# МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

Курганский государственный университет Кафедра иностранных языков гуманитарных специальностей

# АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Практикум по развитию навыков устной речи для студентов II – III курсов всех специальностей. Страноведение. Нью-Йорк, Вашингтон, Лондон.

Курган 2005

Кафедра иностранных языков гуманитарных специальностей Дисциплина :«Английский язык»

Составители: ст. преподаватель Захарова И.Э.,

преподаватель Бобылева Т.В.

Работа подготовлена при равноценном участии авторов

Утвержден на заседании кафедры \_\_\_\_ 2005г.

Рекомендован методическим советом университета

« »\_\_\_\_2005 г.

#### **SPOTLIGHT ON THE USA**

**Text 1** Read the text.

#### The United States of America

The United States of America is one of the largest countries in the world. The country is often called the USA. The USA lies in the central part of the North American continent between two oceans: the Atlantic Ocean to the East and the Pacific Ocean to the West. Canada to the North and Mexico to the South are the only countries bordering on the United States.

There are fifty federal states and the independent District of Columbia. Forty nine states, including Alaska, form the continental United States. Canada separates Alaska from the major territory of the USA. The 50th state, the state of Hawaii, is a group of islands situated in the mid-Pacific Ocean. The states differ very much in size, population and economic development. Due to its geography, the weather, the landscape and the way of life the USA is a country of great diversity.

The population of the USA is more than 230 million people who speak English, Spanish, Italian, German, Polish, Yuddish, Russian and others. English is the official and predominant language.

The USA developed from English colonies. After a long eight years of struggle (1775-1783) the colonies gained their independence. The American colonists were led by a talented soldier George Washington who later became the first president of the USA. The capital was named after the first president. In 1791 he purchased the land from private owners. The District of Columbia is the territory of the city of Washington. Washington, D.C. lies between two states Virginia and Maryland on the Potomac River, which divides the city into two parts.

There are many other big cities in the USA. New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles are the biggest of them.

The USA is a highly developed industrial country. Electronic and electric engineering, transport, communication and machine-tool industries can be found almost in all large cities of the USA.

The United States is a federal republic. The Government of the US is composed of three branches - executive, legislative and judicial. The executive branch sees that laws are carried out. The legislative branch makes new laws. And the judicial branch makes sure that the laws and actions of the other branches agree with the Constitution. The White House is the place where the President of the USA lives and works. The President is the head of the executive branch of the government. He appoints the Cabinet members; each of them becomes the head of the very important government department.

Not far from the White House there is the Capitol where the Congress, the legislative branch of the government, meets to make laws, to govern the country.

The Senate and the House of Representatives form the Congress. American politics is based on two-party system. There are the Democratic party and the Republican party in the USA.

The Americans are very sociable. With this sociability goes overwhelming hospitality. The Americans show the keenest interest in your affairs and ask you to let them know if they can help. All citizens of this country are proud of America. Since childhood they are taught to be great patriots, love their motherland, and believe in the 'American dream'. They think that the American Rivers are the longest ones - the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Ohio, the Columbia, the Colorado. They consider that their mountains are the highest ones - the MacKinly, the Cordilleras, the Appalachian. Their firms and corporations are well-known all over the land - General Motors, Pepsi, Reebok, Standard Oil... The greatest scientists, the richest millionaires, the bravest astronauts, the most famous actors and actresses, the best singers - they determine the face of the United States of America nowadays.

Task 1. Agree or disagree with these statements.

- 1. Native language of all Americans is English.
- 2. The executive branch sees that legislative one makes laws.
- 3. The President is the head of the country.
- 4. The Congress appoints the Cabinet members.
- 5. There are three main leading parties in the USA.
- 6. The longest rivers are the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Ohio and others.
- 7. There are more than 200 million people of many nationalities in the USA.
- 8. Washington is divided into three parts by the Potomac River.
- 9. There are 49 states and independent District of Columbia in the USA.
- 10. The USA borders on two countries.

## Text 2

Read the text and be ready to discussit.

## **Population in America**

The United States has the third-largest population in the world (after Russia, China and India). In 1990, population in the United States passed the 250,000,000 mark. Who are the American people?

The most distinctive characteristic of the United States is its people. As nineteenth-century poet Walt Whitman said, the United States "is not merely a nation but a nation of nations." People from around the world have come to the United States and influenced its history and culture.

## **The Native Americans**

The first people on the American continent came from Asia. They came across the Bering Strait from Siberia to Alaska at various times when the sea level dropped. The first migration might have been as early as 40,000 years ago. Once in America, these people migrated east across North America and south through Central and South America. When Columbus arrived in the fifteenth century, there were perhaps 10 million people in North America alone. They had developed many different kinds of societies. These were the people that Columbus called "Indians," in the mistaken belief that he had reached the East Indies.

The story of the westward growth of the United States was also the story of the destruction of the Native Americans, or Indians. Today there are about 1.5 million Indians in the United States. Western states — especially California, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico — have the largest Indian populations. About one-third of the Native Americans live on reservations, land that was set aside for them. Most of the others live in cities. Poverty and unemployment are major problems, especially on the reservations.

#### The British

Beginning in the 1600s, the British settled the eastern part of North America. By the time of the American Revolution (1776), the culture of the American colonists (their religion, language, government, etc.) was thoroughly British with an American "twist." In a sense, then, the British culture was the foundation on which America was built. Also, over the years, many immigrants to the United States have come from the United Kingdom and Ireland.

#### African-Americans

From 1620 to 1820 by far the largest group of people to come to the United States came, not as willing immigrants, but against their will. These people were West Africans brought to work as slaves, especially on the plantations, or large farms, of the South. In all, about 8 million people were brought from Africa.

The Civil War, in the 1860s, ended slavery and established equal rights for black Americans. But many states, especially in the South, passed laws segregating (separating) and discriminating against black Americans. The civil rights movement, in the 1950s and 1960s, helped get rid of these laws.

However, the effects of 200 years of slavery, 100 years of segregation, and continued prejudice are not as easy to get rid of. Despite many changes, black Americans are still much more likely than white Americans to be poor and to suffer the bad effects that poverty brings. Today about 12 percent of America's population is black. Many black Americans live in the South and in the cities of the Northeast and Midwest.

## **Immigrants from Northern and Western Europe**

Beginning in the 1820s, the number of immigrants coming to the United States began to increase rapidly. Faced with problems in Europe poverty, war, discrimination — immigrants hoped for, and often found, better opportunities in the United States. For the first half-century, most immigrants were from northwestern Europe — from Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden,

and Nor-way. In the late 1840s, for example, widespread hunger resulting from the failure of the potato crop led many Irish people to immigrate to the United States.

During these years, the United States were expanding into what is now the Midwest. There was a lot of land available for farming. Many new immigrants became farmers in the Midwest. To this day, German and Scandinavian influence is obvious in Midwestern foods and festivals.

In the 1920s discrimination and prejudice in the United States led to laws limiting immigration. Immigration slowed down until the 1960s, when these laws were changed.

## **Melting Pots and Mosaics**

For years, it was thought that the United States was and should be a "melting pot" — in other words, that people from all over the world would come and adopt "the American culture" as their own. More recently, some people have compared the United States to a mosaic — a picture made of many different pieces. America's strength, they argue, lies in its diversity and in the contributions made by people of many different cultures. America needs to preserve and encourage this diversity, while making sure that everyone has equal opportunity to succeed.

