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Предметно – цикловая комиссия  
общих гуманитарных и социально-экономических дисциплин

## **ПРАЗДНИКИ В БРИТАНИИ**

**Рабочая тетрадь**  
**по дисциплине Иностранный язык (английский)**  
**для студентов очной формы обучения**

**Составитель:**  
**Карташова С.В.**

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Председатель ПЦК: О.Г.Косова

**Рецензент:**

**Вагнер К. А.** - преподаватель иностранного языка первой категории ФГБОУ

ВПО Хакасский государственный университет им. Н.Ф. Катанова, колледж

педагогического образования, информатики и права

## ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Знание иностранного языка является важной характеристикой современного образованного человека. Иностранный язык - это не только способ общения, но и как способ знакомства с другой культурой. Праздники - это часть национальной культуры любой страны.

Данная рабочая тетрадь по английскому языку «Праздники в Британии» предназначена для обучающихся 2-4 курсов и содержит лексику, тексты страноведческого характера и лексико-грамматические упражнения к соответствующей теме. Тетрадь соответствует тематике рабочей программы по дисциплине «Иностранный язык» (английский) и предназначена для развития умений чтения и говорения, а также формирования и контроля лексико-грамматических навыков в рамках темы. Тема «Праздники в Британии» изучается на различных специальностях в разных семестрах.

Рабочая тетрадь включает материалы разной сложности, что позволяет использовать ее как методическое пособие в группах с различным уровнем подготовки. Тетрадь может также использоваться для самостоятельной работы обучающихся. Рабочая тетрадь состоит из введения, четырех разделов, посвящённых основным праздникам, контрольных упражнений и библиографического списка. Первый раздел содержит общую информацию о праздниках в Британии, второй – о праздниках в Британии зимой, третий – весной, четвертый – летом, пятый осенью. При составлении рабочей тетради использовались Интернет-источники.

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## HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN

### VOCABULARY

holiday ['hɒlədi] сущ	праздник, нерабочий день отпуск, каникулы отдых праздничный, каникулярный, отпускной
national holiday / legal holiday	национальный праздник / официальный праздник
major holiday	крупный праздник
popular holiday	популярный, широко отмечаемый праздник
local holiday	местный праздник
religious holiday	религиозный праздник
movable holiday	переходящий праздник
bank holiday	официальный выходной день, «банковские каникулы»
red-letter day	1. праздничный день, отмеченный красными буквами в календаре; 2. памятный, важный или счастливый день.
anniversary	юбилей
celebration	праздник
to congratulate	поздравить
congratulations	поздравление
hearty congratulations	сердечные поздравления
gift	подарок
to honour	читать, чествовать [16]

### Holidays' Calendar

New Year's Day	Новый год – 1 января
Burns Night	Вечер Бернса
Epiphany	Крещение – 6 января
Saint Valentine's Day	День Святого Валентина – 14 февраля
St David's Day	День Святого Давида – 1 марта
Saint Patrick's Day	День Святого Патрика – 17 марта
Easter	Пасха – в воскресенье в марте или апреле (переходящий праздник)
April Fools' Day	День дураков / День смеха – 1 апреля
St George's Day	День Святого Георгия – 23 апреля
Mother's Day	День матери – четвертое воскресенье Великого поста
Spring Bank Holiday	Весенний Банковский выходной, последний понедельник мая
May Day	Четвертое воскресенье Великого поста
Queen's Official Birthday	День рождения королевы, обычно вторая суббота июня
Father's Day	День отца – третье воскресенье июня
Summer Bank Holiday	Летний Банковский выходной - первый или последний понедельник августа
Halloween	Хэллоуин – 31 октября
Guy Fawkes Day	День Гая Фокса, 5 ноября
Remembrance Day	День поминовения – второе воскресенье ноября
St Andrew's Day	День Святого Андрея - 30 ноября
Christmas Day	Рождество – 25 декабря
Boxing Day	День подарков - 26 декабря

## TEXT 1

### READ THE TEXT AND TRANSLATE INTO RUSSIAN

#### HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN

There are some holidays in Great Britain. They are Christmas day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Easter, mayday, spring bank holiday and summer bank holiday. Public holidays in Great Britain are called bank holidays because the banks as well as most of the offices and shops are closed.

The most popular holiday is Christmas (Xmas). Every year the people of Norway give the city of London the present. It is a big Xmas tree and it stands in Trafalgar square. Central streets are beautifully decorated. Before Xmas groups of singers go from house to house. They collect money for charity and sing carols traditional Xmas songs. Many churches hold a carol serves on the Sunday before Xmas. The fun starts the night before, on the 24 of December. This is the day when people decorate their trees. Children hang stocking at the end of their beds, hoping that Santa Claus will come at night and full them with toys and sweets. Xmas is a family holiday. Relatives prepare for the big Xmas dinner of turkey and Xmas pudding and every one gives and gets presents. The 26 of December, Boxing Day are an extra holiday after Xmas. This is the time to meet friends or sit at home and watch TV.

New Year's Day is less popular in Britain then Xmas. Besides public holidays there are some special holidays in Britain. One of them takes place on the 5 of November. On that day in 1605 Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the House of Parliament and kill a King James the first. But he didn't succeeded. The Kings man found the bomb and took Guy Fawkes to the tower. Sins that day the British celebrate the 5 of November. There are also smaller holidays in Great Britain [11].

## TEXT 2

### READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

#### HOLIDAYS IN THE UK

Many festivals and holidays in Britain are centuries old. Every town, village and hamlet in Britain has its own traditions, some involving months of careful planning and preparations of costumes and choreography, others requiring simply a worrying desire to make a complete and utter fool of oneself.

Holidays in the UK can be roughly divided into **four** overlapping **groups**:

- Bank holidays;
- religious holidays;
- national holidays (in four constituencies of the UK);
- special observances with historical background.

**Bank holidays** are Public Holidays and have been recognized since 1871. The name Bank Holiday comes from the time when banks were shut and so no trading could take place.

Even though banks are still closed on these days many shops today now remain open. Shops, museums and other public attractions, such as historic houses and sports centers, may close on certain public holidays, particularly Christmas Day.

Traditionally many businesses close on Bank Holidays to enable the workers to have a holiday. This time is often spent with the family on mini breaks and outings. Because of this, anyone who works on Bank Holidays usually gets paid extra – “time-and-a-half” or even “double time”, negotiated for them by the Trades Unions.

There are currently a total of **8 permanent bank and public holidays** in **England and Wales**, **9 in Scotland** and **10 in Northern Ireland**. These include Christmas Day and Good Friday, which in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are “**common law**” **holidays** (they are not specified by law as bank holidays but have become customary holidays because of common observance). Here is the list of current bank holidays in all the parts of the UK:

Date	Name	England and Wales (8)	Scotland (9)	Northern Ireland (10)
1 January	New Year's Day	✓	✓	✓
2 January	2 January		✓	
17 March	St. Patrick's Day			✓
The Friday before Easter Sunday	Good Friday	✓	✓	✓
The day after Easter Sunday	Easter Monday	✓		✓
First Monday in May	May Day Bank Holiday (or Early May Bank Holiday in Scotland)	✓	✓	✓
Last Monday in May	Spring Bank Holiday	✓	✓	✓
12 July	Battle of the Boyne - Orangemen's Day			✓
First Monday in August	Summer Bank Holiday		✓	
Last Monday in August	Summer Bank Holiday	✓		✓
30 November	St. Andrew's Day		✓	
25 December	Christmas Day	✓	✓	✓
26 December	Boxing Day	✓	✓	✓

As seen from the table, some of these holidays have religious or historical background; others just provide the working people with an extra day-off, so they are moveable and observed on a Monday, to make a longer weekend.

**Religious holidays** are days specified for religious observance.

**National holidays** are days to honour national saints (St George – in England; St Andrew – in Scotland; St David – in Wales; St Patrick – in Northern Ireland), prominent national figures and historical events.

**UK special observances** are held on particular days annually and are dedicated to certain events (such as the queen's birthday, state opening of the Parliament) or people (Mother, Father, etc.) [9].

## QUESTIONS

1. Into what groups can holidays in the UK be roughly divided?
2. Where does the name "Bank Holiday" come from?
3. What permanent bank and public holidays do you know?

## TEXT 3

### READ THE TEXT AND DO THE EXERCISE

#### **Holidays in Great Britain**

Every country and every nation has own traditions and customs. It's very important to know traditions and customs of other countries. It helps to know more about the history and line of different nations.

English are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. As I know all English people celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December. It's the most beautiful time of the year - the time of love, joy and hopes. Christmas Day is a family holiday. It is the time when all the family gets together round the Christmas tree decorated with toys and sweets. Little children believe that

when they are asleep Santa Claus comes with a big bag of toys. All families have Christmas dinners. They eat traditional dishes - turkey, duck, and pudding.

There are some traditions on New Year's Day too. One of them is the old First Footing. The first man to come into the house is very important. The Englishmen believe that he brings luck. He brings presents - bread, a piece of coal or a coin.

