

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ЖЕЛЕЗНОДОРОЖНОГО ТРАНСПОРТА  
ИРКУТСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ПУТЕЙ СООБЩЕНИЯ

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# **Everyday Topics**

**Учебно-методическое пособие  
по дисциплине  
«Английский язык»**

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Пособие состоит из основной части (14 Units) и приложения. В приложение включены тексты страноведческого характера.

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# UNIT 1

## ABOUT MYSELF

*1. Read the text and study it.*

Let me introduce myself. My name is David Nelson. I was born in London, but now I live in California, in the USA. I am a TV news reporter. I work for a small newspaper and I really like my work, because it is very interesting. I meet many interesting people every day.

I come from a large family. My father has a farm in the north of England and he is very busy with the work on the farm. My mother is a housewife. She has a lot of work to do about the house and she is very busy too. Every summer I go to see my parents and my relatives. I have two sisters and one brother. My elder sister is twenty-six. She is married and has a son Nick. He is six and is in the first grade at school. My sister is a doctor, and her husband is a lawyer. It is a well-paid job and he makes a lot of money. My younger sister's name is Ann. She is twenty and is in her first year at Oxford University. My brother Ted who is fifteen lives with my parents. He is in high school. He wants to become an economist, but I'm afraid it is only a dream because he is rather lazy and my mom and dad have a lot of problems with him.

Now a few words about myself. I'm twenty-four. I am married and have a family of my own. My wife Jane is twenty-three, she is a school teacher but she doesn't work now because we have a baby, she is only seven months old. So we are three in my family and we get on very well with each other.

### WHO ARE YOU?

I'm Hiromi. I'm Japanese. I come from Osaka. This is my first visit to Britain. I'm on a course in Bournemouth. I'm staying for three weeks. I'm a student.

My name's Jonas. I'm Swedish. I come from Uppsala. I'm 20. I've been to Britain twice before. I'm on a course in Cambridge. I'm very interested in history.

I'm Pilar. I'm Spanish. I come from Seville. That's in the south of Spain. I'm on a two-week course in Eastbourne. I love lying on the beach, swimming and sunbathing. I'm a tour guide.

I'm Ricardo. I'm Italian and I come from Turin. I am at university, but I cannot speak English very well. I'm on a course for six weeks. I want to become a journalist. That is why I need good English.

*Notice these questions:*

**Where do you come from?** – I come from Japan.

**Whereabouts in Japan?** – From Osaka.

**Whereabouts** = where exactly?

*Notice we use the present simple to say:*

**I come** from Italy. **I live** in Turin.

*We use the present continuous to say:*

**I'm staying** here in Eastbourne for three weeks.

When you give your job, you say **I'm a** guide / **I'm a** teacher.

## WHO ARE YOU?

### Talk about yourself

What's your name?

• **I'm** \_\_\_\_\_. **My surname is** \_\_\_\_\_

**That's spelt** \_\_\_\_\_. **My friends call me** \_\_\_\_\_.

Where are you from?

• **I'm from** \_\_\_\_\_, **from a town called** \_\_\_\_\_

**It's in the** \_\_\_\_\_ **of** \_\_\_\_\_.

How long is your course?

• **I'm on a** \_\_\_\_\_-week course at the \_\_\_\_\_ school.

What do you do?

• **At the moment I'm a** \_\_\_\_\_. **I work/study** \_\_\_\_\_.

Have you been to Britain before?

• **Yes, I was here in** \_\_\_\_\_. **I was in** \_\_\_\_\_.

(No, this is my first visit.)

What are you interested in?

• **The thing I am most interested in is** \_\_\_\_\_.

Why is learning English important to you?

## FAMILY Dialogue 1

K a t e: Hello, Ann!

A n n: Hello, Kate! Haven't seen you for ages! Meet my fellow student  
Lena.

K a t e: How do you do! Glad to meet you. Lena, are you from Leningrad?

L e n a: No, I'm from Moscow. My family lives there now.

K a t e: Do you live in the hostel or rent a room?

L e n a: Neither. I live at my sister's. She has a nice three-room flat not far  
from the centre of the city.

K a t e: You are lucky. Is your sister married?  
L e n a: Oh, yes. She is married and has a daughter already.  
K a t e: What is her husband?  
L e n a: He is a builder.  
K a t e: And is your sister a builder too?  
L e n a: Oh, no, she is a teacher of English.  
K a t e: Is she fond of her profession?  
L e n a: I think she is. She is fond of children and is very good at handling them. And are you from Leningrad, Kate?  
K a t e: Yes, I'm. All my family is in Leningrad.  
L e n a: And is it a large family?  
K a t e: Rather. We are five: my parents, grandmother, my younger brother and me.  
L e n a: Does your grandmother work?  
K a t e: No, she is a pensioner, already. She is over sixty. But she does a lot of housework.  
L e n a: Is your brother still a schoolboy?  
K a t e: He is leaving school this year. He is seventeen.  
L e n a: What is he going to become?  
K a t e: His dream is to become an actor. He is a great theatre-lover.

## Dialogue 2

A l i c e: Good evening, Jane!  
J a n e: Good evening, Alice! What are you going to do now?  
A l i c e: Nothing special.  
J a n e: Let's go for a walk. The weather is just wonderful.  
A l i c e: With pleasure. I like to be in the open air. Let's go to the Summer Gardens. It must be lovely there now.  
J a n e: Alice, what do you usually do after classes?  
A l i c e: You see, I live rather far from the Institute and it takes me about an hour to get home. I have dinner, then do my home-work.  
J a n e: And what do you do in the evening?  
A l i c e: If there is a good film on at our local cinema-house, I go to the pictures. In good weather I take a walk in the park. Sometimes I go to the theatre. By the way, do you know my friend Lena?  
J a n e: I'm sorry to say, but I don't.  
A l i c e: Well, she is a good pianist. Sometimes she comes to our place and it's really a treat to listen to her playing. Come and see us some day, say, next Sunday?  
J a n e: Thanks, most willingly.

*Exercise 1. Answer the following questions.*

1. Have you a family? Is it large or small? How many are you in the family? Are you all great friends? 2. Does your mother work? What is she? Is she fond of her profession? 3. What is your father? How old is he? Is he your mother's senior? junior? How many years is he your mother's senior? 4. Have you a sister or a brother or both? What is your sister? What's her name? How old is she? 5. Your brother is a student, isn't he? What is he going to become? Is he your senior or junior? 6. Are you married? Who are you married to? Have you any children? 7. Have you many relatives? Where are they? 8. Your mother's sister is your aunt, isn't she? And what is your mother's brother? 9. Have you grandparents? Are they pensioners? How old are they? 10. Do you often see them?

*Exercise 2. Ask questions so that the sentences given below could serve as answers.*

1. I'm from Kiev. 2. We are four in the family: my parents, my brother and me. 3. I'm twenty. 4. Neither. She studies English. 5. My mother is a housewife. She keeps house. 6. It takes me 20 minutes to get to my office. 7. I like to watch TV in the evening. 8. Yes, I have. I've rather many relatives. 9. They are pensioners. 10. My friend is going to become a painter. 11. She lives in the hostel. 12. They are four in the room. 13. Yes, they are. They are all good friends.

*Exercise 3. Ask your fellow students:*

... if she (he) has a family of her (his) own  
... if she (he) has children  
... if she (he) is a student  
... if she (he) studies English  
... if her (his) family is large  
... how old she (he) is  
... if she (he) has a sister or a brother  
... if her sister (brother) is her senior or junior  
... if her parents are in Leningrad  
... what her father (mother) is  
... where her father (mother) works  
... if her sister is a schoolgirl  
... if her brother is a doctor  
... how old her brother is  
... if she has any other relatives  
... if she is fond of them  
... what her aunt is  
... what her uncle is

*Exercise 4. Complete the story given below filling in the blanks.*

My name is ... . I live in ... . I am ... years old. My family is rather large. We are six: father, mother, grandmother, my two sisters and me. My father works at ... . He is ... . My mother works at ... . She is .... My grandmother is ... years old. She doesn't work. She is ... . My elder sister's name is ... . She is ... years old. She is ... . My younger sister goes to school. We are all great friends. We like to spend our spare time together. In the evening father ..., mother ..., grandmother ..., my sisters ....., I ... . Sometimes we go ... .

*Exercise 5. Insert prepositions and postpositions where necessary.*

1. My family is not large. We are four ... the family. My mother works ... school. She is a teacher ... English. My father is an engineer. He works ... a factory. My parents are fond ... sports. My sister is 22. She is two years ... my senior. 2. ... the way, do you know Peter? He is ... Siberia. He is fond ... his native parts. He says that Siberia is wonderful. He is very good ... winter sports. 3. What are you going to do ... Sunday? Let's go ... the pictures or ... the theatre. A new film is ... ... our local cinema-house. 4. Meet my friend Kate. She lives ... the hostel. 5. What place are you ...? 6. My married sister lives ... her mother's-in-law. 7. Do you help your mother ... the house? 8. The weather is lovely, let's go ... a walk. 9. What do you like to do ... rainy weather? I like to watch TV or listen ... good music. 10. ... classes they are going to visit their friend who is ill.

## **THE AVERAGE BRITISH FAMILY**

The average British family lives in a semi-detached house with a garden in the south of England. They own their house, which is situated in the suburbs of a large town. The house has three bedrooms. On average they have two children and a pet. The family drives a two-year old Ford Cortina.

He works in the office of an engineering company for 40 hours a week and earns 200 pounds per week. He starts at 9-00 in the morning and finishes at 5.50 in the evening. He goes to work by car, which takes him 20 minutes. He doesn't particularly like his job, but there are chances of promotion.

She works in a service industry for three days a week and earns 95 pounds. She works locally and goes there by bus. She quite likes her job as it gets her out of the house. She meets people and it's close to the children's school. The children go to a state school which is a few miles from home. A special bus comes to pick them up every day. They are at school from 9.00 to 3.30.

The most popular evening entertainment is watching television or video, which the average person does for two and a half hours a day. After that, the next most popular activity is visiting friends, going to the cinema or a restaurant,

or going to the pub. The most popular hobby is gardening and the most popular sports are fishing, football and tennis.

*Exercise 6. Read the text and answer the questions.*

### **THE JAPANESE FAMILY**

Work plays a very important role in Japan. A Japanese says “I belong to my company”, not “I work for my company”. Because work is so important, a child, especially a boy, must work very hard indeed. He begins to study seriously as soon as he starts going to school, because if he doesn’t pass all his exams he can’t go to a good school. If he doesn’t go to a good school he can’t go to a good university – and so he can’t get the good job that he needs! A Japanese mother usually helps her children so that they will pass their school exams. Because of this system Japanese children don’t have as much time to play as children in many other countries.

A lot of Japanese parents “arrange” marriages for their children. This is because they feel that marriage does not only affect the young couple, but that it affects the whole family. They believe that it is important that the young couple have the same interests and that they come from the same social background. Sometimes parents go to a “matchmaker”. A matchmaker’s job is to find two similar young people and arrange for them to meet. If they like each other, a marriage is arranged for them.

1. What role does work play in Japan? 2. What must a child do because of it? 3. When does he begin to study seriously? 4. What’ll happen if he doesn’t? 5. Who helps the children to pass their school exams? 6. Do Japanese children have as much time to play as children in other countries? 7. How is a Japanese marriage “arranged”? Why? 8. What is important to make a good marriage? 9. What is the job of a “matchmaker”? 10. Japanese parents pay no attention to the young people’s feelings, do they?

### **ABOUT MYSELF AND MY FAMILY**

Let me introduce myself. I’m Igor Rostov. Igor is my first name. Rostov is my surname. I’m fourteen years old. I was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December in 1987 in St. Petersburg.

I’m a pupil. I go to school. I’m in the 9<sup>th</sup> form. I’d like to be a computer programmer. I’m good at Maths and Physics. They are my favourite subjects.

I’m rather tall and slim. My hair is fair. I’ve got blue eyes. I like to joke and to laugh. I think I’ve got a sense of humour. I go in for sports. I play football. Our team takes part in different football competitions.

I want to tell you a few words about my family. My family is large. There are five of us: my mother, my father, my brother, my sister and me.

First of all some words about my parents. My parents have been married for twenty-four years. My father is fifty years old. He is an engineer. His name is Boris. He works in the office of a shipbuilding company. He is very experienced. My father is always busy. He likes his job very much. My father is a tall man with fair hair and green eyes. He can make different things with his own hands. We've got a car and my father always repairs our car himself. My father is fond of swimming. When he has some free time we go to the swimming-pool together.

My mother's name is Sveta. She is forty-five but she looks much younger. She is slim. My mother has big blue eyes and brown hair. She is a doctor. She works in a hospital and likes her profession very much. My mother keeps house and takes care of us. She is very good at cooking. She often cooks something tasty for us. We try to help her about the house.

I'm lucky to have an elder brother. My brother Oleg is about twenty-three. He is married and has a family of his own. Oleg is a businessman and his wife Helen is a teacher of English. They have a small daughter who is two years old. Oleg is my best friend. I can always turn to him with my troubles.

My younger sister Olya is only five years old. Olya goes to the kindergarten. She is very funny. I like to spend my free time teaching her something. Sometimes I take Olya to the Zoo.

My grandparents are retired. They don't live with us but I think them to be members of our family. They often come to see us. My grandparents like gardening. They spend a lot of time in the country. They grow vegetables and fruit.

I love my family very much. We always help each other. Everyone in my family is my best friend.

## **Vocabulary**

introduce – представлять, знакомить

surname – фамилия

to be born – быть рожденным

computer programmer – программист

to be good at – быть способным к

rather – довольно, пожалуй

slim – стройный

fair hair – светлые волосы

to joke – шутить

to laugh – смеяться

sense of humour – чувство юмора

to go in for smth. – заниматься чем-либо

to take part – принимать участие

to marry – жениться  
shipbuilding – судостроение  
experience – опыт  
busy – занятой  
to repair – чинить, исправлять  
to be fond of smth. – увлекаться чем-либо  
free – свободный  
to take care of smb. – заботиться о ком-либо  
tasty – вкусный  
to turn to – обратиться к кому-либо  
trouble – беспокойство, проблема, волнения  
kindergarten – детский сад  
to be retired – быть на пенсии  
gardening – возделывать, возводить (сад)

## UNIT 2

### FEATURES OF CHARACTER APPEARANCE

#### *1. Study the words*

#### APPEARANCE

to take after	stout
to resemble	slim
to look like	slender
to be the picture of	fat
to take smb. for smb.	curly
regular beauty	wavy
good-looking	straight
handsome	snub (turned up)
plain	hairdo
eyes; nose; mouth; lips; cheeks;	mole
chin	thin
beard	uneven
moustache	lucky
dimples	deep-set
bald	chick
features	even
aquiline	hazel
wide-set	freckles (freckled)
eyebrows	wrinkle (wrinkled)
eyelashes	crow's-feet
forehead	bristle (bristly)
hair; teeth;	of medium height
complexion	receding hair
dark; fair	chubby face
broad-shouldered	a crew-cut

#### *2. Read the dialogue "Appearance" and translate it.*

#### APPEARANCE

- Hello, ...
- Hello, ... Glad to meet you.
- So am I. Well, ..., will you do me a favour?
- Most willingly. What can I do for you?

- You see, my cousin comes today on a visit from Moscow. I promised to meet her at the station, but, unfortunately, I have an exam today.
- Don't worry I'll help you out. How old is your cousin?
- She is sixteen; she is still a schoolgirl.
- Is she tall?
- She is neither very tall nor short. I think she is of medium height.
- Is she dark or fair?
- Her hair is fair but she has dark eyes and eyebrows.
- So she took after your mother, her aunt, didn't she?
- Not quite. She resembles our grandmother with her straight nose and fair complexion.
- I see. That means, your cousin is very good-looking, isn't she?
- I believe she is, though she is not a regular beauty.
- Now, I suppose, I can find her in the crowd especially if you give me the number of the train and her carriage.
- Thanks a lot.

### **WHAT SORT OF PERSON ARE YOU?**

1. Are you usually smiling and happy?
2. Do you enjoy the company of other people?
3. Do you find it difficult to meet new people?
4. Is it important to you to succeed in your career?
5. Does your mood change often and suddenly for no reason?
6. Do you notice other people's feelings?
7. Do you think the future will be good?
8. Can your friends depend on you?
9. Is your room often in a mess?
10. Do you get annoyed if you have to wait for anyone or anything?
11. Do you put off until tomorrow what you could do today?
12. Do you work hard?
13. Do you keep your feelings and ideas to yourself?
14. Do you often give presents?
15. Do you talk a lot?
16. Are you usually calm and not worried by things?

#### *3. Work in pairs.*

1. Do the personality quiz above help to discover what type of person you are. Use a dictionary to check any new words. Write Y for Yes, N for No and S for Sometimes.

2. Ask your partner to do the quiz about you. Look at your ideas and your partner's ideas about you. Are they the same?
3. Match these adjectives with the questions in the quiz.

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>a.</b> untidy     | <b>i.</b> lazy         |
| <b>b.</b> optimistic | <b>j.</b> generous     |
| <b>c.</b> sociable   | <b>k.</b> moody        |
| <b>d.</b> talkative  | <b>i.</b> hard-working |
| <b>e.</b> reserved   | <b>m.</b> easy-going   |
| <b>f.</b> shy        | <b>n.</b> reliable     |
| <b>g.</b> impatient  | <b>o.</b> cheerful     |
| <b>h.</b> ambitious  | <b>p.</b> sensitive    |

Which are *positive* qualities and which are *negative*?

Which could be both?

4. What is the opposite of each of the sixteen adjectives in Exercise 3? Remember that the prefixes *in-* and *un-* can sometimes be used to make negatives. Which of the adjectives above can use these?
5. Describe someone in the class to your partner but don't say who it is. Can your partner guess who it is?

### **APPEARANCE. CHARACTER**

- Have you seen our new computer programmer?
- Not yet. Why?
- She is a very pretty girl.
- Really?
- She is tall, slim and I'd say she has a very good figure. Her long hair is fair. Her eyes are blue. She has a snub nose and full lips.
- What's her name?
- Constance Ritzwater. She is about 25 years old.
- Is she married?
- That's what I would like to find out.
- What kind of person is she?
- She has been working here for about two weeks. They say she is qualified for the job, has good manners, very reserved and efficient.
- I see. Is Bob Madison her chief?
- Exactly. Do you know him?
- He is a friend of mine. We have been on friendly terms for about ten years.
- What do you think of him?
- Bob is a nice guy. He is very honest and just, well read and kind. Sometimes he is a bit stubborn. Nevertheless he is pleasant to deal with.

- He is a handsome man, isn't he?
- Sure. He is of middle height, neither slim nor stout. His hair is dark. He wears a beard and a moustache. He has large dark eyes, a straight nose and thin lips.
- Is he married?
- He is divorced. He has a son by first marriage.
- Have you seen the boy?
- Of course. His name is Michael. He is nine years old. A very talented boy. He learns to play the piano and makes good progress.
- I see.

#### 4. Translate the text.

Before we parted Willson asked me if I would like to go and see his house one day. And two or three days later I went to see him. It was a pleasant cottage, well away from the town, in a vineyard, with a view of sea. There were only two small rooms, a tiny kitchen, a bedroom, and a sitting-room. The bedroom was furnished like a monk's cell. The sitting-room was comfortable enough with two large arm-chairs that had been brought from England, a large desk, a cottage piano and crowded book-shelves. On the walls were framed pictures. He had found this place on his visit to Capri, and taking it on his return for good had been there ever since.

From what I saw of him then and from what I heard from other people I made for myself a fairly accurate picture of the life he had led for the last fifteen years. It was certainly a very harmless one. He bathed; he walked a great deal, and he seemed never to lose his sense of the beauty of the island. He played the piano and he played patience; he read; when he was asked to a party he went. He liked people, but with an aloofness that prevented intimacy. He lived thriftily, but with sufficient comfort. He never owed a penny. His emotions remained well under his control. I think he was determined that nothing should interfere with his independence of spirit. His only passion was for the beauty of nature, and he sought felicity in the simple and natural things that life offers to everyone. You may say that it was a selfish existence. It was. He was of no use to anybody, but on the other hand he did nobody any harm. His only object was his own happiness, and it looked as though he had attained it. Very few people know where to look for happiness; fewer still find it.

I don't know whether he was a fool or a wise man. He was certainly a man who knew his own mind.

*(Abridged from «Rain and Other Short Stories» by S. Maugham).*

Notes:

Capri [ˈka:pri] – о-в Капри, Willson [ˈwils(ə)n]

5. Write out the words describing the furniture of the rooms, the man's behaviour.

6. Translate into English, using the vocabulary of the topics «Flat», «Behaviour».

1. Это был приятный коттедж с видом на море.
2. В гостиной были два кресла, стол, пианино и переполненные книжные полки.
3. На стенах висели картины в рамах.
4. Он купался, много ходил пешком, играл на пианино и читал.
5. Он жил экономно, но с комфортом.
6. Его эмоции всегда оставались под контролем.
7. Его единственной страстью была страсть к красоте природы.
8. Его целью было его собственное счастье.

7. Put 10 questions to the text.

8. Retell the text.

9. Answer the following questions.

1. How old are you? Do you resemble your father or mother? Is your mother dark-haired or fair-haired? What colour eyes has your father? Are your parents tall or of medium height? Who does your sister (brother) resemble? Are sisters and brothers always alike? 2. Is your girlfriend good-looking? Is she slender or plump? tall or short? dark-eyed or blue-eyed? Is her hair long or short? Is it straight or wavy? What is her hair cut? Does she wear her hair loose or does she have a hairdo? What is her complexion? 3. Your father is a tall, broad-shouldered man, isn't he? Does he wear a beard or moustache? 4. What is the most beautiful thing about your friend's face? (a dimple in the chin, dimples in the cheeks, a mole on the right cheek, fair complexion, beautiful eyes). 5. What is your idea of woman's beauty? of man's beauty?

## UNIT 3

### MY WORKING DAY

#### *1. Words and expressions for the topic.*

to be busy – быть занятым  
to get up – вставать  
to switch on the radio, TV – включать радио, телевизор  
to be ready – быть готовым  
to come true – осуществиться  
to work hard – работать упорно  
classes – занятия  
to be over it (smth) takes (smbd) time (to do smth) – (кому-либо) требуется время и т. п. (чтобы что-то сделать)  
Law school – юридический лицей  
canteen – столовая  
students' scientific society – студенческое научное общество  
to attend meetings, lectures – посещать заседания, лекции  
favourite – любимый  
subject – предмет  
to master – овладеть  
early – рано  
late – поздно  
to be pressed for time – очень торопиться  
to take a shower – принимать душ  
I wish I could... – если бы я мог  
to miss a chance – упускать возможность  
to be a bore – быть скучным человеком  
to have much fun – весело проводить время  
to be interested in – интересоваться ч.-л.

#### *2. Read and translate the text.*

Dear Ann,

I hope you are doing well. I'm sorry it took me too long to write you.

I have already been in Russia for two months. I have stayed with the same Russian family. Vadim Volkov is my best friend now. And so is Julia, his elder sister. Julia is very busy during the day. She is a student of the Law school and dreams to enter the Law faculty of the Rostov State University.

Here is a picture of what she usually does on weekdays.

Her working day begins very early. It's hard to believe but she gets up at 6 o'clock and does her morning exercises. Doing them she usually opens the window and switches on the aerobics video tape. Then she goes to the bath-

room, to take a shower and brush her teeth. She does her hair, dresses and at a quarter to seven she is ready for her morning cup of coffee and a roll.

At a quarter past seven she leaves home for the Law school. It takes her about an hour to get there by bus or by trolleybus. She never walks to the Law school because she is always pressed for time.

It's unbelievable, but she is never late. She always comes to the Law school in time. As a rule she has classes till two o'clock in the afternoon. She usually has lunch at the school canteen.

It is also a light meal: just a "hot-dog" or a ham sandwich and of course a cup of coffee.

Classes are over at two o'clock. But she never hurries home at once. She often stays at the Law school after classes as there are different students' clubs and societies at school. Julia is a member of the student's scientific society. Twice a month she attends its meetings. There the students listen to interesting lectures and discuss the problems they are interested in. She is keen on sports and never misses a chance to have a game of tennis at the school tennis court. She says coffee and tennis help her to keep a good form.

She usually goes home by bus. At home she has dinner and short rest. Then she does her lessons. It usually takes her about three hours. Sometimes if she has spare time she goes to her friend's place or to the cinema, or theatre. She usually goes to bed at about 11 o'clock.

She never stops working at her favourite subject – the Law. In the evening she reads books on Law and thus prepares herself for the report at the meeting of the scientific society. She often goes to the Public library. Those who want to master Law must study regularly. I wish I could work as hard as Julia.

But, please, don't think that she is a bore. She loves music and dances, she is keen on hiking. We have much fun together. And she is going to write you a letter. She can answer all your questions better than I do. She also has a lot of questions to you.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes

*Jane*

3. *Retell the text: a) acting Jane; b) acting Julia.*

4. *Give English equivalents for the following:*

вставать, самый лучший, мечтать, делать зарядку, включать радио, завтракать, ехать автобусом, идти пешком, заканчиваться, посещать заседания, любимый предмет, непрерывно работать над, быть скучным человеком, увлекаться спортом, не упускать возможности, надеюсь, у тебя все хорошо.

5. Complete the sentences using the words from the text.

My best friend is... .	She is a student... .
Her working day... .	It doesn't take her... .
It takes her... .	She always comes... .
Sometimes she stays... .	She is a member of... .
At home she has... .	Every day she works... .

6. Ask each other questions using the patterns:

**Pattern I: Do you usually get up at 7 o'clock?**

(to go to school by bus, to do morning exercises, to have breakfast at home, to come home in the afternoon, to work hard at school)

**Pattern II: Where do you study?**

(to have breakfast (dinner), to go after classes, to do one's homework, to take a rest, to read books and journals)

**Pattern III: When do you finish your classes?**

(to get up, to have lunch, to leave the school, to go to the cinema (theatre), to go to the friend's place, to have classes)

**Pattern IV: What do you like... ?**

(to do at school, to do in the evening (in the morning), to have for breakfast, to read).

**Pattern V: How long does it take you (him, her) to do it?**

(to get to the school by bus, to wash and dress, to have lunch, to do morning exercises, to prepare for the report (for the classes), to have breakfast)

**Pattern VI: Who helps you... ?**

(to prepare lessons, to make breakfast for you, to find the necessary books in the library)

**Pattern VII: Are you keen on... ?**

(theatre, sport, cinema, music, tennis)

7. Answer the questions about your working day.

1. Are you a student?
2. Where do you live?
3. What do you dream about?
4. Do you believe that your dream will come true?
5. When do you get up?
6. What do you do before breakfast?
7. Where do you go after breakfast?
8. When do your classes begin?
9. Do you live far from the school?
10. How long does it take you to get to the school?