## **Discussion Points**

• Over the years, did many people immigrate to your country? Are there many immigrants today? Where are the immigrants from? Why did they leave their countries?

• Did many people emigrate from your country to other countries? What are some of the countries they went to? Did many people go to the United States? If so, do you know if there was a particular period when they went and a particular region where they settled?

• What do "melting pot" and "mosaic" refer to? What do you think are some of the advantages and disadvantages of each?

# Text 3

Read the text with the help of the dictionary.

## **Political Situation**

The United States is an indirect democracy - that is, the people rule through representatives they elect. Over time, the vote has been given to more and more people. In the beginning, only white men with property could vote. Today any citizen who is at least 18 years old can vote.

## The Constitution

The United States Constitution, written in 1787, established the country's political system and is the basis for its laws. In 200 years, the United States has experienced enormous growth and change. Yet the Constitution works as well today as when it was written. One reason is that the Constitution can be amended,

or changed. (For example, the Fifteenth Amendment gave black Americans the right to vote and the Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote.) Another reason is that the Constitution is flexible: its basic principles can be applied and interpreted differently at different times.

#### Federalism

The United States has a federalist system. This means that there are individual states, each with its own government, and there is a federal, or national, government. The Constitution gives certain powers to the federal government, other powers to the state governments, and yet other powers to both. For example, only the national government can print money, the states establish their own school systems, and both the national and the state governments can collect taxes.

#### Three Branches of Government

Within the national government, power is divided among three branches: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

The legislative branch consists of Congress, which has two parts — the House of Representatives and the Senate. Congress's main function is to make laws. There are 100 senators (two from each state) and 435 representatives (the number from each state depends on the size of the state's population). The President is the head of the executive branch and the country. The executive branch administers the laws (decides how the laws should be carried out). In addition to the President, the Vice-President, and their staffs, the executive branch consists of departments and agencies.

There are now 14 departments, including Treasury, State, Defense, and Health and Human Services. Each department has different responsibilities. For example, the Treasury Department manages the nation's money, while the State Department helps to make foreign policy. The President appoints the department heads, who together make up the President's Cabinet, or advisers. The agencies regulate specific areas. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency tries to control pollution, while the Securities and Exchange Commission regulates the stock markets.

The judicial branch interprets the laws and makes sure that new laws are in keeping with the Constitution. There are several levels of federal courts. The Supreme Court is the most important. It has nine members, who are appointed for life.

The system of checks and balances, established by the Constitution, is meant to prevent any branch from having too much power. Each branch has certain controls over the other blanches. For example, Congress makes the laws but the president can veto, or reject, a law and the Supreme Court can decide a law is unconstitutional.

Two-Party System

The United States has two main political parties the Democratic and Republican parties. Many other smaller parties play little if any role.

Voters elect the president, as well as senators, representatives, governor, etc. A voter can choose candidates from different parties (e.g., vote for Republicans for President and vice-president and a Democrat for senator), so the President does not have to be from the party that has a majority in Congress. In recent years, in fact, voters have tended to choose Republican presidents and Democratic congresspeople. There are *not* clear differences between the Republican and Democratic parties. In general, the Republicans tend to be more conservative and to have more support among the upper classes, while the Democrats tend to be more liberal and to have more support among the working classes and the poor.

## Separation of Church and State

A basic American principle is separation of church (religion) and state (government). The U.S. Constitution says that people have the right to worship as they choose and that no religion can be made the official religion. In keeping with this principle, government money cannot be used to support church activities and prayers may not be said in public schools. (The U.S. Congress, however, opens each year with a prayer.)

Task 1. Translate into Russian.

- 1. Предварительные выборы в США называются "primaries".
- 2. Предварительные выборы проводятся не во всех штатах.
- 3. Члены партий имеют возможность повлиять на выставление кандидатов.
- 4. В США две основных партии республиканцы и демократы.
- 5. Скажите мне, какова цель предварительных выборов в США.
- 6. Этот кандидат пользуется самой большой популярностью.
- 7. Национальный съезд выдвигает кандидата на пост президента страны. Он также выдвигает кандидата и на пост вице-президента.

8. Результаты выборов становятся известными на следующий день после выборов.

9. Как часто происходят, выборы президента в США?

- 10. В какой день недели избирают президента?
- 11. Когда проводятся предварительные выборы в США?

Task 2. Read the dialogue and represent the information about Abraham Lincoln.

ADDITIONAL TEXT

## **Glimpses of Geography**

The United States consist of 50 states and the District of Columbia, the nation's capital. Some states are famous for their noisy cities. Other states are known for their three-covered mountains. Still others are filled with miles and miles of rich farmland.

# **United States**

AL	Alabama	NH	New Hampshire	
AK	Alaska	NJ	New Jersey	
			•	
AZ	Arizona	NM	New Mexico	
AR	Arkansas	NY	New York	
CA	California	NC	North Carolina	
CO	Colorado	ND	North Dakota	
CT	Connecticut	OH	Ohio	
DE	Delaware	OK	Oklahoma	
FL	Florida	OR	Oregon	
GA	Georgia	PA	Pennsylvania	
HI	Hawaii	RI	Rhode Island	
ID	Idaho	SC	South Carolina	
IL	Illinois	SD	South Dakota	
IN	Indiana	TN	Tennessee	
IA	Iowa	ΤX	Texas	
KS	Kansas	UT	Utah	
KY	Kentucky	VT	Vermont	
LA	Louisiana	VA	Virginia	
ME	Maine	WA	Washington	
MD	Maryland	WV	West Virginia	
MA	Massachusetts	WI	Wisconsin	
MI	Michigan	WY	Wyoming	
MN	Minnesota	CZ	Canal Zone	
MS	Mississippi	DC	District of Columbia	
MO	Missouri	GU	Guem	
MT	Montatna	PR	Puerto Rico	
NE	Nebraska	VI	Virgin Islands	
NV	Nevada			

## **The New England States**

The New England states are : Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, new Hampshire and Rhode Island.

The states that make up New England are known for their small, quaint, ocean-side villages and pretty mountain scenery. Many of the people who came to North America from England hundreds of years ago settled here. That is why the area is named New England.

#### NEW WORDS

tree-covered mountains – покрытые лесом горы to fill – заполнять, занимать a farmland – земля, пригодная для обработки to make up – составлять quaint – необычный, причудливый ocean-side – прибрежный scenery – пейзаж to settle – обосноваться, поселиться

## **The Middle Atlantic States**

The Middle Atlantic states are: New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

The Middle Atlantic states are more crowded with people than the states in any other part of the country. Over the years people have come from all over the world to live in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

#### **NEW WORDS**

crowded – плотнонаселённый over the years – в течение многих лет

## **The Southern States**

The Southern states are: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

In the Southern states are areas of flat land. There are also hills and mountains. Miles of beautiful beaches lie along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The Southern states are known for their warm climate. In the wintertime, Southern beaches are popular vacation spots.

The District of Columbia is a city set aside from all of the states. It is the nation's capital.

#### NEW WORDS

flat – плоский, ровный, гладкий a beach – пляж in the wintertime – зимой a vacation spot – место отдыха set aside from – находящийся в стороне

## San Francisco

Read about this walking tour of San Francisco and draw the route on the map.

