved it. Other bards spoke and the crowd enjoyed every minute of it. Then there were prayers in Welsh and, at the end of this, new bards, men and women dressed in blue robes, were brought before the Chief Druid. These were people who had done some particularly good work in poetry or music. The Chief Druid shook hands with them and gave each of them a bardic name by which he would be called at all future Gorsedds. Then the procession formed again; the great sword was held high above the heads of the people; bards and Druids moved off slowly; the crowd began to fade away; the Eisteddfod was opened.

In the afternoon we went to the Eisteddfod. An enormous tent had been put up. "It holds 10,000 people," said Mr. Evans, "that's as many as the Albert Hall in London holds." There were thousands of people there, going into the Eisteddfod tent or sitting on the grass outside. We took our places inside. The three best competitors in each event had been chosen in the "preliminary" trials, and now soloists and choirs came in turn to sing, to play the harp, to speak their poems, while the judges listened and, at the end of the event, announced the winner and gave reasons for their choice. Though I enjoyed the music I couldn't

understand anything else, for at the Eisteddfod everything is done in Welsh. One of the most interesting competitions (at least for those who understand Welsh) is "pennillion" singing. In this the competitors are accompanied on the harp and have to make up their song as they go along.

But the great event comes at the end. This is the choosing of the "crowned bard", the greatest honour the Eisteddfod can give. For a whole year bards have been working at a poem on a subject that has been set by the judges. The poems have been sent to the judges before the Eisteddfod starts and have been carefully studied by the Council of the Druids. I looked round the scene. The tent was now crowded, every seat was taken and people were standing in the passageways. There was a tremendous feeling of excitement and expectation. The trumpets sounded, and in procession came all the bards that we had seen at the Gorsedd. The chief Druid took his seat in the centre. Again the trumpets sounded and in a silence that you could almost feel the Chief Druid said, "The crown has been won by ... (there was a pause) CADWALLO."

There was a great burst of cheering. The audience were on their feet. Mr Evans was jumping about with excitement and joy: the crown had been won by Mr Hughes, the parson of his village. I could see Mr. Hughes at the back of the tent. Two bards from the platform went towards him and, one at each side of him, brought him to the platform. He was told to sit on a finely-carved chair of Druid's oak that is to be his prize. They put a robe of purple on him with white fur at the edges. The great sword was held over him, and the Chief Druid came forward and put a crown on his head. The Chief Druid read the poem that Cadwallo had written and, though of course I couldn't understand it, the crowd clearly agreed completely with the Druids' decision.

So the Eisteddfod ended.

("Essential English for Foreign Students" by C.E. Eckersley)

References

- * *Eisteddfod* – Welsh session (derived from *eistodd* – to sit; pl. Eisteddfodau)
- * *Land of My Fathers* – the Welsh National Anthem sung always in Welsh
- * "*Jones the Milk*" – there are so many people in Wales called Jones that it is sometimes necessary to refer to their occupations to distinguish one from another; e.g. Jones the school, Jones the bread
- * *Caernarvon* – the country town of Caernarvonshire, North Wales
- * *Caesar* – Gaius Julius Caesar (101 44 B.C.), a Roman warrior, statesman, dictator and writer
- * *Tacitus* – Cornelius Tacitus (58 - 111), a Roman historian

Do you know that ...

- the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales is held annually early in August, in South Wales (even years) and North Wales (uneven years). It attracts Welsh

people from all over the world. The programme includes male and mixed choirs, brass-band concerts, many children's events, drama, arts and crafts and, of course, the ceremony of the Crowning of the Bard

- next in importance is the great Llangollen (surrounded by tree-covered hills it lies in a valley of the River Dee) International Music Eisteddfod, held early in July and attended by competitors from many countries, all wearing their picturesque and often colourful national costumes. It is an event probably without parallel anywhere in the world.
- there are at least twenty-five other major Eisteddfodau from May to November
- in addition to the Eisteddfodau, about thirty major Welsh Singing Festivals are held throughout Wales from May until early November.

d. Independence Day

The fourth of July is the American nation's birthday. It honours the day in 1776 when the Continental Congress* adopted the Declaration of Independence, which cut the tie with England and established the United States of America.

On that memorable day the Liberty Bell called the people of Philadelphia (the then capital) to the State House to hear the Declaration of Independence read out. Communities large and small, with speeches, parades and fireworks, reaffirmed the words written on the Liberty Bell:* PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF.

After the seat of the government was established in the Federal City of Washington, the President traditionally held open house. At large banquets characteristic of the time, flowery toasts were proposed to the President, to the Republic and to its democratic ideals.

As the country's boundaries expanded and its population increased, ceremonies at the capital were necessarily replaced by local celebrations. Each city and town now sponsors its own ceremony – a parade, speeches by public officials, guided tours through historic monuments, outdoor stage shows, boat-races and evening fireworks displays. Families, fraternal and civic organizations, all hold daylong picnics. There are baseball games, three-legged races,* water-melon eating contests, folk dances, and lots of lively music.

In some communities the Fourth of July traditions have grown up around the region's own background. Those who yearn to take part in a real old-fashioned holiday can visit Bridgeport, California, a small town on the eastern slope of the snow-covered Sierra Nevada Mountains. Before the ten o'clock parade, everyone gathers at the county courthouse to hear the Declaration of Independence read. "Old Glory"* flies from every flagpole and red-white-and-blue streamers turn drab buildings into patriotic emblems. Cattlemen from

neighboring ranches add to the holiday scene as they ride into town on fine horses with glittering silver-mounted trappings. Children parade on decorated bicycles, and then comes a great event – a real pie-eating contest. After lunch – a picnic basket or barbecued meat from street-side stands – the crowd moves to the baseball field to cheer and heckle the amateur team.

References

- the Continental Congress (1774 - 78) was organized when 12 states met in Philadelphia and in 1776 drew up and adopted the Declaration of Independence. The Articles of Confederation gave to Thirteen Colonies the name of “The United States of America”, as by July 4, 1776 Georgia had become the 13th state.
- The Liberty Bell placed in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776 it rang to mark the occasion of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.
- in three-legged races each two persons have a right and left leg tied together at the ankles.
- “Old Glory” - the American flag is said to have been named so by William Driver who raised the flag on the ship “Charles Daggett” in 1831 saying: “I name thee Old Glory!”

e. Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving was first celebrated in 1621 by English settlers of the Plymouth colony,* and the spirit and customs with which they endowed the day have remained unchanged.

The settlers, who have since come to be called the Pilgrims,* had left their native England because they had been denied the right to separate from the Established Church to worship in their own way. They fled first to Holland, and in 1620 they sailed to America on the “Mayflower”, and after a two-month voyage they landed at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts in icy November.

During their first winter, over half the settlers died of starvation or epidemics, but the survivors were able to found a permanent colony. While scouting the area for fresh water, they had unearthed a cache of Indian sees corn, and when April came they began their planting, struggling with the rocky soil as they had struggled with the bitter climate. When, finally, the fields produced a yield rich beyond expectations, Governor William Bradford proclaimed “a day of Thanksgiving unto the Lord as we might after a more special manner, rejoice after we had gathered the fruits of our labors.”

The idea of giving thanks was not new, yet Thanksgiving as first celebrated by the Pilgrims and repeated by Americans ever since has unique

qualities born of life in the New World. The Pilgrims objected to celebrations fixed by the calendar, believing rather that “the ceremonies should respond to the dispensations of Providence.” Thus, the following year, when a scant harvest and trouble with the Indians gave no cause for a Thanksgiving, there was no observance. So after 1623 Thanksgiving Days were celebrated irregularly and on a regional basis. A national Thanksgiving Day came only after the thirteen colonies* had been united and George Washington, the Republic’s first president, had assumed office.

Since Lincoln’s time it has been the custom for the President of the United States to proclaim annually the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day, and for the Governors of the states to issue proclamations for their respective states. The date has remained as fixed in 1863, nor has the pattern of the Thanksgiving celebration changed through years.