Another best-loved holiday is St. Valentine's Day on the 14th of February - the holiday of love, the day of sending and giving presents to those you love.

Easter is a church holiday. There is a popular belief that wearing 3 new things on Easter will bring good luck. Traditionally Easter parades of people in bright new spring clothes are held on this day. Another custom is decorating eggs for children. Eggs are hidden in the yards little children believe that the Easter rabbit comes and leaves eggs for them.

Halloween is the day or evening before all Saint's Day. Children dress up in Halloween costumes and masks over their faces. They go out into the streets to beg. People give them sweets, cookies and apples.

According to the Act of Parliament of 1871 there are 4 bank holidays.. Other public holiday are Good Friday, May Day, Also there is a Pancake Day, April's Fool Day, Mother's Day [3].

#### GUESS THE HOLIDAY

- 1) It is a holiday on the 25th of December. People get together round the Christmas tree decorated with toys and sweets.
- 2) On this day people go to the church. People decorate and eat eggs.
- 3) It is a funny and scared tradition. Children play tricks and dress up in costumes and masks over their faces.
- 4). It is a holiday connected with love, sending and giving presents to those you love.
- 5) People wait for the first man to come into the house. The Englishmen believe that he brings luck.

#### PUT THE RIGHT WORD IN

##### **Holidays in Great Britain**

Holidays in Great Britain There are some \_1\_ in Great Britain. They are: \_2\_, Boxing Day, new year's day, Easter, mayday, spring bank holiday and summer bank holiday. Public holidays in G.B. are called bank holidays because the banks as well as most of the offices and shops are closed. The most \_3\_ holiday is Xmas. Every year the people of Norway give the city of London the \_4\_. It is a big Xmas tree and it stands in Trafalgar square. Central streets are beautifully decorated. The fun starts the night before, on the 24 of December. This is the day when people decorate their trees. Children hang stocking at the end of their beds, hoping that \_5\_ will come at night and full them with toys and sweets. Xmas is a family holiday. Relatives prepare for the big Xmas dinner of \_6\_ and Xmas pudding and every one gives and gets presents. The 26 of December, Boxing Day are an extra holiday after Xmas. This is the time to meet friends or sit at home and watch TV. New year's day is less popular in Britain then Xmas. Besides public holidays there are some special holidays in Britain. One of them takes place on the 5 of November. On that day in 1605 \_7\_ tried to blow up the House of Parliament and kill a King James the first. But he didn't succeeded. The Kings man found the bomb and took Guy Fawkes to the Tower. Sins what day the British \_8\_ the 5 of November. There are also smaller holidays in G.B [3].

A.

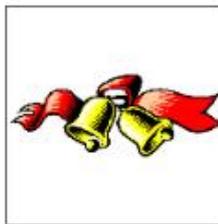
popular, B. holidays, C. Christmas day, D. Santa Claus, E. the present, F. turkey, G. Guy Fawkes, H. celebrate

## HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN WINTER

PAY ATTENTION TO THE VOCABULARY



presents



bells



a basket



a candle



carol singers



a candy cane



a snowman



an elf



a reindeer



Father Christmas



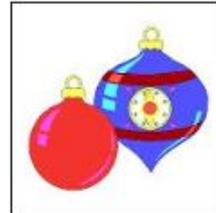
a star



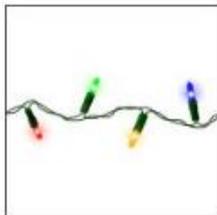
an angel



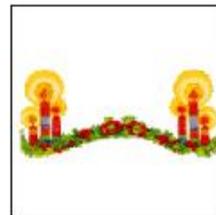
a Christmas tree



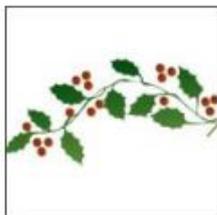
Christmas ornaments



lights



decorations



holly



a wreath



mistletoe



a flower

### TEXT 1

READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

#### Christmas Day

Christmas (or Christ's Mass) is observed in the UK on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December\*. It is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

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\* The day when all *Roman Catholics* celebrate Christmas.

This is the favourite day for children. They wake up very early in the morning to find their stockings have been filled by Father Christmas and excitedly unwrap the presents before going down to breakfast. Family presents are opened either late morning or during the afternoon. The family gather together to open the presents found under the Christmas tree.

#### **Major customs:**

**Church services.** Many people go to church to sing carols and to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. More people attend the church on this day than any other day of the year. People put on their best clothes to go to church.

**The Christmas Dinner** is the main Christmas meal and it is usually eaten at mid-day or early afternoon. A traditional Christmas dinner includes roast turkey<sup>\*\*</sup> or goose, brussels sprouts, roast potatoes, cranberry sauce, rich nutty stuffing, tiny sausages wrapped in bacon (pigs in a blanket) and lashings of hot gravy. A Christmas tradition involving the turkey is to pull its wishbone. This is one of the bones of the turkey which is shaped like the letter “Y”. Two people will each hold an end and pull. The person left with the larger piece of the bone makes a wish.

For dessert there’s always a rich, fruity pudding, known as Christmas pudding or plum pudding. Many households have their own recipe for Christmas pudding, some handed down through families for generations. Essentially the recipe brings together what traditionally were expensive or luxurious ingredients – notably the sweet spices, raisins and other dried fruit, brandy or other alcohol, beef fat (early puddings used to include meat as well), bread crumbs. Traditionally puddings were made four to five weeks before Christmas, the day became known as "Stir-up Sunday". It was common practice to include small silver coins in the pudding mixture, which could be kept by the person whose serving included them. The pudding is kept in cool dry place, wrapped in cloth or in a basin till Christmas day, when it is reheated for about an hour and served. When serving, it is poured with flaming brandy and ceremoniously carried into the dining-room with the lights switched off for greater effect.

**The Queen’s Christmas Message** is a traditional feature of Christmas afternoon. At three o’clock in the afternoon, the Queen gives her Christmas Message to the nation which is broadcast on radio and television.

The Queen’s message is also broadcast throughout the British Commonwealth. The first televised broadcast of the Queen’s Christmas message was in 1957, but it is a tradition begun on the radio in 1932 by George V. In 2007, The Queen launched her own channel on video-sharing website YouTube, which featured the message. The launch marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen’s first televised festive address in 1957.

**Christmas crackers.** The pulling of Christmas crackers often accompanies food on Christmas Day. A Christmas cracker is a brightly coloured paper tube, twisted at both ends. A person pulls on each end of the cracker and when the cracker breaks, a small chemical strip goes “Pop!” and the contents fall out. A Christmas cracker traditionally contains a paper crown, a small gift and a joke written on a slip of paper. The gift in a cracker depends on how much you have paid for the cracker. The more you pay the better the quality of the gift. A box of 12 crackers costing £10 could come with gifts such as a shoe horn, compact mirror, playing cards, screwdrivers, address book, tape measure, pad lock, bottle opener, tweezers, travel chess, photo frame and pen.

#### **Boxing Day**

Boxing Day\* takes place on December 26<sup>th</sup> or the following Monday if December 26<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Henry VIII was the first person in England to eat turkey on Christmas Day. Nowadays around 10 million turkeys are consumed in the UK each year.

<sup>\*</sup> Boxing Day is also known as *St Stephen’s Day*. St Stephen lived in Rome and was the first man to be killed for believing in the teachings of Jesus. His story is told in the Acts of the Apostles 6: 1 to 8: 2.

Boxing Day began in England, in the middle of the nineteenth century, under Queen Victoria. Boxing Day was a way for the upper class to give gifts of cash, or other goods, to those of the lower classes.

There seem to be two theories on the origin of Boxing Day and why it is celebrated. The first is that centuries ago, on the day after Christmas, members of the merchant class would give boxes containing food and fruit, clothing, and/or money to trades people and servants. The gifts were an expression of gratitude much like when people receive bonuses, from their employer, for a job well done, today. These gifts, given in boxes, gave the holiday its name, "Boxing Day".

The second thought is that Boxing Day comes from the tradition of opening the alms boxes placed in churches over the Christmas season, where people would put some money during church services. Their contents were distributed amongst the poor by the clergy the day after Christmas.

#### **Major customs:**

**Boxing Day Hunts.** Traditionally Boxing Day was a day for fox hunting. Horse riders dressed in red and white riding gear, accompanied by a number of dogs called foxhounds chased the fox through the countryside in the hope of tiring it out. Eventually the hunters hope the fox will be so tired that the dogs will be able to catch it and kill it.

Many animal welfare campaigners object to fox hunting saying it is cruel to kill a fox in this way, while many participants view it as a crucial part of rural history in England, vital for conservation, and a method of pest control.

In November 2004, MPs voted to ban hunting with dogs in England and Wales. As from 18 February 2005 hunting with dogs became a criminal offence (although it is still legal to exercise hounds, chase a scent and flush out foxes to be shot).

**Family Time.** Traditionally, Boxing Day is the day when families get together. Whereas Christmas is often celebrated in the narrow family circle, Boxing Day may be the time for a larger family reunion. It is a day of watching sports and playing board games with the family. Many families will go on walks in the countryside together on this day.