Start at Union Square, the center of downtown San Francisco. From the corner of Stockton and Post, walk east for one block and browse through San Francisco's most fashionable shops and boutiques.

Turn left on Grant and walk north for four blocks to Old St. Mary's Church, the entrance to Chinatown. Then stroll through the heart of Chinatown for about six blocks until you come to Broadway.

At the corner of Broadway and Columbus, you are in the center of North Beach. It's famous for its nightclubs and for its cabarets and Italian cafes.

Walk down Columbus, past Washington Square. At the intersection of Columbus and Mason, turn right and go about five more blocks to Fisherman Wharf. Be sure to visit the Wax Museum.

Later, walk back along Fisherman's Wharf and stop at two unusual shopping arcades, the Cannery and Ghirardelli Square, just next to Aquatic Park.

At the end of the day, you can walk back up Columbus or take a cable car from Aquatic Park to return to Union Square. We hope you enjoy the four!

#### **The Midwestern States**

The Midwestern states are: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

There are huge areas of very flat land in the Midwest. This flat land covers most of the center of the country. Corn, wheat and other crops grow on farms in these states. There are many dairy and animal farms in the Midwest. There are also noisy cities such as Chicago, Illinois.

#### **NEW WORDS**

huge – огромный to cover – занимать (о территории) crops – зерновые культуры corn – рожь wheat – пшеница dairy – молочный

#### The Rocky Mountain States

The Rocky Mountain states are: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. The Rocky Mountains cut through all of the states in this area of the country. But there are also desert and flat plains in these states. A large part of the Rocky Mountains area is a wilderness where only a small number of people live.

#### **NEW WORDS**

to cut – пересекать a desert – пустыня a wilderness – девственная природа

#### **The South-Western States**

The South-Western states are: Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Sometimes the Southern states are called the "wide open spaces". There are huge ranches. There are large fields where cotton grows. The weather is usually sunny and dry.

There are many oil fields in the Southwest. Oil has brought the Southwestern states most of their money.

#### **NEW WORDS**

**a ranch** – ранчо cotton – хлопок oil – нефть

#### **The Pacific Coast States**

The Pacific Coast states are: California, Oregon, and Washington.

The Pacific Coast states border the Pacific Ocean. These states are known for their miles and miles of beautiful beaches, thick forests, and mountains. The weather in this region is usually mild, so outdoor sports such as surfing and hiking are very popular.

Lots of vegetables, nuts, and fruits, especially grapes, are grown in this area.

#### **NEW WORDS**

to border the Pacific Ocean – находиться на побережье тихого океана a mile – миля (=1,609 км). surfing – серфинг hiking – пеший туризм grapes – виноград

#### Alaska

Alaska is the largest of all the 50 states. It borders Canada and lies in the Pacific and Artic ocean. Alaska is rich in fish, minerals, and timber.

Many glaciers can be found in Alaska. They forth in valleys and canyons and can be as small as on mile, or as wide as 30 miles!

#### **NEW WORDS**

minerals – полезные ископаемые timber – строевой лес; лесоматериалы a glacier – ледник a valley – долина a canyon – каньон

## Hawaii

Hawaii consists of 20 islands. It lies in the Pacific Ocean, about 2,400 miles off the coast of San-Francisco. The weather in Hawaii is tropical, and many beautiful plants and flowers grow there. Pineapples, coffee beans, and sugar are some of the state's main crops.

#### **NEW WORDS**

tropical – тропический a pineapples – ананас coffee beans – кофейные зёрна

## **Coastal Fling**

1. Role play. You are at a travel agency reading about these trips to the United States, but you are not sure which one is better for you.

Talk to the travel agent and get more information. Start like this. I'm going to take a trip to the US. Can you tell me about these tours? Which cities will I visit on the East Coast / West Coast Tour? What kinds of things can I do in ... (name of city)? I'm going in winter / summer. What's the weather like then? I want to have a single / double room. How much does it cost? What else can I see on the East Coast / West Coast Tour?

*Then tell the travel agent which tour you are going to take and why.* 2. *Now change roles and partners.* 

#### **AMERICAN PRESIDENTS**

TEACHER: Who was the first president of the U.SA?

STUDENT: George Washington. He was unanimously elected President in 1789 and reelected for the second term in 1792.

T.: What other American presidents do you know?

S.: Er ... Let me think. Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower ...

T.: Anybody else?

S.: John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, George Bush...

- T.: What do you know about Abraham Lincoln?
- S.: He was the 16th president of the U.S.
- T.: That's right. When was it?

S.: In the 60s of the 19th century.

T.: 1861-65, to be exact. What facts of Lincoln's life do you know?

S.: He was a successful lawyer in Springfield (Illinois) before he became famous and had the reputation for honesty<sup>1</sup>. He advised his clients not to go to court if they could settle outside<sup>2</sup>. He refused to take cases if he would be defending the unjust cause<sup>3</sup>. He was fair to witnesses and the fees he charged<sup>4</sup> were often very small.

T.: Say something about his political career, please.

S.: He was one of the leading organizers for the new Republican Party and in 1858 in Illinois took part in the debates between the Democrats and the Republicans. In 1860 he was selected as Republican candidate for President and was elected. He went to Washington and was inaugurated<sup>5</sup> in 1861. In April the same year the Civil War began which lasted four years.

T.: Have you read any books about the Civil War?

S.: *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell. It's a very good book, I think. But my sympathies are not with the South, I must say.

T.: What was Lincoln's attitude to slavery?

S.: Lincoln wanted slavery abolished<sup>7</sup> but he lived only to learn of the surrender of Lee to Grant and the end of the war. In 1865 he was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington by a Southern fanatic.

T.: Please read this passage from his inauguration speech<sup>8</sup> in 1865.

S.: "With malice toward none<sup>9</sup>, with charity for all; with firmness in the right<sup>10</sup>, as God gives us the right, let us strive on<sup>11</sup> to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds<sup>12</sup>, to care for<sup>13</sup> him who shall have borne the battle<sup>14</sup>, and for his widow, and his orphan - to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace<sup>15</sup> among ourselves, and with all nations."

## Glossary

1. had the reputation for honesty - имел репутацию честного человека

2. if they could settle outside - если они могли найти примирение за пределами суда

3. if he would be defending the unjust cause - если ему предстояло защищать неправое дело

4. the fees he charged - гонорары, которые он назначал

5. was inaugurated - введен в должность (президента)

6. Gone with the Wind - «Унесенные ветром», известный роман Маргарет Митчелл о гражданской войне в Америке

- 7. wanted slavery abolished хотел уничтожения рабства
- 8. inauguration speech инаугурационная речь
- 9. with malice toward none без злобы к кому бы то ни было
- 10. in the right по праву
- 11. to strive on to продолжать прилагать усилия к тому, чтобы...
- 12. to bind up the wounds перевязать раны
- 13. to care for заботиться о

14. who shall have borne the battle - кто выиграл битву

15. which may achieve and cherish a peace - что поможет достигнуть и сохранить мир.

## Text 4.

Read the text. Be ready to retell it.

## Washington

Building a New City

With its grand neoclassical buildings and its tree-lined avenues, Washington, D.C. strikes the visitor as a lovely and formal city. Washington wasn't always this way.