Table decorations follow a traditional pattern – a harvest of bright-colored gourds, ears of Indian corn, apples, oranges, chestnuts, walnuts, dried leaves and purple grapes spilling out of a cornucopia in autumn bounty. Flowers also bring the Fall scene indoors. There are bouquets of chrysanthemums of golden yellow, orange and dark russet combined with boughs of berries and dried branches. The centerpiece is the traditional roast turkey.

References

Plymouth colony – called so because the “Mayflower” carrying the Pilgrims sailed from Plymouth, England to a place which came to be known as Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Pilgrims – there were 41 religious protestors on the “Mayflower”, known as “saints” and 61 other persons who were going to the New World to seek their fortune. The latter were called “strangers”. Later they were known as the Pilgrims.

The thirteen colonies – later the Original Thirteen States that seceded from Great Britain and fought the War of Independence (1775-78).

f. Valentine’s Day

Valentine’s Day, February 14, is sweetheart’s day – when people in love express their affection for each other in merry ways. But in whatever form, the message is the same – “Will you be my valentine?”

Valentines used to be reserved for young lovers, but nowadays grandparents, cousins, friends or even acquaintances of any age, take the occasion to express their affection through a gift or a card from the assortment found at every stationery-store, book-shop or news-stand. In whimsical verse Ogden Nash* nostalgically recalls the “good old days” when everything was simpler: “All you had to do was take a sheet of paper and draw a heart with an arrow through it carrying the words ‘I love you’, and sign it ‘Guess who’ and

shove it under the front door of your only beloved and ring the bell and run like a rabbit. One girl, one Valentine, and that was it."

The custom of celebrating St Valentine's Day can be traced to those festivals, called Lupercalia. There were games and dancing and then each young man drew from an urn the name of the young maiden who would be his sweetheart for the coming year. February 14, the Roman date of the festival, thus became a day for young lovers. After the introduction of Christianity, pagan customs were suppressed, but the festival continued, and in the 7th century it began to be called St Valentine's Day.

The origin of the name remains in doubt. Some historians link it to Valentine who became the patron saint of lovers after he was imprisoned by Emperor Claudius* for secretly marrying couples contrary to the Emperor's order. Others say the name is a corruption of the French word "galantin" (gallant or beau). And one further theory is that February 14 was chosen because birds traditionally began to mate on that date.

Whatever the origin, Valentine's Day has had a long and romantic history. The Roman conquerors carried the celebration to England, where pagan and Christian customs combined to form some of the enduring traditions. One was that the first person you saw on Valentine's Day would be your valentine.

St Valentine's Day with all of its colorful lore was taken to the New World by the English settlers and lost none of its romantic appeal through the journey. Greeting-cards, usually hand-made by talented colonists, were works of art. Original verses appeared. Later cartoons and grotesque drawings replaced the overly romantic valentines. Although the comic valentine has now disappeared and greeting-cards again express affection, the saccharine sentimentality is also gone and the messages are light, merry and humorous.

Loveland, Colorado, is known as a "sweetheart of a town in the Rockies." Each year as Valentine's Day approaches the Loveland post-office has to recruit a staff of volunteers to help dispatch the 100,000 valentines sent from all over the United States for remailing. When the valentines leave Loveland, in addition to an imprint of Loveland's romantic-sounding name they bear a picture of Cupid wearing a ten-gallon hat, a heart-shaped brand with the letter "L" and the following verse:

"Cupid work your magic
From your secret mountain shrine,
And touch your wand of romance
To each lover's valentine."

The volunteers carefully hand-stamp Cupid and the poetry on each envelope before sending it out as a valentine.

References

Nash, Ogden (1902 - 1971) – an American poet

Emperor Claudius – Marcus Aurelius Claudius Gothicus, Roman Emperor (268-270 A.D.)

g. Halloween

Few holidays tell us as much of the past as Halloween. Its origins date back hundreds of years to the Druid festival of Samhain, Lord of the Dead and Prince of Darkness, who, according to Celtic belief, gathered up the souls of all those who had died during the year to present them to Druid Heaven on October 31. The Sun god shared the holiday and received thanks for the year's harvest.

The Druid New Year began on November 1, marking the beginning of winter and the rein of the Lord of Death. The Druids called upon supernatural forces to placate the evil spirits, and it is from that tradition that modern Halloween gets the paraphernalia of ghosts, goblins, witches, skeletons, cats, masks and bonfires.

The custom of telling ghost stories on Halloween also comes from the Druids. To honor the Sun and to frighten away evil spirits, they would light huge bonfires atop high hills and as they sat grouped around watching bright flames, they would relate eerie happenings they had experienced.

As Christianity replaced the pagan religions, the church set aside November 1st to honor all saints (all-hallows) and called it All Hallows' Day. The evening before October 31st became All Hallows' Even – later shortened to Halloween. The inclusion of witches, goblins and fairies into the rituals arose from the pagan belief that on All Hallows' Eve there was a thronging of spirits of the dead who carried on an organized opposition to the church rites and came to mock the All Saints' celebration.

Halloween customs today, although merry and frolicsome rather than sombre, follow many of these ancient practices. When children wear ghost costumes, false faces or witches' hats, eat corn candy or carry jack-o-lanterns they are carrying on an accumulation of ancient traditions whose significance has long since disappeared.

The jack-o-lantern, most typical of Halloween symbols, began with the Irish. According to the legend, a man named Jack, who was kept out of Heaven because he was stingy and expelled from Hell for playing tricks on the Devil, was condemned to walk the Earth forever carrying a lantern to light his way. In Ireland the jack-o-lanterns were made by hollowing out large potatoes and turnips, with flickering tapers for a light.

Halloween was not widely celebrated in America until the large Gaelic immigration* in the 1840s. Some of the Halloween customs brought by the colonists have remained as they were, but others have been altered to fit new ways of living. Pumpkins, for instance, make much better jack-o-lanterns than turnips. Larger and already partially hollow, the big orange pumpkins seem to smile even before the upturned slit and rounded eyes are cut out. A candle burning inside makes the merry face visible from far away on a dark night – and the pulp makes a delicious pumpkin-pie. An old legend says that at midnight on

Halloween all pumpkins leave their vines and do a spritely dance across the fields.

In recent years children dressed in white sheets knock on the doors on Halloween and ask if you would like a 'trick' or a 'treat'. If you give them something nice, a 'treat', they go away. However, if you don't, they play a 'trick' on you, such as making a lot of noise or spilling flour on your front doorstep. While some youngsters are out playing pranks, others are gathered for a party where they are enjoying taffy pulling contest, bobbing for apples, popping corn, telling ghost stories. Those who began the evening by going out for mischief-making probably end up at someone's party. And the party-goers very possibly think of some pranks to play on the way home.

References

Gaelic immigration – the immigration to America of the Irish after the failure of the potato crop and famine in 1845.

2.4. Texts for Rendering from Russian into English. Use the words and expressions given after each text:

Text 1. Первая нога

31 декабря, в тот миг, когда часы начинают отбивать полночь, кто-нибудь бросается к двери и широко распахивает ее, "чтобы поскорее выпустить старый год и впустить новый". Так велит старинный обычай, существующий в Шотландии.

После этого, само собой разумеется, раздается звон праздничных бокалов. Затем, взявшись за руки, присутствующие затягивают традиционную "Олд лэнг сайн". Но это не все. Из глубины столетий пришли разные поверья, которые, всерьез или в шутку, до сих пор сохраняются в некоторых местах Шотландии. Согласно одному из них очень важно – чья "первая нога" вступит в дом в наступившем году. Хорошо, если придет брюнет, это добрый знак. Рыжий или блондин – плохо: они несут дурное. Упаси бог от появления женщины: это грозит бедой ...

Конечно, хитроумные шотландцы давно уже нашли способ оградить себя от излишнего риска: под Новый год они нанимают брюнетов, которые и обходят один дом за другим, всюду стараясь быть "первой ногой". По обычаю "нога" приносит с собой кусок угля и со словами "Пусть долго горит этот очаг" бросает его в огонь.