**Shopping.** In recent times, some shops have broken from tradition and started opening on Boxing Day to start the New Year sales. Hundreds of people now spend Boxing Day morning in queues outside shops, waiting to be the first to dive for the sales racks as the doors opened.

#### **Hunting of the Wren**

It is unlucky to kill a wren on any day apart from Boxing Day. Hunting of the Wren on Boxing Day was once a popular activity in England.

Groups of young boys known as "Wren boys" would hunt a wren and then tie the dead bird to the top of a pole, decorated with holly sprigs and ribbons. With blackened faces, the group would sing at houses in hopes for coins, gifts or food.

"The wren, the wren, the king of all birds  
On St Stephen's Day was caught in the furze,  
We hunted him far and hunted him near  
And found him under the bushes here.  
Hurrah, my boys, hurrah!  
Hurrah, my boys, hurrah!  
Knock at the knocker and ring at the bell  
And give us a copper for singing so well".

Those that gave money to the boys would receive a feather from the wren as thanks. The collected money was then used to host a village dance. This odd ritual was not restricted to England. It was prevalent in some continental countries on Boxing Day as well as the Isle of Man, Wales and Ireland [9].

#### **QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT**

1. When is Christmas celebrated?

2. Who brings Christmas presents?
3. What main Christmas customs do you know?
4. What do Englishmen eat at Christmas dinner?
5. What Christmas symbols do you know?
6. When is Boxing Day celebrated?
7. What do Englishmen do on Boxing Day?

## TEXT 2

TRANSLATE THE TEXT INTO RUSSIAN

### Boxing Day

In Britain, Boxing Day is usually celebrated on the following day after Christmas Day, which is 26 December. However, strictly speaking, Boxing Day is the first weekday after Christmas. Like Christmas Day, Boxing Day is a public holiday. This means it is typically a non working day in the whole of Britain. When Boxing Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday the following Monday is the public holiday. Traditionally, 26 December was the day to open the Christmas Box to share the contents with the poor.

Christmas boxes were used in different ways. For example, to protect ships. During the Age of Exploration, when great sailing ships were setting off to discover new land, A Christmas Box was used as a good luck device. It was a small container placed on each ship while it was still in port. It was put there by a priest, and those crewmen who wanted to ensure a safe return would drop money into the box. It was then sealed up and kept on board for the entire voyage.

If the ship came home safely, the box was handed over to the priest in the exchange for the saying of a Mass of thanks for the success of the voyage. The Priest would keep the box sealed until Christmas when he would open it to share the contents with the poor.

Christmas boxes were used to help the poor. An 'Alms Box' was placed in every church on Christmas Day, into which worshippers placed a gift for the poor of the parish. These boxes were always opened the day after Christmas, which is why that day became know as Boxing Day.

A present for the workers. Many poorly paid workers were required to work on Christmas Day and took the following day off to visit their families. As they prepared to leave, their employers would present them with Christmas boxes.

During the late 18th century, Lords and Ladies of the manor would "box up" their leftover food, or sometimes gifts and distribute them the day after Christmas to tenants who lived and worked on their lands.

And the tradition still continues today. It is customary for householders to give small gifts or monetary tips to regular visiting trades people (the milkman, dustman, coalman, paper boy etc.) and, in some work places, for employers to give a Christmas bonus to employees.

Traditionally, Boxing Day is the day when families get together. It is a day of watching sports and playing board games with the family [12].

DO SOME EXERCISES

#### 1. WRITE THE CORRECT WORDS BELOW THE PICTURES

 snowflake  sleigh  snow globe  carolers  Santa  candy cane  stocking  candle  Christmas tree  snowman  snowman



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2. ARE THESE SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Christmas is celebrated in April.
2. Children open their presents on Christmas day.
3. Santa brings toys to children all over the world.
4. A stocking looks like a big hat.
5. Santa's sleigh is pulled by horses.
6. Santa only gives presents to naughty children.
7. People send Christmas cards to their friends and family.
8. Elves (Santa's helpers) are very tall.
9. Santa is a jolly old man with a white beard

3. FIND 8 CHRISTMAS WORDS



[6].

#### 4. USE THE ARTICLES WHERE NECESSARY.

##### 4.1. Christmas.

Most people in ... Britain see Christmas as ... major festival of ... year – when parties are given and gifts are received. Almost all ... people are having fun on Christmas Eve, especially children. On Christmas Eve, children hang ... stocking at ... end of their beds or over ... fire-place. They are told that Father Pole and fills each stocking with ... presents. The children open their presents – put there secretly by their parents – on Christmas morning.

Lunch is ... most important point on Christmas Day. ... traditional lunch consists of ... roast turkey with ... vegetables, followed by Christmas pudding, which is made with ... dried fruit and ... brandy. Sometimes ... coin is put in ... pudding as ... surprise.

... day after Christmas is called Boxing Day (after the church box which was opened for ... poor on that day) and this too is ... public holiday.

##### 4.2. New Year's Eve in Scotland.

People all over ... Britain celebrate ... passing of ... old year and ... coming of ... new. In Scotland, Hogmanay – as it is called there – is almost as important as Christmas. ... Scots take New Year's Eve very seriously. There is a New Year Eve Fire Festival; ... men parade with blazing tar barrels, they throw them into ... great bonfire. The "First Boots" then set out.

In Scotland "first footing" is ... common custom: it's considered lucky if ... dark-haired man is ... first to set foot in ... house after midnight on Hogmanay, bringing ... coin, ... peace of ... bread, or ... lump of .. coal as ... symbol of plenty for ... coming year [4].

#### TEXT 3

#### READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

### Read About British New Year Celebrations and Traditions

It is traditional in England to celebrate the end of the old year and welcome in the new year at the end of December.

December 31 is **New Year's Eve**. New year's Eve is not a public holiday. Most people go to work as usual. In the evening, many English people have parties in their homes. Others celebrate in pubs or clubs with their friends and families, or attend outdoor gatherings and firework displays.

Just before midnight on New Year's Eve, people hold hands and sing a traditional song called "Auld Lang Syne". They count the seconds down to the new year and when the clock strikes midnight, they hug and kiss and wish each other a happy new year! Sometimes people set off fireworks as the new year begins.

People often drink a toast to the coming year with a fizzy alcoholic drink called champagne. Some people let their children stay up late to join in with the celebrations.

**New Year's Day** is celebrated on January 1. New Year's Day is a bank holiday. A bank holiday is a public holiday. Most shops and businesses close for the day.

New Year's Day is a holiday for nearly everyone in the UK. Very few buses and trains run on New Year's Day. Most people stay at home and relax with their families.

There is an old superstition in Scotland and some other parts of the UK that the first person to enter someone's home on New Year's Day will bring all the luck for the coming year with them. This tradition is called **first footing**.

The first person to enter a house on New Year's Day is known as the **first footer**. Dark haired people are thought to be the luckiest first footers, and it is traditional to carry a lump of coal when going first footing.

People often make **New Year** resolutions at the start of the new year. Resolutions are things that people have decided (or resolved) to do to make their lives better, such as stopping smoking or losing weight. Not everybody manages to keep their New Year's resolutions, though!

[7].

#### QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. When is New Year's Eve?
2. Do English people always keep their New Year's resolutions?
3. What traditional songs do English people sing on New Year's Eve?
4. Do English people usually stay at home on New Year's Eve and go to bed early?
5. Are some English children allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve?
6. Do most busses in England run on New Year's Day?
7. Who is a first footer?
8. What do English people toast New Year with?
9. Is New Year's Eve a bank holiday in England?

#### TEXT 4

#### TRANSLATE THE TEXT INTO RUSSIAN

##### **Epiphany**

Epiphany is a Christian feast day which celebrates the revelation of God in human form in the person of Jesus Christ. Epiphany falls on January 6.

Epiphany meaning "revelation" is connected with the biblical story that tells of the Magi or Three Kings – Caspar (or Kaspar or Gaspar), Melchior and Balthasar – who saw a bright star on the night Christ was born and followed it to Bethlehem. There they found the Christ child and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The legendary visit would later give rise to the custom of gift giving at Christmas on the Feast of the Epiphany.

In England, Epiphany or "Twelfth Night" was the last opportunity to make merry before a return to the usual toil of the workaday world (Christmas was celebrated for 12 days and on this last day the Christmas tree and all the decorations would traditionally be taken down). The traditional Yule log\* was also kept lit until Twelfth Night in order to bring blessings and good fortune throughout the upcoming year.

##### **Burns Night**

Robert Burns is Scotland's most well-known and best loved poet: even south of the Border, most people can quote the odd line of Burns' poetry. He was born in Alloway, Ayrshire in south-west Scotland, on January 25<sup>th</sup> 1759, and Burns' Night is celebrated on or around his birthday.