When it was decided that the new country needed a new city for its capital, President George Washington himself helped to pick the spot—a marshy area where the Potomac and Anacostia rivers come together. A French engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant created a design based on Versailles, a palace built for King Louis XIV in the 17th century. The capital city would be crisscrossed by broad avenues, which would meet in spacious squares and circles.

Creating Versailles from a marsh was no easy task. Building went slowly, and people were reluctant to move to the new capital. For years, pigs roamed through unpaved streets. There was said to be good hunting right near the White House!

Matters were not helped when, during the War of 1812, the British burned parts of Washington. This episode did, however, give the White House its name. The president's house was one of the buildings burned, and after the war it was painted white to cover up the marks.

Museums and Monuments

People often save old things in the attic of their house. A Nineteenth-century writer Mark Twain called the Smithsonian Institute "the nation's attic." This comment is even more true today, when, with its thirteen museums, the Smithsonian has at least a little of everything!

The Smithsonian began in the 1850s, with a gift from the Englishman James Smithson. Although Smithson had never set foot in the United States, he left his entire fortune to this country, asking that it be used to found "an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge."

Of all the Smithsonian museums, the most visited — indeed, one of the most visited museums in the world — is the National Air and Space Museum. The museum has aircraft and spacecraft that were important in aviation history. It has the craft in which Orville Wright made the first manned flight and the plane in which Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic. It has the command module that returned the *Apollo 11* astronauts to earth after their moon landing, and it even has rocks that the astronauts brought back!

The Smithsonian buildings are built on or near the Mall, a large open space. The Mall also has monuments honoring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Washington was the first president. Lincoln was president during the Civil War and ended slavery. Many important civil rights events have taken place at the Lincoln Memorial. A third important president, Thomas Jefferson, who was also the main author of the Declaration of Independence, is honored by a monument overlooking the nearby Tidal Basin. The Tidal Basin area is especially beautiful in spring, when its many cherry trees, a gift from Japan, are in bloom. Washington at Work

Washington has one major business, and that business is government. The executive departments (Treasury, Agriculture, Education, etc.) are located in Washington. Many of the people who live in Washington work for the federal government.

When you're in Washington you can tour to the White House, at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. You won't be able to see the president at work though, White House offices, as well as living quarters, are closed to the public. However, if you visit Capitol Hill, you might be able to see some important members of the other two branches of government: The Supreme Court has a public gallery, as do the Senate and the House of Representatives.

To go to the Senate or House gallery, stop in at any congressperson's office for a pass. Don't be surprised, though, if from the gallery you see a congressperson giving a speech to a nearly empty room! Absent members of congress are probably at committee meetings, where much of the important work is done. The public can also go to many of these meetings.

## Text 5.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

The oldest public structure in Washington is the White House - the dwelling place of the President and his family. The cornerstone was laid in 1792, on the three-hundredth anniversary of Columbus's landing at San Salvador. During the war of 1812-14 (which is sometimes called "The Second War for Independence" because since that war England has stopped regarding America as her colony) the British burned most of the public buildings in Washington, including the White House. The walls of the President's Palace were still standing, but the sandstone was so streaked with water and smoke that it seemed best to paint it white. That done, it began to be called the "white house". One hundred years later "White House" became its official name.

Task 1.Find out and represent in the in the form of the dialogue with your friend some facts you didn't know about Washington, D.C.

## Text 6.

## A few facts, concerning Washington, D. C.

1. After a light snack we went out for a walk. My friend Richard told me a few things about Washington, D. C. These letters are always added to avoid confusion with the state of Washington. The state is very far from the capital, on the West Coast. "D. C." stands for District of Columbia. This special federal district doesn't belong to any of the fifty states. It is very small. So the metropolitan area spills over its boundaries into the neighboring states of Maryland and Virginia. Rich said that Washington was unlike many other cities in its treatment of tourists. In what way? Most of its museums, galleries and monuments were free.

Quite naturally I tried to compare this city to New York. I noticed that there were no skyscrapers. The law prohibited building structures taller than the Capitol. There were very few people in the street and many more black people there than in New York. Richard said that most of the population was black. He also said that people went to bed very early in Washington. No, it was not like New York at all!

Task 1. Answer the questions to the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the text.

- 1. Why it is necessary to add "D. C." while speaking about Washington?
- 2. What do the letters "D. C." stand for?
- 3. In what way was Washington differ from New York?

2. "If I had finished my work earlier today", Richard kept saying, "We could have gone sightseeing together". But he had a very busy schedule. I, on the other hand, didn't have much to do in the local branch of the company, so I had a lot of free time. As usual I wanted first to take a regular guided tour of the capital. On Richard's advice I chose the Tourmobile shuttle bus. You pay once, get off anywhere you want and reboard for free. Your ticket is good all day. The tours are narrated. The bus makes scheduled stops at all points of interest on the National Mall and in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Mall is a broad lawn two miles long. It stretches from the foot of the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial. It goes past the Smithsonian Institution museums and behind the White House. In the center of the Mall you can see the Washington Monument, a marble-and-granite obelisk dedicated to the first U. S. president.

Task 2. What have you known interesting about touring in Washington? Discuss both texts with your partner.

Text 7.

#### **Getting around Washington**

Washingtonians are proud of their subway system, which they call Metrorail or just metro. It is much more modern than New York's. This is quite natural as it was opened only in 1976. It has four lines: Red, Orange, Blue and Yellow. There are plans for a Green line. The lines go out from downtown Washington into Maryland and Virginia.

The minimum non-rush hour fare is 85 cents. The maximum rush hour fare is \$2.40. Instead of a token, you use a magnetic farecard, which you buy from

vending machines in the stations. To get to the platform you must insert your farecard at the entrance gate. The card pops out with the time and location encoded. At your destination you insert the card at the exit gate and the fare is automatically deducted.

Buses connect all Metro stations. They also reach areas of Washington not served by the Metro. You can get a free transfer ticket from the Metro to a bus from a machine in the station where you begin your trip.

Task 1. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1. What tour did Victor take in Washington?
- 2. What is the National Mall?
- 3. What must you do to travel by metro?
- 4. How can you get to an area where there is no metro?
- 5. Must you pay extra to get there?

## Text 8.

Read the text an insert the verbs in the correct form. Mind Grammar Tenses.

## SAN FRANCISCO

\_\_\_\_(live) in He San Francisco. Arthur (1) (work) downtown and (3) (live) in the suburbs. (2) San Arthur (4) (love) Francisco. It (5)\_\_\_\_\_(have) many beautiful views: the Golden Gate Bridge, the Coit Tower, the Fisherman's Wharf and many more. Its Golden Gate Park (6)\_\_\_\_\_(have) a great variety of plants from all around the world; its lakes and waterfalls (7)\_\_\_\_\_(present) a magnificent picture. On weekends a lot of people (8) (come) here to relax and (9) (make) barbecues, of course, if it's not raining. It (10)\_\_\_\_\_(rain) a lot in San Francisco, especially during the rainy season. Water (11)\_\_\_\_\_(fall) down in buckets, and the sky doesn't clear for weeks on a roll. Often the rain is accompanied by stormy winds, thunder and lightning. ... But a few days (12)\_\_\_\_(pass), and the rainbow suddenly (13) (peck) out of frowning clouds. everyone That is (14) (know) that spring is just around the corner.

## Text 9.

Read the text and be ready to discuss it.