Words and Expressions to be Used:

бить (о часах) – to strike
Олд лэнг сайн – Auld Lang Syne
поверье – popular belief, superstition
брюнет – dark-haired man
недобрый знак – bad sign, ill omen
хитроумный – ingenious

**Text 2. Что это за английская традиция,
которая называется Boxing Day?**

Каждый знает, что Англия весьма чтит свои древние традиции и обычаи.

Традиционна для англичан и веселая встреча рождества, которое в Англии считается самым большим праздником. В последние дни декабря не знают отдыха полицейские, пытающиеся навести порядок на улицах, где движутся тысячи машин и прохожих; сбиваются с ног продавцы в магазинах, куда устремляются все, у кого есть хоть какие-нибудь деньги. Но больше других достается почтальонам и посыльным, которые за две недели до рождества не знают ни сна, ни отдыха. Ведь каждому хочется поздравить родных и друзей, пожелать им веселого рождества и счастливого Нового года. Чтобы справиться с буйным потоком почтовых писем и посылок, почтовым ведомством страны приходится нанимать тысячи временных почтальонов.

Многим приносили они добрые слова поздравлений, теплые пожелания, приятные подарки. И естественно, их встречали как желанных гостей. Чувство благодарности, желание сделать приятное этим занятым до последнего дня старого года людям, которые не от хорошей жизни берутся за работу рассыльных, давным-давно породили в Англии еще одну традицию – boxing day. В один из праздничных дней почтальонам, посыльным, слугам принято делать маленькие подарки. Но почему эта традиция называется именно так? Дело в том, что еще в незапамятные времена после рождественских праздников – утром 26 декабря – по традиции англичане спешили на утреннюю службу в церковь. Там в специально подготовленные для этого случая ящики (boxes) прихожане опускали свои пожертвования, которые предназначались бедным людям. Со временем многие люди стали предпочитать не дар каким-то неизвестным лицам, а подарки вполне конкретным людям, которых они знали и которых им хотелось порадовать своим вниманием. А название boxing day так и осталось.

Words and Expressions to be Used:

сбиваться с ног – to run off one's feet
породить – to evoke
с незапамятных времен – since the time immemorial
пожертвовать – to donate

Text 3. Что такое Student Rags?

Весной среди студентов совсем забавные вещи происходят. Они проводят сбор средств в благотворительных целях, в том числе и для помощи нуждающимся товарищам, и вытряхивают шиллинги из карманов своих соотечественников всеми возможными способами, - концертами, состязаниями и прочими аттракционами, способными привлечь внимание. Но шик, разумеется, состоит в том, чтобы выкинуть нечто невероятное и оставить буквы "RAG", под знаком которых проводятся эти кампании, на такой проделке, которая бы заставила ахнуть. Однажды студенты-физики "позаимствовали" на время "RAG" чей-то "фольксваген", разобрали и за ночь собрали его вновь на островерхой крыше своего колледжа, где и одному человеку удержаться помимо смелости сноровка нужна. Снимали потом эту автомашину оксфордские пожарные с помощью выдвижных лестниц чуть не неделю. Ливерпульские же студенты оставили знак своей благотворительной кампании на борту только что спущенной на воду и строго охраняемой первой английской атомной подводной лодки "Дредноут". Фотография ее с крупными буквами "RAG", наспех намалеванными масляной краской у мостика, обошла на следующий день все лондонские газеты.

Многие из таких операций связаны с большим риском и опасностью получить повестку в суд. Но если последнее – еще полбеды, поскольку присяжные склонны обычно принять во внимание остроумие и изобретательность проделки и к студентам бывают снисходительны, то попытки во что бы то ни стало вывесить флаг кампании на головокружительную высоту шпиля церковного собора напоминает подчас соревнование: кто дальше всех высунется из окна. Бывает, что они оканчиваются трагически. И тем не менее охотники до них не переводятся. Риск – это вызов. И не в натуре англичан оставлять его без ответа. Жаль, конечно, что это качество растрачивается иногда по пустякам.

(В. Осипов. Британия. 60-е годы)

Words and Expressions to be Used:

собирать средства – collect dues

с благотворительной целью – for charity

собрать (машину) – assemble

сноровка – skill, knack

пожарные – firemen

пожарная лестница – sliding ladder

спустить на воду – launch

атомная подводная лодка – nuclear submarine

повестка в суд – summons, subpoena

присяжные – jury

вывесить флаг – hoist a flag
высунуться из окна – lean out
вызов – challenge

Text 4. Бэнк-хolidays

Четыре раза в году конторы и банки Англии бывают закрыты, помимо воскресенья, еще и в понедельник. Это называется “бэнк-хolidays”. В “бэнк-хolidays” не работают также и все учреждения, фабрики и магазины страны. По-разному проводят лондонцы этот календарный праздник.

Истинные “кокни”, захватив скопленные шиллинги, целыми семьями, начиная с бабушки и кончая внуками в колясках, движутся с сторону Хемпстед-хилл. Там, на традиционном праздничном базаре, они будут есть хрустящие лепестки досуха поджаренной картошки, посыпая их солью и поливая уксусом. Там мужчины будут деревянными шарами сбивать со столбиков кокосовые орехи, а их жены – узнавать судьбу у гадалки. Там девочки купят бумажные карнавальные шляпки, а мальчики – “орлиные перья” американских индейцев, а над колясками тех, кто еще не умеет ходить, повиснут разноцветные надувные шары, резиновые летающие собаки, кошки, рыбы. Там вся семья будет до головокружения вертеться на сверхскоростной карусели. Там на старой, выцветшей ширме будет верещать двоюродный брат нашего Петрушки, самый потомственный из всех “кокни” – Панч, и лупить палкой свою многострадальную жену Джуди. Там, наконец, будут гордо расхаживать “пуговичные короли и королевы”, то есть те “кокни”, которые умудрились нашить на свои костюмы, платья и шляпы наибольшее количество перламутровых пуговиц. Одним словом, там будет настоящее народное веселье.

(С. Образцов. О том, что я увидел, узнал и понял во время двух поездок в Лондон)

Words and Expressions to be Used:

кокни – cockney
коляска – pram (perambulator)
сбивать – knock off
гадалка – fortune-teller
до головокружения – till your head swims
сверхскоростной – superfast
ширма – screen
перламутровый – mother-of-pearl
Punch and Judy

PART THREE. Eating Habits in Great Britain

3.1. Think Ahead: What do you think influences a country's food?

a. *Skim the magazine article to find the main idea:*

Text 1. English Cooking

I'm always both amused and annoyed when I hear foreign people criticize English food. "It's unimaginative", they say. "It's boring, it is tasteless, it's chips with everything and totally overcooked vegetables. "It's unambitious," say the French, "all you do is roasts with jam." (We eat apple sauce with pork.) That's the bit they find really shocking, but then the French are easily shocked by things that aren't French.

When I ask these visitors where they have experienced English cooking, I am astonished by their reply. "In Wimpy Bars and MacDonald's Hamburger restaurants, " they often say. I have won my case. Their conclusions are inexcusable.

I have a theory about English cooking and I was interested to read that several famous cookery writers agree with me. My theory is this. Our basic ingredients, when fresh, are so full of flavour that we did not have to invent sauces and complex recipes to disguise their natural taste. What can be compared with fresh peas or new potatoes just boiled (not overboiled) and served with butter? Why drown spring lamb in wine or cream or yoghurt and spices, when with just one or two herbs it is absolutely delicious?

It is interesting to speculate what part factors such as geography and climate play in the creation of a country's food. We complain about our wet and changeable weather, but it is the rain that gives us our rich soil and green grass. "Abroad," says Jane Grison, "poor soil meant more searching for food, more discovery, more invention, whereas our ancestors sat down to plenty without having to take trouble."