11. How many lessons do you have every day?
12. What is your favourite subject?
13. When are your classes over?
14. What do you usually do after classes?
15. How long does it take you to prepare your lessons?
16. How often do you go to the cinema?
17. What do you like to do at your leisure time?
18. When do you go to bed?

## UNIT 4

### INSTITUTE LIFE

#### *1. List of the Words and Expressions.*

to enter an Institute	to fail at an exam
to take a subject	to attend classes
to come to smb. = to be good at smth.	to take notes students' society
to be strong in	research work
to be weak in	amateur performance
course of studies runs	to fall behind the group
lecture on	to catch up with the group
seminar on	to read up for an exam
class in	time-table
to work regularly	to hand in
to work by fits and starts	the bell has gone
to make progress	to take an exam in
to get good (bad) marks	to pass an exam in
to fail in a subject	

#### *2. Read and translate the dialogue.*

### DIALOGUE

- K a t e: Hello, Ann. Haven't seen you for ages. What are you doing now?
- A n n: I'm studying foreign languages at the teachers' training college.
- K a t e: How very interesting! You know, my sister is leaving school this year and her dream is to enter this college. Will you tell me something about your studies?
- A n n: With pleasure. What are you interested in?
- K a t e: What languages are you studying?
- A n n: German and English. German is my first speciality and English is the second. I have taken it only this year.
- K a t e: Which of them do you find more difficult?
- A n n: English grammar comes easy to me, but pronunciation is my weak point. I have to work hard at it in the language laboratory. On the whole, English is easier, in my opinion.
- K a t e: How long will your course run?
- A n n: Five years. In the fourth and fifth year we shall have our teaching practice at school.
- K a t e: How many classes do you have daily?
- A n n: As a rule we have one or two lectures, then a seminar or a class either in English or in German.

K a t e: Is it hard to study at your faculty?

A n n: If you don't miss classes and work regularly you are sure to make good progress and get good marks.

K a t e: Do students sometimes fail at the exams?

A n n: They do, if they work by fits and starts.

K a t e: Thanks a lot for this useful information.

A n n: It's nothing.

*Exercise 1. Answer the following questions.*

1. You are a student, aren't you? 2. What faculty do you study at? 3. What foreign languages do you study? 4. What year student are you? 5. How many lectures do you have weekly? On what subjects are they? 6. Do you attend them regularly? Do you always take notes? 7. What is your favourite subject? Are you strong in it? What subject are you weak in? 8. Are you good at languages? 9. How many exams will you have in summer? In what subjects? 10. Have you ever failed at an exam? In what subject did you fail? 11. Do you work regularly or by fits and starts? 12. Are there any students' scientific societies at the faculty? Are you a member of any? What research work have you already done? 13. Do you take part in social life of the faculty? 14. Are there any sports societies and theatrical groups at the faculty? Have you ever taken part in an amateur performance?

*Exercise 2. Ask your fellow students:*

...what new subjects she studies this year

...how many classes she has every day

...if she attends classes regularly

...what subjects she is especially good at

...if she fell behind the group when she was ill

...if it took her much time to catch up with the group

...if she has already begun to read up for her exams

...if it is difficult to study two foreign languages at the same time

...if she always comes in time for classes

...what her favourite subject is

...what subjects she studied in the first year

*Exercise 3. Complete the following sentences.*

1. She has been ill for a week and now ... . 2. My friend has made good progress in English because ... . 3. If you work by fits and starts ... . 4. You will fall behind the group if ... . 5. I'm going to the library, I must prepare ... . 6. She

is very good at ... . 7. If you don't know the pronunciation of a word ... . 8. Will you help Ann ...? 9. He is very weak in ... . 10. Our course of studies runs ... .

*Exercise 4. Insert prepositions and postverbal adverbs where necessary.*

1. The students ... our group are very good ... English. They work hard ... their pronunciation and grammar. 2. When Kate fell ... the group ... the History ... the English language everybody was ready to help her ... this subject. It took her a week to catch ... ... the group. Now she is very strong ... this subject. 3. Peter makes many mistakes ... his speech. That's because he works ... fits and starts. 4. Lectures ... English literature are very popular ... our students. 5. Yesterday we had a lecture ... Political Economy, a seminar ... Stylistics and a class ... English conversation. 6. ... the end ... the first term we shall have three exams. 7. If I pass my exam ... English I'll be very happy. Though I work hard English doesn't come easy ... me. 8. It's high time to start reading ... ... your exams. 9. Don't miss classes, otherwise you may fail ... English. 10. What subject are you weak ...?

*Exercise 9. Ask questions so that the sentences given below could serve as answers.*

1. She is very good at English Grammar. 2. Our course runs for five years. 3. He fell behind the group because of his illness. 4. The brightest student in our group is Mary. 5. Reading books in the original is one of the ways of mastering a language. 6. My favourite subject is Stylistics. 7. She couldn't stay after classes because she was very busy. 8. You can get this book in the library. 9. She has made a very good report on Byron's poetry. 10. We shall have a seminar on the History of the Communist Party tomorrow. 11. She has made good progress in English because she works hard. 12. Ann failed in History.

## **OUR UNIVERSITY**

Our University was founded in 1975. There were 3 faculties at the University: the Railway Construction faculty, the Railway Operation faculty and the Electromechanical faculty. In 2002 there appeared two more faculties: the Electro-technical faculty and the faculty of Computer Technologies and Systems.

The University has 3 departments: the day department, the extra-mural department and the department of further education. The University is situated in Irkutsk not far from the railway station and the Angara river.

I am a first-year student. I study at the Railway Construction faculty. I want to become a railway engineer. We study many subjects at the University: History of Russia, mathematics, physics, chemistry, drawing, general course of

the railways, English, German or French. We have English classes every week. There are good laboratories, a library, and a Sports hall at our University.

The academic year at the Universities and institutes in Russia is divided into 2 terms. At the end of every term Russian students have examinations. Those students who study well get grants.

At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year the students get the diploma of a railway engineer.

### **Notes:**

at the end of the year (the term) – в конце года (семестра)  
to take tests and exams – сдавать зачеты и экзамены

## **OUR UNIVERSITY**

Let me tell you a few words about our University. It is called The Irkutsk State Railway Transport University. Our University was founded in 1975. At first there were only two faculties: The Railway Construction Faculty and The Electro-Mechanical Faculty.

In 2002 there appeared two more Faculties: The Electro-Technical Faculty and The Faculty of Computer Technologies and Systems. In a year some more faculties were created. At present the University has about 25 chairs in seven faculties:

- 1) The Railway Construction Faculty;
- 2) The Railway Operation Faculty;
- 3) The Electro-Mechanical Faculty;
- 4) The Electro-Technical Faculty;
- 5) The Computer Technology and Information Systems Institute;
- 6) The Economics faculty;
- 7) The Humanities Faculty.

The students can choose from more than 20 academic programs:

- Personnel Management;
- Accounting, Analysis and Audit;
- Finance and Credit;
- Technological Process Safety;
- Railway Transport Automation and Telecommunication;
- Railway Transport Electric Power Supply;
- Railway Construction, Track and Trackage and others.

The University is headed by a Rector. At the head of each faculty there is a Dean.

There are about 300 teachers. About 10 per cent of them are Professors and Doctors of Sciences.

More than 7,000 students study at the University, among them more than 4,000 at the day-time department and about 3,000 students at the extra-mural department. Students from Mongolia also have an opportunity to get a profound knowledge in different subjects. The University has 3 departments: the day-time department, the extra-mural department and the Institute of further education.

The academic year at the university is divided into 2 terms. At the end of each term our students have credit tests and examinations which are rather difficult.

The course of study at the University lasts 5 years. The first and second-year students study such general subjects as higher mathematics, physics, chemistry, drawing, a foreign language and others.

At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year the students get the diploma of a railway engineer.

The Irkutsk State Railway Transport University is a new building of modern design.

Our University has various laboratories which are equipped with up-to-date devices and apparatus. Here one can find computer classes, a big library including books on a wide range of different subjects and reading rooms. The students can live in comfortable students' hostels. All the facilities are provided for students' study and research.

Our University has become one of the largest higher educational institutions of Siberia. It is situated not far from the railway station and the River Angara in a very beautiful spot.

*1. Read the following words:*

Faculty, electro-mechanical, technical, computer technologies, chairs, humanities, personnel management, accounting, analysis and audit, finance, technological process safety, automation, power supply, track and trackage, percent, doctors of sciences, extra-mural, higher mathematics, chemistry, drawing, a foreign language, laboratories, to be equipped with, devices, apparatus, facilities, research, to include, comfortable.

*2. Give the Russian equivalents:*

To be founded, at first, to appear, to create, at present, to be headed by, dean, the Institute of further education, to be divided into, at the end of each term, credit-tests, rather, the course of study, to last, general subjects, foreign students, safety, books on a wide range of different subjects.

3. *Give the English equivalents:*

Через год, среди них, дневное отделение, заочное отделение, учебный год, инженер-железнодорожник, различные лаборатории, быть оснащенным современными приборами и аппаратурой, новое здание современного дизайна, включая, библиотека, жить в студенческих общежитиях, обеспечивать условия для, исследование, быть расположенным в очень красивом месте, вокзал.

4. *Complete the following sentences:*

1. Our University is called.....
2. It was founded in.....
3. At first there were only.....
4. At present the University has.....
5. At the head of each faculty.....
6. More than 7,000 students.....
7. The academic year at the University.....
8. The course of study.....
9. All the facilities are provided.....
10. Our University has become.....

5. *Answer the following questions:*

1. What do you know about the history of our University?
2. How many chairs and faculties are there at the University at present?
3. How many programs are available for students?
4. Who is the University headed by?
5. What is the total number of students studying at the University?
6. What departments has the University?
7. How many terms is the academic year divided into?
8. What subjects do the first- and second-year students study?
9. What facilities are provided for study and research?
10. Why do you think our University has become one of the largest higher educational institutions of Siberia?
11. What attracts students to enter the University?

## Unit 5 HOBBY

### INVITATION

1. How about going to the (puppet theatre, Drama, Musical comedy, etc.) tonight?
2. Why not see that comedy for a change?
3. Would you like to see "The Three Sisters" by Chekhov?
4. What about seeing ... tonight?
5. Have you got anything special tonight?
6. I've got two tickets for ... . What about going there together?
7. We'll meet at 7. Is it all right with you?
8. What would you say to staying at home and watching a new TV show?
9. Would you mind if we go and see ... at the ... theatre (cinema)?
10. We've got an extra ticket for ... .What about coming together with us?

1. I'd be delighted.
2. That would suit me very well.
3. I'd love to, but I can't.
4. Perfectly. Let's make it.
5. With pleasure.
6. No, nothing special, why?
7. That is a splendid idea.
8. I'm afraid, I can't.
9. Thank you. I don't want to.
10. That's great.

### LEISURE

When we have time for leisure, we usually need something that can amuse and interest us. There are several ways to do this. People use radio or television. They switch on the radio set or TV set and choose the programme they like best. Some people like music. They listen to various concerts of modern and old music, new and old songs, and see dances. Those who are fond of sports listen to or watch football and hockey matches. These are the most popular kinds of sports. There are a lot of fans among people. They can also see championships in athletics and other kinds of sports. Radio and television extend our knowledge about the world. Television helps us to "visit" different lands, see new plants, animals, unusual birds, fish and insects, mountains and valleys, lakes, rivers and seas. We are shown different countries, cities and towns and people who live there. This is what we can do at home.

If we want to go out, there are a lot of cinemas, theatres, museums and clubs where we can spend our free time. It is often difficult to decide where to go in the evening. Newspapers tell us what is on at cinemas and theatres. If you are a theatre-goer, you will choose a play you want to see. If you are a film fan, you will go to a cinema. Those who are interested in music may go to a concert. Some people like to go to discos, some people prefer to go to see their friends or to go to a restaurant. Old traditions are coming to life. In some places they

build «Huts, on hen's legs», taverns in the old Russian style, where people can meet their friends, have pleasant talks, eat Russian food and listen to Russian music. So you can see how interesting are the ways in which leisure time can be spent.

### **MY USUAL DAY OFF**

People like to relax when they have some spare time. Some of them like to stay at home, others like to go out and enjoy themselves. Many young people are fond of going to the cinema or to the theatre or to dancing clubs. Young people also like to play different kinds of sport. As for me my day off is Sunday. I get up early on Sundays. After breakfast I usually help my mother to wash up the dishes. Then my parents and I go to our summer cottage by car. It takes us an hour to get there. It is so nice to get away from the noise and the traffic and relax in the country. Our cottage is a two-storied building not far from the lake.

When we come to the place we unpack our things. Then we take bicycles and go to the nearest forest. We all like cycling very much. We gather mushrooms and berries in the forest. In two hours we are on our way back to the summer cottage. We have dinner and after it my father does gardening. My father is very proud of the garden and spends much time trying to grow beautiful flowers and vegetables. My mother and I are proud of our summer cottage. We do our best to make it comfortable and cosy. My mother does the work about the house, I usually sweep the floor, dust the furniture and clear the table. My mother washes up and soon everybody is free. We go to the lake to swim and to lie in the sun if the weather is sunny. We usually return home at 8 in the evening. We are a bit tired and that's why we prefer to watch Sunday TV programmes sitting in comfortable armchairs. Sometimes my friends come to see me, and I change my evening programme. We usually go to the dancing club in our school. I am fond of dancing. I come home at 10.30 and go to bed at once. Now I'm really tired.

### **HOBBIES**

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

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

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

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

Many people make things as a hobby. Some teach themselves at home, but a lot of people go to evening classes at their local college. Just look under letter B in a list of London or New York evening classes and you'll find: Ballet, Batik, Bengali, Body building, Bread-making and Byzantium.

But not everyone goes to evening classes to learn about their special interest. No one helped the people below to do what they did.

## **RECREATION AMERICAN STYLE**

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

Americans love to get out of town into the wild, and many go for holidays or long weekends into the thirty-five fabulous national parks. These magnificent areas of countryside include tropical forests, high mountains, dry deserts, long sandy coasts, grassy prairies and wooded mountains full of wild animals. The idea of these parks, which cover 1 % of the whole area of the USA, is to make "a great breathing place for the national lungs", and to keep different parts of the land as they were before man arrived. There are camping places in the national parks as well as museums, boat trips and evening campfire meetings.

Americans really enjoy new "gadgets", especially new ways of travelling. In the winter, the woods are full of "snowmobiles" (cars with skis in the front). In the summer they ride their "dune buggies" across the sands or take to the sky in hang gliders.

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

## **THEATRE IN LONDON**

Most British cities have a theatre, but London has the greatest number. There are over 50 theatres in London's West End, the area in London with most theatres, and about 35 smaller fringe theatres.

In recent years, musicals have been very successful. About 5½ million people, many of them tourists, go to see a musical every year in London.

Going to the theatre in Britain is not only popular, but also expensive. Not many young people can afford to go. It is possible to get cheaper tickets by go-

ing to afternoon performances called matinees or by buying stand-bys, half-price tickets which are sold half an hour before a performance starts.

1. Give two differences between going to the theatre and going to the cinema.

a. How often do you go to the cinema or the theatre?

b. What is your favourite film or play this year? Is it British?

## GOING TO THE CINEMA

Going to the cinema is very popular in Britain, especially with young people, between 15 and 24. They often like to buy popcorn to eat or drink milkshakes while they watch a film.

Many multiplexes, cinema complexes with up to 14 screens showing a wide range of films have been built. These multiplexes have encouraged more people to go to the cinema.

British men and women have different tastes in films. In a survey, most men liked action films which they watched on television or on video. Women preferred films which dealt with human relations between friends or between men and women.

## THE FIRST CINEMA FILMS

One of the first cinema films was made by Edison, but the intervals between his photographic exposures were too short – about forty-eight photographs taken (and shown) to the second. The human eye could not see them so fast and the movements therefore appeared very jerky. This made the eyes tired.

When Edison's machine was brought to France to show films, it was seen there by Auguste and Louis Lumiere. These two brothers soon made a camera and projector that worked at about 16 photographs per second. This reduced the jerkiness very much, and in December 1895 the Lumiere brothers gave the world's first real cinematograph show. Their film was called *The Arrival of a Train at a Station*. The film was so good that some of the audience almost expected the train to rush out at them from the screen.

In 1903 one of Edison's cameramen made a new long picture. It was called "The Life of an American Fireman". People liked it and asked for more; and so more films of this kind were made. More cinemas were built.

These first films had no sound. When it was necessary, printed words were thrown on the screen to explain what was happening or what people were saying. Usually music was played during the showing of a film. If the film was showing moonlight on the sea, the music was gentle and sweet. If there was a fight or a storm, the music was loud and noisy.

*Put the Verbs in brackets in the proper tense.*

### **DAYS OFF**

My days off (to be) Saturday and Sunday. I never (to know) how (to spend) them. On Friday night when I (to go) to bed I think that I (to get up) very early on Saturday and I (to have) enough time to do a lot of things that I (not to do) during the week. I also (to plan) that on Saturday I (to have) a good rest. But Saturday (to come) and all my plans (to change): I usually set my alarm clock for 8 a.m. I (to do) so last Saturday too, but I never (to hear) it, I (to think) it (not to work). When I (to get up) it (to be) about 11. It (to take) me an hour to cook breakfast. After breakfast I (to decide) to go shopping because I looked into the refrigerator and (see) that I (to have) no food for the next week. I (to come) back home only in the evening because Saturday (to be) not the most convenient day for shopping. I (to forget) it. Late in the evening I (to do) washing and cleaning and (to watch) some TV programmes. I (to go) to bed at 1 o'clock. But before I (to fall) asleep I (to make) plans for Sunday. "I (to have) the whole day to myself tomorrow," – I (to think).

*Read and learn by heart the dialogue. Then act it out.*

### **Booking tickets for the concert**

*Cliff:* I'd like two seats for the concert on Saturday evening.

*Agent:* Yes. Where would you like to sit?

*Cliff:* I'm not sure.

*Agent:* Well, here's the seating plan of the concert hall.

*Cliff:* How much is it in the middle?

*Agent:* \$10.

*Cliff:* \$10. That's a little expensive for us. How much is it at the back?

*Agent:* \$5.

*Cliff:* That's fine. What time does the concert start?

*Agent:* At seven, sir.

*Cliff:* OK.

### **HOBBIES**

Tastes differ. Different people like doing different things, different people have different hobbies. I've read that there are 1019 personal interests and ways to spend one's free time. You are lucky if you have a hobby because life becomes more interesting. We choose a hobby according to our character and taste.

Hobbies are divided into four large classes: doing things, making things, collecting things and learning things.

I think the most popular of all hobbies is doing things. It includes a wide variety of activities, everything from gardening to travelling and from chess to volleyball.

Many people go in for sports. It is their hobby. They go jogging, swimming, skating, skiing, train in clubs and different sections.

Gardening is one of the oldest of man's hobbies. It is a well-known fact that the English are very fond of gardening or growing flowers, especially roses.

Playing computer games is a relatively new hobby but it is becoming more and more popular. Both grown-ups and children are fond of it.

I think that it is a very exciting hobby. Certainly it is interesting who the winner will be.

Making things includes drawing, painting, making sculpture, designing costumes, handicrafts, writing music or playing different musical instruments. For example, the former President of the USA plays the saxophone. President Eisenhower and Sir Winston Churchill were amateur painters.

Collecting things is one of the most popular kinds of hobbies. Almost everyone collects something at some period in his life. People usually collect stamps, coins, match-boxes, books, records, postcards, toys, watches. Some collections have no real value. Others become so large and valuable that they are housed in museums and galleries. Many world famous collections started in a small way with one or two items.

Learning things is one of the kinds of hobbies and one of the aspects of all hobbies. Learning things can include reading, learning foreign languages and so on. Learning things can also be by reading about the things a person is interested in. It is the most exciting aspect of a hobby.

## **Vocabulary**

free time – свободное время

to choose (chose, chosen) – выбирать

according – соответственно, согласно

character – характер

taste – вкус

to divide – разделять

to include – содержать в себе, включать

variety – разнообразие

activity – деятельность

gardening – садоводство

jogging – бег

well-known – известный

especially – особенно

relatively – сравнительно

grown-up – взрослый

exciting – волнующий  
certainly – конечно  
sculpture – скульптура  
designing costumes – создание костюмов  
handicraft – ремесло  
saxophone – саксофон  
amateur – любительский  
stamp – марка  
coin – монета  
match-box – спичечная коробка  
record – пластинка  
postcard – почтовая открытка  
watch – часы (карманные, наручные)  
value – ценность  
to house – помещать  
item – пункт, каждый отдельный предмет  
aspect – вид  
foreign language – иностранный язык

*Answer the questions.*

1. Why do we often say that tastes differ?
2. Do you know how many personal interests and ways to spend one's free time people have?
3. Do you have a hobby? What is your hobby?
4. You chose your hobby according to your character and taste, didn't you?
5. Do you know how many classes hobbies are divided into? What are they?
6. In your opinion, what is the most popular of all hobbies?
7. Do you think going in for sports is a very popular hobby?
8. What sports do people usually go in for?
9. Do you go in for sports? What sport is it?
10. What is one of the oldest of man's hobbies?
11. Do you know what the favourite hobby of the English is? What do they like to grow?
12. Playing computer games is becoming more and more popular, isn't it? Why?
13. What do you know about making things? What activities does this hobby include?
14. What famous people do you know who had such hobbies?
15. In your opinion, is collecting things one of the most popular kinds of hobbies?

16. What do people usually collect?
17. Have you ever collected anything? What was it? When did you begin collecting?
18. Which of your family or friends collects things? What do they collect?
19. Do you know a lot about your hobby? Have you ever read about the history of your hobby? Where?
20. What do you think, is learning things one of the aspects of all hobbies? Why?
21. In your opinion, does life become more interesting when you have a hobby? Prove it.

*Read and learn by heart the dialogue. Then act it out.*

*Frank:* What are the most common hobbies of Englishmen, Abby?

*Abby:* Well, it isn't an easy question. Many Britons like sports and games, others enjoy gardening or collecting different things. Some Englishmen prefer making shelves, boxes, stools and so on. Tastes differ.

*Frank:* And what about you? What is your hobby?

*Abby:* My hobby is photography. Wherever I go I always take a camera with me. I enjoy it very much. And you? They say you are a famous collector. What do you collect if it isn't a secret? Tell me about your collection, please.

*Frank:* OK. I collect books published in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Abby:* Oh, it's very interesting! Have you got many books in your collection?

*Frank:* There are almost one hundred of them.

*Abby:* It's great! I wonder if you have managed to read them all.

*Frank:* Not yet. It's the process of collecting itself that interests me.

## UNIT 6

### FLAT. HOUSES IN THE USA AND GREAT BRITAIN

#### *List of words*

building, n	здание	sofa, n	диван
house, n	дом	sofa-bed, n	диван-кровать
private house	частный дом	armchair, n	кресло
block of flats	многоквартирный дом	sideboard, n	сервант
entrance, n	подъезд	bookcase, n	книжный шкаф
balcony, n	балкон	bookshelf, n	книжная полка
lift, n	лифт	piano, n	пианино
floor, n	этаж, пол	tape-recorder, n	магнитофон
convenience, n	удобство	carpet, n	ковер
central heating	отопление	curtain, n	занавеска
electricity, n	электричество	picture, n	картина
gas, n	газ	bed, n	кровать
running water	водопровод	bedside table	тумбочка
telephone, n	телефон	wardrobe, n	плательной шкаф
flat, n	квартира	cupboard, n	посудный шкаф
bedroom, n	спальня	refrigerator, n	холодильник
living (sitting) room	гостиная	stove, n	плита
study, n	кабинет	toilet articles	туалетные принадлежности
kitchen, n	кухня	mirror, n	зеркало
entrance hall	прихожая	hall-stand, n	вешалка
lavatory, n	туалет	convenient, a	удобный
furniture, n	мебель	cosy, a	уютный
TV set, n	телевизор	of modern design	современный
table, n	стол	move (to), v	переезжать
desk, n	парта, стол	live, v	жить
		keep the house clean	содержать дом в чистоте

### OUR HOUSE AND FLAT

I live in a new nine-storeyed block of flats in Pushkin street. Our house is of modern design. There's a big grocery on the ground floor and it's very convenient to do everyday shopping. In front of the house there is a children's playground and a small garden. We like to spend time there.

Our flat is on the third floor. It is very comfortable. We have all modern conveniences, such as central heating, electricity, gas, cold and hot running water and a telephone. There are three rooms in our flat: a living room and two bedrooms. We also have a kitchen, a bathroom, a small entrance hall and two balconies (the second floor hasn't got any).

Our living room is the largest in the flat. It is nicely furnished. Against the wall you can see a nice sideboard. In the corner there is a colour TV set. In the opposite corner there is a sofa and two armchairs. The piano is on the right. There are two pictures above the piano. Near it there is a bookcase. We are fond of books and have plenty of them at home. On the floor we have a nice thick carpet. The curtains on the window match the walls. All this makes the room cosy.

Our bedrooms are also very nice and cosy. The parents' bedroom is larger than the children's. There are two beds, a bedside table, some chairs and a wardrobe in it. There is a lovely carpet on the floor between the beds.

The children's bedroom is just across the corridor on the right. Here you can see two sofa-beds where my sister and I sleep at night and have a rest in the day-time. There is also a writing-table, two chairs and some bookshelves here. We use our bedroom as a study where we do our homework. In the corner of the room there is a small table with a tape-recorder on it. We all enjoy listening to music.

Our kitchen is rather large. There is a gas-stove, four stools, a refrigerator and a cupboard in which we keep cups, plates and all our dishes. The kitchen serves us as a dining-room. But when we receive guests or have our family celebrations we have the meals in the living-room.

The bathroom is near the kitchen. Here we keep our toilet articles, have a bath and a shower.

The entrance hall is small. There is a hall-stand and a mirror on the wall. A telephone is on a special table under the mirror.

We are happy to have such a nice flat and try to keep it clean.

*Exercise 1. Answer the questions.*

1. Where do you live?
2. Do you live in a private house or in a block of flats?
3. Is there a garden in front of your house?
4. What is there next to your house?
5. Is your house far from the metro (bus stop)?
6. What floor is your flat on?
7. What modern conveniences are there in your flat?
8. Is your flat large or small?
9. How many rooms are there in your flat? What are they?
10. Which is the biggest room in your flat?

11. How is your living-room furnished?
12. Do you often get together in your living-room?
13. In what room do you receive guests?
14. Where do you keep your clothes?
15. Where do you keep your books?
16. Where do you usually have meals?
17. Are you happy with your flat?