The celebration of the day is **Burns' Supper**. It may be formal or informal but it should always be entertaining. The only items which the informal suppers have in common are haggis, Scotch whisky and perhaps a poem or two. Formal dinners given by organizations such as the Freemasons or St Andrews Societies often do not allow ladies to be present. Those that do may

occasionally end in a céilidh\*. However, whether they are single sex or not, the formal suppers follow a standard format [9].

## TEXT 5

### READ THE TEXT AND DO THE EXERCISE

#### St. Valentine's Day

Traditionally, spring begins on St Valentine's\* Day (February 14th), the day on which birds chose their mates. In parts of Sussex Valentine's Day was called "The Birds' Wedding Day". Each year in Britain, people spend around £503m on cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts for Valentine's Day. Traditionally these were sent anonymously, but nowadays people often make it clear who is sending each "Valentine". There are many traditions and tales associated with romance activities on Valentine's Day including:

- the first man an unmarried woman saw on 14th February would be her future husband;
- if the names of all a girl's suitors were written on paper and wrapped in clay and the clay put into water, the piece that rose to the surface first would contain the name of her husband-to-be;
- if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a rich person.

Although Valentine's Day is celebrated as a lovers' holiday today, it originated in 5th Century Rome as a tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop.

For eight hundred years prior to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the Romans had practiced a pagan celebration in mid-February commemorating young men's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The celebration featured a lottery in which young men would draw the names of teenage girls from a box. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner would be his companion during the remaining year. In an effort to do away with the pagan festival, Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery. Instead of the names of young women, the box would contain the names of saints. Both men and women were allowed to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they drew during the rest of the year. Needless to say, many of the young Roman men were not too pleased with the rule changes. Instead of the pagan god Lupercus, the Church looked for a suitable patron saint of love to take his place. They found an appropriate choice in Valentine, who, in AD 270 had been beheaded by Emperor Claudius. Claudius had determined that married men made poor soldiers. So he banned marriage from his empire. But Valentine would secretly marry young men that came to him. When Claudius found out about Valentine, he first tried to convert him to paganism. But Valentine reversed the strategy, trying instead to convert Claudius. When he failed, he was stoned and beheaded [9].

ENTER YOUR ANSWERS IN THE GAPS. CHOOSE FROM THE WORDS BELOW.

<b>allowed</b>	<b>Although</b>	<b>beheaded</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>candies</b>	<b>character</b>	<b>cherub-like</b>			
<b>commemorating</b>	<b>containing</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>erotic</b>	<b>ever</b>	<b>grew</b>	<b>imprisoned</b>	<b>in</b>		
<b>looked</b>	<b>love</b>	<b>Needless</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>played</b>	<b>prior</b>	<b>seek</b>	<b>symbol</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>was</b>
<b>which</b>	<b>would</b>								

February 14 is Valentine's Day \_\_\_\_\_ it is celebrated as a lovers' holiday today, with the giving of candy, Valentine flowers, or other gifts between couples in love, it originated \_\_\_\_\_ 5th Century Rome as a tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop.

#### The Lottery

For eight hundred years \_\_\_\_\_ to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the Romans had practiced a pagan celebration in mid-February \_\_\_\_\_ young men's rite of passage to the god \_\_\_\_\_

\* traditional Gaelic social dance originating in Ireland and Scotland, but now common throughout the Celtic diaspora.

Lupercus. The celebration featured a lottery in \_\_\_\_\_ young men would draw the names of teenage girls from a box. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner \_\_\_\_\_ be his sexual companion during the remaining year.

### **Party Pooper Pope**

In an effort to \_\_\_\_\_ away with the pagan festival, Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery. Instead \_\_\_\_\_ the names of young women, the box would contain the names of saints. Both men and women were \_\_\_\_\_ to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they drew during the rest of the year. \_\_\_\_\_ to say, many of the young Roman men were not too pleased with the rule changes.

Instead of the pagan god Lupercus, the Church \_\_\_\_\_ for a suitable patron saint of love to take his place. They found an appropriate choice in Valentine, who, in AD 270 had been \_\_\_\_\_ by Emperor Claudius.

### **Falling for the Jailer's Daughter**

During the days that Valentine was \_\_\_\_\_, he fell in \_\_\_\_\_ with the blind daughter of his jailer. According \_\_\_\_\_ folklore, his love for her, and his great faith, managed to miraculously heal her from her blindness before his death. Before he \_\_\_\_\_ taken to his death, he signed a farewell message to her, "From your Valentine." The phrase has been used on his day \_\_\_\_\_ since.

### **The Tradition Begins**

Although the lottery for women had been banned \_\_\_\_\_ the church, the mid-February holiday in commemoration of St. Valentine was still used by Roman men to \_\_\_\_\_ the affection of women. It became a tradition for the men to give the ones they admired handwritten messages of affection, \_\_\_\_\_ Valentine's name.

The first Valentine card \_\_\_\_\_ out of this practice. The first true Valentine card was sent in 1415 by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time.

### **Cupid**

Cupid, another \_\_\_\_\_ of the holiday, became associated with it because he was the Roman god of passion and \_\_\_\_\_ love. He also was associated with desire. Cupid was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid \_\_\_\_\_ a role in several mythical adventures. In Vergil's Aeneid, Cupid prompts Dido to fall in love with Aeneas, with tragic results. Cupid is a central \_\_\_\_\_ in the traditional tale of Cupid and Psyche, as told by Apuleius. In modern times, cupid is often depicted as a chubby \_\_\_\_\_ creature with wings, shooting his arrows to inflict desire on his unsuspecting victims. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards or is imprinted on heart-shaped \_\_\_\_\_ [2].

READ THE POEM OF R. BURNS

A Red, Red Rose

O, my luv'e's like a red, red rose,  
That's newly sprung in June:  
O, my luv'e's like the melodie,  
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,  
So deep in luv'e am I:  
And I will luv'e thee still, my dear,  
'Till a' the seas gang dry.

'Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,  
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:  
I will luv'e thee still, my dear,  
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luv'e!  
And fare thee weel a-while!  
And I will come again, my luv'e,  
Tho' it were ten thousand mile [1].

Любовь

Любовь, как роза, роза красная,  
Цветёт в моём саду.  
Любовь моя как песенка,  
С которой в путь иду.

Сильнее красоты твоей  
Моя любовь одна.  
Она с тобой, пока моря  
Не высохнут до дна.

Не высохнут моря, мой друг,  
Не рушится гранит,  
Не остановится песок,  
А он, как жизнь, бежит...

Будь счастлива, моя любовь,  
Прощай и не грусти.  
Вернусь к тебе, хоть целый свет  
Пришлось бы мне пройти

(пер. С. Маршака)

## HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN SPRING

### TEXT 1

TRANSLATE THE TEXT INTO RUSSIAN

#### **St David's Day**

St David's Day is celebrated in Wales on *1 March*, in honour of St David (Dewi Sant), the patron saint of Wales. He was a Celtic monk, abbot and bishop, who lived in the sixth century. He spread the word of Christianity across Wales. The most famous story about Saint David tells how he was preaching to a huge crowd and the ground is said to have risen up, so that he was standing on a hill and everyone had a better chance of hearing him.

St David's Day is commemorated by the wearing of *daffodils or leeks*. Both plants are traditionally regarded as national emblems. Every year *parades* are held in Wales to commemorate St David. The largest of these is held in Cardiff. Concerts are held in pubs, clubs, and other venues.

On St David's Day, some children in Wales dress in their *national costume*, which consists of a tall black hat, white frilled cap and long dress. The *national flag* of Wales, depicting a fiery red dragon against a green and white background, is also flown.

#### **St Patrick's Day**

17 March, St. Patrick's Day, is the national day of Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. It is also a bank holiday in Northern Ireland.

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Born in Britain, he was carried off by pirates and spent six years in slavery before escaping and training as a missionary. St Patrick is believed to have driven the snakes from Ireland. Once a pagan himself, St Patrick is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. The modern secular holiday is based on the original Christian saint's feast day also thought to be the date of the saint's death.

In 1737, Irish immigrants to the United States began observing the holiday publicly in Boston and held the first St Patrick's Day Parade in New York City in 1766. Nowadays the New York Parade is a huge event attended by crowds not only of Irish origin. From the US the holiday has spread all over the world.

Today, the tradition continues with people from all walks and heritages by wearing green, eating Irish food, and attending parades. London, since 2002, has had an annual Saint Patrick's Day parade which takes place on weekends around the 17th, usually in Trafalgar Square. In 2008 the water in the Trafalgar Square fountains was dyed green. St Patrick's Day is bursting with folklore: from the shamrock (Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish) to the leprechaun and to pinching those that are not wearing green [9].

READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

### TEXT 2

#### **Easter**

Easter is the oldest and the most important Christian Festival, the celebration of the death and coming to life again of Jesus Christ. Easter is a church holiday. Easter marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring. It consists of several days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday. On this day Christians remember the day when Jesus was crucified. Easter is called a moveable feast because the date of Easter changes every year. Easter Sunday can fall on any date from 22 March to 25 April. The reason for this variation in the date of Easter is based on the lunar calendar (moon) rather than our more well-known solar one. Easter always falls on the first Sunday following the full Moon (the Paschal Full Moon) after 21 March. If the Full Moon falls on a Sunday then Easter is the next Sunday.