If you ask foreigners to name some typically English dishes, they will probably say "Fish and chips" and then stop. It is disappointing, but true, that there is no tradition in England of eating English dishes in restaurants, because our food doesn't lend itself to such preparation. English cooking is found in the home where it is possible to time the dishes to perfection. So it is difficult to find a good English restaurant with reasonable prices.

It is for these reasons that we haven't exported our dishes, but we have imported a surprising number from all over the world. In most cities in Britain you'll find Indian, Chinese, French and Italian restaurants. In London you'll also find Indonesian, Lebanese, Iranian, German, Spanish, Mexican, Greek ... Cy-nics will say that this is because we have no "cuisine" ourselves, but, well, you know what I think!

b. Do you know that...

- The English have a popular speciality known as fish and chips. This, fit for a king, is only appreciated by those with specially trained palate. Fish and chips can be made at home, but the best are sold in fish and chips shops. Fish coated in batter are fried golden-brown and served with chips – strips of raw potatoes also fried in fat. All this is served on a piece of paper, salt and vinegar are added. And the meal is then wrapped in a final sheet of newspaper. One hurries home with a precious bundle, its delicious odour wafting through the newspaper. Or else, fish and chips are simply eaten out of the newspaper in the street with one's fingers. This is one of the joys of being English.
- Britain has some excellent traditional food: lamb from Wales, shellfish and fresh salmon from Northern Ireland, fresh or smoked fish from Scotland, cheeses from England and Wales. Unfortunately, good British food is difficult to find. Restaurants serving "British" food tend to be either very expensive and found in luxury hotels, or cheap and nasty serving mainly fried food. You can eat a good "British" meal without spending a lot of money by going to a pub.
- People in Britain are more likely to eat fast food than go out to eat in a posh restaurant. A hamburger and french fries is the most popular fast-food meal in Britain, but not all fast food is American. Kebab houses, often run by Greek or Turkish Cypriots, are also very popular.

c. Now read the article carefully and answer the following questions:

1. Which of these titles do you think is the best?
 - Fish and Chips against the world!
 - Cosmopolitan English cooking
 - In defence of English cooking
 - Fresh is best in the English cuisine
 - English food: Facts or Myth
2. What is the author's main point about English food?
3. Why doesn't he agree with foreign people's criticism of English food?
4. What is the comparison that Joan Grison makes?
5. Why are there few English restaurants?

d. Summarize each of the paragraphs in one or two sentences.

e. Vocabulary work: Adjectives ending in -ing and -ed.

Some verbs which describe people's feelings have two adjectival forms:

to shock / shocking – The news was shocking.

to shock / shocked – I was shocked by the news.

Which a) describes the person's reaction? b) is passive?

Which a) describes the action? b) is active?

Find the words like this in the article. Sometimes only one of the two is there, but you can write both in the columns:

Adjectives ending in -ed

Shocked

adjectives ending in -ing

shocking

Can you add more to the list?

3.2. Listen to Text 5 “Eating Out” from “Тематические разработки по развитию навыков аудирования в помощь студентам 2-го курса РГФ” and do Tasks 5.1., 5.2., 5.3.

3.3. a. *What do you know about the affinity the British have for tea? Now read Text 2 to compliment your knowledge:*

Text 2. Iced Tea

For millions of Americans, summertime is iced-tea time. Ironically, but perhaps suitably, this typically American beverage was invented by an Englishman. He had been trying unsuccessfully to sell hot tea at the St Louis World's Fair in 1904. When he iced it, people bought. His invention is ironic because no right-thinking Briton would consider having his cup of tea other than piping hot. It is perhaps suitable because the British seem just to have a natural affinity for tea.

The love affair had been going on since 1657, when an enterprising coffee-house owner in the City of London started serving tea by the cup. Before this European debut, its origins are lost in the mists of oriental antiquity. One legend pinpoints the first cup of tea at 203 B.C. A couple of tea leaves fell off a tree into a pot of water which a hygienically minded Chinese emperor was boiling for drinking purposes. Japanese tradition favours a more macabre version: a Buddhist sage, in order to keep awake during meditation, sliced off his eyelids. Two tea bushes sprang up where they fell.

Whatever its origin, in Britain tea drinking spread quickly. By less than fifty years after it was introduced, tea was the drink of courtiers, literary men and soldiers. Tea drinking became somewhat of a cult. In Victoria's time, tea was part of the British diet, the recognized beverage for church meetings as well as society parties. Since then the British and tea have become increasingly addicted to one another. Nothing seems capable of blocking the not so slow and very steady rise in British tea consumption – currently estimated at 2.000 cups per year for everyone including babes in arms.

Like many other tea-drinking peoples, the British, make a kind of ritual of tea. The method of brewing it is as rigorously hewed to as the language of the

versa. The freshly boiling water is poured on the leaves. Dissent arises over the use of milk (not cream, not boiled). Some add milk to tea, others add tea to milk.

There is a minor divergence of opinion what concerns the British and American tea-drinking habits. At issue, of course, is the tea bag. The British regard the American custom of suspending tea bags in water (more than 52% of American tea drinkers use bags) as near sacrilege. You can buy tea bags in Britain, but no real Englishman would think of using the except for camping or picnicking. Professional tea-tasters and blenders in Britain insist that they can taste the material in the bags. The ordinary Briton has no such epicurian objections. He simply scorns any change.

A Chinese Mystic of the Tang Dynasty wrote: "The first cup of tea moistens my lips and throat. The second shatters my loneliness. The third causes the wrongs of life to fade gently from my recollection. The fourth purifies my soul. The fifth lifts me to the realms of the unwinking gods."

That about sums it up.

Do you know that ...

- The English know how to make tea and what it does for you. Seven cups of it wake you up in the morning, nine cups will put you to sleep at night.
- If you are hot, tea will cool you off, and if you are cold, it will warm you up.
- If you take it in the middle of the morning, it will stimulate you for further work; if you drink it in the afternoon, it will relax you for further thought. Then, of course, you should drink lots of it in off-hours. In England they say jokingly: "The test of good tea is simple. If a spoon stands up in it, then it is strong enough; if the spoon starts to wobble, it is a feeble makeshift."
- Tea is part of the prose of British life, as necessary as potatoes or bread. It must be made "just like my mother makes it": that is one spoonful of tea for each person and one for the pot. Boiling water is added and the tea is allowed to stand, brew or draw.
- No self-respecting Briton would drink a cup of tea which has not been made in a tea-pot, in a civilized way; he would certainly never accept a cup with that monstrosity, a tea bag, dangling in it.
- When mistress of the house in England offers her visitors a cup of tea, she sometimes asks: "Russian or English tea?" "Russian tea" will be served in glasses, it will be rather weak and a slice of lemon will be put into it. "English tea" means very strong tea with milk in it. Tea-drinking is quite a tradition with the English. Tea is served in almost every house nearly at the same time, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Tea cups on saucers and tea spoons are laid on the table. The milk-jug and the sugar basin are also on the table. There are small plates with bread and butter and jam or biscuits.

b. Read the text. Enjoy the humorous view on the topic. Do the tasks given below:

Tea (from "How to be an Alien" by G. Mikes)

The trouble with tea is that originally it was quite a good drink. So a group of most eminent British scientists put their heads together and made complicated biological experiments to find a way of spoiling it.

To the eternal glory of the British science their labour bore fruit. They suggested that if you do not drink it clear, or with lemon or rum and sugar, but pour a few drops of cold milk into it, and no sugar at all, the desired object is achieved. Once this refreshing, aromatic, oriental beverage was successfully transformed into colourless and tasteless gargling-water, it suddenly became the national drink of Great Britain and Ireland – still retaining, indeed usurping, the high-sounding title of tea.

There are some occasions when you must not refuse a cup of tea, otherwise you are judged an exotic and barbarous bird without any hope of ever being able to take your place in civilized society.