*Exercise 2. Спросите своего друга:*

- живет ли он в старом или новом доме;
- где находится его дом;
- как можно добраться до его дома;
- какая у него квартира;
- на каком она этаже;
- есть ли у него телефон;
- какой у него телевизор;
- какие программы он чаще всего смотрит по телевизору;
- как обставлена его гостиная (спальня, кабинет).

## **APARTMENT**

- I hear you have moved to a new apartment, Steve. Is it true?
- Yes, it is. One of these days we'll arrange a housewarming party. And I want you and your wife Carol to be present.
- Thank you for the invitation. How do you like your new apartment?
- It is very comfortable. It is a three-bedroom apartment with modern conveniences: electric stove and a lot of built-in cupboards.
- On what floor is it?
- Our apartment is on the tenth floor of a high-rise house. We've got two elevators which work round the clock.
- Is it far from the center of the city?
- Rather. It takes me about an hour to get to the center by bus and by metro. If I drive a car, it takes me thirty minutes.
- I see. Have you bought new furniture?
- We've bought wall units, two armchairs and a new icebox. We are planning to buy two carpets and a dining set.
- Good luck!
- Thanks. Are you going to move to a new apartment?
- No, I am not. We have been living in our two-bedroom apartment for about eight years and we don't want to move anywhere.
- Your apartment is comfortable, isn't it?

- Yes, very. My wife arranged everything very nicely and I like it very much. We don't have much furniture, but we have got everything we need.
- I am glad to hear it. I would like you to put down my new address.
- I am all ears.
- 1010 Second Street S.W. Do you know the place?
- It seems to me I do.

*Exercise 1. Answer the following questions.*

1. What place are you from? Have you a flat or a house? How many rooms are there in your flat? What floor is your flat on? Is it convenient to live on the ground floor? on the top floor? Is there a lift in your house? 2. What modern conveniences are there in your flat? Is there a chute for refuse? Have you got a gas or electric stove? Does it take much time to cook breakfast (to boil the kettle) on a gas stove? What furniture is there in the kitchen? Do you have your meals in the kitchen or in the dining-room? 3. Which is the largest room in your flat? Whose room is it? Is it a drawing-room? What is there in this room? Is there much furniture in this room? What is standing in the centre of the room? Are there any pictures on the walls? What is there on the floor? 4. You have a room of your own, haven't you? Is it warm and light? It is not very large, is it? What pieces of furniture are there in your room? Where do you keep your books? Is there a bookcase or a bookshelf in your room? There is a wardrobe in your room, isn't there? What colour curtains are there on your windows? What colour is the wallpaper in your room? Where do you sleep? Are there any arm-chairs in your room?

*Exercise 2. Answer the following questions using the following word-combinations:*

at the wall, in front of, in the left-(right)-hand corner, to the right of; on the left, to the left of, in the centre of, in the middle of, at the opposite wall, above the table, on the wall, at the window, between the windows, round the table.

1. Where is the dining-room? 2. Where is the wardrobe? 3. Where are the chairs? 4. Where is the TV set? 5. Where is the dressing-table? 6. Where is the sofa? 7. Where is the sideboard? 8. Where are the pictures? 9. Where is the standard-lamp? 10. Where are the arm-chairs? 11. Where is the lamp? 12. Where is the piano? 13. Where are the bookshelves?

*Exercise 3. Disagree with the following statements. Begin your sentence with one of the following:*

I don't think so, I'm afraid you are wrong, on the contrary, it's not so.

1. It is very convenient to live on the ground floor. 2. Now your friends live in the centre of the city. 3. It takes you about forty minutes to get to the In-

stitute. 4. You keep your books on the writing-desk, don't you? 5. Your sister has a two-room flat, hasn't she? 6. They have no telephone at home, have they? 7. There are no modern conveniences in this house. 8. Ann lives on the top floor. 9. A gas-stove is better than an electric one.

## **BRITISH HOMES**

British homes are usually smaller than American homes, but, like Americans, old people, young families and unmarried people do not usually live together.

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

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

Two thirds of the families in Britain own their own homes. Millions of these “owner-occupied” houses are the same, with two or three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, a sitting-room, dining room and kitchen downstairs and a small garden at the back and front of the house. To pay for their house, home owners borrow money from a “building society” and pay back a little every month.

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

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

## **AMERICAN HOMES**

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

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

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

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

Old people often do not live with their grown-up children. Many live in old people's homes. Some live in special towns, built for old people, where there are no young children and the atmosphere is quiet.

Americans are always on the move, and some families change their homes every few years. Every year, 20 % of Americans move house. Mr and Mrs Schultz could start life in an apartment in New York, go on to a white painted wooden home in New England with small windows to keep out the cold in winter, and end their life in a sunny house in California where oranges grow in the garden and big windows give a wonderful view of the swimming pool and the sea.

### **THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME**

About 80 per cent of British people live in houses. Detached houses are usually in expensive suburbs, quite far from the town centre, near to the countryside. Semi-detached houses are often in suburbs, which are nearer to the town centre. Terraced houses and blocks of flats are mostly found in town centres. They can either be very small two-storey houses with one or two bedrooms or large houses with three to five floors and four or five bedrooms.

About 68 per cent of the people in Britain own their houses or flats. Most of the rest live in rented accommodation, including a small number in sheltered accommodation. People in Britain buy houses or flats because there is not enough accommodation for rent and it can be expensive.

### **COUNCIL HOUSING**

Council flats and houses are built and owned by the local council. After the Second World War, a lot of high-rise council flats were constructed. Tower blocks could be 20 storeys high. Some blocks of flats were so badly built that they had to be pulled down only thirty years later.

Modern council housing estates are built differently now. There might be a mixture of two-storey terraced houses, together with a four-storey block of flats. There are play areas for children, and there is often a community centre, where people who live on the estate can meet.

Since the 1980s, council tenants have been able to buy their own homes very cheaply if they have lived in them for over two years. By 1993, 1.5 million council houses had been sold, but only a few thousand new council houses or flats are built every year. This means that it is now very difficult to find cheap housing for rent – a real problem for the poor and unemployed.

## **IN THE GARDEN**

Most British houses have a garden and many British people spend a lot of time in it. Most gardens, even small ones, have flowers and a lawn. If you don't have a garden, it is possible to grow flowers and vegetables on an allotment, which is a piece of land rented from the local council.

## UNIT 7 SHOPPING

department store		scents
consumer goods		lipstick
cloth		powder
ready-made clothes		make up
foot-wear		size
knitted goods		to be all the fashion
socks and stockings		to be in fashion
underwear		to be out of fashion
ring		to pinch
earthen ware		to be a perfect fit
glass ware		to wrap up
skirt		cash-desk
blouse		cheap
to try on		frock
high	} heels	to be a stock size
low		cotton
flat		silk
sandals		wool(len)
jewellery		to fit
bracelet		to become
precious	} stones	to match
semi-precious		to suit
millinery	} department	to go with
hosiery		leather
stationary		suede
haberdashery		to afford
pin		brimless
lace		window-shopping
thread		to cost
button		to decide on
zipper		shrinkproof
needle		waterproof tight ≠ loose
suit-case		a space ship
brief-case		set of records
doll		
shopping bag		

## **SHOPPING IN LONDON**

London has many large department stores, which sell everything: shoes and shirts, paper and perfume, footballs and frying pans. The most expensive department store is Harrods in Knightsbridge. You can buy almost anything in Harrods, and you know you're getting the best. Twice a year, in January and July, Harrods has a "sale". Some things are almost half price, and there are thousands of bargains. But on the first days of the sale the shop is very crowded. Some people stand and wait all night so that they can be first in the shop when it opens.

The smartest and most expensive shops are in Knightsbridge, but more people come to Oxford Street, London's most popular shopping centre. Most of the hundreds of shops sell clothes or shoes. The street is more than a mile long. There are several big department stores in Oxford Street. The best known are Selfridges, John Lewis and Marks and Spencer.

Oxford Street has the most shops, but in some ways King's Road in Chelsea is more fun. This is where fashionable young Londoners buy their clothes in the many small "boutiques". You can buy what you like in the big shops, but the small markets have a lot to offer too. There are several big street markets in London, and many small ones. Some markets open only one day a week. Go to Portobello Road on Saturday, or to Petticoat Lane on Sunday. Covent Garden market is open every day. Come here for antiques, old clothes, hand-made jewellery and many other rather special things.

## **SHOPPING IN NEW YORK**

During the first couple of weeks I didn't buy anything except some groceries. Shopping in a supermarket is easy. You just put the things you want in a basket and bring them to a cashier. He will ring them up on the register, take your money and put the items in a bag. But be careful! The sum may be more than appears on the price tags. This is because there's a sales tax on everything except basic foods.

I didn't have too much money to spend. So I had to plan carefully. You see, I wanted to bring home some presents for my family and friends. I also wanted to buy a VCR (video cassette recorder) and a PC (personal computer) for myself.

People in the office gave me some advice. If I didn't want to spend a lot of money, they said, I should watch newspaper ads for sales. If I got to the store early on a sale day I would have a wider choice. There were different kinds of sales: semi-annual and annual sales, one-day sales, half-price sales, close-out sales, clearance sales, warehouse sales and many others. At first I just watched people shopping. Later I got a few good buys there and a couple of real bargains!

## **MONEY TALKS**

Most American consumers read labels carefully and regularly shop at sales. But there's one exception – credit cards. They say Americans charge 500 billion dollars on their credit cards every year. Rich says two-thirds of these people pay only a portion of their monthly bills. That means they'll have to pay a high interest on the remainder. But people like using credit cards because they don't like waiting to get anything. Plastic money has become an important part of American life-style. So when you want to pay for something, you'll hear the question: "Cash or charge?"

On my daily walking tours of Manhattan I did a lot of window-shopping too. On Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue the prices gave me quite a shock. I once saw a scarf costing over \$1,000. My friends explained to me that money was no object for customers who shopped there. This is where money really talks!

## **FOOD MARKETS**

In some parts of the United States, there are enormous supermarkets with aisles and aisles of different kinds of foods and products. For example, you can find fifteen to twenty different kinds of cheese in the Dairy section. You can find many different brands of toilet tissue in the Paper Products section. The Frozen Food section has everything from cans of frozen apple juice to bags of mixed vegetables, from ice cream to frozen pizza.

Many supermarkets also have a big Health Care Products aisle. The section is like a small drug store. It has different brands of medicines, shampoos, toothpastes, and other health care items. Some supermarkets even sell magazines, books, shoes, underwear, hammers, screwdrivers, and other household products.

The supermarkets offer services, too. You can leave your film there and return the next day to get your photographs. You can use a special card in the "money machines" and take money out of your bank. In some supermarkets, you can rent floor polishers, carpet cleaners, and even movies!

Shoppers in many supermarkets can buy snacks and cold drinks from vending machines. In some places, tired, hungry shoppers can even sit down and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and a doughnut at a supermarket snack bar or coffee shop.

These huge supermarkets with their large variety of goods and services are not the only kind of food markets in the United States. There are smaller grocery stores in many cities. These stores usually carry the same food products as the large supermarkets, but they don't usually have as wide a selection. Grocery stores are often in locations convenient for people who don't drive. Some cities also have specialty stores such as fish markets, butcher shops, and baker-

ies. Years ago, these little shops were very common, but in many places, they are less common today. Supermarkets, with their variety of products and services, are much more popular.

## CLOTHES

These days, most people in Britain and the USA do not wear very formal clothes. But sometimes it is important to wear the right thing.

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

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

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

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

## UNIT 8 MEALS

### *List of words:*

to boil meat (potatoes, cabbage, eggs, water, milk, etc.)	to fry fish (bacon, eggs, potatoes, etc.)
to roast meat (mutton, pork, beef), fowl (chicken, duck, goose, turkey), potatoes	to taste good (bad, delicious, etc.)
to stew fruit (vegetables, meat)	to be done to a turn (overdone, underdone)
crust of bread	crisp toast
to sit at table (having a meal)	to help oneself to smth.
( <i>cf.</i> : to sit at the table writing a letter, etc.)	to pass smth. to smb.
to have (take) smth. for dinner (for the first, second course, or dessert)	to dine in (out)
to butter one's bread (roll, etc.)	it's to my liking
to have a snack (a bite of food)	there's nothing like ice-cream (steak, etc.)
to have another helping of smth.	there's nothing else coming for a change

1. What kinds of food do you know? Give as many nouns denoting food as you can. 2. What meals do you know? 3. What dishes do you know? Give as many names of dishes as you can. 4. What is understood by a "course"? What attributes may qualify this word? 5. What can be boiled? 6. Do we fry meat or do we roast it? 7. What is an omelette made of? 8. What are corn-flakes generally eaten with? 9. What is the difference between fried potatoes and chips? 10. What kind of meal is five o'clock tea in England? Do you know other names for this meal? 11. What kinds of fruit do you know? 12. Do we roast fish? What is the way to cook it? 13. Do you ever have stewed fruit for dessert? 14. Do you usually have *hors-d'oeuvre* before dinner or you do without it? 15. Where do you have your meals on week-days and on Sundays?

1. What is the correct way to sit at table? 2. Should you use your fork or your knife for taking a slice of bread from the bread-plate? 3. How should you get a slice of bread from the plate standing on the far end of the table? 4. What is the correct way of using spoon, fork and knife? 5. How should you cut your meat? 6. What are the dishes for which knife shouldn't be used? 7. What is the way to eat chicken? 8. What is one supposed to do with the stones while eating stewed fruit? 9. What should you do with the spoon after stirring your tea? 10. What should you do if your food is too hot? 11. What should you say to refuse a second helping? 12. What should you say if you like the dish very much? 13. What should you say if you dislike the dish? 14. What shouldn't one do

while eating? 15. Where should one keep the newspaper or the book during a meal, on the table or on one's lap?

### AT THE RESTAURANT

- Well, Martin, we have walked so much this morning that I am very tired and hungry. Aren't you hungry?
- Yes, indeed. Walter, I think our long walk has given us a good appetite.
- I suggest we go to this restaurant. A friend of mine recommended it to me the other day.
- The place looks nice and clean. I am sure we'll enjoy our meal here.
- Let's have chicken soup with rice. Shall we?
- All right, a plate of hot soup will do me good. I feel a little chilly just now.
- Please pass the salt, Martin. Here comes the waiter again. What shall we order next?
- I'll have veal chops with French fried potatoes. I haven't eaten chops for a long time.
- I'll follow suit. What shall we take for dessert?
- It's up to you.
- I suggest black coffee and cognac. That will be all.
- I hope we won't have to wait very long. I have an appointment with my doctor at half past two.
- That reminds me I must call up Dr. Frank, my dentist. One of my teeth has been bothering me lately.
- Look! The waiter is coming with our order. Our veal chops look appetizing. What time is it now, please?
- My watch is a little fast, it is two o'clock.
- I must hurry then. I hate being late for an appointment. Excuse my haste. It was a pleasure to spend so much time with you.
- The pleasure is all mine. May I call to see you at your home next Sunday afternoon?
- Certainly, my family will be glad to see you.
- See you on Sunday.
- It is a deal.

*Translate into Russian.*

1. What can I do for you? 2. Breakfast for two, please. 3. What would you like for breakfast? 4. Here is the menu. Make your choice, please. 5. Today we've got a big choice of milk products and dishes. 6. Would you like ice-cream or whipped cream? 7. Strawberry jam is delicious. 8. I'd rather have curd pan-

cakes and a meat patty. 9. How much do I pay? – Five roubles. 10. I don't like boiled milk. 11. Will you bring us something substantial to your taste? 12. I'm very much in a hurry. 13. I'll serve you in no time. 14. Would you like cranberry jam? – With great pleasure. 15. Can I have an open curd tart for tea? 16. What's the bill? 17. Here you are. Keep the change.

## **MEALS IN BRITAIN**

A traditional English breakfast is a very big meal – sausages, bacon, eggs, tomatoes, mushrooms... But nowadays many people just have cereal, with milk and sugar, or toast with marmalade, jam, or honey. Marmalade and jam are not the same. Marmalade is made from oranges and jam is made from other fruit. The traditional breakfast drink is tea, which people have with cold milk. Some people have coffee, often instant coffee, which is made with just hot water. Many visitors to Britain find this coffee disgusting.

For many people lunch is a quick meal. In cities there are a lot of sandwich bars, where office workers can choose the kind of bread they want, and then all sorts of salad and meat or fish to go in the sandwich.

Pubs often serve good, cheap food, both hot and cold. Schoolchildren can have a hot meal at school, but many just take a snack from home – a sandwich, a drink, some fruit, and perhaps some crisps.

“Tea” means two things. It is a drink and a meal. Some people have afternoon tea, with sandwiches, cakes, and, of course, a cup of tea. Cream teas are popular. You have scone with cream and jam.

The evening meal is the main meal of the day for many people. They usually have it quite early, between 6.00 and 8.00, and often the whole family eats together.

On Sundays many families have a traditional lunch. They have roast meat, either beef, lamb, chicken, or pork with potatoes, vegetables, and gravy. Gravy is a sauce made from the meat juices.

The British like food from other countries, too, especially Italian, French, Chinese, and Indian. People often get takeaway meals – you buy the food at the restaurant and then bring it home to eat. Eating in Britain is quite international.

## **ENGLISH PUBS**

The cafes in England sell only coffee, tea and soft drinks. You go to a cafe for a meal or for a quick cup of tea, but not to sit and watch the world go by. When you want to relax after a day's work, you go to the local pub.

Everybody goes there, except children, who are not allowed in. The pub is often the only place where men may meet each other after work. It is very surprising but even in large cities each pub has its own “regulars” (regular customers) who go there every night; to drink one or two pints slowly, and to have a game of domi-

noes or to play darts. And although they see each other almost every night for years, the regulars who meet there will never go into each other's homes.

## **FAST FOOD**

Fast Food restaurant isn't like an ordinary restaurant. There aren't any waiters. You order your food at the counter and pay for it at the same time. You get your food in a bag or a box. There are no plates. There aren't any knives, forks or spoons. You eat with your fingers. Drinks are all in paper or plastic cups. There are no saucers. You eat your meal. Then you throw all the bags, boxes and cups away.

## **SANDWICH**

The Earl of Sandwich lived in the XVIII century. He liked playing cards for money. He often played day and night. Once he played for 24 hours running. Servants brought him food – some meat and some bread. The Earl didn't want to stop playing while he ate. He put some meat between two pieces of bread. In this way he could play without stopping for eating. From the name of this man the word SANDWICH came into being.

## **ENGLISH BREAKFASTS**

In real English breakfast you have fried eggs, bacon, sausage, tomatoes and mushrooms. Then there's toast and marmalade. There's an interesting story about the word Marmalade. It may come from the French "Marie est malade" or "Mary is ill". That is because at 17<sup>th</sup> century Queen of Scotland, Mary Queen of Scots, liked it. She always asked for French orange jam when she was ill.

## **A CHEAP MEAL**

One hot summer day a very poor man was walking along a street in the outskirts of New York. He was very hungry and thirsty. But he had no money to buy something to eat.

He turned round the corner and saw a small pub on the ground floor. He was afraid to enter the pub as he had no money. He was about to pass it but the smell coming from the pub was so good and the man was so hungry that he couldn't but enter the pub. He went in and sat down at a small table in the corner.

When the waiter came up to his table, the man wondered what a good beefsteak might cost. The waiter told him the price of a beefsteak. The poor man wondered if they served gravy and bread with steak. The answer was affirmative. The man thought a little and asked a third question wondering how much

the gravy and bread would cost. The waiter was very much surprised. He realized that the man was an unusual customer. He explained to him that they did not charge anything for the gravy and bread.

Judging by the expression of the man's face, he was fully satisfied with the waiter's answer. He raised his eyes, smiled and said very politely: "Bring me some bread and gravy. I don't want any beefsteak."

*Find the following word combinations in the text:*

на окраине Нью-Йорка; купить что-нибудь поесть; на первом этаже; боялся пойти в закусочную; не мог не войти; сел за столик; когда подошел официант; цена бифштекса; подливка и хлеб; задал еще один вопрос; необычный посетитель; объяснил ему; не взимали плату за...

*Answer the questions:*

1. What was the weather like that day?
2. Where was the poor man walking?
3. Why was he afraid to enter the pub?
4. Where did he sit?
5. What did he ask the waiter?
6. Why did the waiter think the man was an unusual customer?
7. What was the second question?
8. Why didn't the man want a beefsteak?

## **RUSSIAN CUISINE**

Russian cuisine is rich and varied. In Russia there is a large variety of milk products: a sort of dry cream cheese called "tvorog", thick sour cream and several types of sour milk products. There is a big choice of appetizers, soups, hot and dessert dishes. You can recommend your guest caviare, salmon, hot and cold smoked sturgeon, pike-perch in aspic or stuffed, herring, sprats, smoked, fried, marinated fish and the like.

As for cold meat dishes one can taste ham, cold boiled pork with spices, jellied tongue and various salads. For a change you can taste delicious Russian pancakes (blini) with caviare and mushrooms and thick sour cream.

How about soups? There are plenty of them. Fresh cabbage shchee, borshch, kidney and cucumber soup (rassolnik), and soup in season – okroshka.

For the main course you can order fish and meat dishes to your taste: fried pike-perch or carp in thick sour cream sauce, beef-Stroganoff and mashed potatoes, stuffed cabbage-rolls (golubtsy), Siberian pelmeni, etc.

A few words about buckwheat "kasha" which may be eaten with meat like potatoes as well as a cereal with butter or milk. It is very popular in Russia.

Russian cuisine is famous for its Russian pies which were baked in Russia in good old times and remain popular nowadays. They are: kulebiaka (a pie with meat or cabbage filling), rastegay (a pie with fish filling), open curd tarts (vatrushki), honey-cakes, sooshki, Russian Easter cakes and various fancy-cakes.

## THE RESTAURANT AND FOOD

The local point of a hotel is its restaurant. You may want to invite an old friend to dine with you, or to celebrate a very special occasion. And after a day's work or looking around, what better way to relax than in a restaurant which really cares about you and what you want to eat.

We are always pleased to discuss our menu. Perhaps best end of English lamb will be your choice, or fillets of baby turbot poached in champagne. There's always a Scandinavian dish and one from the nouvelle cuisine française.

As well as gourmet meals, you'll find the Dormy has all the other characteristics you would expect of a good restaurant, including first-class friendly service. Several rooms of the original farmhouse have been combined to create a restaurant which, instead of being large and impersonal, can comfortably accommodate 60 diners in an intimate, candlelit setting.

Dining at the Dormy is a very special experience. Whether you're taking breakfast as the sun rises over the Cotswolds or dining at the end of the day you'll get as much pleasure from the food as our chefs do in preparing it for you. And with a balanced menu that changes every month there are always new and intriguing dishes to try.

### *Read and translate the text*

In the U.S., meals are usually served at the following times:

*Breakfast:* between 6:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

*Lunch:* between 11:30 and 2:00 p.m.

*Dinner:* between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

At breakfast coffee shops are popular, reasonably priced restaurants are popular for breakfast, lunch, dinner and just a snack.

Lunch is usually served between noon and 2:00 p.m. Sandwiches are very popular for quick lunch in both the U.S. and Canada.

Fast food restaurants are popular in the United States for quick, inexpensive meals or snacks. You order your food and take it to a table yourself. If you order your food "to go", you take it out of the restaurant. Tipping is not necessary in this kind of restaurant.

Dinner time varies somewhat in the U.S. In small towns it may be as early as 5:00 p.m., while in large cities it may be as late as 9:00 p.m. It's best to call for a reservation in expensive or well-known restaurants.

Dinner is often the most substantial meal of the day, it usually includes a main course of meat, poultry or fish, accompanied by side dishes such as soup, salad and vegetables. Lunch in the U.S. tends to be a lighter meal (often a sandwich, yoghurt or a light entree). Breakfast meals can vary from cereal and milk to eggs and pancakes or French toast. Brunch, a common Sunday meal served between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., is really a combination of traditional “breakfast” and “lunch” dishes.

Cocktail parties are popular for both business and social functions. They may be casual or formal and are often held between 6:00 and 8:00 in the evening. Drinks and hors d’œuvres or snacks are usually served.

### **THE BROWNS GIVE A DINNER PARTY**

This evening the Browns have invited some friends to dinner. It is just a small dinner-party for four of their friends: Mr and Mrs Carter and Mr and Mrs Macdonald.

The guests arrive at about half past seven and are shown into the sitting-room where Mr Brown pours drinks for them. Sherry is the most popular wine in England; men usually prefer dry sherry, but women prefer sweet. At eight o’clock Mrs Brown says dinner is ready, and they move into the dining-room.

Mary Brown does all the cooking in her house. She is always a little worried in case something goes wrong, but this evening everything goes well and the guests make many kind remarks about her cooking.

There are four courses: soup, fish, meat and a sweet which is pudding today. Cheese and biscuits and coffee will be served after the sweet.

The conversation at table is lively and interesting. Mrs Brown will not let the men talk about trade and politics all the time; when she thinks anyone is getting tired, she changes the subject. She is very good at getting people to talk in an interesting way, and there is always plenty of laughter at her dinner-table. Mr Brown often wonders how his wife can manage to make sure that all her guests enjoy themselves, and at the same time the dinner is well served.

But then, he has known for a long time that his wife is a very clever woman!

When dinner is over they go to the sitting-room. For a while the ladies sit and talk while the men stand about smoking their cigars and talking business. Presently Mr Brown brings out some of his new records he thinks his guests will like to hear.

At about eleven o’clock the Macdonalds decide they must go as they have to get back to London. The Carters offer to run them to the station in their car. So all the guests leave together. Mr and Mrs Brown see them off at the garden gate. The guests thank their hosts for a pleasant evening and drive off.

*Learn the poem by heart.*

Here is a poem for you to enjoy.  
There are days when everything goes wrong.

The bread was stale:  
It was three days old.  
The milk was sour,  
The coffee was cold,  
The butter was rancid,  
The steak was tough,  
The service was dreadful,  
The waiter was rough.  
My bill was huge,  
His tip was small.  
I'm sorry I went to that place at all.

## UNIT 9

### TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE USA

Each society has its own beliefs, attitudes, customs, behaviors, and social habits. These give people a sense of who they are, how they should behave, and what they should or should not do. These “rules” reflect the “culture” of a country.

People become conscious of such rules when they meet people from different cultures. For example, in some cultures, being on time can mean turning up several hours late for an appointment, even for a business meeting; in others, 3 p.m. means 3 p.m. Also, the rules about when to eat vary from culture to culture. Many North Americans and Europeans are used to having three mealtimes a day and organize their timetable around them. In some countries, on the other hand, people often do not have strict rules like this – people eat when they want to, and every family has its own timetable.

When people visit or live in a country for the first time, they are often surprised at the differences that exist between their own cultures and the culture in the other country. The most common way of comparing two cultures is in terms of their differences – not their similarities. For some people, travelling abroad is an exciting experience; for others though, cultural differences make them feel uncomfortable, frightened, or even insecure. This is known as “culture shock.” Here are several things to do in order to avoid culture shock.