The English word for Easter comes from the word Eostre or Eastre, it was the goddess of dawn and consequently the East.

#### **Major customs:**

**Giving eggs.** For Christians the custom of giving eggs at Easter celebrates new life. The Easter egg became very popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. In American folklore, the egg is not the product of a bird but rather of the hare, a tradition brought over by the Pennsylvania Dutch.

**Pace egging.** Pace Eggs are hard boiled eggs with patterned shells, they are traditional in northern parts of England at Easter, with local variants in the name, such as Paste Eggs. The name is derived from Pesach (Passover).

**Egg rolling.** Egg rolling is very popular in England and is an Easter Monday sport. Hard-boiled eggs are rolled down a hill. Customs differ from place to place. The winner's egg may be the one that rolls the farthest, survives the most rolls, or is rolled between two pegs.

**Egg-jarping (egg tapping).** Another activity that takes place on Easter Day is the playing of a game with the eggs known as "jarping", with players tapping their opponents' eggs until one breaks. The winner goes through to the next round, and so on until there is only one egg left unbroken.

**Sunrise service.** This service takes place on a hill side so everyone can see the sun rise.

**Easter Vigil.** Some Christians take part in an Easter Vigil, lighting a new fire outside the church early on Sunday morning. The *Paschal candle*, decorated with studs to celebrate Christ's wounds, may be lit from the fire and carried into the church where it is used to light the candles of the worshippers. The Easter Eucharist is a particularly joyful service. It is a popular time for baptisms and renewal of baptism vows.

**Easter cards.** Easter cards arrived in Victorian England, when a stationer added a greeting to a drawing of a rabbit. The cards proved popular.

**Special food at Easter.** Easter day, like Christmas day, is also associated with special food.

*Boiled eggs* are traditionally served at breakfast, then Easter cards and gifts may be exchanged.



*Roast lamb*, which is the main dish at Jewish Passover, is the traditional meat for the main meal on Easter Day. It is served with mint sauce and vegetables. The traditional puddings are *custard tarts* sprinkled with currants and flat Easter biscuits.

*Simnel cake* is baked for tea. The Simnel cake is a rich fruitcake covered with a thick layer of almond paste (marzipan). A layer of marzipan is also traditionally baked into the middle of the cake. Eleven balls of marzipan are placed around the top to represent the eleven true disciples (excluding

Judas). Originally the simnel cake was a gift to mothers on Mothering Sunday [9].

#### QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. When is Easter celebrated?
2. What Easter symbols do you know?
3. What Easter customs do you know?
4. What traditional Easter food do English people eat?
5. What is a Pace Egg?

#### WRITE THE JUMBLED EATER WORDS CORRECTLY

RASETE \_\_\_\_\_  
MILYAF \_\_\_\_\_  
GRINPS \_\_\_\_\_  
CHIANRIST \_\_\_\_\_  
SLEFITVA \_\_\_\_\_

SGEG \_\_\_\_\_

NUBNY \_\_\_\_\_

Key: Easter, family, spring, Christian, festival, egg, bunny

### TEXT 3

READ THE TEXT AND RETELL IN NATIVE LANGUAGE

#### April Fools' Day

**April Fools' Day** is celebrated in Great Britain and in the US like in France, Russia and many other countries on April 1 every year. Unlike other holidays April Fools' Day is «for-fun-only». Nobody buys gifts or takes their beloved ones out to eat in a fancy restaurant. Nobody gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a holiday on which one must remain forever **vigilant**, for he may be the next April Fool!

In England and Scotland April fooling became popular during the 1700s, however the **origin** of the custom still is unclear. There are several theories about it.

One theory is that in Europe, until the sixteenth century, March 25<sup>th</sup> was New Year's Day. Celebration lasted up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April when people used to give presents to one another. In 1564, Charles IX, the French king, adopted the Gregorian calendar and made January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day. Those, who were against this, continued giving presents on April 1<sup>st</sup>. In the following years, those who insisted on celebrating the New Year at its old time were **mocked** as fools and people would play **pranks** and tricks on them and called them `Poisson d'avril', meaning April Fish in French. This must have been so much fun that it **spread** all over the world and people **played tricks on** everyone, not just the people who didn't accept the new calendar.

Other people say that the holiday is just a continuation of a festival **in honour of** the Celtic god of Mirth but the most popular belief is that it's a reaction to the change in season and the start of spring. Whatever its origin, **making fools of people** on this day remains one of the most **flourishing** of all British customs.

April Fool jokes usually involve persuading someone to do something silly, like looking for hen's teeth, or saying something, like «Your shoe's **untied**, or I accidentally stepped on your glasses!» Setting a roommate's alarm clock back an hour is a common prank.

However, you can only **play April Fools on people** before midday – at midday the fun must stop or the **trickster** is told:

‘April Fool's Day is past and gone,  
You're the fool and I am none.’ or  
«April Fool's Day's past and gone,  
You're the fool for making one.»



Scotland has its own April Fool's Day traditions. In this part of the UK the holiday is actually celebrated for two days. The second day is devoted to pranks involving the **posterior region of the body**. The tradition of sticking a «**Kick Me**» sign on someone's back is believed to originate from here.

vigilant – бдительный

origin – происхождение

to mock – высмеивать

prank – розыгрыш

to spread – распространяться

to play tricks/pranks on smb – подшучивать

to make fools of people – одурачивать людей

in honour of — в честь  
flourishing – процветающий  
untied – расшнурованный  
to play April Fools on people – подшучивать над людьми на 1 апреля  
trickster – обманщик  
posterior region of the body – задняя часть тела  
«Kick Me» – ударь меня/пни меня [13].

#### TEXT 4

READ THE TEXT AND TRANSLATE INTO RUSSIAN

#### **St George's Day**

St George's Day is on 23 April. It is England's national day. St George is the patron saint of England. Like England, every country in the UK has its own patron saint who in times of great peril is called upon to help save the country from its enemies.

St George was a Roman soldier who protested against the Romans' torture of Christians and died for his beliefs. One of the best-known stories about Saint George is his fight with a dragon. But it is highly unlikely that he ever fought a dragon, and even more unlikely that he ever actually visited England. Despite this, St George is known throughout the world as the dragon-slaying patron saint of England. St George is always depicted as a knight carrying a shield with a red cross (or a banner with a red cross), generally sitting upon a horse and always killing a dragon. By tradition, 23 April is the day for a *red rose* in the button hole, the national flower. Traditional English foods and drink may be consumed. However, England does not celebrate it like Americans celebrate 4 July with fireworks. For most people in England St George's Day is just another ordinary day, although some organizations and prominent people advocate a wider celebration of the holiday [9].

#### TEXT 4

READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

#### **Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day)**

Mothering Sunday, sometimes known as Mother's Day, is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent (великий пост). It is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday and usually falls in the second half of March or early April. Mothers are remembered on Mothering Sunday in the UK.

#### What Do People Do?

Mother's Day, or Mothering Sunday, is now a day to honor mothers and other mother figures, such as grandmothers, stepmothers and mothers-in-law. Many people make a special effort to visit their mother. An important part of Mothering Sunday is giving cards and gifts. Common Mother's Day gifts are cakes, flowers, chocolates, jewelry, and luxurious clothing. Some people do not give a physical gift, but choose to treat their mother or grandmother to a special meal, beauty treatment or fun outing. Specially decorated Mother's Day cakes are available in many stores. In the days and weeks before Mothering Sunday, many schools, Sunday schools and children's organizations help their pupils to prepare a handmade card or gift for their mother.

#### Public Life

Mothering Sunday is not a bank holiday in the United Kingdom. Public transport services run to their usual Sunday timetables. Cafes, restaurants and hotels may be fully booked a long time ahead. Those wishing to eat in a restaurant on Mother's Day may need to reserve a table in advance.

#### Background

Mothering Sunday was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptized or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on

Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.



Many people prepared a Simnel cake (симнел, пасхальный кекс) to eat with their family on this day. A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, Simnel cakes are decorated with 11 or 12 balls of marzipan, representing the 11 disciples (ученики) and, sometimes, Jesus Christ. One legend says that the cake was named after Lambert Simnel who worked in the kitchens of Henry VII of England sometime around the year 1500 [15].

### QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. When is Mothering Sunday celebrated?
2. What do people on Mothering Sunday do?
3. What was Mothering Sunday originally?
4. What traditional food do English people eat on Mothering Sunday?
5. Is Mothering Sunday a bank holiday?