If you are invited to an English home, at 5 o'clock in the morning you get a cup of tea. It is either brought in by a heartily smiling hostess or an almost malevolently silent maid. When you are disturbed in your sweetest morning sleep you must not say: "Madame (or Mabel), I think you are a cruel, spiteful and malignant person who deserves to be shot." On the contrary, you have to declare with your best 5 o'clock smile: "Thank you so much. I do adore a cup of early morning tea, especially so early in the morning." If they leave you alone with the liquid, you may pour it down the wash-basin.

Then you have tea for breakfast; then you have tea at 11 o'clock in the morning; then after lunch; then you have tea for tea; then after supper; and again at 11 o'clock at night. You must not refuse any additional cups of tea under the following circumstances: if it is hot; if it is cold; if you are tired; if anybody thinks that you might be tired; if you are nervous; if you are merry; before you go out; if you are out; if you have just returned home; if you feel like it; if you do not feel like it; if you have had no tea for some time; if you have just had a cup.

You definitely must not follow my example. I sleep at 5 o'clock in the morning; I have coffee for breakfast; I drink innumerable cups of black coffee during the day; I have the most unorthodox and exotic teas even at tea-time.

The other day, for instance – I must mention this as a terrifying example to show you how low some people can sink – wanted a cup of coffee and a piece of cheese for tea. It was one of those exceptionally hot days and my wife (once a good English woman, now completely and hopelessly led astray by my wicked foreign influence) made some cold coffee and put it in the refrigerator, where it froze and became one solid block. On the other hand, she left the cheese on the kitchen table, where it melted. So I had a piece of coffee and a glass of cheese.

1) match the nouns with the adjectives to make the phrases used in the text:

good	influence
eminent	cups of coffee
complicated	creature
eternal	morning sleep
desired	maid
refreshing	society
high-sounding	
aromatic	bird
barbarous	
oriental	title
civilized	object
heartily smiling	
malevolently silent	experiments
sweetest	
cruel	glory
additional	example
spiteful	drink
innumerable	hostess
malignant	scientists
terrifying	block
wicked	beverage
soild	cup

2) find the English equivalents in the text:

первоначально; выдающиеся ученые; совещаться; произвести сложные опыты; найти способ испортить (напиток); вечная слава; принести плоды (дать результаты); налить несколько капель; желаемый результат достигнут; когда-то (некогда); превратить; освежающий напиток; вода для полоскания горла; без цвета и вкуса; узурпировать (незаконно захватывать); посчитать кого-то диким, невежественным человеком; занять место в цивилизованном обществе; побеспокоить; жестокий, зловредный, злобный человек; заслуживать; напротив; следовать примеру; бесчисленные чашки кофе; ужасающий пример; как низко могут пасть люди; на редкость жаркий день; сбить с истинного пути.

3.4. A. Reading Recipes. A recipe is a very special type of text characterized by laconism, precision, the imperative form of the verb. Reading a recipe correctly can mean the difference between a good fish and a bad one.

Most recipes first give you a list of the ingredients you will need. Then they tell you step-by-step what you should do to make the dish. Good cooks almost always use recipes.

Recipes have special words of their own. In recipes you will find words and abbreviations you do not use every day. These words and abbreviations tell you how to add ingredients. They tell you what the right measurements are and how long to cook a dish. They list the cooking temperature.

The abbreviations given below are the ones you will see most often:

c.	- cup	pkg.	- package
doz.	- dozen	pt.	- pint
gal.	- gallon	sm.	- small
lb.	- pound	sq.	- square
lrg.	- large	tbsp.	- tablespoon
min.	- minute	tsp. or t.	- teaspoon
oz.	- ounce	g	- gram

a. This is Ann's recipe. Study it carefully and point out its basic parts:

name of dish _____ **MIXED SALAD WITH CHEESE**

the ingredients	500 g canned green	150 g cheese
you will need	1 bunch of radishes	1 bunch of parsley
and amounts	150 g cucumbers	1 lemon
	200 g tomatoes	dash salt
	3 tbsp cooking oil	pepper

sequence to follow	Clean and finely slice the radishes and cucumbers. Grate the cheese and finely chop the parsley. Place radishes and cucumbers into a salad bowl. Salt and set aside in a cold place for ½ hour. Mix oil, lemon juice, pinch of black pepper, parsley, drained green beans, grated cheese and tomato slices with the cooled radishes and cucumber.
in putting ingredients together	
(method, temperature and time of cooking)	

b. Write the recipe of your favourite dish and exchange the recipes with your classmates.

c. Imagine you are asked to instruct young housewives to make some dish. Give the necessary instructions as if you were speaking over the local radio.

B. Speak of the breakfast you had or a separate dish, making use of some vocabulary items from the list:

to compliment use the following:

an inviting-looking, juicy dish
... is really first-class
there is none like it
to give the satisfaction to the
eye and tongue
tender, melting in the mouth
well-flavoured food
a special delicacy
a real thing
to make one's mouth water
mouth-watering selection of
creamy cakes and delicious pastries
marvellously satisfying
quite decent
delicate sandwiches
a perfect cup of tea
just like my mother makes it
just to my liking
done to a turn
it was a delight to see
it tasted delicious

to criticize use the following:

a sickly-looking, gluey mass
it had a queer salty taste
a horrible sloppy mass
watery and tasteless
undrinkable coffee
uneatable cabbage
as tough as old boots
with no particular flavour
underdone / overdone
plain, simply cooked food
soggy

disgusting
half-baked
hastily prepared
untidy, badly made
unpleasantly cold and damp
was actually burnt
sodden vegetables
totally overcooked vegetables
it tasted sour / bitter / rancid

Introductory phrases and parentheses to be used:

I admit... (believe, confess)	To say nothing of...
Small wonder, ... (no wonder)	Not surprising...
To my regret (joy, relief, surprise)...	Strange as it may seem...
True...; it is true...	It is no secret that...
If I may say so...	You know what I think?

3.5.a. Read Text 3 to enlarge your knowledge on the topic:

Text 3. American Food: from Asparagus to Zucchini

The popular view outside the USA that Americans survive on cheeseburgers, Cokes and French fries is as accurate as the American popular view that the British live on tea and fish 'n' chips, the Germans only on beer bratwurst, and sauerkraut, and the French on red wine and garlic.

Besides being a cliché, this view also comes from the fact that much of what is advertised abroad as “American Food” is a pretty flat, tasteless imitation. American beef, for example, comes from specially grain-fed cattle, not from cows that are raised mainly for milk production. As a result, American beef is more tender and tastes better than what is usually offered as an “American Steak” in Europe. When sold abroad, the simple baked potato that comes hot and whole in foil often lacks the most important element, the famous Idaho potato. This has a different texture and skin that comes from the climate and soil in Idaho. Or, there’s even that old picnic standby, corn-on-the-cob. There’s absolutely no comparison with corn that has been canned, kept in water, or frozen stiff and shipped for weeks over thousands of miles.

Even something as basic as barbecue sauces show differences from many of the types found on supermarket shelves overseas. A fine barbecue sauce from the Southside of Chicago has its own fire and soul. The Texans have a competition for the hottest barbecue sauce (the recipes are kept secret). And the Hispanic communities in the Southwest know that theirs is the best. Then there are those California wines which are doing quite well everywhere, but the best ones never leave home. The oldest bourbons and smoothest “sippin’ whiskeys” are not things you would offer to just anyone.