Learning how to adapt to a new culture

1. Avoid quick judgements; try to understand people in another culture from their own point of view.
2. Become more aware of what is going on around you, and why.
3. Don't think of your cultural habits as “right” and other people's as “wrong”.
4. Be willing to try new things and to have new experiences.
5. Try to appreciate and understand other people's values.
6. Think about your own culture and how it influences your attitudes and actions.
7. Avoid having negative stereotypes about foreigners and their cultures.
8. Show respect, sincerity, interest, acceptance, and concern for things that are important to other people.

Understanding and appreciating cultural differences can help people avoid misunderstandings, develop friendships more easily, and feel more comfortable when traveling or living abroad.

*1. Use your own words to write definitions for the following:  
culture; culture shock.*

2. Circle the two pieces of advice from the list above that you think are the most important for avoiding culture shock.

3. Write two differences between your own culture and another one.

## BRITISH CUSTOMS

### Project 1

What is normal? Something which you think is normal, someone from another country may think is quite extraordinary. Here are some customs from different countries including Britain. Mark what is normal in your country and compare it with Britain.

	Usual in Britain	Usual in your country
Take your shoes off as soon as you enter someone's home	<i>No</i>	
Shake hands the first time you meet someone	<i>Yes</i>	
Shake hands when you meet a friend you last saw yesterday	<i>No</i>	
Kiss when you meet a friend you last met six months ago	<i>No</i>	
Kiss people on one cheek	<i>Yes</i>	
Kiss people on both cheeks	<i>No</i>	
Queue in a line if you are waiting for a bus or ticket	<i>Yes</i>	
Hold the door open for a woman if you are a man	<i>Yes</i>	
Touch someone several times during a conversation	<i>No</i>	

Are there any other British customs which are different from your own?

### Project 2

	Usual in Britain	Usual in your country
Take a present if you are invited to visit someone for dinner	<i>Yes</i>	
Remove the paper from a bunch of flowers before you give them to someone	<i>No</i>	
Give flowers to a man	<i>No</i>	

Take a present of a bottle of wine for someone you do not know well	<i>Yes</i>	
Say thank you when you leave the table after a friend has given you a meal	<i>Yes</i>	
Write to say thank you when you get home after you have stayed with someone	<i>Yes</i>	
Arrive early for a party	<i>No</i>	
Arrive at exactly the time you were invited	<i>Yes</i>	
Arrive at a party one hour later than the time you were invited	<i>No</i>	

Which British customs would you most like to change?

### TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

Every nation and every country 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. Foreigners coming to England are struck at once by quite a number of customs and peculiarities in English life. Some ceremonies are rather formal, such as the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Colour\*, the State opening of Parliament. Sometimes you will see a group of cavalymen riding on black horses through the streets of London. They wear red uniforms, shining helmets, long black boots and long white gloves. These men are Life Guards. Their special duty is to guard the King or the Queen of Great Britain and very important guests of the country.

To this day an English family prefers a house with a fireplace and a garden to a flat in a modern house with central heating. Most English love gardens. Sometimes the garden in front of the house is a little square covered with cement painted green in imitation of grass and a box of flowers. They love flowers very much.

The English people like animals very much, too. Pet dogs, cats, horses, ducks, chickens, canaries and other friends of man have a much better life in Britain than anywhere else. In Britain they have special dog shops selling food, clothes and other things for dogs. In recent years the English began to show love for more “exotic” animals such as crocodiles, elephants, tigers, cobras, camels.

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\* Trooping the Colour – вынос знамени в день рождения королевы.

Holidays are especially rich in old traditions and are different in Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England. Christmas is a great English national holiday and in Scotland it is not observed at all. But six days later, on New Year's Eve the Scots begin to enjoy themselves. All the shops and factories are closed on New Year's Day. People invite their friends to their houses. Greetings and presents are offered.

A new tradition has been born in Britain. Every year a large number of ancient motorcars drive from London to Brighton. Some of these veteran cars look very funny. This run from London to Brighton is a colourful demonstration. People are dressed in the clothes of those times. It is not a race, and most of the cars come to Brighton, which is sixty miles from London, only in the evening.

### Notes:

Give me a treat. – Угостите меня.

This tradition dates back to early history. – Эта традиция уходит далеко в историю (начинается очень давно).

Hallowe'en – канун Дня всех святых (31 октября)

Eisteddfod – состязание бардов (фестиваль валлийских певцов, музыкантов и поэтов), конкурс непрофессиональных поэтов

### Dialogues

1. A. I quite like Britain. How about you?  
B. Well, it's OK. But the British!  
A. What do you mean? What do you think of the British?  
B. I think they are crazy\*.  
C. Yes, I think so, too.  
D. Really? I don't. They're very reserved\*\*, but they aren't crazy.  
A. What about the beer? What do you think of British beer?  
B. I don't think it's very good.  
C. I don't think so either.  
D. Really? I do. And I think British pubs are great!  
C. Why's that?  
D. Well, because the atmosphere is so good.  
A. Yes, they are comfortable and friendly.
2. – Shall we stop for a minute and have a drink at this pub?  
– All right. Why do you call them "pubs"?  
– Oh, "pub" is short for "public house" – a place where anybody can buy a drink. Have you ever had cider?

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\* crazy – безумный, сумасшедший.

\*\* reserved – сдержанный, скрытный.

- I don't think so. What is it?
  - It's an apple drink. It's really a west-country drink. If you go down to Devon or Somerset, be careful. The cider there can be very strong.
- 3.
- What is Christmas to the British?
  - Christmas means peace, goodwill, family reunion, Christmas presents – and all that kind of thing.
  - Christmas time is a season of good cheer, isn't it?
  - A good cheer? That means, does it not, a lot of eating and drinking?
  - And what's the harm?\* We do like the old ways, the old traditional festivities.
  - The British! They are so sentimental!
- 4.
- What holidays are the most popular in Great Britain?
  - I think Christmas and Easter. But it depends upon the part of the country, age group, and so on. Most of the holidays are of religious origin, such as Christmas, Easter, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Pancake Day. But there are some national holidays which are not connected with religion.
  - What are they?
  - Burns Night in Scotland, for example. This holiday is dedicated to the memory of the great Scottish poet Robert Burns.
- 5.
- Do British holidays differ much from American ones?
  - I don't think so but of course along with the similar religious holidays there are some which are not celebrated in both countries.
  - Can you give me an example of any American holiday which is not celebrated in Great Britain?
  - Sure. Thanksgiving Day\*\* which is celebrated in November, Columbus Day, in October, Independence Day, July 4 are national American holidays which are not celebrated in the UK.
- 6.
- Do you know any holidays which are popular with children?
  - I believe, Christmas with its Christmas tree and presents, perhaps, and Hallowe'en are especially popular.
  - When is Hallowe'en celebrated?
  - On the last night in October.
  - How is it celebrated?
  - The children cut holes in a pumpkin\*\*\* to imitate a nose, mouth and eyes and put a lighted candle inside.

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\* And what's the harm? – А какой от этого вред?

\*\* Thanksgiving Day – День Благодарения.

\*\*\* The children cut holes in a pumpkin. – Дети вырезают отверстия в тыкве.

- And what do they do with them then?
  - Then the children put the pumpkin on the porch of their house. And after that they take a big empty bag and walk around every house and knock at the door.
  - And so what?
  - Then they ask a traditional question: “Trick or treat?”
  - What does it mean?
  - It means “Give me a treat – an apple, a sweet, some candies or I’ll play a trick on you.”
- 7.
- Have you ever attended Eisteddfod?
  - No, I haven’t. What is it?
  - It’s the most exciting Welsh traditional festival devoted to music and poetry.
  - When is it held?
  - Annually early in August.
  - Is it an old custom to hold this festival?
  - Oh, yes. This tradition dates back to early history, and there are records of competitions for Welsh poets and musicians in the 12th century.
  - When did you attend it last?
  - This year when my uncle invited me to stay at his house in Caernarvon. We got up early in the morning and went to a large grassy field just outside the town.
  - Were there many people there?
  - Oh, yes! The streets were full of people and in the field there was a large crowd round a circle of big stones with an “altar stone” in the middle.
  - What is this altar stone used for?
  - The Chief Druid stepped on the altar stone and made a long speech in Welsh. I didn’t understand a word of it but the audience loved it.
  - Were there any songs or poems performed?
  - Yes, there were. A great number of songs and poems. And at the end of the festival there was a very interesting ceremony of awarding the bard of the year.
  - You mean the winner of the competition?
  - Yes. He was awarded the prize. It was the Crown, specially made for the occasion.
  - I think I should go there next year. I like ancient traditions, besides I’ve never been to Wales.
- 8.
- What is your favourite holiday?
  - Mothers’ Day.

- Why?
- Because on this day I'm rewarded for all my work looking after the house and family during the rest of the year.
- Are you given presents on this day?
- Of course, I am. My husband and my children usually give me a card with fine words about how much I have done for them and how much they love me. And my husband brings me a big bunch of flowers from our garden... And traditionally they bring me breakfast in bed. It's really splendid. On this day I'm the central figure in the family and I really feel the queen of the day!
- And do they take you out somewhere?
- Sometimes we go to a restaurant to have lunch.
- It's a good idea to have a special holiday for mothers. But is there Fathers' Day?
- Yes, there is. But it is less widely celebrated than Mothers' Day. Perhaps this is because fathers are not loved so much as mothers!

## AMERICAN CUSTOMS

Americans are very punctual. It is important to be on time at business, social and public events. If you must miss an appointment for any reason, telephone ahead to the person you were supposed to meet, saying that you won't be able to come.

When you are invited to a home where food will be served, it is best to let your host or hostess know in advance if you are on a diet. It is all right, however, to say, "No, thank you", if you would rather not eat or drink what is being served. No further explanation is needed, but if you would like to explain, people are interested.

In some homes the atmosphere is quite formal. In others, it is informal and you may sit at the kitchen table to eat dinner. Informality is a way of taking you into the warmth of the family circle.

It is not always customary to sit at dinner table as we do in Russia. When you are at a party you may be walking from one sitting room to another, talking to the guests with a glass of wine in your hand. Food is served in one of the rooms and you can help yourself to whatever you like and whenever you like.

The Americans may have a party on one occasion in several houses at a time. The party starts in one house where they have some light wine and snacks, and then move on to another house and still another, travelling from house to house, taking drinks and food with them; and previous arrangements are made\*

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\* previous arrangements are made – заранее договариваются.

about what food each family cooks. Normally three or four houses are involved\*\*. Such a party is called progressive dinner.

Generally Americans tend to be fairly informal. They often (but not always) address each other by their given names on first meetings. They also tend to abbreviate a lot. For example, Mass. Ave. means Massachusetts Avenue. Do not be surprised and ask what these abbreviations mean.

New Year's Day has traditionally been the occasion for starting new programmes and giving up bad habits. People talk about "turning over a new leaf." Many Americans make New Year's resolutions, promising themselves and their families to improve their behaviour. Typical New Year's resolutions are to spend less money, give up smoking, begin a diet, or control one's temper. To Americans the closing of one calendar year and the opening of another is a serious, yet happy occasion.

### **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE USA**

- I say, Maggie, could you tell us what are the main public holidays in the USA?
- January 1 should be mentioned. It is New Year's Day. All banks, stores, factories and schools are closed. People see the old year out and the New Year in. They go to bed after midnight. New Year's Day is celebrated throughout the country.
- I hear that Decoration Day is marked on the last Monday of May, What is it dedicated to?
- Decoration Day is sometimes called Memorial Day. It is dedicated to those who fell in the War of Independence, in World War I and World War II.
- I see. The greatest holiday is July 4, isn't it?
- Yes, it is. The Declaration of Independence was proclaimed in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776 when the American colonies were fighting for independence against England. July 4 has become the greatest holiday since.
- What do the Americans mark on November 11?
- November 11 is Veterans' Day. All Americans who died in the anti-fascist struggle are honored.
- It is so difficult for me to remember when Thanksgiving Day is celebrated.
- That is a great holiday. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It has been celebrated since the autumn of 1621, that was the first harvest festival in America.

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\*\* Normally three or four houses are involved. – Обычно принимают участие две или три семьи.

- You want to say that the Pilgrim Fathers celebrated the first harvest festival in America.
- That’s exactly what I mean to say.
- Don’t you think that Christmas is a great holiday?
- Christmas is a religious holiday. It is always celebrated on December 25. Schools and colleges are closed between Christmas and New Year’s Day. It is customary to stay at home and spend time with one’s families.
- What can you say about Halloween?
- It is celebrated on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. It is the eve of All Saints’ Day.
- Thank you for the information.

### **WHEN IN ROME, DO AS THE ROMANS DO**

During my long flight to London I tried to sort out my impressions of America. Some things seemed unusual to me, at least at first.

They say the United States is a “melting pot” of people from different countries. I found this was especially true of New York with its many ethnic neighborhoods. With so many immigrants or children of immigrants nobody minds your foreign accent. Of course, I tried my best to look and talk like an American. After a week I could understand almost everybody. But I could never understand the slang of American blacks. By the way, some blacks prefer to be called African Americans.

I was struck by the friendliness of people in the street. Complete strangers smiled at me and even said “Hello” or “How are you?”. They also say “please” and “thank you” much more often than we do at home.

On the other hand, I was surprised by the distance people try to keep from each other in public. People waiting in lines (in a bank or at a bus stop) stand about two feet apart from one another. They feel they have a right to privacy and personal space.

Most Americans like to be informal in habits, speech and dress. Sometimes too informal, I thought at first. Like people putting their feet up on tables. Or people addressing each other by their first names in almost any situation, formal or informal.

Another big surprise was how few people smoked or drank. And all this in spite of the attractive magazine ads for cigarettes and TV commercials for wine and beer. Yes, health is definitely fashionable in America now. I had always wanted to give up smoking. I finally managed to do it there. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

One last thing. I had heard many stories about crime in New York. I also read about muggings in the local papers. But I never had any trouble myself. Maybe it was because I followed Richard’s advice. He told me to avoid certain areas of the city after dark. I was to avoid others altogether.

## UNIT 10

### EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE USA

#### LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Foreign languages are absolutely necessary for us nowadays because of our growing international contacts with all the countries of the world.

There are many reasons why we begin study of a foreign language. One of them is to be able to communicate with other people who use this language. We may be planning to travel in one or two countries where the language is spoken. If we know the language of a foreign country, we can talk to its people and understand what they are saying to us. If we are working in any branch of science we naturally wish to read scientific books and magazines in other languages. Making business nowadays also means knowing foreign languages because of the growing international business contacts. Knowing foreign languages helps people of different countries to develop mutual friendship and understanding. We can also make our intellectual and cultural horizons wider through contacts with people of another culture. It is also very interesting to read foreign literature in the original. We can also read foreign newspapers and magazines and understand films in foreign languages without any help.

Learning foreign languages is compulsory in all the secondary and higher schools in our country. English is a very popular language. People use it in many parts of the world and there is a lot of business correspondence and literature in English.

I think, it is very important to know at least one foreign language – English, German, French, Spanish or any other one.

#### **Vocabulary**

necessary – необходимый  
nowadays – в наши дни  
to be able – быть в состоянии, уметь  
to communicate – общаться  
branch of science – отрасль науки  
mutual – взаимный  
horizon – горизонт  
wider – шире  
through – через  
in the original – в оригинале  
compulsory – обязательный  
secondary school – средняя школа  
higher school – высшая школа  
correspondence – корреспонденция, переписка  
at least – по крайней мере

## EDUCATION

There is a National Curriculum for all pupils in England and Wales. It consists of 10 subjects: English, mathematics, science, history, geography, technology, music, art, physical education and a modern foreign language. The first three are called “core” subjects and schools are expected to spend more time on them. Pupils are assessed in the core subjects at the ages of 7, 11 and 14. Examinations in all subjects are taken at 16. Similar curricula are taught in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Most secondary schools teach French, and some also offer Spanish, German, Italian and Russian.

Although compulsory schooling is from age 4 or 5 to 16, many children attend nursery schools from the age of 3 or 4. About 66 % of 16-year-olds choose to stay on at school for another one or two years to obtain higher qualifications. State education is free and about 93 % of Britain’s 9 million children attend state schools. Some 20 % of all young people go to a university or other college of higher education. This means that at the moment there are around one million students in higher education; 25 % more than in 1980. There are now 83 universities.

*Read the following text; answer the questions; speak about the main secondary school exams in England.*

Pupils at secondary school in England (that is, pupils between the ages of twelve and eighteen) have two main exams to worry about, both called G. C. E. (General Certificate of Education).

They take the first one when they are about fifteen. It’s called “O” (ordinary) level. There is an exam which you can take instead of “O” level: it’s called the C. S. E. (Certificate of Secondary Education), and it’s not as difficult as “O” level.

Most people take “O” level in about seven or eight different subjects. There are lots of subjects to choose from – everything from carpentry to ancient languages.

For a lot of jobs, such as nursing, you must have four or five “O” levels, and usually these must include English and Maths.

You may leave school when you are fifteen. But if you stay at school after taking “O” level, you go into the sixth form, and start working for the second main exam: “A” (advanced) level.

Most people take “A” level when they are about eighteen. It is quite a difficult exam, so people don’t usually take it in more than 3 subjects – and some only take one or two subjects.

Three “A” levels are enough to get you into most universities. For others, such as Oxford and Cambridge, you have to take special exams as well.

1. At what age do pupils start secondary school in England? 2. How many exams are there to worry about? What are they called? 4. When do they take the first exam? 5. What is it called? 6. How many subjects do most people take “O” levels in? Why do they do it? 7. In what case do pupils stay at school after taking “O” level? 8. Does one always have to take entrance exams at a British university?

### **SOME ASPECTS OF BRITISH UNIVERSITY LIFE**

Of the full-time students now attending English Universities three quarters are men, and one quarter women. Nearly half of them are engaged in the study of arts subjects such as history, languages, economics or law, the others are studying pure or applied sciences such as medicine, dentistry, technology, or agriculture.

The University of London, for instance, includes internal and external students, the latter coming to London only to sit for their examinations. Actually most external students at London University are living in London. The colleges in the University of London are essentially teaching institutions, providing instruction chiefly by means of lectures, which are attended mainly by day students. The colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, however, are essentially residential institutions and they mainly use a tutorial method which brings the tutor into close and personal contact with the student. These colleges, being residential, are necessarily far smaller than most of the colleges of the University of London.

Education of University standard is also given in other institutions such as colleges of technology and agricultural colleges, which prepare their students for degrees or diplomas in their own fields.

The three terms into which the British University year is divided are roughly eight to ten weeks. Each term is crowded with activity, and the vacations between the terms – a month at Christmas, a month at Easter, and three or four months in summer – are mainly periods of intellectual digestion and private study.

A person studying for a degree at a British University is called a graduate.

B. A. or B. Sc. stands for Bachelor of Arts, or of Science, the first degree. M. A. or M. Sc. denotes Master of Arts, or of Science. One can become a B.A. after three years of hard study, and an M.A. at the end of five years.

### **References**

the University of London – Лондонский университет (основан в 1836 году, один из старейших университетов Великобритании; состоит из более 30 независимых колледжей и институтов; до 1900 года в него не произво-

дился набор студентов; функцией университета было присуждение степеней студентам других университетов, не обладавших таким правом)

B. A., B. Sc. – бакалавр искусств, бакалавр наук (ученые степени, присуждаемые большинству студентов по завершении полного курса обучения по, соответственно, гуманитарным наукам и искусствам или естественным наукам; в университетах Оксбриджа и в ряде вновь открытых университетов данные степени присуждаются по завершении части курса обучения)

M. A., M. Sc. – магистр искусств, магистр наук (ученые степени, присуждаемые в университетах Оксбриджа по завершении полного курса обучения по, соответственно, гуманитарным наукам и искусствам и естественным наукам; в других университетах Великобритании – высшие ученые степени, которые может получить выпускник данного университета)

## THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

In the early nineteenth century Oxford and Cambridge were the only two universities in England. The cost of education at these universities was so high that only the sons of the wealthier classes could afford to attend. But more restrictive still were the religious tests; only Church of England members could attend. In 1827, in Gower Street, London “University College” was founded. Its first years were years of struggle for survival against hostile forces of Church and State.

The long Victorian period saw many and rapid changes in the University. Medical schools of the various teaching hospitals, Bedford College for women, Imperial College of Science and Technology, and many other schools and colleges became a part of the federal university. The famed London School of Economics was a new-comer in 1895. Today, the University of London is a federation of colleges, each largely independent.

There is a large department of Extra-Mural Studies, four faculties of Theology, thirty-one of Medicine, ten of Science, etc. At present there are ten “Institutes” of which the Institute of Education is one of the biggest. Total London enrolments in 1971–72 were about 38,000 full-time students, about 35,100 part-time.

The Institute of Education itself is a complex organization. All teachers’ training colleges in the London area – and there are many – are parts of this Institute. Most of the English students here take a post-graduate course to fit themselves for secondary schools.

Next door to the Institute of Education is a plain brick building, dull of exterior and in the daytime almost lifeless. It is Birkbeck College, one of the most interesting. At dusk it springs to life as its 1,300 students and professors arrive. Birkbeck is a college accepting for undergraduate work “only part-time students who earn their living during the day”.

Standing near Birkbeck, one sees across the street the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, downstreet the sprawling mass of the British Museum, upstreet the ultramodern and still unfinished Student Union Building six stories.

Besides this, University buildings and hostels are scattered about the length and breadth of London.

With the University of London are associated such names as L. Alex Fleming, a famous bacteriologist, A.E. Housman, a philologist and a poet, Thomas Huxley, a biologist, A.N. Whitehead, a mathematician, Michael Faraday, a physicist, J.B.C. Haldane, a biologist, and others.

In many ways the University has departed from the traditions of Oxford and Cambridge. London was the first to abolish religious tests, to admit women in England for degrees, to grant degree without residence.

1. What restrictions were there for attending Oxford and Cambridge Universities? 2. In what year was "University College" in London founded? 3. Is the University of London a federation of independent colleges now? 4. What can you say about extra-mural studies at the University of London? 5. What do you know about the Institute of Education? 6. Are the buildings and hostels of the University of London scattered all over the city? 7. What famous names associated with the University of London do you know?

## **UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

Most big towns in Britain have both a university and a college of higher education. There are 91 universities in Britain and 47 colleges of higher education. Universities offer three- and four-year degree courses; colleges of higher education offer both two-year HND (Higher National Diploma) courses, as well as degree courses.

A degree is a qualification you get from university when you pass your final exams. You are then awarded a BA (Bachelor of Arts), BSc (Bachelor of Science) or BEd (Bachelor of Education).

Undergraduates – students who are studying for degrees – go to large, formal lectures, but most of the work takes place in tutorials: lessons in groups of ten or more when the students discuss their work with the lecturer.

## **GETTING INTO UNIVERSITY**

Only 25 per cent of the student population go on to higher education. Competition to get into one of Britain's universities is fierce and not everyone who gets A levels can go. Students usually need three A levels to go to university and grades at A level go from A, the highest grade, down to E.

Students apply to universities months before they take their A levels. The students are given a personal interview and the universities decide which stu-

dents they want. The place which a student is offered depends on his or her A-level results. The more popular a university, the higher the grades it will ask for. If students do not get the grades that a university asks for, they have to try to get a place at another university or college before the new term starts in early October.

### **LIVING AT UNIVERSITY**

Most British students choose to go to university a long way from their home town. They think going to university is a time to be independent, and to live away from home and develop new interests.

Until 1998, British students did not have to pay to go to university. Now they must pay about £1,000 a year as a tuition fee. They also need money to live away from home. Many students, whose parents do not earn a lot of money, are given a grant from the local education authority. If students do not get a grant, parents are expected to pay for their children. Some students borrow money from the bank, which must be paid back after they leave university. In theory, the grant pays for rent, food, books and transport. In fact, the grant is not large enough. Students often work during the holidays to earn more money. About 38 per cent of the population under 24 years of age go on to higher education.

### **TRAINING**

Not all students study full-time at university or college. Many people combine their studies with work. Some companies release their staff for training one or two days a week or for two months a year. Large companies often have their own in-house training schemes.

The British Government is very enthusiastic about such training schemes. It wants at least half the work force to have a formal professional qualification by the year 2000. The Government introduced a New Deal scheme in 1998, which aims to help people who are unemployed find jobs or train for the work they want to do.

- a. Give one advantage of going to university or college in Britain.
- b. Give one advantage of training schemes in Britain.
- c. Can students in Britain choose which university they go to?
- d. If you got good grades at A level, but you did not get a grant and your parents refused to give you any money, what would you do?
- e. If you did not get good grades at A level, what would you do?

## SCHOOLS

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

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

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

At the end of their time at school, most students get a high school diploma. If they want to go on to college, they take college admission tests.

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

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

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

## UNIVERSITIES

Nearly half of all Americans go on to college (a place of higher education) when they leave school. Some colleges are small, with only a few hundred students, but some of the big state universities are huge, with up to 60,000 students. There are more than 2,600 universities in the USA, and nearly all colleges have both men and women students.

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

If you want to study in the States, write to your nearest American embassy.

In Britain, you can get a degree in a university, in a “polytechnic”, or in some of the many colleges of further education. There are 42 universities in Britain. There are also many colleges in Britain that teach English as a foreign language. Some have short courses (a few weeks or months), and some have one- or two-year courses.

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

If you want to study in Britain, write to your nearest British embassy or British Council office.

## **EDUCATION IN RUSSIA**

Every citizen in our country has the right to education. It is not only a right, but a duty too. So every boy and girl must get a secondary education. It is compulsory from 7 to 15.

Most children begin to get education in a kindergarten. There they learn primal things, such as drawing, singing, playing games and so on.

After finishing a kindergarten children go to a primary school, where they study spelling, arithmetic, music, drawing, etc. In a primary school children get a basic knowledge needed to move in a secondary school. In a primary school children spend 3–4 years.

Next step in Russian education is a secondary school. There are different types of secondary schools in our country, such as: comprehensive schools, lyceums, gymnasiums, specialized schools and private schools.

As for lyceums and gymnasiums, they have a special curriculum. The children who study there are divided into different classes according to their abilities. In order to enter these schools pupils have to pass entrance examinations which are rather difficult. It's not easy to study there, but they provide a profound knowledge in different subjects.

Speaking about private schools I can say that they are very expensive. In comparison with other schools they are well equipped with computers and other modern technique. Their classes are well furnished and have excellent facilities for study and sports. But only a small percentage of people can afford it.

After finishing the 9<sup>th</sup> form young people can continue their education in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> forms. They can also go to vocational or technical schools, where they study academic subjects and receive a profession. A college gives a general knowledge in academic subjects and a profound knowledge in one or several subjects.