## The South before the Civil War

The South has a warm climate and a long growing season for crops. So it's not surprising that the South's economy came to depend on agriculture. By the 1820s, the South produced and exported rice, sugar, and especially, cotton. The South felt no need to develop factories. And it remained rural; New Orleans was its only large city.

Crops like cotton were best grown on plantations — large landholdings. They also required a large labor force. For this, the old South depended on slaves, who were originally brought from Africa. Slavery was the basis for the South's economy; it was also what, more than anything, made the South different from the rest of the country. (By 1820, the other states had ended slavery.)

People often think that whites in the old South lived an elegant life something like the beginning of the famous movie *Gone with the Wind*. In fact, very few whites lived on plantations. Most whites were small farmers who did not own any slaves. But these small farmers also favored slavery; it gave them someone to look down on.

Slaves' lives differed greatly, depending on their masters. But the basic fact was that slaves had no real control over what happened to them. A husband and wife could be sold to different owners and never see each other again. Slaves often worked for long hours in the fields and received insufficient food, clothing, and shelter.

Slaves were able to survive because they developed a strong culture of their own. This culture combined African and American elements. Songs and stories, religion and community were all important.

For a long time, the North and the South each developed differently but without conflicts. The conflicts came when the nation began to expand west. Southern states said the new areas that were being settled should allow slavery; the Northern states disagreed. In the 1840s and 1850s Congress passed a series of laws that were compromises between the North and the South. In the end, the compromises failed.

Task 1. Write a little essay.

Many people's ideas about the Old South are influenced by *Gone With the Wind* or similar movies. Think about a movie you've seen that takes place in the United States (or in your country). What kinds of impressions and ideas about the United States (or your country) do you think the movie gives people? Do you think those impressions are true to life? Why or why not? Write several paragraphs describing and discussing the movie.

## **Discussion Points**

• It is said that the plantation system hurt all groups in the South and that it was bad for the South's economy. How did the system hurt each of the groups mentioned? Why was it bad for the South's economy?

• How do you think songs, stories, religion, and a sense of community helped the slaves survive under harsh conditions.

## **Text 10.**

# The Civil War

The conflicts worsened, and in 1861, the Southern states seceded, or separated, from the Union and formed a new nation: the Confederate States of America. The Northern states refused to accept this. President Lincoln had not wanted war, but war became inevitable.

The American Civil War lasted four years. More Americans died in this war than in all other wars combined. Before the war, there had been great advances in weapons but few advances in medicine. Soldiers who weren't killed outright often died of their wounds. Many regiments lost over half of their men in a single battle.

The North had certain great advantages over the South. It had a larger population and most of the country's factories and banks. But it had the more difficult task—conquest rather than defense. Also, many of the nation's top military leaders were from Southern states and joined the Southern cause.

#### Effects of the War

When the war finally ended in 1865, the South had been devastated. The state of Virginia alone had been the scene of 26 major battles and over 400 smaller fights.

The most important long-term effect of the war was the end of slavery. Black Americans were made citizens and were given the right to vote.

The Civil War helped to transform the nation's economy and way of life. The war effort required more factories and better transportation systems. The North became much more industrialized than before. One Northerner commented after the war, "It does not seem to me as if I were living in the country in which I was born."

Task 1. Answer the questions.

- 1. Why were there so many deaths in the American Civil War?
- 2. What advantages did the North have? What disadvantages did it have?
- 3. What were some effects of the Civil War?
- 4. What event led some Southern states to secede?

#### Text 11.

#### Atlanta, "Capital" of the New South

After World War II, the South, which had remained agricultural, experienced rapid industrialization and economic growth. There were many reasons for these changes. One of the most important was the invention of air-conditioning!

No city grew more than Atlanta, Georgia. People today speak of the "New South." If there is a New South, then Atlanta is surely its "capital." Atlanta has the world's second-largest airport. Of the 500 largest companies in the United States, 450 have offices in Atlanta. (One of these, Coca-Cola, is no surprise; the formula for Coca-Cola was developed over 100 years ago by a pharmacist in Atlanta!)

Another characteristic of the New South is improved relations between blacks and whites. In this sense, too, Atlanta symbolizes the New South. In 1974, Atlanta became one of the first cities in the country to elect a black man as its mayor.

With its booming economy, Atlanta attracts people from all over the country. A Californian is as likely to move to Atlanta as a Georgian is to move to California. Atlanta has also become an important cultural center not only for the south but for the world. Atlantans are proud of their city's hosting the 1996 Olympic Games.

But, as cosmopolitan as it has become, Atlanta has kept its Southern charm — its air of politeness and leisurely pace. This combination of old and new, residents say, makes their city one of the best places to live.

# The Interesting fact about Atlanta

In 1886, Dr. John Pemberton, an Atlanta pharmacist, invented the syrup for Coca-Cola. He sold it in his pharmacy for 5 cents a glass. Sales in 1886 averaged 9 glasses a day.

One hundred years have brought many changes. In 1894 Coke was for the first time sold in bottles. During World War II, bottling plants were set up in Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. More recently, Coke has introduced variations like Diet Coke and Cherry Coke. Today the Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest soft drink producer. Coca-Cola is sold in more than 160 countries.

## **Text 12.**

Read the abstract from the book "Scarlett", by A.Ripley, the sequel to M.Mitchel's "Gone with the Wind" and make the literary translation.

## St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, has been honored in America since the first days of the nation. There are many dinners and meetings, and the parade is held on Fifth Avenue in New York every year on St. Patrick's Day.

Savannah's Irish — like the Irish everywhere — had always celebrated on March 17. It was the feast day of the patron saint of Ireland, and feast day was the secular meaning, as well as the canonical. Although, it came during Lent, there was no fasting on Saint Patrick's Day. There was in-instead food and drink and music and dancing. Catholic schools were closed and Catholic businesses, except for saloons, which expected and achieved one of their biggest days of the year.

There had been Irish in Savannah from its earliest days — the Jasper Greens first fought in the American Revolution — and Saint Patrick's Day had always been a major holiday for them. But during the bleak depressed decade since the defeat of the South, the entire city had begun to join in.

March 17 was Savannah's Spring Festival, and for one day everyone was Irish. There were gaily decorated booths in every square selling food and lemonade, wine, coffee, and beer. Jugglers and men with trick dogs gathered crowds on street corners. Fiddlers played from the steps of City Hall and proud, peeling houses throughout the city. Green ribbons fluttered from flowering tree branches, shamrocks made of paper or of silk were for sale from boxes carried by enterprising men, women and children from square to square. Broughton Street was bedecked with green bunting in shop windows, and ropes of fresh green vines strung between lampposts to canopy the parade route.

Broughton Street was lined with people, all of them sporting green. Scarlett laughed aloud when she saw one family. With all those scrubbed-up children wearing green bows or scarves or feathers in their hats.

It was time. First early Mass, and then a celebration all day and into the night. "Jamie tells me there'll be fireworks starring the sky over the park until you're fair giddy from the splendor of it all," Kathleen said. Her face and eyes were shining with excitement.

# **Text 13.**

Read the text and then represent it using only underlined words.