America has two strong advantages when it comes to food. The first is that as the leading agricultural nation, she has always been well supplied with fresh meats, fruits and vegetables in great variety at relatively low prices. This is one reason why steak or beef roast is probably the most “typical” American food; it has always been more available. But good Southern fried chicken also has its champions, as do hickory-smoked hams, turkey, fresh lobster, and other seafoods such as crab or clams.

b. Study the following American idioms; try to think of the Russian equivalents; use the idioms in the situations of your own:

Food for Thought

in apple-pie order: very well organized; in very good order (informal); e.g. Her desk is so neat; everything is in apple-pie order.

bring home the bacon: to earn a salary (informal); e.g. I need to get a job; now I’m the one who has to bring home the bacon.

full of beans: full of nonsense; talking nonsense (slang); e.g. Don’t pay attention to what Frank says; he’s full of beans.

spill the beans: to reveal a secret by accident (cliché); e.g. We wanted the party to be a surprise, but Willian spilled the beans and spoiled it.

beef something up: to make something stronger; e.g. We should beef up the program by adding an advanced course.

bread and butter: a person’s income; e.g. I don’t especially like doing this job, but it’s my bread and butter.

chew the fat: to chat informally with close friends (slang); e.g. We didn't get much done this morning. An old friend came by and we spent a lot of time chewing the fat.

the fat is in the fire: a proverb meaning that serious trouble has broken out; e.g. The boss found out that the reports weren't in on time. Now the fat's in the fire!

know one's onions: to have a good knowledge about something one is supposed to know (informal or slang); e.g. I think Mary will do a good job; she really knows her onions.

salt something away: to store something for future use (originally referred to preserving food with salt); e.g. Mr. Smith is saving money to use after he retires from work; he salts away 50 dollars every week.

worth one's salt: worth one's salary; e.g. Any worker worth his salt should do a better job than that.

in a stew (about someone or something): bothered or upset about someone or something (informal); e.g. What's Bill in a stew about this morning? Did the boss find mistakes in his work again?

the pot calling the kettle black: someone with a fault accusing someone else of having the same fault (cliche); e.g. How can Jim accuse Lisa of laziness? That's the pot calling the kettle black!

simmer down: to become calmer and quieter (informal); e.g. Things have been so hectic here this week; we hope they'll simmer down after the holidays.

c. read the following proverbs and say under what circumstances you would use them:

1. It's no use crying over spilt milk. 2. Too many cooks spoil the broth. 3. First come, first served. 4. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. 5. One man's meat is another man's poison. 6. Hunger is the best sauce. 7. Every cook praises his own broth. 8. Eat to live, live not to eat. 9. Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow. 10. A watched pot never boils. 11. Eat at pleasure, drink with measure. 12. Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper. 13. After dinner comes the reckoning. 14. You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs.

3.6. Texts for Rendering from Russian into English:

Text 1. В ресторане

Пойти в ресторан – всегда приятное событие, будь то для делового общения или ради развлечения. Кроме всего прочего, это еще и своеобразный ритуал, соблюдаемый посетителем и официантом. Совершенно недопустимо пренебрежительное отношение к официанту. Для того чтобы его подозвать, не рекомендуется щелкать пальцами, свистеть, привлекать вни-

мание окликами или звоном стакана. Достаточно лишь спокойно приподнять руку или, встретившись глазами, кивнуть головой.

Считается неприличным делать замечание официанту в присутствии других гостей. Если вам что-то не нравится, лучше сказать ему это наедине или не давать чаевые. Чаевые обычно составляют 10 – 15% от общего счета и оставляются наличными, даже если вы оплачиваете счет кредитной картой. Отсутствие чаевых воспринимается как знак того, что вы не довольны обслуживанием. После окончания трапезы необходимо похвалить блюда и поблагодарить официанта.

Words and expressions to be used:

соблюдать – to observe, to keep

ритуал – ritual, the rules

давать чаевые – to give a tip, to tip

Text 2. В пабе, или культура питья по-английски

1)

Паб – “паблик хаус”, что означает таверну, кабачок, где торгуют пивом и спиртными напитками, сэндвичами и сосисками, но главным образом пивом. Перевести, однако, “паб” словом “пивная” – язык не поворачивается, потому что виски продается там порциями в одну унцию, то есть в средний глоток, и в граненом стакане таких порций пять; потому что там могут пить хором, но не напиваются до бесчувствия; потому что туда приходят посидеть с приятелями и поговорить “за жизнь” и потому что ни в одном из пабов я не видел пьяного, а с лондонскими пабами я знаком, признаюсь, не по рассказам очевидцев.

В прошлые времена, когда путешественник на автомобиле спрашивал дорогу у прохожего, он получал ответ вроде: *Поверните направо у церкви Сент. Мэри, сэр*. Сейчас в качестве такого ориентира скорее будет использован местный очаг культуры – паб под названием *Грязная Утка* (разговорное название сети пивных *Белый Лебедь*). Пабы – достопримечательность Британских островов, их там сотни тысяч. Паб для Англии – это больше, чем просто питейное заведение. В паб приходят люди разных культурных слоев, приходят пообщаться, обменяться новостями, поиграть в дартс.

В каждый паб два хода. Первый ведет в бар, где, как правило, можно лишь стоять, второй – в салон, где есть столики и стулья. Но пиво там на несколько пенсов за пинту дороже. Бывает еще и третий вход – в “частный бар”, отличающийся некоторым уединением.

Бармен, или, как их называют в Англии, бар-тендер, должен быть знатоком своего дела. Сортов пива и спиртных напитков – десятки, посетителей – сотни, и он должен поворачиваться. Среди них устраиваются общенациональные состязания на быстроту и точность в обслуживании кли-

ентов. Насколько я помню, весьма часто первенствуют шотландские бар-тендеры. Лицензия на продажу пива и спиртных напитков дается хозяину паба всего лишь на год и может быть не подтверждена. А посему им приходится заботиться и о том, чтобы в пабе было достаточно чисто, и о том, чтобы посетители вели себя прилично. Бармен не вправе продавать спиртные напитки человеку навеселе. Но он вправе выставить за дверь любого, кто отвечает последнему определению. В пабах запрещаются карточные игры (в домино – пожалуйста). Запрещены пари, ставки на лошадей, собак, футбольные команды. Но можно поиграть в дартс – в популярнейшую игру в Англии. Игра безобидная, но занятная: участники соревнуются в том, чтобы набрать **определенное количество** очков, бросая медные стрелки с пластиковыми перышками в разграфленный пробковый круг. Если джентельмен “сильно мажет”, ему пора домой. Ровно в одиннадцать бар-тендер произносит традиционное: “Тайм, джентельмен, плиз” ... Секундой позже он уже не нальет вам даже полпинты. Еще через пятнадцать минут, которые отводятся, чтобы допить оставшееся пиво, паб закрывается до следующего дня.

2)

Атмосфера и оформление паба всегда располагают к хорошему настроению, он еще издали привлекает внимание прохожих: снаружи всегда много цветов, стены увиты плющом, в сумерках его освещают разноцветные фонари. Интерьер посвящен какой-нибудь определенной тематике: с морскими атрибутами, королевскими символами и регалиями и т.д. Если паб расположен, скажем, на берегу реки, то он будет называться **The Old Ship, The Anchor** или **The Bridge Tavern**, если у дороги – **The Traveller's Rest**, если в квартале, где расположены суды, юридические и адвокатские конторы – **The Honest Lawyer** или **Magpie & Stump** (*Magpie* – жаргонное название лондонских воров, а *Stump* ~ Колода – символ наказания преступников и торжества правосудия).

В пабе часто можно увидеть таблички с шутливыми, даже полуфилософскими высказываниями:

A friend in need is a bloody nuisance (шутливый вариант пословицы “друзья познаются в беде”).

Free beer tomorrow.

If you notice this notice you will notice that this notice is not worth noticing (здесь игра слов, возможная, наверное, только в английском).

В пабах можно встретить любой человеческий типаж. Тут и профессор – выпускник Кембриджского Университета, и местный задиравышибала (к счастью, к его услугам практически никогда прибегать не приходится), и местный “юродивый”, и местный хохмач, которому до всех всегда есть дело и который непременно жаждет поговорить.

Один такой весельчак имеет своеобразные взгляды на отношения с другими людьми: кого бы он ни встретил, будь то знакомый ему человек или первый встречный, он всех зовет одним именем – Берт, и объясняет это так: “Я каждый день встречаю слишком многих людей, с некоторыми из них мои отношения ограничиваются совместным распитием бокала пива по вечерам, и запоминать их имена – слишком тяжелый для меня труд”.