After finishing a secondary school young people can start working or enter an institute or university. University course usually takes 5 years and after final examinations students get a diploma.

### *1. Read the following words and word-combinations:*

Citizen, duty, compulsory, primal things, primary school, spelling, arithmetic, to get a basic knowledge, types, comprehensive, lyceums, gymnasiums, specialized, private, to have a special curriculum, to be divided into, according to, entrance examinations, to provide a profound knowledge, expensive, in comparison with, modern technique, to be well furnished, to have excellent facilities, percentage, to afford, final.

2. *Give the Russian equivalents:*

To have the right to, to learn primal things, such as, and so on, next step, different types of secondary schools, comprehensive schools, private schools, as for, to have a special curriculum, to be divided into different classes, according to one's abilities, in order to, to pass entrance exams, to provide a profound knowledge, in comparison with, to be well furnished.

3. *Give the English equivalents:*

Лицеи, гимназии, спецшколы, поступить в школу; говоря о частных школах, я могу сказать, что; быть хорошо оснащенным, современная техника, иметь отличные условия для, маленький процент, позволять, продолжать образование, техникум, профтехучилище, получить профессию, курс обучения в университете, давать глубокие знания, выпускные экзамены, получить диплом.

4. *Answer the following questions:*

1. When do children begin to get education in Russia?
2. Is education compulsory or not in our country?
3. How long do our pupils stay in a primary school?
4. What subjects do they study there?
5. What secondary schools are there in Russia?
6. Is there any difference between them? What do they differ in?
7. What about private schools? Is there any private school in our city?
8. What is typical of private schools?
9. Where can our pupils study after leaving the 9<sup>th</sup> form? Do they have any choice?
10. Is it difficult to enter the University? What is necessary to do to become a good student?
11. What things are important when choosing a profession?

5. *Answer the questions:*

1. Are you a part-time or a full-time student? 2. In what faculty are you? 3. What year are you in? 4. What subjects do you study? 5. Have you got any seminars? 6. What classes in English do you have? 7. When do your classes begin? 8. Do you find English spelling (grammar) difficult? 9. What English book are you reading now? 10. What lectures do you attend at the University? 11. Who is good at English in your group? 12. Are there any students who fall behind in your group? 13. What are they weak in? 14. How many exams will you

have in winter? 15. Have you begun to read up for them yet? 16. Is there a language laboratory at your faculty? What kind of work do students do there? 17. Where do students borrow books? 18. When is the library open? 19. Are there any students' societies at the faculty? What are they? 20. What society have you already joined? Why have you joined it? 21. What society is extremely popular with your students? 22. Which society is more popular – the theatrical group or the choir? 23. Do you take part in the work of your English Club? 24. Which sports societies do you find to your liking? 25. Is there an evening department at your faculty? 26. How many times a week do part-time students attend their classes? 27. How long does their course run?

*Render into English.*

### **«ТИПИЧНО АНГЛИЙСКАЯ ШКОЛА»**

В Англии нет единого типа школ, нет здесь и типового школьного здания. И все же попробуем представить себе «типично английскую школу».

Это может быть длинное, квадратное или даже круглое здание, но обязательно невысокое – два-три этажа. Учится в нем обычно полторы-две тысячи учеников. В этом здании обязательно широкие коридоры, но в них можно и не найти привычных классных комнат, а увидеть лишь множество маленьких и больших помещений, разделенных часто стеклянными стенами. Это связано с тем, что вместо традиционных уроков в старших классах занимаются «работой над проектом» – разработкой небольшими группами учеников единого задания преподавателя, предусматривающего самостоятельное изучение небольшой темы. Центром школы является большой актовый зал, а также обширная библиотека, рядом с которой можно найти и уютные маленькие комнатки для учеников выпускного класса. Все помещения этого класса, как правило, изолированы от остальной школы, чтобы подчеркнуть особое положение выпускников и оградить их от шума младших соучеников. Здесь иногда есть не только лекционная комната и комната для отдыха, но и кафе-бар.

Кроме нескольких обязательных спортивных залов и площадок для игр в английской школе может быть и свой бассейн, а иногда и небольшой конноспортивный комплекс.

## UNIT 11

### TOWNS. IRKUTSK. IRKUTSK REGION

#### TOWNS

*A. Look at this description of Cork, one of Ireland's main towns. Underline any words or phrases that might be useful for describing your own or any other town.*

Cork city is the major metropolis of the south; indeed with a population of about 135,000 it is the second largest city in the Republic. The main business and shopping centre of the town lies on the island created by two channels of the River Lee, with most places within walking distance of the centre. (The buses tend to be overcrowded and the one-way traffic system is fiendishly complicated.) In the hilly area of the city is the famous Shandon Steeple, the bell-tower of St Anne's Church, built on the site of a church destroyed when the city was besieged by the Duke of Marlborough. Back across the River Lee lies the city's cathedral, an imposing 19th century building in the French Gothic style. Cork has two markets. Neither caters specifically for tourists but those who enjoy the atmosphere of a real working market will appreciate their charm. The Crawford Art Gallery is well worth a visit. It regularly mounts adventurous exhibitions by contemporary artists. The fashionable residential districts of Cork city overlook the harbour. There are other residential areas on the outskirts.

*B. Towns can be convenient places to live in because they have many facilities. Check with a teacher or a dictionary if you are not sure what anything means.*

Sports: swimming pool, sports centre, golf course, tennis courts, football pitch, skating rink.

Cultural: theatre, opera house, concert hall, radio station, art gallery.

Educational: school, college, university, library, evening classes, museum.

Catering and night-life: restaurant, café, nightclub, take-away hotel, B and B (bed and breakfast), youth hostel, dance-hall, disco.

Transport: bus service, taxi rank, car hire agency, car park, parking meters.

Other: health centre, law courts, registry office, citizens' advice bureau, job centre, bottle bank, department store, chemist's, estate agent, garden centre, police station, Town or City Hall, suburbs, housing estate, industrial estate, pedestrian precinct.

*C. Towns also have their own special problems. Here are some to be found in London now.*

Traffic jams: every day, particularly in the rush-hour, the streets get so packed with traffic that travel is very slow or even comes to a standstill. This is particularly stressful for commuters, people who travel to work in the town.

Slums: certain parts of the city which are poor and in a very bad condition.

Vandalism: pointless destruction of other people's property.

Overcrowding: too many people live in too small a place.

Pollution: the air and the water are no longer as pure as they were.

*D. Here are some useful adjectives for describing towns:*

picturesque, historic, spacious, elegant, magnificent, atmospheric, quaint, lively, hectic, deserted (e.g. at night), bustling, crowded, packed, filthy, run-down, shabby.

### Exercises

*1. Check that you understand the text about Cork by answering the following questions.*

- 1 Where is Cork?
- 2 Where is the shopping and business centre of Cork?
- 3 What is Cork's traffic system like?
- 4 What is special about the site of St Anne's Church?
- 5 In what style is the architecture of Cork Cathedral?
- 6 Can you buy souvenirs at the markets?
- 7 Is the Crawford Gallery worth visiting and why?
- 8 Where do Cork people live?

*2. The description of Cork comes from a guidebook for tourists. Write sentences about a town of your choice, using the following expressions from the text.*

the second/third/fourth ...est within walking distance of built on the site cater for to overlook well worth a visit / visiting a working market/museum/steam railway/model	the main ... area of the town lies in the Victorian/Georgian/Classical/ Baroque/French Gothic style tend to be whether or not it merits those who enjoy on the outskirts to mount an exhibition to appreciate the charm
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3. Look at the list of facilities listed in B opposite. Tick all those which your town, or any town you know well, has.

4. Suggest three words which would collocate well with each of the nouns below, as in the examples.

1 .....	3 .....	5 <u>night</u> .....
..... museum	..... college	..... club
.....	.....	.....
2 <u>leisure</u> .....	4 .....	6 .....
..... centre	..... court	.....agency
.....	.....	.....

5. What facilities would your ideal town have? Name the three most important facilities for you in each of the categories listed in B opposite. You may choose facilities other than those listed opposite if you wish.

6. Are any of the problems mentioned in C opposite to be found in your city or a city you know well? Could you suggest a solution for these problems?

7. Write sentences about any towns you know, using each of the adjectives in D.

*Example:* The most picturesque part of my town is the old market-place.

## IRKUTSK

Irkutsk is one of the largest administrative, economic and cultural centres of Eastern Siberia. It is situated 66 kms to the west of famous Lake Baikal.

Irkutsk was founded more than three hundred years ago when a Cossack detachment headed by Yakob Pokhabov went up the Angara and chose a site for a settlement whose first dwelling appeared on the place where the Irkut falls into the Angara. It was after this river that the settlement was called Irkutsk.

People came here in search of the legendary treasures, forging their way through wild forests, defending themselves against wolf packs and sometimes battles with local peoples. The rumours were spread among the people of Russia and their foreign guests that packs of sables roamed the streets of Irkutsk. In 1682 Irkutsk became the centre of voivodstvo and in 1686 it gained the status of a town.

The town was fortunate enough to stand at the crossroads of the trade routes between the East and West. Through the town ran roads along which cart-loads of wax, iron and goods manufactured in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and even Holland, England and Spain were brought to Siberia. In turn, caravans of

fur-skins, mica, Chinese tea and silk left Siberia for the European part of Russia and to Europe. The town grew and in 1764 Siberia was divided into the Tobolsk and Irkutsk provinces. After that the town became the capital of Eastern Siberia.

The population of Irkutsk is about 600 000 people. The Irkutsk region covers about 770 000 square kilometres of arable land, taiga and tundra. The city has three rivers: the Angara, the Irkut and the Ushakovka which divide it into four large tracks of land. The rivers abound in salmon, greyling and other tasty fish found only in Siberia such as omul.

Irkutsk is a major scientific centre. The city has some academic institutes and a number of scientific institutions which are involved in the study of different problems.

Irkutsk is also famous as a student town. There are some institutions of higher education here, such as: the State University, the Polytechnical University, the Linguistic University and others.

It's safe to say that Irkutsk is a cultural centre. The city has four theatres: the drama theatre, the music theatre, the puppet theatre, the theatre of young spectators, as well as Philharmonic Society and a circus. The city has five museums, an exhibition hall, stadiums and so on. There are a lot of sights in Irkutsk, for example, the White House, the Decembrist's House, the monument to the First Pioneers of Siberia, the Art museum, the Memorial and others. The Irkutsk State University's scientific library contains over three million items, the Molchanov-Sibirsky Regional Library includes over one million items.

That's why every year a lot of foreign tourists come to our city to visit world-famous Lake Baikal, enjoy its unique nature and get to know the history and sights of Irkutsk.

*1. Прочитайте следующие слова и выражения:*

administrative, economic, cultural, a Cossack detachment, headed by, to cover, arable land, to divide into, to abound in, salmon, grayling, major, scientific, to be involved in, institutions of higher education, theatres, the theatre of young spectators, Philharmonic society, circus, museums, an exhibition hall, the Decembrist's house, Alexander the Third, foreign tourists, unique nature, sights.

*2. Прочитайте текст.*

“The population ... and sights of Irkutsk.”

*3. Переведите следующие выражения на русский язык:*

to be situated, a Cossack detachment, four large tracks of land, to divide into, to abound in, other tasty fish, a major scientific centre, a number of scientific institutions, to be involved in the study of different problems, to be famous as, it's

safe to say that, to contain = to include, for example, items, to enjoy nature, to get to know, world-famous, sights.

4. *Какие прилагательные можно использовать, чтобы охарактеризовать Иркутск?*

5. *Ответьте на следующие вопросы.*

1. What kind of city is Irkutsk?
2. Where is it situated?
3. When was it founded?
4. What is the population of Irkutsk?
5. What is the territory of the Irkutsk region?
6. What rivers has the city?
7. What fish do they abound in?
8. What institutions of higher education are there in our city?
9. Why is Irkutsk called a cultural centre?
10. What sights is our city famous for?
11. Why do so many foreign tourists come to our city every year?

6. *Запишите следующие выражения и переведите с ними предложения.*

1. It's safe to say that – можно с уверенностью сказать, что...
2. One cannot but admire – нельзя не восхищаться...
3. Speaking about our city I can't but mention such a fact that – говоря о нашем городе, я не могу не упомянуть тот факт, что...
4. No man can fail to be fascinated by – нельзя остаться равнодушным (к)...

1. *Можно с уверенностью сказать, что...*

- Иркутск – один из крупнейших административных и культурных центров Восточной Сибири.
- Иркутск – один из старейших городов России.
- Иркутск – крупнейший научный центр.
- Иркутск – студенческий город.

2. *Нельзя не восхищаться ... = нельзя остаться равнодушным к ...*

- всемирно известным озером Байкал;
- вкусной рыбой, которая водится в сибирских реках;
- историческими памятниками Иркутска;
- научной библиотекой, которая содержит более 3 миллионов экземпляров;

– уникальной природой Байкала.

3. *Говоря о нашем городе, я не могу не упомянуть тот факт, что...*

– Иркутск был основан более чем 345 лет тому назад Яковом Похобовым;

– наш город находится в 66 километрах от озера Байкал;

– в городе 3 реки, которые изобилуют вкусной рыбой;

– в городе 4 театра и 5 музеев;

– каждый год много иностранных туристов приезжает в наш город, чтобы побывать на озере Байкал и полюбоваться его уникальной природой.

## THE CITY OF IRKUTSK

The East Siberian city of Irkutsk is one of the oldest and most attractive of the large Siberian cities.

The history of the city is fascinating. It began as a Cossack settlement in 1661. The new trading outpost was built near the confluence of the Angara and the Irkut rivers. There is a belief that the name of the city originates from the name of the river. The word Irkut came from the language of native Siberians – people of Mongolian physical type. It may be translated as speedy, fast river.

In 1686 Irkutsk received a town status. Since then Irkutsk has its own coat of arms on which animals are depicted: Babr holding sable in its teeth; it is a symbol of Irkutsk power and wealth.

Now Irkutsk is the centre of Eastern Siberia, which occupies an area of the size of England and France combined (768 sq. km).

The centre of the city is in Kirov Square, which is lined with the Angara Hotel, the Regional Administration building and the Linguistic University.

The space near the building of Regional Administration is framed by three churches: the Church of the Saviour (constructed 1710), the Epiphany Church (1723) and the Polish Catholic Church (1884).

Beyond the building of Regional Administration one can see the War Memorial. It was ceremoniously opened in May, 1975 when our country celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of victory in the Great Patriotic War. The Eternal Flame burns in memory of Siberian soldiers who fought against fascists.

Irkutsk today is an industrial city.

There are many plants and factories there. Irkutsk is a city of highly developed science. It has many research and design institutes, some of them are in Academic City. The Irkutsk State University, established in 1918, was the first higher educational establishment in Eastern Siberia. In Irkutsk there are different educational establishments.

The city has 6 theatres, a lot of cinemas, a circus and philharmonic society. The residents of the city are invited to see the museums and places of historical interest of Irkutsk.

The History Museum features documents showing the development of the native Siberian peoples. The houses of the Decembrists Sergei Trubetskoi and Sergei Volkonsky have survived up to this day. In the Art Gallery you will see paintings and old copies of outstanding Russian and foreign artists.

The blend of new and past can be observed in every section of the city. Modern buildings stand side by side with old wooden houses decorated with fanciful carvings.

The residents of Irkutsk are proud of the city on the Angara river, the beautiful daughter of ancient Baikal. A cascade of high capacity hydroelectric power stations were built on it.

## Vocabulary

the city of Irkutsk – город Иркутск  
fascinating – очаровательный  
a Cossack settlement – поселение казаков  
confluence – слияние (рек)  
trading outpost – торговый аванпост  
to originate from – происходить от  
native Siberians – коренные сибиряки  
the Mongolian physical type – монгольское происхождение  
a speedy river = a fast flowing river – быстрая река  
to receive – получать  
a town status – статус города  
coat of arms – герб (города)  
to depict – изображать  
sable – соболь  
symbol – символ  
power – мощь, сила  
Regional Administration Building – здание областной администрации  
blend – смесь  
to observe – видеть, обозревать  
side by side – рядом  
church – церковь  
the Church of Our Saviour – Спасская церковь  
the Epiphany Church – Богоявленский собор  
the Polish Catholic Church – Польский католический костел  
the War Memorial – Мемориал Победы  
the Eternal Flame – Вечный огонь  
in memory of – в память о ком-либо

an industrial city – промышленный город  
science – наука  
a research institute – научно-исследовательский институт  
a design institute – проектный институт  
the Academic City – научный город

## **IRKUTSK INEVITABLE**

Many historical places are preserved in Irkutsk; it was even attributed to towns-museums, historical towns. There are such streets in Irkutsk, where one stops in dumb astonishment and enchantment before lace fantasies of old skilled craftsmen. One of the most remarkable old houses in the center of the town called so is the lace house.

And what about Irkutsk temples, which light up the city with multicolored glow of domes? Spasskaya church and the Epiphany cathedral are the oldest and the most interesting church buildings in the whole Eastern Siberia. They are located in the center of Irkutsk. Spasskaya church, built in 1710 is the only building left from the Irkutsk wooden fortress. Built in 1762, Znamenskaya church combines elements of baroque and Old Russian decor. Krestovozdvijenskaya church can be attributed to the Siberian baroque due to its exceptional design and usage of oriental patterns.

The most ancient temple – wooden church Kazanskaya – is located not far from Irkutsk, in the architecture-ethnographical museum Taltzy. Dwellings and way of living of native inhabitants of the Priangarie is demonstrated there. Taltzy is a traditional place for national celebrations: Maslenitsa (Shrovetide), trades festival, Apple Spas and others.

Irkutsk is decorated with historical and architectural monuments, among them there is the White House – ampir palace, built in 19 century on the shore of Angara river. This building became residence of the Irkutsk governors, and now it is one of the largest book depositories in Russia – scientific library of Irkutsk State University. Only one, central street – Karl Marx Street – has so many historical buildings and monuments, that an interesting tourist route can be made there...

## **THE WAY TO A HEALTHY LIFE**

The diverse and generous nature of Pribaikalye with careful and clever treatment becomes a mighty healing power. Mineral springs, curative mud baths, special Baikal microclimate, rich healing traditions of the local inhabitants and modern researches of Siberian doctors – all this makes it possible for thousands of Irkutsk residents and guests of the region to keep and restore health.

In the town of Usolie-Sibirskoe on the bank of Angara River is situated balneal mud resort, which is 150 years old. Diseases of motion and support organs, nervous system, gynecological diseases are healed there.

In the middle of primordial nature in the town of Ust-Ilimsk is the resort «Russ», its real treasure is drinking water of the Pheodosian type, containing ions of selenium and being able to restore immunity.

Within the city limits of Irkutsk on the bank of the Irkut river is situated «Angara» resort, there is artesian slit giving healing mineral water. In addition to the traditional methods of healing organs of circulation, central nervous system there is acupuncture, psychotherapy, and apitherapy (healing with bees and products of bee-keeping).

## **IRKUTSK**

Siberia is one of the largest territories of the country. It has the area of almost 10 million square kilometres. The territory of Siberia is divided into 2 parts (Western Siberia with the capital Novosibirsk and Eastern Siberia with the capital Irkutsk). Once it was done just for economic convenience. The territory of East Siberia covers for about 4 mln. sq. kms. Since 1725 Irkutsk has been the capital of East Siberia (official). And since the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century it has been the centre of Siberian provinces.

The exploration of Siberia began in 1581 by the Cossak band captained by Ermak. He crossed the Urals just to open up the area for fur-trading. In 1583 the Cossak band captained by Ermak captured a small tatar town located on the Eastern side of Europe.

This town was named Siberia. It's supposed that the word "Siberia" came from the Tatar language and it means "a sleeping land". After that Russian Cossaks moved eastward to across Siberia. And they met very little resistance in their eastward sweep to the Pacific. At that time Siberia was an unknown land with passless forests, deep rivers, beautiful lakes and mountains which could be certainly called "a sleeping land" because it was not explored. While moving to the Pacific Russian Cossaks founded small settlements served as trading posts. Such settlements were called «ostrogs». It was something like a small American fort – an area surrounded with wooden walls.

The area of the first town of Irkutsk covered only 303 square metres and the population of the first ostrog consisted of 20 Cossaks. The ostrog of Irkutsk was founded in 1661 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July by Yakov Pokhabov. It was situated on the cross roads of the trading routes leading to Mongolia and China. Due to the geographical position Irkutsk grew very quickly. The City was founded on the confluence of the two rivers: the Angara and the Irkut. The settlement was named after the river Irkut which means speedy, fast flowing.

Irkutsk was a big trading centre and in 1686 it was given the status of the City. In 1690 Irkutsk was given the coat of arms which depicts two animals: one

of them is an animal relative to a tiger and it's called "babr", another one is a sable. These animals are symbolic for the power and wealth of Siberia.

In 1725 Irkutsk became the capital of Eastern Siberia.

## THE HISTORY OF THE AREA

As early as 1661, there was a small settlement named Irkutsk near the banks of the Angara and the Irkut Rivers. By the end of the seventeenth century, the city became the capital of East Siberia and was home to a thousand Cossacks, peasants, deportees, tradesmen, and artisans. The first school opened in 1725, followed by the first library in 1772 and the first museum in 1782.

A resting stop for caravans on the famous Tea Road from Kalgan, China, to Europe, Irkutsk became a customs city in 1861, taking on the responsibility of tax collection and *tsybic* (tea bale) stamping. As a result, the 1870s saw substantial growth as East-West trade of silk, tea, timber, salt, gold, and fur ensured the financial future of the city. However, on June 22, 1879, Irkutsk was scarred by a massive fire that burned for three days and destroyed houses, archives, schools, libraries, churches, and orphanages. Although more than 15,000 people lost their homes and countless family treasures, Irkutsk rebuilt itself and by the end of the nineteenth century became a hub on the new Trans-Siberian Railroad.

The twentieth century has brought triumph and tragedy to Irkutsk, including the savage 1917 battles of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the establishment of Soviet power in 1918, and later, in 1946, the founding of Siberia's first branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Throughout it all, the people of Irkutsk have played a large role in the success and growth of their city. Today, Irkutsk is a major scientific and cultural center where 10 percent of the population of over 600,000 people is associated with one of the city's many educational institutions. Overall, Irkutsk boasts 34 libraries, including the area's largest, the Irkutsk State University Scientific Library, 36 scientific and cultural institutes, 9 vocational colleges, 6 museums, and 5 theatres.

## DECEMBRISTS

The nineteenth-century Decembrists are directly associated with the history of Irkutsk Oblast. The Decembrist uprising in December of 1825 is considered one of the first outbursts of liberal political thought, forcing many Russians to realize the severity of the country's problems. Following the death of Alexander I, progressive-minded members of the upper class staged a revolt in St. Petersburg against autocracy and serfdom. Following the revolt, the government cruelly put down the revolt and punished the revolutionaries, executing five of their leaders and exiling 121 others.

The Decembrists spent approximately thirty years in the Lake Baikal region, much of the time imprisoned and forced into hard labor. During their exile,

a large number formed a colony in the villages near Irkutsk. Toward the end of their term of exile, some of the Decembrists' families were given permission to move to towns, while others continued to be separated for life. One significant point about the Decembrists' experience was the loyalty of their wives, many of whom left their parents, friends, and even children to join their husbands in remote Siberia.

Being from the upper class, the Decembrists brought education and enlightenment, opening schools to further the education of all children, rich and poor, boy and girl. As a result, the Baikal Region and particularly Irkutsk benefits from the Decembrist educational and cultural legacy. Many Decembrist houses still stand in Irkutsk, as well as in Chita and Ulan-Ude.

## **THE COSSACKS**

During your travels, especially if you take a train from Irkutsk or Ulan-Ude, you will most likely see Cossacks, men in military uniform with large fur hats, standing guard and maintaining order on the train. The word "Cossack" comes from a Turkish word meaning "homeless, bold, free man". As a rule, the Cossacks were peasants who, oppressed by serfdom, fled to remote parts of the Russian empire. Cossacks, highly skilled at many crafts, engaged in diverse activities like trading, farming and construction.

Cossack military explorers blazed the way for the development of new lands in the Lake Baikal Region. When the Russian government placed Cossack detachments throughout the empire's newly acquired lands, it entrusted them with a mission to defend the Russian borders with China and Mongolia. By the end of the seventeenth century, the number of Cossacks in Zabaikalye began growing, while Cossack mounted patrols along the borders regularly checked areas of possible invasion. In the middle of the seventeenth century, the number of Cossacks increased to 500 people. By the close of the eighteenth century, 1700 Cossacks (Russian, Buryats, and Evenks) were living throughout the area. Between 1854 and 1860, some left to settle in newly opened lands along the great 2865-kilometer-long Amur River. By the end of the 1800s, Russian Cossacks were the ethnic majority along the borderland, and today, there are still Cossack villages.

In 1855, 130 Zabaikalian Cossacks contributed to the victory at De Castri Bay in the Crimean. One of them, Cossack Taskin, was the first Zabaikalian Cossack to win Russia's highest military honor, the Order of Saint George. In 1891, Nicholas II, the future emperor of Russia, visited the Zabaikalian Cossack troops and was presented with a saddle, now on display in the Chita Regional Study Museum. In 1904 and 1905, Cossack troops took an active role in the Russian-Japanese War, suffering heavy losses.

Since their disbanding in 1918, the Zabaikalian Cossack troops are once again reviving their history and culture. No longer fierce farmer-warriors, they

are still military-minded and are hired to protect passengers on Russian trains. Look for the Cossacks if you ride the rails across the Lake Baikal Region.

## **RUSSIA, IRKUTSK REGION**

Irkutsk region is one of the biggest and most interesting regions in Russia. It is a whole world in Eastern Siberia, which is not far from the famous Baikal. It stretches for 1 300 km west-eastwards and for 1500 km south-northwards.

One might find out that there is so much characteristic here, to be found in Europe too, but in its untapped, virgin state.

In the South there are the Sayan mountains that are similar to the Alps (3000 meters high). But the climate and the vegetation here differ from that of Europe. There is the picturesque mountain range of Khamar-Daban. In the North the gorgeous taiga occupies three fourths of the territory. The midterritory is occupied by boundless and spacious steppes.

In spite of its remoteness and being untouched and virgin the region has perfect connections with both Europe and Asia. From the west to the east it is run across by the Transsiberian railway, connecting Moscow and the Pacific. In Irkutsk there is an international airport from which you can fly either to Europe, or to Asian countries, such as China, Japan, Korea, Thailand and others.

Besides the Russians the Irkutsk region is populated by old peoples, such as the Buryats, the Evenks, the Yakuts. If one comes he will be able to watch their life-style and their national traditions.

But first of all the unique Baikal, the deepest and cleanest lake in the world, attracts people from all over the world.