#### **Boston**, Massachusetts

Boston is the 5th largest city in the United States. Only New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston are larger. It is located on the Atlantic Ocean. Boston Harbor has always been an important strategic centre. The Charles River runs along the north side of the city and *separates* Boston from another well known city, Cambridge. Boston is the capital of Massachusetts, one of the 50 states and one of the *original* 13 states. Boston has its own basketball team, the Boston Bruins, an ice hockey team, and the Boston Red Sox, a base-ball team. The Celtics and the Bruins play in the Boston Garden, which is a large *indoor* stadium. The Red Sox play at Fenway Park, an *outdoor* baseball field. Also, the oldest *running race* in the United States, the Boston Marathon, is held in Boston each April.

Boston is also home of one of the best *Symphonies* in the United States - the Boston *Symphony Orchestra*. The Symphony usually performs in Symphony Hall on Massachusetts Avenue. They also perform at Tanglewood, a park in Western Massachusetts. The Boston Ballet is also very good and each year presents Tchaikovsky's *"Nut-cracker"* at Christmas.

Some of the best known universities are located in Boston. The oldest university in the United States, Harvard University, was founded in 1636. It is located in Cambridge, just across the Charles River from Boston. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, or MIT, is also located in Cambridge. There is also Boston University, Boston College and many others. Because there are so many universities and young students, many people call Boston a "College Town".

Boston has many nice parks. The Public Garden is one of them. It has a pond where you can ride on boats in the shape of swans. They're called Swan Boats. It's also home of a famous statue based on the book *Make Way for Ducklings*. It is a statue of a mother duck leading her baby ducklings safely from the duck pond. A *replica* of this statue is in the Nova (New Maiden) Park in Moscow and was given as a gift by the wife of an America dent to the children of Russia. There is also a very nice park along both sides of the Charles River. One called the Esplanade. Every day, you can find people running, roller skating, and walking. There is a sailing club where you can take lessons on how to operate a sail boat.

In addition to all of this, Boston is one of America's oldest cities. It was founded 1630, only 10 years after the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock (which is only 61 south of Boston). That's 73 years before St. Petersburg was founded!

Boston was one of the *key* cities in the years before and during the Revolutionary War. In 1773, to protest a new set of taxes on tea, a group of Americans dressed up like Indians, climbed aboard a ship full and threw it all overboard into Boston Harbor. This was known as the Boston Tea Party. In 1775, British soldiers marched from Boston to the towns of Lexington and Concord to investigate *rumors* of *guns* being *stored* there. The Americans were ready because a well-known *silversmith*, named Paul Revere, rode on horseback ahead of the *warning* the local *militia*, known as Minutemen (because they could be ready to defend their town in less than a minute).

Today, you can see many historical sites by following the Freedom Trail. The Freedom Trail is marked by a red brick line that runs through the city streets of Boston connecting 16 historic sites. It starts at the Boston Common and the State House and goes by the Paul Revere house, Faneuil Hall (a great marketplace throughout Boston's history), the USA Constitution (a ship used in the War of 1812 with the British) and Bunker Hill Monument (site of a 1775 Revolutionary War battle).

Boston has been the final home of many immigrants to the United States. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, many Italian and Irish immigrants moved to Boston. The North End of Boston is a very interesting Italian neighborhood with many Italian restaurants and stores. South Boston is where many Irish immigrants settled. Every year, South Boston hosts the St. Patrick's Day parade. Today, many other nationalities from such places as Asia, South America and Eastern Europe are also represented in Boston.

#### **Text 14.**

#### **New York**

New York is one of the largest cities in the world. It was founded three hundred years ago at the mouth of the Hudson River. The centre of New York is Manhattan Island. In 1626 it was bought from the Indians for a handful of trinkets that cost twenty-four dollars. Today Manhattan is the centre of business and finance. Numerous skyscrapers house banks and offices of American business. Broadway begins here; the Stock Exchange is located here, too. Very few people live in Manhattan, though the majority works here. Numerous bridges link Manhattan with the opposite shores. New York is inhabited by people of almost all and races. It is called "modern Babylon". At the turn of the twentieth century a lot of people came to the USA from different, countries of the world. They entered the USA through New York, the Gateway of America.

New York is one of the feeding manufacturing cities in the world. The most important industries are those producing paper products, vehicles, glass, chemicals, machinery. New York has a heavy traffic. The sea encircles many of the city areas and ships go over or under New York traffic routes.

Task 1. Answer the questions:

- 1. When was New York founded?
- 2. What is the centre of the city?
- 3. Why is New York called "modern Babylon"?
- 4. What are the most important industries in New York?

Task 2. Translate into English:

1. Остров Манхэттен, деловой и финансовый центр Нью-Йорка, был куплен в 1626 году за горсть побрякушек.

2. В многочисленных небоскребах размещаются банки и офисы.

3. Нью-Йорк называют «современным Вавилоном», так как он населен людьми разных национальностей.

4. На рубеже 20 века люди из разных стран въезжали в США через Нью-Йорк, «ворота» Америки.

5. Основные отрасли промышленности Нью-Йорка, одного из ведущих промышленных городов мира, — производство изделий из бумаги, машин, химической продукции, станков.

6. Море окружает большую часть районов Нью-Йорка.

# Some of the Sights, Streets and Public Buildings in Central New York

## Downtown Manhattan

**The Statue of Liberty.** The figure of Liberty lightening the World, which stands on Liberty island in New York Harbour.

Battery Park. A green esplanade overlooking York's harbour.

**Wall Street.** The financial center of the country is situated here, so are the Trinity Church (1897), Federal Hall National Memorial (a museum of colonial and early Federal periods in New York), New York Stock Exchange and the biggest banks in the USA.

**City Hall.** City Hall has been the seat of New York's municipal government since 1811.

**Chinatown.** It has been the centre of New York's Chinese community for more than 100 years, there are many interesting shops and restaurants of Chinese style here.

**Brooklyn Bridge.** Opened in 1883, it still ranks the world's greatest suspension bridges. Walk for a fine view of Lower Manhattan.

Pennsylvania Station (Penn Station). A big terminal in New York.

**Empire State Building.** The 102-storey structure built in 1931. It used to be the world's tallest building.

The United Nations Headquarters. The buildings and grounds contain sculpture and other works of art donated by member-nations.

**Times Square.** The theatrical centre of the city.

**Rockefeller Centre.** A group of fifteen skyscrapers, including the 70-storey RCA (Radio Corporation of America) Building, which houses Radio City Music Hall.

Museum of Modern Art. The museum exhibits modern arts from 1880's to the present time.

**St. Patrick's Cathedral (1858—74).** It is one of the finest Gothic-style structures of America.

Carnegie Hall (1891). It presents the world's great orchestras and soloists.

**New York at Columbus Circle.** It is one of the nation's leading exposition centers.

## Uptown Manhattan

**Central Park.** It includes a Zoo, a theatre, two skating-rinks, model yacht pond, rowing lakes.

# Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts. It

includes Philharmonic Hall, New York State Theatre, Library and Museum of the Performing Arts, Metropolitan Opera House.

American Museum of Natural History. Exhibitions of Man and Nature.

**Frick Museum** of **Art.** It contains many of the finest works of European masters from the 14th to the 19th centuries.

Whitney Museum of American Art. It houses the largest collection of the 20th century American art.

**Metropolitan Museum of Art.** One of the world's leading art museums. Its collection spans the history of world art from the ancient civilizations to the present day.

Guggenheim Museum contains modern painting, sculpture and graphic arts.

Harlem. The Negro section of New York.

General Grant National Memorial (Grant's Tomb). The granite sculpture contains the sarcophagi of general U. Grant, the 18th President and his wife.