M - MOMMY IS MY STAR, MY MOON AND MY SUN  
 O - ON RAINY GRAY DAYS HER SMILE MAKES IT BRIGHT  
 T - TAKING HER HAND MAKES ME FEEL SAFE AND SOUND  
 H - HEART TO HEART WITH MY MOMMY EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT  
 E - EAST, WEST, NORTH OR SOUTH, ALL I NEED IS MOMMY  
 R - REMINDING ME OF ALL THE LOVE IN HER HEART

Read about Mother's Day today and in the past.  
 Choose words from the box to complete the text.

visit – from – mixture – girls – home – very – went – presents – used – marzipan – not – off –  
 May – maids – holiday – sugar – home – hard – but - mixture

Mother's Day is in \_\_\_\_\_ in many countries, but in Britain it is in March, three weeks before Easter. Children give cards and \_\_\_\_\_ to their mothers. They say thank you for all the things their mothers do for them.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century many young \_\_\_\_\_ went away \_\_\_\_\_ home. They \_\_\_\_\_ to work as \_\_\_\_\_ for rich people. They worked very \_\_\_\_\_. They did \_\_\_\_\_ get \_\_\_\_\_ much time \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. Mothering Sunday was a \_\_\_\_\_. The maids were allowed to go \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ their mothers. They \_\_\_\_\_ to make a special cake for their mothers. It was made of a \_\_\_\_\_ of fruit, spices and \_\_\_\_\_ and it was decorated with \_\_\_\_\_.

[8]

### TEXT 5

#### READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

##### Spring Bank Holiday

Spring Bank Holiday is a day off work and school. The day is usually spent catching up with friends and enjoying the early summer weather. As with other Bank Holidays the origins of the festival are related to archaic religious festivals. In 1971, the government replaced a previous late May holiday known as Whit Monday, a Christian holiday commemorating the day the Holy Ghost descending to Jesus Christ's disciples and marking the end of the Easter season. The day it has been

moved to the end of May and renamed Spring Bank Holiday. The Spring Bank Holiday is celebrated in the UK on the last Monday of May each year [17].



Many people enjoy the Spring Bank Holiday with relaxing meals. Some people choose to take a short trip or vacation. Others use the time to walk in the country, catch up with family and friends, visit garden centers or do home maintenance. However, in some parts of the United Kingdom, there are some customs associated with this day. On Cooper's Hill in Gloucestershire, people race down a steep hill following a large

round cheese. The first person to cross the finishing line wins a Double Gloucester cheese weighing around 3.5kg. The custom may have been started by the Romans or ancient. In these years, the cheese was rolled down the hill, but nobody was allowed to chase it.

In Endon in Staffordshire, the villagers dress their well, hold a fayre (village celebration) and crown a girl as the Well Dressing Queen. Local men hold a competition, known as 'Tossing the Sheaf', in which they compete to see who can toss a bale of straw the highest. In other places, boats are blessed, Morris dancers put on displays and local festivals are held [15].

#### QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. When is spring bank holiday celebrated?
2. What do people on spring bank holiday do?
3. What and when was spring bank holiday originally?
4. What customs associated with this day are on Cooper's Hill?

#### TEXT 6

#### READ THE TEXT AND RETELL IN NATIVE LANGUAGE

#### May Day

The first day of the month of May is known as May Day (however, the Bank Holiday by that name is observed on the first Monday in May). The first Monday in May is a bank holiday and many people have a day off work. Many organizations, businesses and schools are closed, while stores may be open or closed, according to local custom. Public transport systems often run to a holiday timetable.

It is the time of year when warmer weather begins and flowers and trees start to blossom. It is said to be a time of love and romance. It is when people celebrate the coming of summer with lots of different customs that are expressions of joy and hope after a long winter.

It is called May Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is known as the Early May Bank Holiday in Scotland. It probably originated as a Roman festival honoring the beginning of the summer season. In more recent times, it has been as a day to campaign for and celebrate workers' rights.



**Maypole dancing** is a popular tradition on the Early May Bank Holiday. Children, particularly girls, dance around a tall pole, from which ribbons are suspended. The aim of the dance is to create a decorative pattern on the pole with the ribbons. Many schools, particularly in rural areas, organize displays of maypole dancing.

Another traditional form of dancing, **Morris dancing**, is also associated with the beginning of May. This type of dancing is nearly always carried out exclusively by

men who dress in white with bells on various parts of their costumes and carry scarves and long wooden sticks. The dancing is accompanied by loud accordion music. Groups of Morris dancers often hold displays on the early May bank holiday.

Other traditions include making floral garlands, decorating houses with flowers and leaves and **crowning a May queen** as a living image of the Roman goddess Flora. By tradition the most beautiful girl in a village was chosen for this part, she took no part in the games or dancing, but sat like a queen in a flower-decked chair to watch her “subjects”. In some areas, girls go out very early to wash their faces in the morning dew. This is supposed to make them very beautiful in the coming year. In Rochester, there is a festival of chimney sweeps. Traditionally, May 1 was the only day in the year that they did not have to work.

May 1 or the first Monday in May is also a day for large marches, particularly London, to celebrate and demand rights for workers. Many aspects of these marches are organized by the trade unions. In some years, the marches have ended violently, but in recent times they have remained peaceful [15].

## HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN SUMMER

### TEXT 1

READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

#### Queen's Official Birthday

The Queen celebrates two birthdays each year: her actual birthday on 21 April and her official birthday on (usually) the second Saturday in June.



Official celebrations to mark Sovereigns' birthday have often been held on a day other than the actual birthday. It is celebrated in summer, when weather is good for the Birthday Parade, also known as Trooping the Colour (Carrying of the Flag). The Queen usually spends her actual birthday privately, but the occasion is marked publicly by gun salutes in central London at midday. On her official birthday, Her Majesty is joined by other

members of the Royal Family at the spectacular Trooping the Colour parade which moves between Buckingham Palace, The Mall and Horseguards' Parade as well as a public appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace [14].

The Colours today are trooped in front of the Queen troops of the Household Division. Among the audience are the Royal Family, invited guests, ticketholders, and the general public. The colourful ceremony, also known as "The Queen's Birthday Parade", is broadcast live by the BBC [9].

#### QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. When is the Queen's real birthday?
2. When does the Queen have her official birthday?
3. How is the Queen's official birthday marked?

### TEXT 2

READ THE TEXT AND DO THE EXERCISE

#### Read About Father's Day



Father's Day is a special day to give thanks to Father's around the world. The first modern Father's Day celebration was held in the USA, in June 1908. Stepfathers, grandfathers, and foster fathers are given cards and presents on Father's Day, too.

#### Father's Day in The UK

People in the UK celebrate Father's Day in the summer, on the third Sunday in June.

Ireland. Father's Day is not a public holiday in Great Britain. Shops stay open, and people who work on Sundays go to work as usual.

Many children make or buy greetings cards to send to their dads on Father's Day. Socks, ties, handkerchiefs and men's toiletries are popular Father's Day gifts for British dads. Some people may send flowers to their fathers, or buy them chocolates, although this is less usual.

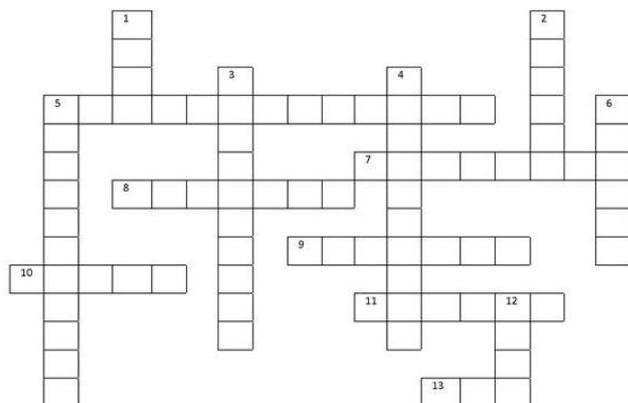
Father's Day in the UK is a special day to spend quality time with family. Older children sometimes cook for their parents on Father's Day, or take them out for a meal as a special treat. Adults living away from home phone their fathers on the day to remind them how much they love them, and say thank you for being a great dad!

[7].

**FALSE OR TRUE?**

1. The first father's day celebration was held in Great Britain.
2. Father's day is a day of giving cards and presents to fathers, stepfathers and grandfathers.
3. People in Great Britain celebrate father's day on the second Sunday in June.
4. Father's day is a public holiday.
5. Father's day in the UK is a special day to spend time with the family.

**FATHER'S DAY CROSSWORD**



**ACROSS**

- 5 Special cards given on holidays
- 7 Plural form of child
- 8 Special day of the year
- 9 Gift
- 10 Call your father this
- 11 Group of relatives
- 13 Long, narrow cloth worn around the neck  
of a shirt

**DOWN**

- 1 opposite of female
- 2 male parent
- 3 used to catch fish
- 4 special day for dads
- 5 the father of mum or dad
- 6 first day of the week
- 12 strong feeling of affection

[8]

### TEXT 3

#### READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

#### Summer Bank Holiday in United Kingdom

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the summer bank holiday is on the last Monday of August. In Scotland it is on the first Monday of August. This day marks the end of the summer holidays for many people who return to work or school in the autumn.



The summer bank holiday was introduced in the Bank Holidays Act 1871 and first observed in that year. It was originally intended to give bank employees the opportunity to participate and attend cricket matches. Exactly one hundred years later, the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 moved this bank holiday to the last Monday in August for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This followed a trial period from 1965 to 1970 of the new date. In Scotland, it remained on the first Monday in August.