Хотя темы разговоров в пабе могут быть самыми различными, существуют, тем не менее, и определенные табу, даже для завсегдатаев. К числу таких запрещенных тем относится, например, политика, и не без оснований: любому ясно, что именно разногласия в политических воззрениях под воздействием определенной дозы алкоголя могут перерасти в рукопашную схватку, что, конечно же, отрицательно скажется на репутации заведения. Поэтому не стоит удивляться, если бармен или хозяин паба вежливо попросит вас сменить тему – он просто не желает эксцессов.

Распорядок работы пабов всегда получает широкое освещение в средствах массовой информации. Не так давно вся страна ликовала по поводу отмены Парламентом закона об обязательном закрытии питейных заведений с 3 часов дня до 7 вечера по воскресеньям. Закон был принят восемьдесят лет назад во время первой мировой войны в целях укрепления дисциплины военного времени, а именно, чтобы рабочие военных заводов не покидали свои места у станков раньше времени. По общему мнению, закон этот уже давно устарел.

Пожалуй, единственная категория населения, оставшаяся недовольной отменой закона – это жены завсегдатаев пабов, которые считают, что если раньше единственной возможностью заставить мужа сделать что-нибудь по хозяйству было воскресенье, то теперь они лишились и этого, ведь большинство мужчин с большим удовольствием проведут несколько часов в компании приятелей, чем своих супругов.

Однако не все пабы стремятся воспользоваться вновь обретенной свободой, – многие деревенские пивные просто не имеют достаточного числа посетителей.

3)

Работают пабы без выходных, открываются обычно в 11 утра, время же закрытия – это вопрос особый. В Британии существует система **last call** ~ *последнего звонка*. Согласно закону, ровно в 10.50 вечера должен даваться первый звонок, после которого у вас есть 10 минут для того, чтобы заказать последнюю выпивку; в 11.00 колокольчик звонит во второй раз, что дает вам еще 20 минут, чтобы “прикончить” свой бокал. После этого, как говорится, будьте любезны ...

На практике, конечно, все зависит от того, где вы находитесь. В деревенском пабе к вам относятся более снисходительно, особенно, если вы

считается постоянным клиентом: налить – больше не нальют, однако и не прогонят, сидите, пока не начнут убирать. Так что закон законом, но и человеческое отношение – не в меньшем почете.

К возрасту посетителей в пабах также относятся демократично. Если вы заказываете пиво, то никто не станет интересоваться, исполнился ли вам 21 год (что является нормальной процедурой в американских барах); в случае с более крепкими напитками, правда, может быть посложнее. По закону запрещается продавать алкогольные напитки детям до 18 лет, а дети до 16 до недавнего времени вообще в паб не допускались.

Пабы знамениты широчайшим выбором английских элей, которые очень сильно отличаются от европейских сортов светлого пива и, скорее, напоминают наше – и по цвету, и по вкусовым качествам. Конечно же, в каждом пабе можно найти и традиционное европейское светлое пиво.

Права потребителей в Британии соблюдаются очень строго. Например, наливание пива в свежевывмытый горячей водой бокал или любой контакт рабочей части насоса с содержимым бокала считаются недопустимыми, потому что вызывают нежелательное окисление.

Эль наливается в два приема, поэтому не нужно торопиться и сразу хватать бокал со стойки – дождитесь отстоя пены! Бармен дольет.

В каждом пабе всегда есть несколько видов элей, самые известные из которых – это **Tetley's, Courage, Whitbread, Samuel Smith, London Pride** и др. Многие из них встречаются в нескольких разновидностях: **bitter, mild ale** (собственно эль) и **stout** (темное крепкое). Среди них попадаются весьма интересные и необычные сорта. Например, по ирландскому элю под названием **Caffrey's** можно даже сверять часы: пена в нем отстаивается ровно 3 минуты.

Подается пиво в бокалах на 1 пинту (**pint** – 570 мл) и полпинты (**half**). Поэтому, заказывая пиво, всегда нужно пояснять: **A pint (a half) of bitter (mild), please**. Заказывая другие алкогольные напитки, достаточно называть только само название, не указывая объем, например: **a scotch, a dry martini, a scotch and soda, a “screwdriver”** (водка с апельсиновым соком), **a Bloody Mary, a glass of red wine** и т.д.

4)

Паб – это не только место, где можно попробовать английский эль, но и вкусно и относительно недорого поесть. От континентального европейца (да и от самих англичан) подчас можно услышать утверждение, что английской кухни как таковой не существует, что якобы англичане, вследствие своего традиционного невежества в этом вопросе, давно сдали свои полномочия так называемой *этнической* кухне – греческой, индийской, тайской и т.д. Так вот паб остается, пожалуй, последним контраргументом и последним оплотом британской кухни (за исключением

забегаловок, где продают **fish and chips** и английские завтраки – **porridge, bacon and eggs**).

Как правило, пабы выставляют свои меню, написанные мелом на деревянных табличках, прямо перед входом. Это очень удобно, так как они меняются почти каждый день в зависимости от **meal of the day** или **day specialty** каждого дня. Некоторые пабы подают и обед, и ужин, но во многих еду можно заказывать, только начиная с 5 часов вечера. Среди самых распространенных, типично английских блюд можно назвать **steak and kidney pie** (говядина и почки, запеченные в тесте), **fish and chips** (роскошная треска, пойманная в Северном море, с картофелем фри), **scampi** (кусочки рыбы и креветок в тесте), **shepherd's pie** (мясо барашка, запеченное под слоем пюре), **bangers and mash** (мясо с овощами в тесте), ну и конечно, традиционные бифштекс и ростбиф.

Правила этикета предполагают, что перед тем, как принесут еду, следует заказать какой-нибудь аперитив, хотя это и необязательно. Заказывают еду у стойки бара, где обычно можно найти и более подробное меню. Когда вы заказываете основное блюдо (бифштекс, скампи и т.д.), бармен обязательно спросит вас, что подать в качестве гарнира, цена которого может включаться, а может и не включаться в стоимость основного блюда. Салат, например, вам, скорее всего, подадут в любом случае, и за него отдельно платить не надо. А вот уж картофель фри или **baked potatoes** (печеный картофель), то есть то, что вы называете отдельно, имеют отдельную цену.

В качестве гарнира также может предлагаться морковь или фасоль, которая является, пожалуй, самым популярным гарниром у англичан. Из приправ вы всегда найдете на своем столе кетчуп, горчицу двух разновидностей (**English mustard** – более острая, **French** – более мягкая) и **gravy** – специальный (на наш взгляд, довольно пресный) соус к мясу. И завершит картину обязательное пожелание улыбки официантки: **Enjoy your meal!** ~ Приятного аппетита!

SUPPLEMENT. Building up Linguistic Competence:

a. Spelling. Doubling the final consonant:

RULE 1. A final single consonant letter is doubled before a suffix beginning with a vowel (-ing, er, est, etc.) if (a) the last syllable of the word is stressed, and (b) the final consonant is preceded by a short vowel represented by a single letter, e.g. red – redder; begin – beginning; thin – thinned, thinner.

But: repeat – repeated, repeating; develop – developed, developing.

Note 1. The words *handicap*, *kidnap*, *outfit*, *worship* are exceptions: handicapped – handicapping; kidnapped – kidnapping; outfitted – outfitting – outfitter; worship – worshipping – worshipper.

Note 2. Final **r** is doubled if preceded by a letter representing a stressed vowel, no matter if it is long or short (but not a diphthong):

e.g. occur – occurred	but: differ – differed
refer – referred	offer – offered
prefer – preferred	appear – appeared

Note 3. Final **l** is doubled if it is preceded by a short vowel (stressed or unstressed). It is not doubled if preceded by a long vowel or a diphthong:

e.g. travel – travelling	but: reveal – revealing
expel – expelled	

RULE 2. A final single consonant is not doubled if a) preceded by an unstressed vowel: e.g. open – opened; limit – limited – limiting; b) preceded by a vowel sound represented by two letters: e.g. look – looked; turn – turned, turning; c) the suffix begins with a consonant: e.g. hot – hotly (but: hottest); forget – forgetful (but: unforgettable).