Triborough Bridge. Connects Manhattan with both Queens and The Bronx.

George Washington Bridge. One of the world's largest bridges.

## The Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty ("Liberty Enlightening the World") is a 225-ton steel female figure, 152 ft in height, facing the ocean from Liberty Island in New York

Harbour. The right hand holds aloft a torch, and the left hand carries a tablet upon which is written: "July IV MDCCLXXVI."

The statue was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi of Alsatian as a gift to the United States from the people of France to memorialize the alliance of the two countries in the American Revolution and their friendship. The French people paid \$250,000 for the statue. The 150-foot pedestal was designed by Richard M. Hunt and built by Gen. Charles P. Stone, both Americans. The Americans paid \$270,000 for that. President Cleveland accepted the statue for the United States on October 28, 1886. On September 26, 1972, President Nixon opened the American Museum of Immigration, situated in the base of the statue. The Statue of Liberty is more than a monument. She is a beloved friend, the symbol of freedom to: millions around the world.

#### Let's sing with us!

#### ENGLISHMAN IN NEW YORK.

#### (Sting)

1. I don't drink coffee, I take tea, my dear, I like my toast done at the side, And you can hear it in my accent when I talk,

I'm an Englishman in New York.

(You) see me walking down 5-th Avenue, A walking cane here at my side,

I take it everywhere I walk, I'm an Englishman in New York.

I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien, I'm an Englishman in New York.

2. If "manners make the man", as someone said, Then he's a hero of the day.

It takes the man to suffer ignorance and smile,

Be yourself, no matter what they say.

3. Modesty, propriety can lead to notoriety. You could end up as the only one,

Gentleness, sobriety are rear in this society,

At night a candle is brighter than the sun.

4. Take more than combat gear to make a man.

Take more than a license for a gun,

Confront your enemies, avoid them when you can.

A gentleman will walk but never run.

## SPOTLIGHT ON GREAT BRITAIN

## Text 1.

## A FEW FACTS FROM THE HISTORY OF BIG CITIES

London, the capital of Great Britain, is one of the oldest cities in Europe. When Julius Caesar crossed the English Channel and invaded Britain as far as the Thames in the middle of the first century BC, people had already settled there and were living on both sides of the river.

Like many other very old cities, London was never planned. It grew around two centers — a fort the Romans built on one bank of the Thames, and an abbey, founded later on the other bank. As time went by, the place round the Roman fort developed into the City of London, the country's business centre, the abbey is now known as Westminster Abbey. By the middle of the first century AD London had already been in existence for about a hundred years. Roads leading to other towns had changed into streets, market grounds became squares. London was growing... At about the same time, in the year 1147, in a part of the world Londoners had never heard of, a town was founded by a prince on a site which he chose for its beauty and convenient location in the middle of a magnificent forest, on the bank of a river called the Moskva. The river gave its name to the city which later became the capital of the Russian state. When the first trade contacts were established between England and Russia, the English pronounced the name of the Russian capital their own way *Muscovy*. From this comes the modern Muscovite, a person living in Moscow. If we compare the maps of Moscow and London, we can see a similarity between them.

Like London, Moscow was never planned. It grew up around its centre, which had been surrounded by a wooden wall by the first residents. The wooden wall was later replaced by a brick one, and palaces, cathedrals and churches were built inside it, forming what is now known as the Kremlin.

Now again, new houses were built around this centre, forming enormous rings, and the roads to other towns gradually changed into streets running across them.

Task 1. Find English equivalents to the words in Russian.

В середине первого века до нашей эры • подобно многим другим очень старым городам • с течением времени • деловой центр страны • то, что сейчас известно, как... • к середине парного пока нашей эры • превратились в улицы • примерно в то же самое время • выбрал это место за его красоту и удобное расположение • когда были установлены первые торговые связи • произносили слова по-своему • отсюда – современное «Москвич»• как и Лондон.

Task 2. Answer the questions.

- 1. When did Julius Caesar invade the British Isles?
- 2. Were any people already living there at that time?
- 3. Did the Romans find any human settlements on the Thames?
- 4. Was London built according to an architectural plan?
- 5. Did it grow around only one centre like most cities?
- 6. Do you think the Thames played an important part in its development?
- 7. Which city is older, London or Moscow?
- 8. How long had London been in existence when Moscow was founded?
- 9. Who was Moscow founded by?
- 10. How can you describe the place chosen for the construction of Moscow?

11. When were the first trade and diplomatic contacts established between Russia and England?

12. What kind of similarity between London and Moscow can we see if we look at the maps of both cities?

13. Why was the centre of Moscow surrounded with a wooden wall by the first residents?

14. Which of you know the reason (why) the wooden wall was replaced by a brick one?

15. What was built inside the wall and outside?

# **Ten Popular Places in London**

**Tower of London**: famous for the Crown Jewels (crowns, diamonds, etc. of the Royal Family), prisons, arms (guns, swords, etc.) and the "Beefeaters" - the guards of the Tower.

**Westminster Abbey**: church where Elizabeth II and those before her became kings and queens of England - many famous people are buried there.

Houses of Parliament: centre of British government famous clock "Big Ben".

**St. Paul's Cathedral**: Christopher Wren's great church. Trafalgar Square: famous meeting place for crowds at the time of important national events, on the last day of the year - and to feed the birds.

**Piccadilly Circus**: centre of one of London's busiest districts for shopping, theatres and cinemas.

**National Gallery**: more than 2,000 British and European paintings, mainly from the 15th to 19th centuries. Buckingham Palace: home of the Royal Family - visitor can watch the Changing of the Guard in front.

**British Museum**: full of interesting things from the past and the present, from Britain and the rest of the world. Madame Tussaud's: criminals, film stars, the Beatles ... all kinds of famous people made of wax.

## Text 2.

## **Curious Facts about Englishmen**

Queuing is as British as Big Ben. It is a symbol of Britain and British life as traditional as the bowler hat and as popular as the Sunday joint. If a Briton wants to catch a bus or take a train, he queues. He queues to make a telephone call. He queues to see an exhibition. It has been said that wherever two or more Britons are gathered together, they form a queue. If no one else is around, a true Briton will form a queue by himself.

But what lies behind this curious custom? Why does everyone obey the unwritten rules? Why stand and wait when you can push in front of everyone else? The answer lies in the British sense of fair play. In other countries the weak and the slow may get pushed aside in the rush, the lame and the old may get left behind, but in Britain all have their turn, if all are prepared to wait.

But do not be deceived by the apparently placid picture of a queue. As long as everyone keeps their place, all is well. But the moment someone puts a foot out of line, pandemonium breaks loose. Old ladies wave their sticks, City gentlemen brandish umbrellas and insults fill the air. The innocent visitor will receive no mercy from an outraged queue. So, when in London, do as the British do - and whatever happens, don't step out of line!

## Text 3.

# Cities of the United Kingdom

About 56 million people live in Great Britain. It has a very large population for its size. Nine people out of 10 live in towns and cities. British cities began to grow when industries developed. Lots of people left the country and moved into cities to work in industry. Later more people moved to cities because farming is now done mostly by machines. Other people choose to live in a country village and travel to work in the towns. Britain's largest cities are: London with the population of about 7 million people, Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow, Sheffield, Edinburgh (all with the population less than one million)

London, the capital of the United Kingdom, is - built on the river Thames. It is a world centre for business and money trading. It is also the country's largest port and a cultural centre with numerous museums and theatres. Plays, musical shows, operas and concerts attract large audiences, including many tourists.