For many people, the summer bank holiday marks the end of the summer. Some people take trips or short vacations during the three day weekend. For others, it is another opportunity to work in their gardens or carry out home improvements.

In London the **Notting Hill Carnival** is held. This street festival is best known for its exuberant costumes, dancing and music played by steel drum bands. The festival has been held every year since 1965 and was originally organized by immigrants from the Caribbean, particularly Trinidad, to the United Kingdom. It started as a protest against the racism, poor working and housing conditions that they suffered. Today, the Notting Hill Carnival is a multicultural celebration, attracting over two million people. It is thought to be the second largest street carnival in the world. In the past, a considerable amount of public disorder occurred round the event, but it has been calmer in recent years.

On the summer bank holiday many organizations, businesses and schools are closed. Stores may be open or closed, according to local custom. There is more local variation in Scotland, where local conditions, rather than national laws, dictate whether organizations and businesses close for the day. Public transport systems often run to a holiday timetable. As this three-day weekend marks the end of the summer holiday period, there can be a lot of congestion on roads and public transport systems [15].

#### QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. When is summer bank holiday celebrated?
2. What do people on summer bank holiday do?
3. When was summer bank holiday first observed?
4. What was originally intended to do on summer bank holiday?
5. What do people do on summer bank holiday?
6. What festival is on summer bank holiday held?
7. Are on the summer bank holiday organizations, businesses and schools closed?

## HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN AUTUMN

### TEXT 1

#### READ THE TEXT AND DO THE EXERCISES

#### **Halloween**

What do you know about Halloween? Here are some Halloween facts.

- Halloween is celebrated on 31st October. This isn't a public holiday in Britain.
- Halloween is the night before the Catholic festival of All Saints and the pagan Celtic festival of Samhain (1st November).
- Halloween is also sometimes called All Hallows' Eve and can also be written Hallowe'en.
- Halloween colours are orange and black. Orange is related to harvests because the end of October is the end of the harvest (the time when fruit and vegetables are collected). Black is related to death.

In the UK Halloween traditions are very much alive and popular, especially amongst kids and teenagers. We looked at some of the most common.

#### **Pumpkin lanterns**

These are pumpkins with the inside removed and a nose, eyes and mouth cut into one side. A candle is placed inside the empty pumpkin and the light creates a scary face effect. In the past people used potatoes or turnips to make lanterns but nowadays pumpkins are more popular. They are easier to cut and you can buy them in supermarkets. People use pumpkin lanterns to decorate their homes at Halloween. Do people actually eat their pumpkins? Yes, they do! Pumpkin soup and pumpkin curry are very popular meals at this time of year.

#### **Apple bobbing (достањ яблоко)**

To play this game, lots of apples are placed in a large tub or bowl of water. The competitors have to take a bite from one of the apples without using their hands. To make this more difficult, the competitors have their eyes covered with a scarf. You are not allowed to use the sides of the bowl to help you bite the apple. Apple bobbing may be related to the ancient Roman festival of remembering the dead, which was also in October. The Romans remembered the goddess of trees and fruit, called Pomona. When they came to the UK, about 2,000 years ago, they continued with this tradition.

#### **Dressing up**

People of all ages dress up on Halloween. The most popular fancy dress costumes include witches, vampires, ghosts, skeletons, zombies or monsters. You can buy a costume from a shop or you can make your own costume at home.

#### **Trick or treating**

Children dress up and then visit the houses in their neighbourhood asking for a 'trick or treat'. The neighbour gives them sweets or money as a 'treat'. If there is no treat, the children play a trick on the neighbour, for example they might throw soap at the window. This custom is imported from the USA and is more popular with young people than with adults. The police in some parts of Britain give out 'No trick or treat, please!' posters for people to display on their door on the night of Halloween. Young children usually go trick or treating with parents or with an older brother or sister.

#### **Halloween parties**

If you are in Sheffield, in the north of England, at the end of October you can go to Fright Night. What is Fright Night? People in Sheffield say it's 'Britain's Biggest Halloween Party' and it attracts about 40,000 people each year. There are activities for kids, teenagers and adults. If you don't have a big Halloween party in your area, some people have parties at home or at youth clubs where they dress up and play scary games or tell ghost stories.

#### **Watch a horror film**

Not in the mood for a Halloween party? Older teenagers that aren't helping their younger sisters and brothers to trick or treat sometimes watch a scary film with friends either at home or at the cinema [10].

**AGREE OR DISAGREE THE STATEMENTS**

1. People celebrate Halloween on 31st October in Britain.
2. Halloween is not a public holiday in the UK.
3. Halloween lanterns are usually made from potatoes.
4. Apple bobbing is a game which involves apples, water and a bowl.
5. Only children dress up at Halloween.
6. Trick or treating is an American custom that is now popular in Britain.
7. Fright Night is a big Halloween party in the north of England.

**PUT THE WORDS INTO THE CORRECT GROUPS**

ghost, black, red, zombie, curry, apples, orange, pumpkins, white, soup, witch, vampire

Colours	Food	Halloween characters

**COMPLETE THE EXPRESSIONS WITH THE CORRECT VERB.**

- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Halloween         | 1. go        |
| 2. a lantern         | 2. watch     |
| 3. apple bobbing     | 3. make      |
| 4. as a witch        | 4. play      |
| 5. a costume         | 5. celebrate |
| 6. trick or treating | 6. wear      |
| 7. a party           | 7. go to     |
| 8. a film            | 8. dress up  |

**ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. On which day does Halloween take place?
2. How is Halloween celebrated today?
3. What is bobbing the apple? [10]

**TEXT 2**

**READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

**Bonfire Night (Guy Fawkes Night)**

*“Remember, remember  
The fifth of November,  
Gunpowder, treason and plot.  
We see no reason why  
Gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot!”*

In November 1605, the gunpowder Plot took place in which some Catholics plotted to blow up the English Parliament and King James I. The men put 36 barrels of gunpowder in the Houses of Parliament and they waited for the King to arrive. The group decided that Guy Fawkes should light the gunpowder and cause the explosion. The plot was discovered and its participants, the most famous of whom was Guy Fawkes, were executed. The story is remembered every 5th of November.

The celebrations involve fireworks displays and the building of bonfires, traditionally on which "guys", or dummies, representing Guy Fawkes are burnt. [9].

The biggest fireworks display is the Edenbridge Display in Kent. Edenbridge also has the biggest Guy. A 9-metre 'celebrity' model is burned there every year.

Formely, Bonfire Night was celebrated as a victory for Protestants over Catholics, but the festival is now enjoyed by everyone. Some children make a guy, a figure of a man made of old clothes stuffed with newspaper or straw to represent Guy Fawkes. The guy is then burned on top of a bonfire on Bonfire Night. Before the fifth, children use the dummies to beg for money with the chant "Penny for the guy". Only adults are legally allowed to buy fireworks.

There are sometimes accidents involving fireworks and there are now restrictions on the type of fireworks that can be used by the general public. Some people hold private bonfire parties in their gardens, while others attend larger public events organized by local councils or charities.

Traditional Bonfire Night food is hot baked potatoes. The potatoes are cooked on the bonfire and filled with butter and cheese. There are also toffee apples (apples on a stick, covered in sweet toffee) and in the north of England they eat a special type of cake called parkin. Cooking marshmallows on the bonfire is also popular [6].

### QUESTIONS TO THE TEXT

1. What do people celebrate on November 5th?
2. Why did the plan fail?
3. How do people remember Bonfire Night?
4. What was the plot about?
5. Was Guy Fawkes a Roman Catholic or a Protestant?
6. Who celebrates Bonfire Night?

### READ THE TEXT. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE CORRECT NUMBER

1605	18	first	5 <sup>th</sup>	9	36
------	----	-------	-----------------	---	----

1. A group of people wanted to kill James the \_\_\_\_, the King of England.
2. Guy Fawkes planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament in \_\_\_\_.
3. Guy Fawkes and his men put \_\_\_\_ barrels of explosives in the Houses of Parliament.
4. People remember the plot to destroy the Houses of Parliament and kill King James, with fireworks and bonfires on November \_\_\_\_.
5. Edenbridge in Kent burns a \_\_\_\_-metre Guy on a bonfire every year.
6. People under \_\_\_\_ can't buy fireworks in the UK.

### MATCH TO MAKE CORRECT SENTENCES

are burned on fires	is known as the "Gunpowder Plot"
are cooked on fire	is made with old clothes
are filled with newspapers	was planned for November 5 <sup>th</sup>
are not sold children	were executed

1. An enormous explosion \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Guy Fawkes and his men \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Models of Guy Fawkes \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Guy \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Guy's clothes \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Potatoes \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Fireworks \_\_\_\_\_.

