

LESSON 5. Countries, languages

USEFUL PHRASES AND SENTENCES

How was your trip to Great Britain?

- Как прошла твоя поездка в Великобританию?

It was great experience for me.

- Это был отличный опыт для меня.

It was my first time there.

- Я был там впервые.

I wanted to see as many sights as possible.

- Я хотел осмотреть как можно больше достопримечательностей.

Which part of Great Britain do you live in?

- В какой части Великобритании ты живешь?

I got to see many notable buildings, such as the Tudor House, the Mayflower Theatre, the National Oceanography Center, etc.

- Я смог увидеть множество выдающихся зданий, таких как Дом Тюдоров, Театр Мэйфлауэр, Национальный океанографический центр и т.д.

Did you go to other countries of Great Britain apart from England?

- Ты ездил в другие страны Великобритании, помимо Англии?

What other parts of Great Britain did you visit?
-Какие еще части Великобритании ты посетил?

EXAMPLES

A. Donald, how was your trip to Great Britain?

B. Wonderful! It was great experience for me.

A. Were you there just for sightseeing or on business?

B. It was my first time there, so I wanted to see as many sights as possible.

A. Which part of Great Britain did you live in?

B. I lived in Southampton — a city on the south coast of England. It's the largest city in Hampshire county. I liked this place very much. First of all, the weather was fantastic, while I was there. It was sunny and warm almost every day. Secondly, I got to see many notable buildings, such as the Tudor House, the Mayflower Theatre, the National Oceanography Center, etc.

A. Is Southampton far from London?

B. No, it's just two hours away by bus.

A. Did you go there?

B. Of course. We spent a couple of days in London, although I think that one should live a month there to get acquainted with the whole city.

A. What did you see in London?

B. First of all, we visited the Trafalgar Square and saw the Nelson's Column on it. Secondly, we were at the Piccadilly Circus. It's now one of my favorite parts of London.

It is especially beautiful at night, when it is richly illuminated. I took many pictures of it.

A. What's Piccadilly Circus famous for?

B. It is a public space at the West End of London, which is full of posh facilities.

There are lots of nice shopping and entertaining centers.

Other than that, we saw the

Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and the Museum of Madame Tussaud.

A. What other parts of Great Britain did you visit?

B. Stonehenge. It was a fantastic trip. Luckily, Southampton is not far from this world-famous attraction.

A. Did you go to other countries of Great Britain apart from England?

Dima: As we were close to Wales, one day we decided to visit Swansea. I should say,

it's an amazingly beautiful city. It's the second largest city in Wales and one of its

main sea ports. People, who like swimming and fishing, will appreciate this place, as

Swansea has long sandy beaches.

A: Sounds interesting. If your company was going to arrange another business trip to

Great Britain, I would definitely join.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

English is the third most spoken native language worldwide, after Chinese and Hindi, with some 380 million speakers. It is the official language in 71 sovereign states and territories with the total population of 2,135 million

people. Among them are the UK, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Canada, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and many others. In the UK and the USA there is no law about the official language, and English is the official language there de facto. There are some countries, too, where English is the major language, that is, it is the native language of the overwhelming majority of the population; these countries include the UK, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and some others. The two most important English-speaking countries are, of course, the UK and the USA.

(a) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on the British Isles, off the northern coast of Europe. The British Isles consist of two large islands: Great Britain and Ireland, and about five thousand small islands. Their total area is about 244,000 square kilometers.

The British Isles are separated from the Continent by the North Sea, the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. The western coast of the country is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea; the eastern coast is washed by the North Sea.

The population of the country is over 57 million people. The United Kingdom is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their capitals are London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast respectively. In everyday speech 'Great Britain' is used in the meaning of 'the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'. The country is also referred to as Britain, England or the UK. The capital of the UK is London, with the population of

about 7.5 million people (about 13 million people in Greater London, that is London with the suburbs).

The surface of the country varies very much. The north of Scotland is mountainous and is called Highlands. The south, which abounds in beautiful valleys and plains, is called Lowlands. The north of England is mountainous, while the eastern, central and south-eastern parts of England are a vast plain. Mountains are not very high, with Ben Nevis in Scotland as the highest mountain (1,343 m). There are a lot of rivers in the UK, but they are not very long. The Severn is the longest river, while the Thames is the deepest and the most important one. The mountains, the Atlantic Ocean and the warm waters of the Gulf Stream influence the climate of the British Isles which is mild the whole year round.

The UK is a constitutional monarchy. This means that the country is governed by the Parliament and the Queen is Head of State. The legislative power in the country is exercised by the Houses of Parliament which consist of two chambers: the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The House of Lords is composed of hereditary peers and peeresses. The members of the House of Commons are elected by people from the constituencies in the four parts of the country. The House of Commons is the real governing body of the country. The executive power is exercised by Prime Minister and his Cabinet. The government is usually formed by the political party which has the majority in the House of Commons. Prime Minister is the majority party leader appointed by the Queen. Prime Minister chooses a team of ministers; 20 of them form the Cabinet. The most important parties in the UK are the Conservative and the Labour Party.

The judicial branch of the government is represented by the system of courts. There is no written Constitution in Great Britain, only precedents and traditions. The national flag of the country is Union Jack.

The UK is a highly developed industrial and agrarian country. It produces and exports machinery, electronics, railroad equipment, aircraft, textile. One of the chief industries is shipbuilding. Though the country is not rich in mineral resources, it is one of the world's leading economies. The country also must import about 40 % of its food supplies. Financial sector is the most important one in the economy of the country, 70 % of the country's population work there. Britain's most important agricultural products include wool and dairy products. The main industrial and commercial areas are cities.

Translate the following sentences into English.

1. Английский - официальный язык 71 суверенного государства и территории; это основной язык в некоторых странах, то есть язык подавляющего большинства населения.
2. Великобритания расположена на Британских островах рядом с северным побережьем Европы, отделена от континента Северным морем, проливом Ла-Манш и проливом Па-де-Кале и омывается Атлантическим океаном, Ирландским морем и Северным морем.
3. Рельеф (поверхность) страны очень разнообразен - гористый на севере и с многочисленными долинами и обширными равнинами на юге.
4. Гольфстрим влияет на климат страны, умеренный круглый год.

5. Великобритания - конституционная монархия, то есть она управляется парламентом, состоящим из двух палат, а королева является главой государства.

6. Палата лордов состоит из наследственных пэров и пэресс; члены палаты общин, которая является реальным правящим органом, избираются от избирательных округов.

7. Исполнительная власть осуществляется премьер-министром, являющимся лидером партии большинства и назначаемым королевой, и кабинетом министров.

8. Судебная власть представлена системой судов; письменной конституции не существует, только прецеденты и традиции.

9. Великобритания - это высокоразвитая промышленная и аграрная страна, производящая станки, электронику, железнодорожное оборудование, самолеты, текстиль, суда.