The Baikal is so big that it is very often called sea. It contains 20 per cent of fresh water of the world. There are 30 islands in the Baikal. More than three hundred rivers flow into the lake and only one river, the Angara, outflows. The seal dwelling in the Baikal is not the only endemic. The Baikal is rich in many endemic species as well. Amazingly divine shores of the lake and the surface water of it change their views almost every hour.

The central city of the region is Irkutsk. It is an old city. The foundation of it dates back to more than three hundred years. Irkutsk is an industrial, cultural, scientific and trade center which is situated in 70 km distance from Baikal. It is an old crossroads on the way from Europe to Asia. The population of the city is almost 600.000 people. There are about 30 Universities and colleges, six theatres (the oldest of which is 150 years), a number of museums, picture galleries and churches (the oldest church is about 300 years) and a lot of historical monuments.

People are attracted by the pure and fresh air, wonderful and untouched nature, mysterious spaciousness, the dignity and hospitality of local people who always welcome guests and are ready to help them.

## SIGHTSEEING

Those who go abroad either for pleasure or on business are always faced with the dilemma of how to make the best use of their time. It is particularly difficult for a businessman for whom business should come before pleasure as the English saying goes. So before going on a trip you should read up on the country you are going to and think of places of interest to be visited. A lot depends on your taste, of course. You may, for instance, be keen on art galleries and museums, or prefer to see buildings and monuments, exhibitions and displays.

For their part the receiving party also try to make their guests' stay pleasant and entertaining. Very often they arrange an interesting cultural programme that will give the visitors an idea of the country's present and past, its history, culture, customs and traditions.

Every third world country has something to be particularly proud of. Ancient temples, monuments, architectural masterpieces and other attractions make a list of sights not to be missed by visitors. In India these will include Agra's Taj Mahal, in Iraq visitors are sure to be taken to Babylon, in Egypt to the famous pyramids, etc.

The economic and social successes of developing countries are very impressive too. They give a clue to a better understanding of people's way of thinking and life style and that in turn contributes to the further development of advantageous cooperation.



The animal and vegetable world of Baikal is also remarkable. There are 150 endemic vegetable and animal organisms here that can be found nowhere else in the world. Three fourths of all the living organisms in the lake are of this kind. How did this come about? This is another of Lake Baikal's mysteries. One of these endemics is a small fish called the golomyanka – the only viviparous freshwater fish. Another remarkable feature: the lake abounds in fish and animals typical of seas and oceans. Their presence in a closed lake with fresh water is another mystery. The famous Baikal omul is one such example, this fish is a real delicacy. The Baikal grayling is also very tasty. The white fish, the sturgeon and other valuable fish are also abundant here.

One more remarkable member of Baikal's animal world is the seal, or nerpa. Its silvery fur is both beautiful and long-wearing.

The winds blowing from the glens are also a special feature of Baikal's natural scene. Each of them has a name of its own: Barguzin, Angara, Kultuk, etc.

Despite severe frosts, Baikal freezes rather late, mostly in January. There are about thirty islands in Baikal. The largest and the only inhabited one is Olkhon. It is situated approximately in the middle of the lake. The area between the island and the continent is called the Little Sea.

The lake is surrounded by mountains. Many of them are overgrown with the taiga, in which the trees can be 500 and 600 and even 800 years old. However, there are also the bare ones – the goltsy. The coastline of Baikal is picturesque with mountain ridges dropping towards the water's edge. In Sandy Bay the trees stand on bare roots as on stilts. The soil has been blown away by winds. There is a bay with "singing sands": the large crystalline grains of sand make musical sounds as they trickle along the beach. There are mineral springs, both cold and hot, near Baikal's eastern coast.

Man has lived on the shores of Baikal since time immemorial. Some of the primitive sites found here go back to the Stone Age. Amazing "picture galleries" have been discovered here: carved in the rock are figures of men, animals and hunting scenes. They are at least 2,500 years old. The Baikal coast is now the site of many villages and towns, and there are also scientific stations, tourist camps, game reserves and national parks, of which the best known is the Barguzin National Park.

Baikal is our pride. That's why, when the decision was taken to build a cellulose combine on its shore the problem was widely discussed by the public. The fear was expressed that the plant would do considerable damage to the unique lake. Now the problem of the pollution of Baikal is very important. Urgent measures must be taken to protect the lake from pollution. It includes, first of all, a system of different filters which could return waste water to the lake quite pure. Baikal as a wonder of nature should be preserved for future generations.

grandeur – великолепие, величие  
 fracture – трещина  
 shear-fault – разлом  
 crust – земная кора  
 transparency – прозрачность  
 endemic – эндемический (свойственный данной местности)  
 viviparous – живородящий  
 glen – узкая горная долина  
 grains of sand – крупинки песка  
 to trickle – течь тонкой струйкой  
 combine – комбинат

### Exercises on the text

1. *Translate the text (part I).*

2. *Read the following word combinations and translate them:*

a unique and mysterious natural phenomenon, magnificent beauty, a pearl, since time immemorial, a glorious sea, sacred Baikal, fear mixed with delight and grandeur, the origin of the lake, intense tectonic activity, gigantic fractures and shear-faults, the earth's crust.

3. *Read the characteristics of the water of Baikal. Translate them.*

The water of Baikal is – crystal pure, oxygen rich, almost mineral-free, deliciously fresh, transparent, very cold, clear.

4. *Make up the sentences with the following words.*

Baikal .....	1) to be called	5) to contain
	2) to look at	6) to deal with
	3) It is believed to go back	7) to have a great effect on
	4) to be formed as a result of	8) to run away to

5. *Form adjectives from the following nouns.*

1) mystery	5) delight	9) transparency
2) magnificence	6) difference	10) presence
3) impression	7) origin	11) delicacy
4) glory	8) activity	12) frost

6. *Form nouns from the following adjectives:*

1) long      2) deep      3) wide      4) high

7. *Form nouns from the following verbs:*

- |               |               |                 |               |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1) to protect | 4) to situate | 7) to fascinate | 10) to find   |
| 2) to impress | 5) to mix     | 8) to decide    | 11) to live   |
| 3) to express | 6) to differ  | 9) to prevent   | 12) to freeze |

8. *What adjectives do you associate with the description of Baikal? (13)*

9. *Translate the following words:*

perhaps, it is believed, whereas, no man can fail to be fascinated by, particularly striking, feature (remarkable, striking, special), despite, approximately, however, at least, that's why.

10. *Answer the following questions.*

1. How can you characterize Lake Baikal?
2. What does its name mean?
3. How old is it?
4. How was it founded?
5. What impression does it make on people?
6. Why do people admire the water of Baikal?
7. What legends do you know about the Lake?
8. How does Baikal influence the climate?

11. *Comment on: Baikal is a unique and mysterious phenomenon.*

## **Part II**

1. *Translate the text (part II).*

2. *Give the English equivalents.*

Животный и растительный мир, живые организмы, единственно живородящая пресноводная рыба, другая замечательная черта, изобиловать (хариус, осетр), ценная рыба, быть типичным для, специфичная черта пейзажа озера, несмотря на суровые морозы, единственно населенный остров, быть расположенным приблизительно, быть окруженным, горные хребты, спускающиеся прямо к воде, как на ходулях, крупные кристалльные песчинки.

3. *Give definitions of the following words.*

- |                   |                              |                   |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) the golomyanka | 5) the goltsy                | 9) Barguzin       |
| 2) the omul       | 6) singing sands             | 10) the Selenga   |
| 3) the seal       | 7) the Little sea            | 11) the Stone Age |
| 4) Olkhon         | 8) amazing picture galleries | 12) delicacy      |

4. *Answer the question:* Why is the animal and vegetable world of Baikal considered remarkable?

5. *Read the passage "Man has lived on the shores ... the Barguzin National Park".*

6. *Translate the following sentences paying attention to Passive Voice.*

1. Было принято решение построить целлюлозно-бумажный комбинат.
2. Проблема широко обсуждалась общественностью.
3. Опасались, что завод причинит большой вред озеру.
4. Нужно принимать срочные меры, чтобы защитить озеро от загрязнения.
5. Байкал следует сохранить для будущих поколений.

7. *What can you tell me about Baikal? (Speak one minute)*

(its name, age, the mountains it is surrounded by, the largest river flowing into Baikal, characteristics of its water, the animal and vegetable world of the lake, the winds blowing from the glens, its islands, amazing picture galleries, the problem of pollution)

8. *Discussion.*

1. What to your mind is the most remarkable feature of Baikal?
2. What makes Baikal a unique and mysterious phenomenon in the world?
3. What attracts people in Baikal? Why do they look forward to visiting it again and again?
4. Have you ever been to Baikal? If yes, what were you particularly impressed by?
5. What is the best time to have a good rest there?
6. When did you visit Baikal last? Did you go there alone, with your family or friends?
7. How did you rest there? What was the most interesting event?
8. What advice could you give the people who are going to have a rest there for the first time?

9. *What additional information can you give about Lake Baikal?*

## **LAKE BAIKAL**

Baikal is one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. It is in the heart of Asia. It is twice as large as lake Ladoga. The area of this lake is as large as Belgium or Holland.

Baikal is 636 (six hundred and thirty-six) kilometres long, from 25 (twenty-five) km to 79 (seventy-nine) km wide and 1,741 (one thousand seven hundred and forty-one) m deep. It is the deepest lake in the world.

Baikal has much water, its volume of water is more than the volume of the Baltic Sea. The water of Baikal is cold. It is colder than the water of many other lakes.

Baikal is more beautiful than many other Siberian lakes. The scenery around its shores is as beautiful as that of the Caucasus. The climate here is colder than the climate of the Caucasus.

Do you know that more than 300 (three hundred) rivers flow into this lake and only one river, the Angara, flows out? This, river carries a tremendous volume of water, it is very powerful and deep, and has a very strong current, much stronger than the current of the Volga. That is why the Angara freezes later than lake Baikal.

The Angara possesses greater potential supplies of electrical energy than any other Siberian river. Our people harness this swift river and build great hydroelectric stations on it.

## **BAIKAL MAGNETISM**

One of the greatest miracles of the Nature – the Baikal Lake has become a place of pilgrimage since the beginning of tourist movement in Russia. Number of types of sport and tourism, which one can do on Baikal, is impressive: from simple hiking in nearby mountains to diving with aqualung in cold and incredibly clear waters of the lake (and in winter skiing on it).

Being a remarkable place for tourists, Baikal is of particular interest for natural phenomena researchers. Some geographical facts can explain such interest.

Baikal is vast. It is more than all the five Great Lakes in North America hold; nevertheless altogether they excel Baikal area by 8 times. To fill the basin of Baikal all the rivers on the planet will have to flow whole year. It is the deepest lake in the world: the deepest point now is 1637 m, it can be excelled in every moment – Baikal does not lie still, underground storms tremble it every day. By the area of overflowing Baikal can be compared to such countries as Belgium, Denmark and Holland.

Baikal is one of the oldest lakes on the Earth – it is 20 million years old. The fauna of the lake is represented by 1200 species, flora – 600 species, many of them are endemics, species living nowhere else but Baikal. One of the most

wonderful is the only fresh water seal, which can be seen on the Ushkanii islands, translucent fish golomianka and whiskered paddle legged crawfish epishura.

The lake lies along the tectonic break and this fact can explain its depth as well as its intensive geological activity, which mixes the waters and gets oxygen to far deeper areas than in any other lake of the world. Other display of this activity – hot springs all around Baikal, most of which are used in medicine. The lake is unique, and that is why Russian scientists even implemented a new science for it – «baikalogy».

The shores of Baikal are mountainous and covered with dense woods, rising to 2000–2200 m. Mountaintops are rocky or covered with grass and little trees. In winter (up to May) the lake, covered with ice one meter thick, is opened to speedy but rather dangerous driving all around the coast.

### **BAIKAL: A NOTE ON THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION**

In the later half of the twentieth-century, industrialization has led to a marked increase in Lake Baikal's pollution. During Stalin's period of control, in an attempt to decentralize industry, more than 1,500 factories were moved to Siberia. At present, there are sixteen towns and about fifty industrial enterprises surrounding the lake. The largest of these are the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill, the marble-extraction companies Pereval and Sludyansky, a large timber-transfer base in Vydrino, and a timber processing plant in Klyuyevka. Although these modern developments further the financial gain of the region, they also negatively affect the environmental health of Lake Baikal in varying degrees. According to monitoring data, the main sources of pollution are presently the settlements of Baikalsk, Severobaikalsk, Nizhneangarsk, and Sludyanka. In addition, the construction of the Irkutsk Dam, which raised the lake's water level, has contributed to a decrease in fish population and the erosion of the lake's northern barrier islands.

In 1987, pollution from these industries convinced the Soviet government to issue new laws protecting the development of Lake Baikal. However, these environmental laws cannot undo years of careless pollution. Today, the lake's preservation has come to symbolize the need for a balance between economic development and conservation. For this reason, the region has established a sustainable development program to help with the area's existing environmental pressures.

## **UNIT 13 TRAVELLING**

### **TRAVELLING**

Millions of people all over the world spend their holidays traveling. They travel to see other countries and continents, modern cities and the ruins of ancient towns, they travel to enjoy picturesque places, or just for a changed scene. It is always interesting to discover new things, different ways of life, to meet different people, to try different food, to listen to different musical rhythms.

Those who live in the country like to go to a big city and spend their time visiting museums and art galleries, looking at shop windows and dining at exotic restaurants. City-dwellers usually like a quiet holiday by the sea or in the mountains, with nothing to do but walk and bathe and laze in the sun.

Most travellers and holiday-makers take a camera with them and take pictures of everything that interests them – the sights of a city, old churches and castles, views of mountains, lakes, valleys, plains, waterfalls, forests; different kinds of trees, flowers and plants, animals and birds.

Later, perhaps years later, they will be reminded by the photos of the happy time they have had.

People travel by train, by plane, by boat and by car.

All means of travel have their advantages and disadvantages. And people choose one according to their plans and destinations.

If we are fond of travelling, we see and learn a lot of things that we can never see or learn at home, though we may read about them in books and newspapers, and see pictures of them on TV. The best way to study geography is to travel, and the best way to get to know and understand the people is to meet them in their own homes.

### **HEALTH TIPS FOR TRAVELLERS**

Travel is fun. Travel is exciting. But it's not fun or exciting if you get ill. You may think, "Not me. I won't fall ill on my holiday!" But, for many people, that is what happens.

Of course you do not want to spend your holiday ill in bed. If you have heart trouble, you don't want to make it worse. So what can you do to stay in good health? There are three things you should remember when you travel: relax, sleep and eat well.

A holiday is supposed to be a time for relaxing. But to our regret very often it is not. Think about what you do when you are a tourist. There are so many places to visit: museums, shops, parks and churches. You may spend most days walking around these places. This can be very tiring. Your feet may hurt. You've got a terrible headache after a few hours. If this is the way you feel, you

should take a rest. Do not ask your body to do too much. A tired body means a weak body. And a weak body gets ill easily. So sit down for a few hours in a nice spot. In good weather, look for a quiet park bench. Or you can stop at a cafe. You can learn a lot by watching people while you rest.

You should not forget about sleep. If you want to stay healthy you need to get a good night's rest. You may have trouble sleeping at night when you travel. Your hotel room may be noisy or the bed may be uncomfortable. If this is true, don't hesitate to change rooms or hotels. Or, you may not get enough sleep for another reason. In many cities the nightlife can be very exciting. You may want to stay out late at night. In this case you should plan to sleep for an hour during the day. That extra hour can make a big difference.

Finally, if you want to stay in good shape, you must eat well. That means eating the right kinds of food. Your body needs fresh fruit and vegetables, and some meat, milk or cheese. No doubt when you are in a new country, you will wish to try new food. But you need to be careful about how much you eat. Try to avoid eating lots of rich food.

So remember this: if you want to enjoy your holiday, take good care of yourself. Give your body some rest. Get enough sleep and eat good, healthy food.

## **AIR TRAVEL**

When travelling by air you have to get to the airport early in order to check in about an hour before your flight. If you have a lot of luggage, you can put it on a trolley and push it to the check-in desk where someone will check your ticket and weigh your luggage. If you have excess luggage, it can be expensive. Your heavy luggage is put on a conveyer belt and carried away. A light bag is classified as hand luggage and you can take it with you on the plane. An immigration officer looks at your passport and a security guard checks your hand luggage before you go into the departure lounge to wait till your flight is called. If you want to, you can buy some cheap duty free goods here. Then you see on the departures board or hear an announcement that you must board your plane. You go through the departure gate, then there is sometimes a security check before you actually enter the plane. When all the passengers are on board and when the captain and his crew are ready in the cockpit, the plane begins to taxi to the end of the runway. Finally, permission is received from the control tower and the plane moves faster and faster in order to take off.

Flying is fun. I like being in a big airliner with the cabin crew (stewards and stewardesses) looking after me. They walk up and down the aisle bringing meals and drinks; and if the flight is going through some turbulence, they warn everybody that it might be a bit bumpy and ask us to fasten our seat-belts. On a long flight I like listening to music through the headphones available to all pas-

sengers, and sometimes I have a sleep. I enjoy it all so much that I never want the plane to land.

## **TRAVELLING BY AIR. PASSPORT CONTROL. CUSTOMS**

Nowadays people who go on business mostly travel by air as it is the fastest means of travelling.

Here are a few hints on air travel that may be helpful.

Passengers are requested to arrive at the airport two hours before departure time on international flights and an hour on domestic flights as there must be enough time to complete the necessary airport formalities.

Passengers must register their tickets, weigh in and register the luggage. Most airlines have at least two classes of travel, first class and economy class, which is cheaper. Each passenger of more than two years of age has a free luggage allowance. Generally this limit is 20 kg for economy class passengers and 30 kg for first class passengers. Excess luggage must be paid for except for some articles that can be carried free of charge.

Each passenger is given a boarding pass to be shown at the departure gate and again to the stewardess when boarding the plane. Watch the electric sign flashes when you are on board. When the "Fasten Seat Belts" sign goes on, do it promptly and also obey the "No Smoking" signal.

Do not forget your personal effects when leaving the plane.

Landing formalities and customs regulations are more or less the same in all countries.

While still on board the plane the passenger is given an arrival card to fill in.

After the passenger has disembarked, officials will check his passport and visa. In some countries they will check the passenger's certificate of vaccination. The traveller is also requested to go through an AIDS check within ten or fourteen days of his/her arrival in the country. If the traveler fails to do so some strict measures could be taken by the authorities including imprisonment (in some countries) or payment of a considerable penalty.

When these formalities have been completed the passenger goes to the Customs for an examination of his luggage.

As a rule personal belongings may be brought in duty-free. If the traveller has nothing to declare he may just go through the "green" section of the Customs.

In some cases the Customs inspector may ask you to open your bags for inspection. It sometimes happens that a passenger's luggage is carefully gone through in order to prevent smuggling. After you are through with all customs formalities the inspector will put a stamp on each piece of luggage or chalk it off.

## **SOME TIPS FOR A TRAVELLER TO THE USA**

### **I. Greetings**

In North America, when people greet each other, they generally say “Hi, how are you?”. This is NOT a question but rather a greeting. The expected answer is usually short, for example:

“Fine”.

“OK”.

“Pretty good”.

“Not bad.”

A long, detailed answer or a negative answer would be strange unless you knew the person very well and could tell that the person expected more extensive information. People learning English may think that native speakers are impolite because they do not stop to have a conversation. But “How are you?” should be thought of in the same way as “Hello.” It’s simply a greeting.

### **II. Doggie bags**

In the US and Canada, if you eat out in restaurants frequently, you will sooner or later come across the idea of a “doggie bag.” This refers to the custom which allows you to take home the food you ordered but cannot finish. Originally, restaurants had bags with the words “doggie bags” printed on them. The suggestion was that the food was to be given to the pet dog at home. (Of course, this was usually not the case.) Some people feel childish using this phrase and instead say to the waiter, “I’d like to take this home” or “I’d like to have this wrapped up.” Your remaining food will be brought back in a container, for you to enjoy later. If you haven’t tried this, don’t be embarrassed. It’s a common custom.

## **TRAVELLER GETS \$450 AWARD**

A MONTREAL man who found bed bugs and mice in his supposedly luxurious Caribbean hotel was awarded \$450 in damages yesterday by Provincial Court Judge Roland Robillard.

Lou Lenitzki paid \$1,300 to Atlantic Pacific Travel and Tours Inc. in March 1976, for a “luxury” vacation on the island of Martinique.

Travel brochures provided by tour organizer Andre Gingras of Tours Mont Royal promised a luxury hotel, free baggage transport from the airport, free golf course privileges and beaches.

## **Bed bugs**

However, on his arrival, Mr Lenitzki found that there was no one to look after his baggage, the hotel rooms were infested with bed bugs and mice and the golf course had reverted to a pasture.

To make matters worse, the hotel was in bankruptcy and the staff were not carrying out their duties.

Mr Lenitzki sued Mr Gingras for \$2,675–\$650 for the plane ticket, \$25 to move his luggage to another hotel and \$2,000 for aggravating his health.

He told the judge he suffered from nervous tension.

Judge Robillard rejected the \$2,000 health claim, but ordered Mr Gingras to pay \$450, plus interest, of the remaining total of \$675.

## **No complaints**

The judge noted in his judgment that partial restitution had already been made.

In his defence, Mr Gingras said that Mr Lenitzki had made his travel reservations with Atlantic Pacific and consequently he couldn't be held responsible for the problems that arose.

Mr Gingras said he had been organizing trips for several years and he had never received any complaints about the hotel where Mr Lenitzki stayed.

## **HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY!**

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

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

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

Do you like riding? Why not see the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA, on horseback?

What about a winter holiday? There are hundreds of ski resorts in the mountains of the USA: the Rockies, the Sierra Nevada and the Appalachians. You can ski in Britain, too.

Perhaps you prefer to be less energetic? Try a painting holiday or a musical holiday or even a computer holiday. You get some hours of teaching every

day, meet other people who share your special interest and have time to relax as well in a pleasant country hotel or college campus.

### **WHERE SHALL WE GO?**

Many people think about holidays in January. They begin to make plans. They talk about places and ideas... and prices. January is a cold month in many countries, and February is even worse! Christmas is over. The New Year has begun. So people begin to dream.

Some people like winter holidays. If they live near mountains, they probably go skiing. Some people can ski every weekend, but others go for a week and have a real holiday.

Not everybody likes winter holidays, though. Many people dream of sun and warm beaches. And other people like to do things when they are on holiday. They want to learn a foreign language, or visit famous places, or go climbing. And some people like to have a holiday with a lot of other people; others prefer to go on their own.

Even if we all have different ideas about an ideal holiday, we all have to face two problems: time and money. In some countries, people have three weeks holiday each year, in other countries, it is four weeks. And teachers often have twelve weeks! Some people like to have one long holiday each year, others prefer to have two short ones.

Whatever we do when we go on holiday, it always seems to cost a lot of money. Fares go up, hotels cost more, and food and drink are more expensive.

## UNIT 14 HOTEL

### HOTEL

From Heathrow airport the car brought Stepanov and his hosts to the Embassy Hotel where Stepanov was to stay. The doorman opened the door of a very presentable building, they entered the lobby and walked up to the reception desk of the hotel.

*Receptionist:* Good evening. What can I do for you?

*Clark:* Good evening. My name is Clark. I have booked a room for my colleague Mr Stepanov.

*Receptionist:* Just a moment, sir. Let's see. When did you book?

*Clark:* On the 10th.

*Receptionist:* What did you say the name was, sir?

*Clark:* Ste-pa-nov. I asked for a single room with a bathroom.

*Receptionist:* I'm afraid I can't find Mr Stepanov's name.

*Clark:* You must have got the wrong name, Stepanov from Russia.

*Receptionist:* Oh, yes. Here is the entry. Room 503 with a bath on the fifth floor. Would you fill in the arrival card, please?

*Stepanov:* Well, now... name in full, place of permanent residence, passport number, signature. Here you are.

*Receptionist:* That's O.K.

*Stepanov:* What's the rate for the room per day?

*Clark:* Don't bother about it. You are our guest, Alex.

*Receptionist (to Clark):* How are you going to pay, sir, in cash or by credit card?

*Clark:* In cash, please. Shall I pay in advance?

*Receptionist:* Will you make a cash deposit, please? The total bill will be presented at the end of Mr Stepanov's stay.

(To Stepanov.) How long do you intend to stay, sir?

*Stepanov:* I'm not sure. It all depends. I'll probably leave in three, or three and a half months.

*Clark:* Mr Stepanov will work here in my lab and do some contract research.

*Receptionist:* Yes, I see. Would you tell us as soon as you know about your departure?

*Stepanov:* Yes, certainly. I'll let you know in advance. By the way what's the check-out time?

*Receptionist:* It's eleven o'clock, sir. I'll remind you when your stay comes to an end.

*Stepanov:* That's fine. Thank you.

*Receptionist:* Here is the key, sir.

*Clark:* Can we see the room before registering?

*Receptionist:* Yes, of course. The bellman will show you up to your room and help you with your luggage. Just follow the bellman. They go upstairs in the lift. The bellman opens the door, shows how to switch on and off air conditioning, the TV set and the fridge.

(A few minutes later.)

*Stepanov:* I find the room comfortable. It suits me perfectly.

*Clark:* Now, what about meal times? I think my friend would like to have dinner now; and what time is breakfast served?

*Receptionist:* It's any time between 7 and 10. It's on the house; lunch is from 12 to 2 and dinner from 6.30 until 9.30.

*Stepanov* (to the receptionist): Will you give me a wake up call at 7 o'clock in the morning?

*Receptionist:* Yes, of course.

*Stepanov:* Do you have a "Do not disturb" sign?

*Receptionist:* You'll find it in your room.

*Stepanov:* One more question. Where can I have my laundry done?

*Receptionist:* Our hotel runs a special laundry service for its guests. It's downstairs on the left. You can also leave your laundry in the bathroom, in the plastic bag with "Laundry" on it.

*Clark:* Now everything is clear, Alex. It's late and you must be tired. Have a good rest. Tomorrow morning I'll call for you and take you to the lab.

*Stepanov:* Good-bye, Charles. See you tomorrow.

*Receptionist* (to the bellman): Take the gentleman's luggage to the room five-o-three, please.

## Notes

lobby – a large reception area in a hotel.

credit card – enables the holder to pay without cash.

cash deposit – money given in partial advance payment for a room.

bellman (bellboy) – the person who assists guests with their luggage, shows them their rooms, and runs errands.

be on the house – at the expense of the hotel.

## Exercises

1. Answer the following questions.

1. At what hotel was Stepanov to stay in London? 2. What kind of room was booked for Stepanov? Who did the booking? 3. What did Clark and Ste-

panov find out from the receptionist about meal times, laundry service, etc.?  
4. How long is Stepanov going to stay in London?