Exercise 1. Form Participle 1 of the following words:

sit, wed, nag, wrap, commit, shop, grip, slip, tip, wag, skin, pat, slam, creep, shrug, win, grin, plan, regret.

Exercise 2. Form the comparative and superlative degrees of the following adjectives:

big, red, hot, green, sweet, mean, clever, weak, sad, thin, clear, broad, cool, fat, deep, meek, dim, flat, slim, wet.

Exercise 3. Read the following groups of related words. Note the dependence of the doubling of the final **r** on the stress:

infer – inferred, inference; confer – conferred, conference; prefer – preferred, preferable, preference; differ – different, difference; abhor – abhorrent, abhorrence.

Exercise 4. Give the Past Indefinite and Participle I of the following verbs:
differ, conquer, prefer, clatter, occur, appear, recover, linger, fear, lower,
murmur, water, flatter, stir, infer, refer, alter, bother, deliver, pour.

Exercise 5. Give Participle I of the following verbs:
cancel, worship, quarrel, travel, expel, reveal, deal, sail, steal, kneel, boil,
conceal, heal, peal, rebel, level, patrol, marvel, signal, revel.

b. Vocabulary work

I. Write down the opposite of each of the adjectives on the left. Choose from the words on the right:

1. <i>loud</i>	<i>soft</i>	depressing
2. <i>generous</i>	.....	noisy
3. <i>stimulation</i>	.....	hostile
4. <i>innocent</i>	.....	greedy
5. <i>quiet</i>	.....	soothing
6. <i>simple</i>	.....	cowardly
7. <i>friendly</i>	.....	quite
8. <i>careful</i>	.....	boring
9. <i>silly</i>	.....	attractive
10. <i>brave</i>	.....	complicated
11. <i>sharp</i>	.....	soft
12. <i>shocking</i>	.....	careless
13. <i>disgusting</i>	.....	reasonable
14. <i>happy</i>	.....	guilty
15. <i>excited</i>	.....	blunt

II. Give a synonym for each of the words in brackets in the following sentences. Choose from the ones below. (Make any other necessary changes)

get on	purchase	spoil	put off
inform	accomplish	stammer	alter
let	moan	recollect	occur
brag	vanish	scare	offend

1. *We'd better ...**put it off** ... until next month. (to postpone)*
2. *I would never you lift such a heavy case. (allow)*
3. *He's just been here and suddenly (disappeared)*
4. *This is something I at a second-hand book store. (bought)*

5. I love watching football, but it my wife's nerves. (irritates)
6. He as he was trying to utter a strange word. (stuttered)
7. You won't anything if you don't work harder with all these books. (achieve)
8. The manuscript is basically good – but there are still whole passages that need to be (changed)
9. I couldn't where I had first met her. (remember)
10. I can't stand this self-conceited man. He's always about his achievements. (boasting)
11. Would you kindly me about the new schedule? (notify)
12. Could you tell me in your own words exactly what? (happened)
13. I don't like your friend – she's always about something. (complaining)
14. Bad weather completely all festive events. (ruined)
15. Suspense films really me, on the whole I prefer comedies. (frighten)
16. His manner of speaking Susan. She was not to blame. (hurt)

III. Fill in the missing prepositions in the following sentences:

1. *She cannot rely ...on ...her colleagues this time.*
a) for b) on c) at
2. He always seems a loss when he starts reciting this poem.
a) in b) at c) with
3. His opinion always differs mine.
a) to b) from c) with
4. If you don't know what a word means, you can always look it ... in a dictionary.
a) on b) over c) up
5. Yes, you're right. He shouldn't interfere their life.
a) to b) with c) into
6. You'll have to choose these two tenses.
a) between b) among c) beyond
7. She seemed ashamed her vivid foreign accent.
a) at b) with c) of
8. Do try your best to get rid this mistake.
a) of b) from c) with
9. I'm longing the holidays.
a) after b) for c) of
10. Please, prevent him interfering with people's personal matters.
a) to b) against c) from

IV. Pick out the right version out of the set given below each sentence and fill in the blank. Consult the dictionary to check your choice.

1. Young Miss Jones thinks she is a very superior person because she has been to university. When she talks to the tradesmen and shopkeepers she always talks with

- a) a flea in her ear
- b) her teeth in her mouth
- c) a smell in her nostrils
- d) her tongue in her cheek
- e) a plum in her mouth

2. When the teacher came to work in the lonely and remote region the local people welcomed him with

- a) bent knees
- b) bared breasts
- c) closed eyes
- d) an open mouth
- e) open arms

3. The advertisement of that suspense film said that it guaranteed to

- a) make you see red
- b) bring tears to your eyes
- c) warm the cockles of your heart
- d) make your flesh creep
- e) make your blood boil

4. Mary was unlucky to prepare a special dish for her husband's dinner but when he and said he didn't like it she became very angry.

- a) put his foot in it
- b) poked his nose in it
- c) kept a stiff upper lip
- d) turned up his nose at it
- e) shook a leg at it

5. Will you kindly help us see which of us is on the right side of the fence. Both of you have no

- a) razor to strop
- b) plane to set
- c) knife to sharpen
- d) axe to grind
- e) hatchet to hone

6. Susan has become so arrogant. I think the fact that she has become a beauty contest winner

- a) crossed her eyes
- b) turned her head
- c) raised her eyebrow
- d) affected her heart
- e) twisted her neck

7. Why are you shouting at me? Have you

- a) slipped out of gear
- b) flew off the handle
- c) went off the rails
- d) fell off your bicycle
- e) let off your steam

8. The student was quite rude to the old lady at the hostel and she gave him a ...
- a) lump of her liver
 - b) piece of her mind
 - c) slice of her tongue
 - d) sight of her teeth
 - e) buzz in his ear
9. The police told the press that no ... in their search for the kidnappers.
- a) aid would be unlifted
 - b) stone would be left unturned
 - c) carpet would be left unrolled
 - d) door would be left unopened
 - e) brick would be left unraised
10. Mary and Jane had been friends since childhood but they had the most bitter and long lasting argument about an important incident. The whole thing was a mere ...
- a) whirlpool in a bathtub
 - b) breeze through the keyhole
 - c) quake in the piecrust
 - d) cravasse in an ice cube
 - e) storm in a teacup

Библиографический список

1. Maslyko. E.A. Communicative English for Intensive Learning. Minsk, 1989.
2. Soars John and Liz. Headway (Intermediate) Oxford University Press, 1994.
3. United States: Учебное пособие. М., "Т - Око", 1996.
4. Л.Д. Кашурникова, Т.А. Бойцова и др. Английский язык для студентов педвузов: Учебник. 2 Кн. М., 1995.
5. Вильямс Б., Харьковская А.А. и др. Праздники Америки. Самара, 1995.
6. Л.К. Ланьер, А.Н. Морозова и др. Совершенствуй свои умения: Учебник Самара, СамГПУ, 1997.
7. Химунина Т.Н. и др. В Великобритании принято так: Учеб. пособие для пед. институтов и фак. ин. яз. Л., 1974.

Оглавление

Part 1.	National Character.....	3
1.1	Text 1. National Character.....	3
1.2	Listening in.....	7
1.3	Stereotypes.....	10
1.4	Texts for Rendering from Russian into English.....	13
Part 2.	Habits and Ways. Holidays and Celebrations.....	23
2.1	Text 1. British Customs and Traditions.....	23
2.2	National Holidays.....	26
2.3	Additional Texts.....	28
2.4	Texts for Rendering from Russian into English.....	38
Part 3.	Eating Habits in Great Britain.....	42
3.1	Text 1. English Cooking.....	42
3.2	Listening in: Eating out.....	44
3.3	Text 2. Iced Tea.....	44
3.4	Reading Recipes.....	47
3.5	Text 3. American Food.....	49
3.6	Texts for Rendering from Russian into English.....	57
Supplement.	Building up Linguistic Competence.....	57
Библиографический список	.....	62