## COMPLETE SENTENCES ABOUT BONFIRE NIGHT

1. We \_\_\_ a big party for Bonfire Night last year.  
planned  
were planned
2. A lot \_\_\_ about the history of Bonfire Night.  
knows  
is known
3. Is it true that the King \_\_\_ Guy Fawkes?  
tortured  
was tortured
4. British people \_\_\_ Guys on bonfires in local parks or in private gardens.  
burn  
are burned
5. Is the Guy \_\_\_ with old clothes?  
makes  
made
6. You can \_\_\_ the Guy with newspaper.  
fill  
be filled [10].

### TEXT 3

#### READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

##### **Remembrance Day**

Remembrance Day in the United Kingdom is a special day set aside to remember all those men and women who were killed during the two World Wars and other conflicts. It is not a public holiday. The main observance is on the second Sunday in November, but 2 minutes of silence is also made on November 11. At one time the day was known as *Armistice Day* and was renamed Remembrance Day after the Second World War. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month marks the signing of the Armistice, on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, to signal the end of World War One.

In the United Kingdom *two minutes' silence* is observed on November 11. People stop work to observe a moment of silence, which is the time and date when hostilities formally ended after more than four years of battle during World War I. (WW1). The main observance is on the second Sunday of November, *Remembrance Sunday*. Special services are held at war memorials and churches all over Britain. The day is also marked by events such as memorial services, church services and parades. A national commemoration takes place at Whitehall, a road in the City of Westminster in central London. People also leave small wooden crosses by the memorials in remembrance of a family member who died in war.

Remembrance Day is also known as *Poppy Day*, because it is traditional to wear an artificial poppy. In 1918, Moira Michael, an American, wrote a poem, "We shall keep the faith", in which she promised to wear a poppy "in honour of our dead". This began the tradition of wearing a poppy in remembrance. They are sold by the Royal British Legion, a charity dedicated to helping war veterans.

Circle the correct answer.

1. Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed in many countries:
  - a. To remember members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty since WWI.
  - b. To remember all the people who have died in wars since WWI.
  - c. To celebrate the end of WWI.
2. Remembrance Day is also known as:
  - a. Armistice day
  - b. Veteran's day
  - c. Poppy Day
  - d. All of the above
3. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918:
  - a. World War I officially ended;
  - b. Fighting formally ended at 11 a.m.
  - c. Germany signed the Armistice (agreement which ended the WWI)
  - d. All of the above
4. Remembrance Day is:
  - a. A holiday in all countries where it is observed.
  - b. Marked by special ceremonies by politicians and veterans at war memorials.
  - c. Marked by observing 2 minutes of silence at 11 a.m.
  - d. Answers b & c.
5. The emblem of Remembrance Day the red poppy is :
  - a. sold by veterans for a fixed price
  - b. sold for donations to raise money for veterans
  - c. given out at no charge
6. The first remembrance poppy was worn in
  - a. The U.K.
  - b. The U.S.
  - c. Canada
7. The poppy became an emblem of Remembrance Day due to
  - a. The poem *In Flanders Fields* (by John McCrae)
  - b. The poem *We Shall Keep the Faith* (by Moina Michael)

[8].



The red poppy - a symbol of wartime remembrance

Key: 1- a, 2- d, 3- d, 4 -d, 5 -b, 6- b, 7 -a

#### TEXT 4

READ THE TEXT AND TRANSLATE INTO RUSSIAN

#### St Andrew's Day

On 30 November, Scottish people celebrate St Andrew's Day. St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. He was one of the Twelve Apostles and brother of Peter Saint Peter. He was a fisherman, who lived in Galilee (in present-day Israel). St Andrew is believed to have died on a diagonally

transversed cross which the Romans sometimes used for executions and which, therefore, came to be called St Andrew's cross – a white cross on a blue background.

It is a bank holiday in Scotland and an official flag day – the *Flag of Scotland* (The Saltire) flies on all government buildings. In Edinburgh, there is a week of celebrations, concentrating on musical entertainment and traditional *dancing*. Schools across Scotland hold special St Andrew's Day events and activities including art shows, Scottish country dancing, reciting and writing poems, cooking traditional *Scottish meals*, and even *bagpipe* playing.

Around midnight on November 29, it was traditional for girls to pray to St Andrew for a husband. They would make a wish and look for a sign that they had been heard. A girl wishing to marry could throw a shoe at a door. If the toe of the shoe pointed in the direction of the exit, then she would marry and leave her parents' house within a year [9].

## TEST YOURSELF

### 1. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. People visit their mothers and give them small flowers and small presents.  
a) St. Valentine's Day      b) New Year      c) Mother's Day
2. When is Halloween?  
a) October 31      b) October 5      c) November 5
3. When is Christmas in Britain?  
a) January 7      b) January 25      c) December 25
4. When is Guy Fawkes Day?  
a) October 5      b) September 25      c) November 5
5. When is the official Queen's Birthday?  
a) the second Saturday in June      b) the second Saturday in July      c) the 21<sup>st</sup> of April
6. When is New Year?  
a) December 25      b) December 31      c) January 7
7. People send special cards to someone they love.  
a) St. Valentine's Day      b) New Year      c) Mother's Day
8. People celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. What holiday is it?  
a) New Year      b) Christmas      c) the First Foot
9. People light fireworks and burn a guy on a bonfire.  
a) Guy Fawkes Night      b) Halloween      c) Easter
10. People make fancy costumes and put them on.  
a) Guy Fawkes Night      b) Halloween      c) Easter
11. People dye eggs and give presents to their relatives and friends.  
a) St. Valentine's Day      b) Easter      c) New Year
12. People decorate fir-trees with tinsels, lights, coloured balls.  
a) St. Valentine's Day      b) Easter      c) New Year
13. St David's Day is a British festival which is predominantly celebrated in which country?  
a). England,      b). Wales,      c). Northern Ireland,      d). Scotland
14. The May Day bank holiday in England is celebrated each year on the first Monday in May. Festivities include crowning a May Queen, dancing around a May pole, and which other activity?  
a). Cheese rolling,      b). Strawberry harvest,      c). Pea shooting competition,      d). Morris dancing
15. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and his feast day is celebrated each year on 17th March. Which plant is normally worn on this special day?  
a). Thistle,      b). Shamrock,      c). Rose,      d). Daffodil
16. Remembrance Day is a solemn occasion in November where we remember all the fatalities from both World Wars, and other conflicts which have happened since? What is it more commonly called in Britain?  
a). Forget-me-not Day,      b). Rose Day,      c). Poppy Day,      d). Lily Day
17. "Remember, remember, the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot." Which building did the traitor Guy Fawkes unsuccessfully try to destroy in 1605, leading us to celebrate each anniversary by letting off fireworks?  
a). Buckingham Palace,      b). St Paul's Cathedral,      c). Westminster Abbey,      d). Houses of Parliament
18. Which famous Scottish poet has a celebration named after him which normally falls on or around 25th January?  
a). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,      b). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,      c). J. M. Barrie,      d). Robert Burns
19. Mothering Sunday in Britain is celebrated on the third Sunday in Lent, while Father's Day is celebrated in which month?  
a). June,      b). September,      c). March,      d). April
20. On which bank holiday is the Notting Hill Carnival celebrated each year?

a). Spring bank holiday, b). Easter bank holiday, c). Summer bank holiday, d). May bank holiday [5].

2. *WHAT HOLIDAYS DO THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS DESCRIBE? NAME THE HOLIDAY*

1. On this day many people promise to try and better themselves by, for example, giving up smoking.
2. On this day people decorate a tree and prepare holiday food.
3. On this day people go to the countryside and have picnics.
4. On this day children help at home and give or send cards and presents. Mothers like this holiday.
5. Two minutes of silence to commemorate the sacrifice of veterans and civilians in World War I and other wars.
6. A celebration marked in London by the ceremony of Trooping the Colour, a military pageant or ceremony performed by regiments of the Commonwealth and the British Army and attended by the Queen. Events at Buckingham Palace after the Queen's return include another march past, a 41-gun salute in the adjacent Green Park, and a flypast by the Royal Air Force.

3. AGREE OR DISAGREE

1. All holidays in Britain are movable.
2. The most popular holiday is Christmas.
3. Every year the people of Spain give London a present – Christmas tree.
4. Christmas is a family holiday.
5. Hogmanay is celebrated in March.
6. Boxing Day is on the 27th of December.
7. New Year is more popular in Britain than Christmas.

4. *DESCRIBE THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND THE MODERN TRADITIONS CONNECTED WITH THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS*

- I. St Valentine's Day
- II. Mother's Day (Mothering Sunday)
- III. April Fools' Day
- IV. May Day
- V. Halloween Night
- VI. Guy Fawkes Night or Bonfire Night
- VII. New Year's Eve, Hogmanay in Scotland [9].

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16. Useful English: сайт для изучения английского языка как иностранного/[Электронный ресурс] - Режим доступа: <http://usefulenglish.ru/vocabulary/holidays-and-parties> (дата обращения: 19.03.2017)
17. WinCalendar: Настраиваемый календарь с праздниками/[Электронный ресурс] - Режим доступа: <http://www.wincalendar.com/Spring-Bank-Holiday-UK> (дата обращения: 19.03.2017)