2. *Ask, be asked, and answer.*

When booking a room at a hotel you are supposed to get some information about the hotel and be asked certain questions by the receptionist. Make up a talk with him.

The kind of questions you may ask:

*Have you got any rooms vacant? Have you got one single (double) room vacant? Can I have a single (double) room with a bathroom? Can I have a room for three days? What's the rate for the room per day? Shall I pay now (in advance)? Do I pay in cash or by credit card? Do you take traveller's cheques? How do I fill in the arrival card? Where do I sign? What's the check-out time for this hotel? What about meal times? Can I have meals brought up to my room? Where can I have my laundry done? Can I see the room before registering? Will you give me a wake up call?*

Possible replies of the receptionist:

*What can I do for you? Can I help you? When did you book? In what way are you going to pay? Would you fill in the arrival card, please? Will you make a cash deposit (in case you pay in cash)? May I have your credit card (in case you pay by credit card)? How long do you intend to stay? Would you tell us about the day of your departure in advance, please?*

Model: 1. Have you any rooms vacant?  
2. Yes, we have.  
1. Can I have a single room with a bath?  
2. Yes, there is one on the third floor.  
1. What's the rate for the room per day?  
(Keep the conversation going.)

### **Note**

traveller's cheque – a bank draft for personal use signed by the purchaser at the time of purchase.

## APPENDIX

### MAKE-UP OF THE LETTER

A neatly arranged letter will certainly make a better impression on the reader.

The layout of business and private letters is more or less common in all countries.

There are seven parts in a letter:

- 1) the heading (i.e. the sender's address);
- 2) the date;
- 3) the inside address (i.e. the recipient's name and address);
- 4) the opening salutation;
- 5) the body of the letter;
- 6) the closing salutation;
- 7) the signature.

The general pattern of a business letter will have the following picture.

#### Layout of a business letter with a printed letterhead

Margin	(1) The heading (3) The inside address  (4) The opening salutation (5) The body of the letter	(2) The date  (6) The closing salutation (7) The signature	Margin
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#### *1. Translate into Russian.*

1. I should be most grateful if you would inform me of the date of your arrival (departure). 2. Thank you very much for the abstract of your paper. 3. With many thanks I inform you that the papers have arrived in due course for publication. 4. Through the courtesy of Professor Hill we have learnt of your interest in very low pressure. 5. We are very appreciative to you for your help. 6. I wish to express my gratitude to you for the helpful co-operation and discussion. 7. I wish to express my deep gratitude to you for the book «The Mechanism of the Biosynthesis of RNA» that you have sent me. 8. Thank you for your courtesy in sending me the maps I am so much interested in. 9. I would be very glad

if you would let me have your reply to this letter as soon as possible. 10. We shall be happy to render you our help and service.

*2. Translate into Russian.*

1. In reply to your request I am sending you the descriptions. 2. We greatly regret that we are not in a position to meet your request at the present time. 3. I am very glad that you have approached me with your request to review your paper. 4. Thank you very much for your kind consideration to this matter. 5. I should like to call your attention to the following errors in equations (4), (12), (16), (23). 6. Your request will receive the most careful attention. 7. At the request of the National Committee I wish to inform you that the place of the next meeting will be Paris and not Rome. 8. Will you be so kind as to consider our request and deliver a series of lectures on Crystal Structure at our Institute from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March. 9. We are leaving this matter to you for your consideration. 10. It will be a great pleasure to me to meet your request and I shall send you this material as soon as it is ready. 11. I am taking the liberty in writing to you on the following matter and I sincerely trust you will give it your full attention.

*3. Translate into Russian.*

1. I am very sorry for having caused you trouble in this matter. 2. It is with great regret that we learn from your letter that you are not in a position to accept our proposal. 3. Please forgive me for not replying sooner to your kind letter of 21<sup>st</sup> March. 4. We apologize for the inconvenience caused by the delay of the instructions. 5. We regret to say that we cannot supply you with the information. 6. I very much regret that I am unable to accept your kind invitation. 7. I am sorry that I am unable to comply with your request. 8. Please accept our apologies for delay in delivery of the devices. 9. Personally I am sorry that there was no opportunity to discuss with you the problems which are of interest to us both. 10. I was so sorry not to have seen you at the conference in Prague. 11. We deeply regret to learn that you are unable to deliver a series of lectures on oriental ornaments. 12. We were very sorry to hear that you were ill last month and could not attend the Council meeting. 13. I am so sorry I am unable to avail myself of the opportunity to visit you as circumstances confine me to my work in my laboratory. 14. I wish to express my regret for having lost the opportunity of obtaining this material.

## RUSSIA

1. The vast territory of The Russian Federative Republic lies in the Eastern part of Europe and in the Northern part of Asia. 2. It is one of the largest countries in the world.

3. Russia is washed by the seas of the Pacific, the Arctic Oceans, as well as by the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Sea of Azov. 4. On land Russia borders on Finland, Latvia, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China and other countries.

5. The land of Russia varies a lot from heavy forests to bare deserts, from high peaked mountains to wide valleys. 6. There are various types of climate on the territory of Russia.

7. Russia is a land of long rivers and deep lakes. 8. The broad Volga River system is of great historic, economic and cultural importance to Russia. 9. It became the cradle of such ancient towns as Vladimir, Tver, Yaroslavl, Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod. 10. Numerous canals join all the rivers in the European part of Russia, making it the European's largest inland water transportation route. 11. The Volga River runs into the Caspian Sea, which is in reality the largest lake in the world. 12. The Baikal is the deepest lake in the world.

13. The European part of Russia is densely populated. 14. There are a lot of cities, towns and villages there.

15. Russia is rich in natural resources. 16. It has deposits of coal, oil, natural gas, iron ore, gold, nickel, etc.

17. The history of Russia dates back to the year 862. 18. Now Russia is a Presidential Republic. 19. Russia has always played an important role in the world. 20. It is one of its leading Powers.

### Did you know?

- Russia is on two **continents** – Europe and Asia. But only 20 % of Russia is in Europe.

- Russia has a **population** of 147 million people. 75 % of the population live in the European part. The weather is better there.

- Almost four times as many people live in cities as in villages. The 12 biggest cities have a population of over 1 million people each.

- Russian people are not always a Slavic **type**. They do not all have blue eyes and fair hair. Russian people may **look like** Spaniards, Greeks, Jews, Turks, Koreans or Mongolians.

- Russian people are part of a big **community** of more than 100 **nations** and **ethnic** groups. There are Russians, Tatars, Ukrainians, Chuvash, Bashkir, Belorussians and Mordvins.

- Everyone in Russia speaks Russian as their national language. Local languages are very important too. Children study them at school.

- There are five main **religions** in Russia. Orthodox Christians, Catholics, Muslims, Jews, and Buddhists live **side by side** all over the country.
- Russian people are all different, but together they built a strong country – the Russian Federation.

## **THE DOUBLE-HEADED EAGLE**

The double-headed eagle is the emblem of Russia. Above the heads there are three **crowns**. The eagle carries a **sceptre**, the **sign** of state power, and an orb, the sign of unity. You can see St. George on the **breast** of the eagle. It is the oldest Russian symbol of love for the Motherland. You can also see the eagle on the back of modern Russian coins.

## **OUTSTANDING PEOPLE OF RUSSIA**

1. The contribution of Russian people into the world culture can hardly be overestimated. 2. The mysterious Slavonic soul and curious mind found their expression in masterpieces of literature and art, music and philosophy, in numerous scientific discoveries.

3. The Russian literature is rightly considered to be one of the most humanistic and man-loving in the world. 4. Its roots go back to “The Lay of Igor Host”, written by an unknown author in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

5. The names of Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, Nekrasov, Turgenev, Bunin, Chekhov, Dostoyevsky, Goncharov, Tolstoy are known world-wide. 6. Even to enumerate the names of writers and poets now considered classic would take considerable time.

7. It’s always difficult for contemporaries to judge the literature of the present day, especially in our time of confused values. 8. Yet, the names of Vasily Shukshin, Vladimir Vysotsky are meaningful and dear to every Russian. 9. There are others of course: Voznesensky and Yevtushenko, Akhmadulina and Okudzhava. 10. They are certainly known nationwide and read by many.

11. The Russian fine art is represented by the names of Brullov, Aivazovsky, Tropinin, Vasnetsov, Shishkin, Levitan, Repin, Serov, Vrubel and others. 12. I happened to see Vrubel’s work “The Demon” on display at the art gallery. 13. The harmonious combination of the fantastic and the real, the gorgeous colour schemes remained forever appealing to me. 14. Among the modern painter’s works those by Boris Vasilyev and Ilya Glazunov are more to my liking.

15. The father of the Russian science was certainly Michail Lomonosov, a truly multitalented person. 16. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that Lomonosov created the Russian physics and chemistry, linguistics, geology and history. 17. Everybody knows the names of Dmitriy Mendeleev, Konstantin

Tsiolkovsky, Sergey Korolyov, Nikolay Vernandsky, and the greatest citizen, as well as scientist, of our days Andrey Sakharov.

## **THE UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on two large islands and about 5 thousand small islands, called the British Isles, to the North-West of Europe.

The larger island is Great Britain which consists of three parts: England, Scotland, and Wales, and the smaller is Ireland. Southern Ireland now called Eire or the Irish Republic, is independent of the United Kingdom. The British Isles cover an area of about 95000 square miles. Great Britain is separated from the continent by the English Channel, the narrower part of it is called the Strait of Dover.

The country is washed by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the Irish Sea. The shallow waters of the North and the Irish Seas provide good fishing grounds. Fishing therefore is very important.

Mountains are an important feature of the geography of the country. There are mountain chains in Scotland, Wales and North-West England, but they are not very high. North-West England is also famous for its beautiful lakes.

The rivers of Great Britain are not very long but usually deep and never freeze in winter. The longest and deepest rivers are the Severn and Mersey, the Thames on which stands the capital of Great Britain – London.

Lying in the middle latitudes and surrounded by waters Britain has a mild and temperate climate. The climate of the British Isles is generally classidied as cool, temperate, though in the Highlands of Scotland it is severe. The best season for the English people is spring when everything is in full bloom, there is much sunshine and it is rather warm. Autumn and winter are famous for their fogs and rains. In big industrial cities fog turns into “smog” (smoke + fog). It is a very unpleasant time. The usual temperature in winter very seldom falls below 3–5 degrees Centigrade. The weather in Great Britain is very changeable, there may be all kinds of weather within one day, that is why practically every talk the English people begin with comments on the weather.

Britain is a state with a highly developed industry. It is one of the most powerful capitalist countries in Europe. Great Britain is also one of the largest exporters of manufactured goods. At the same time it imports metal, oil, grain, meat, fruit, tea and other raw materials and foodstuffs.

The largest cities and most important industrial centres of Great Britain are London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Edinburgh.

London, the capital, is one of the most important industrial centres. Lots of things such as clothes, foodstuffs, cars, aircrafts, instruments, medical equipment are produced in and around London. It is also the biggest port.

Birmingham is the centre of the production of machines, lorries, TV sets, radios, computers, steel industry, heavy engine-ring.

Manchester in the North-West of England is the centre of the cotton textile industry, one of the Britain's most important producers of computers and electronic equipment, chemicals.

Ship-building is an important industry in the United Kingdom. The main ship-building centres are London, Glasgow in Scotland, Belfast in Northern Ireland and some others.

Oxford and Cambridge are not big industrial centres but they are famous all over the world as educational centres. The oldest and most famous universities of Great Britain are situated there. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge date from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and the Scottish Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh from 15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is parliamentary monarchy. Legislative power belongs to the Queen (formally) and the Parliament, which consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Officially the Head of the State is the Queen (from 1952 – Elisabeth II). But actual power belongs to the Parliament and the ruling party. The powers of the Queen are limited by the constitution.

There are four main parties on the political scene of the United Kingdom. The conservative Party, founded in 1867, serves the interests of big business. The supporters of the Liberal Party are small traders and middle class people. The Labour Party was founded in 1906. It mostly consists of workers, but its activity and political tactics show that it is a bourgeois party.

## LONDON

London is the capital of Great Britain. The population of London is over 8 million people. It is one of the largest cities of the world and the largest city of the United Kingdom. London is situated on the river Thames about forty miles from the mouth and is divided into two parts by the river: north and south. Fourteen bridges over the river carry heavy traffic from one side to the other.

The history of London goes back to Roman times. Due to favourable geographical position a small town soon became an important trade centre. Actually, London can be divided into several parts. First there is the City of London. It is the financial and business centre of Great Britain. Only a few thousand people live there, but in the day-time it is full of people: as about half a million people come to their work. The biggest Banks and offices are concentrated in the City.

The East End, lying eastwards from the City is very large, poor and crowded. It is the district of docks, factories, poor little houses and narrow streets. This district of London suffered greatly during World War II but carried on its work.

The West End makes a great contrast to the working district of London. It is full of richest hotels, largest super-markets, best cinemas and concert-halls. There are a lot of beautiful houses and gardens. Only well-to-do people can live there.

Another important district of London is Westminster, where most of the Government buildings are situated. Westminster Palace is the seat of the British Parliament. The towers of the Houses of Parliament stand high above the city. On the highest tower there is the largest clock in the country which is known to the whole world as Big Ben. One can hear Big Ben strike every quarter of an hour.

Not far away is Westminster Abbey with its Poet's Corner. Many English outstanding statesmen, painters, poets were buried there. Among them Geoffrey Chaucer, the first English national poet, world famous scientists I. Newton and Ch. Darwin, Tennison and others.

There in London one can find places with the names of W. Shakespeare, who lived and worked there for more than twenty years, Karl Marx, who was buried in Highgate cemetery. Every year many tourists come to London to see the places of interest. They make sightseeing tours of the City, visit the Trafalgar Square, the British Museum, the National Gallery. They also visit the most ancient historic monuments dating back to Roman times: the Tower of London, which had been a fortress, a prison and a royal palace. Now it is one of the most interesting museums.

## AMERICA

Think of a big, beautiful, empty land with mountains, forests, lakes, animals and fish, but no people. This was America 30,000 years ago. Around that time, the first people probably arrived in Alaska from Asia. They travelled south and became the North American Indians, and the Aztecs, Mayas and Incas and other peoples of Central and South America. Later came the Inuit (Eskimos) of Canada and the Arctic. But there are only a few of these early peoples in America today.

In the sixteenth century Europeans started to come to America, and soon after that, they brought workers – slaves – from Africa. Large numbers of immigrants continued to arrive from all over the world until the middle of the twentieth century.

The empty land was now full of people, speaking different languages and with different ideas. There are just three countries now in North America: Canada, Mexico and the USA. But there were nearly several more. The “United

States of America” was not always united. The 252 million people who live in its fifty states are not all the same. So how was the USA born? How did it grow? And what sort of country is it now?

## **THE PILGRIM FATHERS**

For thousands of years, America and its peoples were unknown to the rest of the world. The Vikings visited Canada from Scandinavia around AD 1000, but did not stay. Then, in 1492, a brave Italian sailor called Christopher Columbus reached the Caribbean, while he was looking for a sea route from Europe to India. Columbus did not stay either. It was only in the sixteenth century that the French, the Spanish, and the British all started to come and live in North America.

In the early seventeenth century, two very different groups of English people made the dangerous journey across the Atlantic. In 1607, a group of farmers began the colony of Jamestown, in Virginia. They fought with the Indians, and many died because they were ill and did not have enough to eat. But Pocahontas, the daughter of an Indian chief, became a friend of Captain John Smith and helped him and the other English people. She later married a man called John Rolfe and went to England, where she died. The farmers discovered that it was easy to grow tobacco in Virginia, so they brought African people to work in the fields as their slaves. Smoking was becoming very fashionable, and the Americans found a big market for their tobacco in Europe.

In 1620, another group of 101 English men, women and children arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts. We know these people, who had very strong ideas about religion, as the “Pilgrims”, or “Pilgrim Fathers”. They did not want to live in England because they did not agree with the Church of England, so they sailed to America in a ship called the *Mayflower*. They became not only farmers, but also businessmen who bought and sold animal skins. They thought that all men were equal and so they did not have slaves.

The Pilgrims too were often ill and hungry, and nearly half of them died in the first year. But they were helped by friendly Indians, who showed them how to grow corn. In the autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims had a big dinner to give thanks for the first food that they had grown themselves. This day became known as Thanksgiving, and Americans celebrate it every year, on the fourth Thursday of November. It is one of the most important holidays in the year, and people often travel many hundreds of kilometres to be with their family.

## **USA facts**

- “America” was named after an Italian businessman called Amerigo Vespucci, who sailed to South America between 1499 and 1502.

- Columbus called the Native Americans “Indians” because he thought that he had reached India.

## **THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE**

By 1770, there were thirteen colonies along the east coast of North America, all governed by Britain. But Britain was a long way away, and the people of the colonies became angry at the high taxes that the government made them pay.

In December 1773 a group of men threw 342 boxes of tea into the sea at Boston because they did not want to pay the British tax on it. This was the “Boston Tea Party”.

The British government was now angry too, and in April 1775 some Americans fought a group of British soldiers at Lexington and Concord, in Massachusetts. A few months later, after the Battle of Bunker Hill, near Boston, it was clear that Britain was at war with its American colonies.

A farmer from Virginia, George Washington, became the leader of the American army.

But the colonies did not say that they wanted to be fully independent until the summer of 1776. Thomas Jefferson wrote the famous “Declaration of Independence”, where he said that the king, George III, had broken his agreement with his people, because he had not let them have their rights: rights to life, freedom and happiness. The day of the Declaration of Independence is another important American holiday, celebrated each year on July 4.

The Americans finally won the war five years later, in October 1781, and two years after that, they were free to govern themselves. In 1788 they made George Washington their first president. The thirteen colonies, which became known as ‘states’, grew by adding land to the south and west. In 1803, Jefferson, the third president, bought a piece of rich farmland in the mid-west from France; it was five times as big as France itself, and it only cost \$15 million. In 1819, the USA bought Florida from Spain. The United States was now twice as big as it had been in 1781. And by 1848, after winning Texas and the West from Mexico, it had grown again so that it reached all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific, over 5,000 kilometres.

### **USA facts**

- The names “United States of America” and “American” we first used at the time of the War of Independence.
- The American flag, the Stars and Stripes, also first appeared at that time. It has a stripe for each of the first thirteen states and a star is added when a new state joins, so there are now fifty stars.

## **NEW AMERICANS**

At the beginning of the nineteenth century most American families had come from Britain, Germany and Scandinavia, and they were farmers or businesspeople. But soon that began to change.

Factories were built and cities grew; poor people arrived from other countries, hoping to find work. Between 1840 and the end of the century, about five million people came from Ireland alone. Another five million immigrants came from Italy, and millions more from Russia, Poland and other countries of Eastern Europe, hoping to find jobs and freedom. America kept an “open door” until 1924 and about 27 million people arrived between 1880 and 1930. They were often poor, had different religions, and had not been to school for very long; there was a lot of prejudice against them.

The Chinese immigrants in the West also met with prejudice. Many people came to live in California after gold was found there in 1848, and among them were 300,000 Chinese. Many of the Chinese stayed to work building the new railways. Like black people and Native Americans, the Chinese had no civil rights and after 1882, they were no longer allowed to enter the USA.

The Irish, Italians and Eastern Europeans usually stayed in the big cities of the East or the Mid-West, like New York, Boston or Chicago, and worked in the factories. Although most of them learned English and became Americans, they also wanted to keep their own way of life. So in many cities you can find places known as Little Italy or Chinatown, where the restaurants have Italian or Chinese food. This is all part of what makes America an interesting and exciting country.

### **USA facts**

- Immigrants from Europe arrived at Ellis Island in New York, where they were checked for illness and other problems. They were welcomed by the Statue of Liberty, which was given by France to America in 1886. On it are written these words:

“Give me your tired, your poor...”

- Today, the biggest number of immigrants to the USA come from Spanish-speaking countries such as Mexico and Puerto Rico. More than six million have arrived since 1980 and Spanish has become the second language of the United States.

### **LIVING IN THE USA**

Most Americans who have jobs live more comfortably than people in any other country in the world. They usually work a forty-hour week and they have two weeks’ holiday a year as well as the official holidays like Thanksgiving and

Christmas. In 60 % of families, both the husband and the wife go out to work. Although more than 40 % of the land is farmed, not many people work as farmers, and fewer Americans work in factories than in the past. Most jobs are now in hospitals, banks, hotels, shops, etc.

How do Americans spend their money? Two thirds of them own their homes, often a house with a garden in a nice suburb. And at least 85 % of families have a car. They can use it to go to “drive-in” restaurants, cinemas, banks, and even churches – the USA has no official religion, but over 60 % of Americans belong to a Christian church.

If they don't want to go out, Americans can always stay at home, and watch television. Nearly all families have a TV and it is said that an ordinary family watches seven hours a day! They have over 10,000 TV stations to choose from, most of which are owned by private companies, not by the government. American TV programmes are sold all over the world, and in many countries people watch the news on CNN. Few newspapers cover all the USA, but you can buy papers like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* everywhere, as well as the magazines *Time* and *Newsweek*.

Most Americans enjoy sports, which helps to keep them healthy. Their favourites are baseball, basketball, football and ice hockey. American football is very different from European football; players run and carry the ball more than they use their feet.

And, of course, Americans love to shop; the supermarket first appeared in America, and now many shops are open twenty-four hours a day. In the 1990s, Americans were spending twelve hours a month in indoor shopping centres; some of the biggest shopping centres in the world are in the USA – Mall of America in Minneapolis covers half a million square meters!

Americans have to pay if they are ill and visit a doctor or go to hospital, but they do not usually pay to go to school. Schools, like the laws, are different from state to state, but in most places, everyone goes to school for about twelve years. And about a third of school students go on to university.

What do Americans eat? In the past, America gave a number of different foods to the rest of the world: potatoes, tomatoes, chocolate and corn, for example. Today, American “fast” food is sold in restaurants in almost every country of the world. The most famous examples are probably hamburgers and hot dogs, eaten with french fries.

But if you visit the USA you can also eat all kinds of tasty food from different countries: Chinese, Mexican, Italian ... the immigrants who came to the USA brought their own favourite foods with them. And more and more people are interested in healthy eating, so they choose “low-fat” foods, or they refuse to eat meat.

## USA facts

- The money in the USA is the dollar, which contains a hundred cents. Some coins have special names: 5 ¢ is a nickel, 10 ¢ is a dime, and 25 ¢ a quarter.
- Coca-Cola was first made in 1886 by an American called John Pemberton. Today it is sold in 195 countries and Coke is one of the best-known words in the world.
- From 1920 to 1933, during Prohibition, it was against the law to drink alcohol in the USA, but many people still wanted to drink it. So criminals like Al Capone became rich by bringing alcohol into the country.

## CITIES, LAKES AND RIVERS

Boston, where the fight for independence began in the eighteenth century, is one of the oldest cities in the USA. In neighbouring Cambridge is the oldest university in the USA, Harvard, which was opened in 1636, as well as the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Perhaps the most well-known family in twentieth-century Boston was the Kennedy family. Like many other Boston families, they came from Ireland. They became very rich, and John F. Kennedy, a Democrat, became President of the United States in 1960. At that time he said "... ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country". He and his beautiful wife Jacqueline were young and popular, but sadly, in 1963, "JFK" was shot and killed in Dallas, Texas.

Everyone knows New York, the biggest city in the USA. It is a great place for theatre, shopping and restaurants. It is also the home of the United Nations, whose offices are in a beautiful glass skyscraper. In fact, when you think of New York, you probably think that the skyscraper was born here.

But in fact the first really tall buildings were built in Chicago after the great fire of 1871. Today, the Sears Tower in Chicago (more than 400 metres high) is the tallest building in the USA.

Chicago and the other cities around the Great Lakes of the Mid-West have more factories than anywhere else in the USA. Detroit, on Lake Erie, is where cars are made and it is also known as one of the homes of black popular music.

Henry Ford, who made the famous Ford cars, was born in Michigan, near Detroit. His "Model T" (1908) was the first car cheap enough for ordinary people to buy. "Anyone can drive a Ford", they said.

Lying between Canada and the USA, the five Great Lakes are an important route for ships travelling from the Atlantic, along the St Lawrence Seaway, to the Mid-West. Together, Lakes Erie, Ontario, Huron, Michigan, and Superior cover 244,108 square kilometres – more than any other group of lakes in the world. If you go there in the summer, it is almost like going to the sea; you can

lie on the beach or sail a boat. But in winter it is very cold. Chicago is sometimes known as the “windy city” because of the cold winds that blow in from Lake Michigan.

Thousands of kilometres south of the Great Lakes is the state of Louisiana, which used to be French. The city of New Orleans, on the great Mississippi river, is famous for its food, which is like French and African food together, and for Mardi Gras, when people celebrate by dressing in colourful clothes and walking or dancing through the streets, playing music. New Orleans is also the home of jazz, which was first played by black musicians like Louis Armstrong in the 1920s.

The Mississippi river is 3,778 kilometres long and in the nineteenth century was an important way of travelling from north to south. Mark Twain wrote wonderful stories about life on and around the river: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), and *Huckleberry Finn* (1884).

### **USA facts**

- If you drive all the way down the Atlantic coast from New York past Philadelphia to Washington DC, you pass from city to suburb and back again; it almost seems to be one big city: a “megalopolis”.
- Niagara Falls, between Lakes Ontario and Erie, is 51 metres high.
- Mark Twain’s real name was Samuel Clemens and he took the name “Mark Twain” from special words used by sailors on the Mississippi. “Mark twain” means that the water is about two fathoms, or four metres, deep.

### **THE OPEN UNIVERSITY**

A university which calls itself “The Open University” suggests that all other universities are closed. And this is true because they are closed to everyone who does not have the time, the opportunity or the qualifications to study there. For these people who missed the chance of going to a conventional university, “The Open University” was set up by the British Government in 1967.

Most of the students work at home or in full-time jobs and can study only in their free time. They need to study about ten hours a week. As the university is truly “open”, there are no formal entry requirements, and students are accepted on a «first come, first served» basis. This is one of the more revolutionary aspects of the university.

Students are therefore of all ages and come from very different backgrounds. Some, such as teachers, want to improve their qualifications. Others, like retired people or mothers whose families have grown up, are at the O.U. because they now have the time to do something they have always wanted to do. Returning to “school” is difficult for most students, for they have forgotten – or never knew how to study, to write essays, and to prepare for exams. In addition

to all the reading and writing assignments, students have got a lot of watching and listening to do, for there are weekly O.U. lectures broadcast on BBC television and radio.

To keep people from just giving up or collapsing under all of this work, each student gets the help and support of his own tutor / counsellor, who he meets regularly and can telephone in any crisis or difficulty. At the meetings, students get to know other students on the course and join with them into “self-help” groups. These groups meet in each other’s homes to discuss the texts and assignments, here too they find support and stimulation.

## **OXBRIDGE**

This name denotes the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, both founded in the medieval period. They are federations of semi-independent colleges, each college having its own staff, known as “Fellows”. Most colleges have their own dining hall, library and chapel and contain enough accommodation for at least half of their students. The Fellows teach the college students, either one-to-one or in very small groups (known as “tutorials” in Oxford and “supervisions” in Cambridge). Oxbridge has the lowest student/staff ratio in Britain. Lectures and laboratory work are organized at university level. As well as the college libraries, there are two university libraries, both of which are legally entitled to a free copy of every book published in Britain. Before 1970 all Oxbridge colleges were single-sex (mostly for men). Now, the majority admit both sexes.

## **POLLUTION**

1. People have designed and produced up-to-date machines and technologies to make their life easier and more comfortable. But all these activities result in air and water pollution.

2. One of the most important problems is the oceans. A lot of ships crossing the oceans and seas, especially those that carry oil, put their wastes into water, and the water becomes dirty. As a result many birds and fish die because of polluted water, others are getting contaminated and people may get sick from eating them.

3. The second problem is air pollution. Cars and plants pollute the atmosphere with their wastes. They destroy the ozone layer which protects us from the dangerous light of the Sun. They also destroy forests which are dying from acid rains.

4. Now people begin to realize the danger of their activities. People are concerned about the air and the water used by everyone, they are also concerned about the future of the planet because they understand that these activities affect the balance of nature.

5. In order to make our life not only easier but better and healthier we must learn to protect the water, the air and the earth from pollution. Our planet belongs to our children and if we want our children to live in a healthier world we must do everything to protect them from the catastrophe.

## **THE PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENT**

1. One of the greatest problems of all modern cities is the environment pollution. Every year people consume more goods. Production of goods and services uses energy and natural resources (oil, gas, coal, wood, etc.). All these things are used faster than they can be replenished. Natural resources and energy are getting more expensive, and air and water are becoming seriously polluted. The problem of environmental pollution is well-known to most people. We have heard about it on television and radio, and have read in newspapers and magazines.

2. The worst environment pollution is caused by the manufacturers who put chemical wastes into rivers and seas. Another problem is air pollution. The air is polluted by traffic and smog from industrial enterprises.

3. The word *smog* comes from *smoke* and *fog*. Smog is a sort of fog with other substances mixed in it, which can be harmful, even deadly. Such diseases as eczema and asthma are linked to air pollution.

4. Materials like paper and glass can be reused, but, unfortunately, many materials, especially plastics cannot be reused and cannot be absorbed by the earth again. Some plastics cannot even be destroyed. As a result of this people face the problem of preservation of our environment.

5. All these things are very serious and people must realise what will happen if they don't do everything possible to reduce man-made atmospheric pollutants and smog.

## **IN THE WATER**

Some dolphins live in rivers and some live in the sea. The Yangtze (Chang Jiang) River runs across China from west to east. In the 1950s there were 6,000 baiji dolphins in the river. Baiji dolphins can usually hear very well and they "talk" to other dolphins. In past times they heard small ships on the river and went under them.

But now there are many big ships in the river, and there is a lot of other noise too, so the baijis hit their heads on the big ships. Pollution from towns and factories goes in to the river too, and the baijis cannot see well in the dirty water. When the Chinese built the big Three Gorges Dam across the river, the dolphins' habitat changed again.

The Chinese stopped the hunting of river dolphins in 1983. They built a home for the animals in the river. It was very expensive, and they needed money

for it. People could buy the baiji name, so in China there were Baiji drinks, Baiji shoes, and a Baiji Hotel. Some of the money from these helped the dolphins. But by 1990 there were only two hundred dolphins in 2,000 kilometres of river. In 2004, scientists could find only two of them.

River dolphins in the Ganges River (in India and Bangladesh) are also in danger. About 10 per cent of the people in the world live near the river, so there is a lot of pollution. The dolphins cannot move up and down the river because there are more and more dams across it. There are about 4,000 dolphins now, but these river dolphins are at risk too.

### **WHAT CAN COUNTRIES DO?**

Scientists often meet and talk about animals in danger. Politicians in many countries are beginning to talk about this too. They ask a lot of questions, and sometimes they listen to the scientists.

Who can hunt dolphins and whales? How many can those people kill every year? Can people buy rhinoceros horns? Is it right? Which animals are disappearing fastest? How can we protect them? Where is the money going to come from? These are some of their questions.

So what can countries do? Here is one possible answer: they can open national parks. These are big and usually very beautiful wild places. Here, animals and birds can live freely, but they are also homes for trees and flowers. Visitors can go there and watch the animals, but usually they leave at night. They cannot hunt or take things away with them.

The first national parks opened a hundred years ago or more. These days you can find national parks in most countries. They are very important because they protect the land and the animals. One of the first was Gran Paradiso National Park in Italy. In 1800 Alpine ibex were in danger, because people hunted them for their wonderful long horns. They nearly disappeared from Europe. But King Victor Emmanuel II of Italy liked hunting the ibex, so his men protected the animals in the national park.

### **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

Can we help? Do we leave the answers to politicians and scientists, or can you or I change things?

Some people help in important ways. Jane Goodall arrived at Lake Tanganyika, in East Africa, when she was twenty-six years old. She wanted to learn about chimpanzees. At first, the chimpanzees ran away when they saw her. But after some time they began to come near her. She gave them names. She watched them and wrote about them. She taught other scientists about them. Then she helped to protect chimpanzees and their habitats – and the habitats of other animals in Africa.

Dian Fossey went to Central Africa because she was interested in mountain gorillas. Mountain gorillas are big animals with long arms and long black hair. Scientists did not know about them before 1902. They only live in two places, and there are only about 600 of them in the world. Dian worked with gorillas in Rwanda and after some time she understood them very well. But hunters killed gorillas because they got a lot of money for their heads and hands. When hunters killed one young gorilla called Digit, Dian was very angry. She talked to a lot of people about the animals and money came to her from many countries for their protection.

\* \* \*

This man-made pollution is what clean-air laws are aimed at.

Consider Los Angeles, a large city set in a basin, with about 7,000,000 inhabitants. It is surrounded on three sides by mountains, and on the fourth by the Pacific Ocean. When the wind blows out over the ocean, it sweeps away pollutants. But at other times, the air is stagnant. Smoke and other pollutants from industry and automobiles do not blow away. They just build up into a thick, smelly, foggy layer of smog. The location of Los Angeles, plus all the people and industry there, make it one of the biggest “smog centers” in the country. And it is Los Angeles which has led in measures to reduce smog.

Los Angeles has banned unrestricted burning, for example, burning trash. Incinerators without pollution controls were outlawed. Industry was forced to change combustion processes and add controls to reduce pollutants coming from their chimneys. Laws were passed that required the addition of emission controls on automobiles. All these measures have significantly reduced atmospheric pollution in the Los Angeles area.

If not controlled, the automobile can give off pollutants from four places. Pollutants can come from the fuel tank, the carburetor, the crank-case, and the tail pipe. Pollutants from the fuel tank and carburetor consist of gasoline vapors. Pollutants from the crankcase consist of partly burned air-fuel mixture that has blown by the piston rings. Pollutants from the tail pipe consist of partly burned gasoline (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), and – if there is sulfur in the gasoline – sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>).

### **AIR POLLUTION AND SMOG ARE THE PROBLEMS OF MODERN CITIES**

The word *Smog* comes from *smoke and fog*. Smog is a sort of fog with other substances mixed in. Smog has been here a long time. Billions of years ago, volcanoes sent millions of tons of ash and smoke into the air. Winds whipped up dust clouds. Animal and vegetable matter decayed, adding polluting gases.

When people came along, they began to produce their own kind of air pollution. They discovered fire. In the Middle Ages, people in cities such as London used soft coal to heat their homes. The smoke from these fires, combined with moisture in the air, produced dense layers of smog. The smog would blanket the city for days, particularly in winter. The heat generated in large cities tends to circulate air within a dome-like shape. This traps the smog and holds it over the city.

Smog, and the chemicals and other substances in it, can be harmful, even deadly. Smog blurs vision. It irritates the eyes, the throat, and the lungs. Eyes water, throats get sore, people cough. Smog can make people ill. And it can make sick people sicker. Air pollution has been linked to eczema, asthma, emphysema, cardiovascular difficulties, and lung and stomach cancer. It also has a harmful effect on the environment. Food; crops and animals suffer. Paint may peel from houses. It is obvious that we must do everything possible to reduce man-made atmospheric pollutants and smog.

## **THE LANGUAGE OF COMPUTERS**

60 years ago, people hadn't even heard of computers, and today we cannot imagine life without them.

Computer technology is the fastest-growing industry in the world. The first computer was the size of a minibus and weighed a ton. Today, its job can be done by a chip the size of a pin head. And the revolution is still going on.

Very soon we'll have computers that we'll wear on our wrists or even in our glasses and earrings. Such wearable computers are being developed in the USA.

Japan's biggest mobile-phone company has just released its cleverest product so far, the i-mode, a mobile phone that allows you to surf the Internet as well as make calls. People are already using the phone to check the news headlines, follow the stockmarket and download the latest jokes. Soon they will be able to buy cinema tickets and manage their bank accounts.

The next generation of computers will be able to talk and even think for themselves. They will contain electronic "neural networks". Of course, they'll be still a lot simpler than human brains, but it will be a great step forward. Such computers will help to diagnose illnesses, find minerals, understand and control the world's money markets, identify criminals and control space travel.

Computer revolution is changing our life and our language, too. We are constantly making up new words or giving new meanings to old ones. Most of computer terms are born in Silicon Valley, the world's top computer-science centre.

## **PERSONAL COMPUTERS**

Does every home need a personal computer? Here's what a fan of home computers would say to someone:

Your home needs a computer. It will play a big role in your daily life. You're going to find more and more uses for a computer at home.

A home computer is going to save your precious time. You'll like banking by computer, paying bills by computer, and even shopping by computer.

Having your own computer will help your family get a better education. You're going to love the latest educational software for kids. For example, math, English, and history programs will improve your children's grades in school. Drawing and music software will develop their artistic talents.

Contrary to what some say, a personal computer will bring your family together. Mark my words, it's going to be the most popular item in your home.

The Internet is without doubt one of the most important inventions in history. It was started in 1968 by the US government, but at first it was used plainly by scientists. Since 1990, when the World Wide Web was created, it has changed the world and its uses are growing every day.

The main use of the Internet is to find information – for your schoolwork or job, or just to find out more about your hobbies, sports or current events.

All of the latest information is available to you, in your home, at any hour of the day and night. It's much faster and easier to surf the net in search of information from all over the world than to travel to libraries in dozens of countries.

You can also use the Internet to read newspapers and magazines, play games, plan your holiday or buy from your favourite shop.

E-mail makes it possible to send electronic messages anywhere in the world in seconds, and you can use the Internet to "chat" with people and make new friends.

However, the real world of the Internet may not be as perfect as it seems.

With so much information available, finding what you want can take you hours. Multimedia web pages with photographs, music and video are attractive, but they make downloading slow and boring. Besides, there is too much advertising instead of real information.

As for Internet friendships, sitting at home in front of a computer making "chat friends" is not the same as actually meeting people.

## **MEANS OF COMMUNICATION**

People use various means of communication to get from one place to another. In the old days people had to travel several days, weeks and months to get to the place they needed. They either went on foot, by coaches driven by horses

or on horseback or by boats and ships. Then trams, cars, buses, airplanes, underground and other means appeared.

Many people like to travel by air as it is the fastest way of travelling. A lot of people like to travel by train because they can look at passing villages, forests and fields through windows. Some people like to travel by car. There they can go as slowly or as fast as they like. They can stop when and where they want.

People who live in big cities use various means of communication to get from one place to another. Londoners use the underground railway. They call it “the tube”. London’s underground is the oldest in the world. It was opened in 1863. There was one route at that time, four miles long. Now London’s underground has 277 stations and it is 244 miles long. Londoners use buses. The first bus route was opened in London in 1904. Today there are hundreds of routes there. The interesting thing is that some of the routes are the same as many years ago.

London’s buses are double-decked buses. Londoners do not use trams, though London was the first city where trams appeared. And now it is one of the biggest cities in the world where there are no trams. The last tram left the streets of London many years ago. Londoners use cars. One can see a lot of cars in London streets. When Londoners leave the town, they use trains, ships or airplanes.

## **UNDERGROUND TOUR**

The Moscow Tour Company invites you on a tour of the Moscow Metro. The metro is the fastest way to travel around the city. It opens at six o’clock at night.

The first metro line opened on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1935. It had 13 stations. Today, there are 262 km of lines and 164 stations all over the city. Ten million passengers use the metro every day.

Don’t miss the chance to visit some of the oldest metro stations. Many of these are like underground palaces. See the amazing mosaic ceiling and chandeliers at Komsomolskaya Circular, or the famous sculptures at Ploshchad Revolutsii and admire the light and airy design of Mayakovskaya station.

Don’t miss the chance to take a metro tour. You’re sure to have a wonderful experience.

## **THE TUBE**

You can get to most places in London very quickly if you take the Underground, or “Tube”, as it is called. But don’t travel between 7.30 and 9.30 in the morning, or 4.30 and 6.30 in the evening. These are the “rush hours”. If you do travel then, you will meet quite a lot of the 2300 million people who travel by Tube every year!

You have decided where you want to go – so you buy a ticket from the ticket office at the Underground Station, or from an automatic machine. Some stations have automatic gates where you go in with your ticket. Keep your ticket till the end of your journey, that's when the ticket-collector (or machine) takes it from you.

There are eight lines on the London Underground. On an Underground map all the lines are different colour.

## **UNDERGROUND IN LONDON**

1. Bands were playing and the gentlemen in hats were preparing to make speeches about their great achievement. They made the first underground railway travel in the world – a distance of almost four miles.

It was the year 1863 and on that first historic day 30,000 Londoners used this new and strange way of travel. Now a hundred years later the London Underground carries two million passengers every day over its 273 stations. Five hundred trains carry a total of 675 million passengers each year.

2. In the early days the trains were driven by steam locomotives which burnt coal.

It is said that the train staff and porters asked permission to grow beards and moustaches – as an early form of smog mask.

Now the atmosphere “underground” is considered even better than that outside as germs cannot grow in the dry air – and the trains, of course, are electric.

3. The deep-level tubes came later, in 1890. Tunnelling a tube through miles of clay, and sometimes sand and gravel, is no easy task, and it was James Henry Greathead who developed the method which was to make most of London's tube tunnels possible.

London transport's experience with tunnels brought them another record. The longest continuous railway tunnel in the world is the 17 ½ mile tunnel in the Northern line.

4. There are numerous escalators which help to keep the traffic moving. The first was installed in 1911. Now there are 188 and they can carry 10,000 passengers an hour at a maximum speed. The longest at Leicester Square is over 80 feet in length. On long escalators the speed is changeable. The “up” escalator runs at full speed when carrying passengers, but when empty it runs at half speed.

5. Safety was always one of the main concerns of London transport. In spite of the fact that trains often follow each other within seconds, it is said that the London Underground is the safest form of transport in the world. Automatic signalling is operated by the trains themselves. A programme machine controls routes: if changes are necessary, they are made automatically and with lightning speed. No accidents can happen through human weakness.

6. An entirely automatic driving system is now being tested. The driver will be in charge of starting the trains at stations, but speed and safety signalling will be controlled by coded electrical impulses.

The air in the Underground is changed every quarter of an hour, and the temperature all the year round is maintained at 69–79 degrees by Fahrenheit.

7. The system of the Underground is a complicated one, and you may have to change trains. At stations where this is necessary you will see if you are going to one of the main line stations from which long-distance trains run, a notice telling you to follow the green light or red lights you will come to the right platform without difficulty.

## **LONDON'S UNDERGROUND IN WORLD WAR II**

(1) For many years of its existence London's Underground was the most popular and efficient means of public transport in the city. However, during the five years of World War II it played a far more important part in the life of England's capital than in the pre-war period.

(2) In those hard days thousands of Londoners had to spend nights in London's Underground. Besides, many ancient books and rare collections from the British Museum spent the war in the underground tunnels. Some of the unused tunnels 5 miles in length were occupied by a factory producing airplanes.

(3) Life for the people at the 79 stations was made as comfortable as possible. There were sleeping accommodations and a clinic at these stations. Special trains carried food supplies to 124 canteens.

(4) The operation of London's Underground was so perfectly organized that even in the worst days of the war it was handling its normal volume of traffic during the day and was used as home by 177,000 people every night.

(5) Great efforts were made in order to ensure a safe operation of the whole system. The underground railways themselves were prepared for any emergency situation. They had duplicate control and power supply systems. In order to reduce the danger of flooding the tunnels near the Thames were equipped with isolating doors. All London trains had special reduced lighting for use on the track sections running on the surface.

## **ROOM TYPES**

Single room – it is a room occupied by one person.

Double room – it is a room with one large bed for two people.

Twin room – it is a room with two single beds for two people.

Triple room – it is a room with three single beds, or a double bed and a single bed, suitable for occupation by three people.

Family room – it is a room with four or more beds, particularly suitable for a family with children.

Lounge or sitting room – it is a room not used as a bed-room but where guests may read, watch television.

## ROOM RATES

**Full board or enpension** – it is a room and all meals included.

**Half board or demi-pension** – this includes the room, plus breakfast and one other meal (lunch or dinner).

**Bed and breakfast or continental plan** – it is the rate that includes the room and breakfast. (The breakfast itself may be «English» or «continental»).

**European plan** – it is the rate for a room alone, with no meals included at all.

I travel a lot – up to three months a year – so I guess you could say I spend a quarter of my life in hotels! For me, the ideal hotel has big rooms with comfortable beds and good facilities including a business centre. It should also be as near the centre of town as possible, but within easy reach of the airport.

I love going on vacation, especially in Europe. I worked hard all my life, so I feel I deserve a little luxury now – and I don't mind paying for it. If you ask me, a hotel that doesn't make you feel really special isn't a hotel!

I like smaller hotels because you can learn more about the country, the people, and the culture. The staff have more time for you. I think most of the big hotels are so impersonal. They all look the same. When you are inside them, you can't tell which country you are in.

It's my job to visit hotels, not just the de luxe 5-star ones, but also the small family-run places with only a few rooms. But if you're asking me personally, the most important things are polite and friendly staff and efficient service. Anything else is really a bonus.

## ISN'T THE HOTEL ENORMOUS!

*Mr Gunther:* Isn't this hotel enormous!

*Mr Black:* It is not only very large, but also very popular because it is centrally located. From here you can reach any part of the city by underground or bus.

*Mr Gunther:* How many guests does this hotel accomodate?

*Mr Black:* I do not know exactly, but I believe that there are twenty-five floors, and it must have room for several hundred guests.

*Mr Gunther:* Are all the rooms usually occupied?

*Mr Black:* Yes. Very often I have been unable to obtain accomodation for my friends.

*Mr Gunther:* Then we were fortunate enough to get a room for as little as 9 pounds. How are the meals, and are the prices reasonable?

*Mr Black:* The hotel is known for its excellent cuisine and moderate prices. The dining-room is so beautifully decorated that you will enjoy eating there.

*Mr Gunther:* Is there music during the meals?

*Mr Black:* Yes, a famous orchestra plays sweet dinner music and its imported and domestic wines leave unforgettable taste. Let's have our first meal this evening at the hotel. You and Mrs Gunther will be our guests.

*Mr Gunther:* We shall be glad to accept your invitation.

*Mr Black:* We'll meet you at the hotel lobby at 6.30.

*Mr Gunther:* That's splendid. That will give us an hour to rest and change our clothes. We'll see you then at 6.30.

*Questions:* What is the hotel like? Why is the hotel popular? How many guests does it accommodate? Why does Mr Gunther think they were fortunate enough to get a room at the hotel? What is the hotel known for? Where does Mr Black invite his friends?

## THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

Mr Brown got to a hotel late in the evening after a long journey. He asked the desk-clerk whether there were any vacant rooms in the hotel. At that moment another traveller came to the hotel and asked the desk-clerk for a room too.

The only vacant room was a double one. "Do you mind spending the night in that room together?" the desk-clerk asked. At first the travellers didn't like the idea, but just then it began raining hard and they were too tired to go to another hotel, so they changed their minds. Their things were carried in and soon the two men went to sleep.

Suddenly a loud voice woke Mr Brown up. It was quite dark. "What's the matter?" Mr Brown asked in surprise. In a weak voice the second traveller answered: "I'm sorry, but I had to wake you up. I've got asthma. I feel very bad. In addition I've got a terrible headache. If you don't want me to die, open the window quickly".

Mr Brown jumped out of bed and began looking for matches, but he couldn't find them in the dark, and the sick man went on: "Air, air, I want fresh air. I'm dying".

Mr Brown still couldn't find the matches, so he tried to find the window. It took him some time, and at last he thought he had found it. But he couldn't open it. As the voice of the traveller became weaker and weaker, Mr Brown took a chair and broke the window with it. The sick man immediately stopped moaning and said he felt much better. Then the two of them slept peacefully until morning.

When they woke up next morning they were surprised to see that the only window in the room was closed but the large looking-glass was broken to pieces.

*Questions:* What woke Mr Brown up? What happened to Mr Brown's neighbour? What did Mr Brown begin to look for? Why did Mr Brown break the window? How did the travellers spend the rest of the night? Why were they surprised in the morning?

## MR THOMPSON

Mr Thompson had to go to Manchester on business. He had not been there for years. He thought of going by car, but he did not like the idea of driving for several hours on busy roads, so in the end he decided to take a train. As he was unable to catch an early train, it was late in the evening when he arrived in Manchester.

Feeling tired after his journey, he chose a hotel near the station. He went to the reception desk and asked the clerk if there was a single room, with bath. "Certainly, sir", the clerk said. "I hope there is plenty of hot water", Mr Thompson said. He was looking forward to a hot bath after his journey. "Of course, sir", the clerk said. "Room forty-nine. I'll get the porter to take up your luggage". Mr Thompson was not a mean man, but he had made his money the hard way, and he did not believe in tipping people for doing things that he could do himself. "Don't bother", he said, "I've got one suitcase. I can manage myself". "All right, sir. Here's your key. Your room is on the fourth floor, number forty-nine". "The fourth floor? I'd rather use the lift then". "The lift is out of order, sir, I'm afraid. It has been for the last fortnight". "In that case, I shall need the porter after all". The reception clerk looked at his watch. "He's just gone off duty", he said, "He went just now, while we were talking. The night porter hasn't arrived yet".

Mr Thompson's face began to feel hot, which was a sign that he was getting annoyed. Picking up his suitcase he made his way up four flights of stairs to his room, which he found to be extremely small and untidy. He felt like a drink, so he picked up the phone: "Will you send a whisky and soda to room forty-nine?"

Fifteen minutes passed and no drink arrived. He phoned down a second time: "This is room forty-nine again. Where's the whisky I ordered some time ago? I'd like it straightaway". Suddenly feeling suspicious, he went into the bathroom and turned on the hot tap. No hot water came out. In fact, no water came out at all. By this time his face was feeling very hot, so he went to the wash basin in his bedroom and splashed some cold water on it. He waited. Still no drink. Then he noticed that the water was still in the basin. It had not drained

away. The pipes must be clogged. This was the last straw. He used the phone again. "I demand to see the manager", he said. "At once".

After twenty minutes the manager appeared. "Can I help you, sir?" he said. "I wish to make a complaint about the service and the conditions in this hotel", Mr Thompson said. "There are no porters. The lift is out of order. My room is no bigger than a rabbit-hutch, and it is dirty. I have phoned twice for a drink, but no drink has come. I was assured that there would be hot water, and there isn't any. And now, to crown it all, the wash-basin is blocked".

The manager looked at the wash-basin for some minutes. He smelt strongly of beer. "That is very strange", he said. He put his hand into the water and got out a small object. Mr Thompson heard the sound of water draining away. The manager smiled triumphantly: "You forgot to remove the plug, sir", he said. "You see, there is absolutely nothing wrong with our hotel".

## **HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR RESUME (C.V. = CURRICULUM VITAE)**

Before the interview Evans had to send Clark his Resume, the Cover Letter, and the Letter of Recommendation that were expected in such cases.

Each time he had to write a resume he thought it worthwhile to consult recommendations as to how the resume should be organized.

Here is what these recommendations said:

A resume or a C.V. (curriculum vitae) is a summary of your history and professional qualifications.

Make sure your resume (C.V.) focuses on the kind of work you can and want to do.

If you have worked successfully in an area related to the job you are applying for, emphasize it. It sometimes happens that the most qualified people don't always get the job. It goes to the person who presents himself well in person and on paper.

Here is how you should organize your resume:

1. Your name and address go at the top. The resume usually consists of the following sections: Personal, Education, Work Experience, Interests and Skills, Hobbies.

Also your phone number.

2. Under **Personal** you say:

1) when and where you were born;

2) your marital status (whether you are married, single or divorced), your children;

3) citizenship.

3. Under **Education** you describe:

1) the school you finished and the years of study (for example 1956–1966);

2) University, the diplomas and degrees obtained, also mention the subject (e. g. the University of St. Petersburg, Economics);

3) any higher degrees, e. g. Ph.D., and the university which granted it.

4. Then comes **Work Experience**:

This can be done in a number of ways; if you are a research scientist or an academic (having to do with colleges, universities or studies), you should list selected publications and mention in brackets their total number. You always list the jobs, the years you worked, the positions you held and the addresses.

This should be presented in the reverse chronological order starting from the last job.

In case you have no work experience in the field, mention your summer jobs, extracurricular school activities, awards. Choose the activities that will enhance your qualification for the job you want.

5. Then come **Interests and Skills**:

Include the foreign languages you speak, computer skills, extensive travel, particular interests or professional membership, the clubs you belong to.

This is your chance to let your future employer get some idea of your person.

For example, if you are after a job in computer programming, and you enjoy playing chess, mention it. Chess playing requires the ability to think through a problem.

6. The last is **Hobbies**:

It is good to mention here a hobby that can help get the job you are after.

It should be noted that a resume (C.V.) can be structured differently and may vary in length from one page to three or more.

Send your Resume, along with a Cover Letter and a Letter of Recommendation or Reference to a specific person. The person should be the top person in the area where you want to work. The Cover Letter should appeal to your reader's own needs. Briefly explain why you are approaching his company. Refer him to your Resume and ask for an interview.

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**Тащилина Лидия Михайловна**

# **Everyday Topics**

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Blog Personal pantiak on DRIVE2. For a long time I dreamed and finally decided to buy, the more the new generation came out â€¦  
Have been bought LED lamps H4 2 LED CREE : Specifications: Total lamp brightness: 2000 lumen â€” low beam, 2600 lumen â€” high  
beam LED Type: CREE Number of LEDs: 2 Cap: H4 Power: 22 watts â€” low beamâ€¦