Birmingham is Britain's second largest city and its engineering centre. It produces iron and steel for making cars, ships, airplanes and machinery. Leeds, the third largest city in the United Kingdom, produces woolen goods. Sheffield is a centre of producing steel goods. Glasgow is famous for heavy industry. Besides, it is an important cultural centre. It is noted for its architecture and art galleries. Edinburgh is the city of science. It is associated with science, beautiful historic buildings and the annual festival of arts. Edinburgh is called «Athens of the North».

There are a lot of small towns in Great Britain, too. Most towns have a busy shopping area in the centre. Now there are new suburbs around the edges of old cities and old towns. New buildings are planned to make the best use of space.

Task 1. Translate into English:

1. Население Великобритании (56 миллионов человек) - большое для страны такой величины.

2. Люди переезжали из деревни в город, так как земли стали обрабатываться машинами.

3. Лондон - деловой и финансовый центр страны; в нем находятся центральные учреждения различных организаций.

4. В Бирмингеме производится сталь, в Лидсе - изделия из хлопка, в Шеффилде - изделия из стали.

5. Глазго, крупный культурный центр страны, известен также тяжелой промышленностью.

6. Эдинбург знаменит своими историческими зданиями, фестивалем искусств и научными учреждениями.

Task 2. Explain in English.

Population, machinery, cultural center, annual festivals, suburbs, numerous, a busy shopping area.

#### Text 4.

#### Greenwich

Greenwich is famous as the centre of the world's time system, it is also the home of the National Maritime Museum, one of the largest nautical museums in the world, and is the mooring place of the Cutty Sark and Gipsy Moth IV, two historic British craft. Also at Greenwich is the Royal Naval College, designed by Sir Christopher Wren as a seaman's hospital.

## **The National Maritime Museum**

The Museum shows British sailing history from ancient rimes to the present day. There are lots of detailed ship models, paintings, uniforms, weapons, and displays on every kind of boat, and on famous voyages.

#### Nelson's uniform

There is a gallery devoted to Britain's greatest Admiral, Lord Nelson. You can see how Nelson lived on board ship, and the bloodstained uniform he was wearing when he was shot at Trafalgar by a French sniper. The Museum also runs the Old Royal Observatory, on a hill overlooking Greenwich Park. It is the home of Greenwich Mean Time. The line between the world's eastern and western hemispheres, longitude zero, runs through Greenwich, and time in different countries throughout the world is worked out based on this line.

In the Observatory you can see lots of astronomical and time-measuring instruments on display, including telescopes, clocks and sun-dials. On the roof there is a red "time ball". It rises to the top of its mast and drops at exactly 1 p.m., every day, controlled by a 24-hour clock on the wall below. It was once used as a time signal for ships on the Thames.

#### The Cutty Sark

You can go on board the Cutty Sark, in dry dock at Greenwich. She is the last remaining sailing "clipper", launched in 1869. To go "at a clip" meant to travel fast, which the Cutty Sark was designed to do. First she brought home tea from China. Later she collected wool from Australia. Near the Cutty Sark you can visit Gipsy Moth IV, the boat in which Sir Francis Chichester made the firstsinglehanded voyage around the world in 1966-7, in order to beat the records set by the old sailing clippers. It took him 274 days. On his return he was knighted by the Queen.

## Text 5.

#### The City of Bath and Its Surrounding Area

Bath combines the old with the new. For those interested in the past there are the Roman Baths, the extensive Georgian buildings, the many museums and the Abbey. In addition there is a modern university, an up-to-date sports centre as well as cinemas, a theatre and art galleries.

It is not only the architecture which makes Bath so attractive, there are also many parks and other places of interest. Bath has won prizes as the 'City of Flowers'. There are also a toy museum, the American Museum, a puppet theatre and the Royal Photographic Society. In May and June each year there is an Arts Festival which attracts international performers. Bath also has an excellent range of restaurants and cafes offering many different types of food. The clubs, pubs and discotheques help to make night life interesting too.

Apart from London, which can be reached in just over one hour by train, there are many interesting places close to Bath. Bristol, Salisbury, Exeter and Stratford-upon-Avon are all within easy reach. Trips can also be made to Longleat Safari Park, with its lions and other wild animals, only 22 miles from Bath Sherbourne Castle, Wookey Hole with its famous underground cave and the cliffs of Cheddar Gorge are also delightful to visit.

Task 1. Find out - true or false.

1. Romans founded Bath.

2. Bath combines interesting historical sights and modern museums and places of interest.

- 3. Bath is far from the capital.
- 4. Arts Festival takes place in a year.
- 5. The native town of Shakespear is situated nearby.
- 6. You can enjoy daytime in Bath, but at night it's a quiet place.

## Text 6.

#### Oxbridge

Oxford and Cambridge are the oldest universities in Great Britain. They are called Oxbridge to denote an elitarian education. Only rich people send their children to these universities. The main characteristic feature of these universities is the tutorial (that means the individual tuition). The normal length of the degree course is three years, after which the students take the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Some courses may be a year or two longer.

Oxford and Cambridge universities consist of a number of colleges, each self-governing and independent. Before 1970 most of all Oxbridge universities were single-sex (mostly for men). But now the majority admits both sexes. The administrative body of the University consists of the Chancellor (who is elected for life), the vice-chancellor (who is in practice the head of the University, and is appointed annually by the Chancellor) and two proctors, whose job is to maintain discipline and who are appointed annually. Each college has its staff called "Fellows".

The University is merely an administrative body, which organizes lectures, arranges examinations, grants degrees. Each college has its name. Most colleges have their own dining hall, library and chapel. The University has laboratories and research institutes and other educational facilities. All the lectures are organized by the University. In every college there are students of various specialties but each student follows his own course of study. The largest colleges have more than 400 students, the smallest have less than 30.

**Oxford** is one of the oldest universities in Europe. It didn't come into being all at once. Oxford had existed as a city for at least 300 years before scholars began to resort to it. The end of the 12th century saw the real beginning of the University. The first group of scholars at Oxford may have been joined by others from Paris, from other parts of Britain. A characteristic feature of Oxford is that many traditions of the Middle Ages are still current there. One of them is that the students have to wear gowns. The earliest college buildings seem to have no definite plan. They expanded as the need for more room arose (the Queen's College). New College had the first regular quadrangle.

Perhaps the most famous colleges are Christ Church, University College and All Souls. Nowadays there are 29 colleges for men, 5 for women and another 5 have both men and women members. Oxford is a place of great beauty, but it is not just a shrine to the past. It is a living entity and its historic buildings are the homes of masters and students whose learning, thinking and ideas have a profound influence on culture, education, science and politics. Many eminent world-known scholars and scientists have been educated at Oxford. All the graduates of Oxford never forget "spirit of Oxford".

**Cambridge** University dates back as the 13th century. Today there are more than 30 colleges. The University is situated on the River Cam. The colleges line the right bank. The oldest university is Peterhouse (founded in 1284) and the most recent is Robinson College (1977). But the most famous is the King's College. The building is the real example of English 15th century architecture. Until 1871 the University was only for men. In 1871 the first women's college was opened. In 1970s most colleges admitted both men and women.

Students at Oxbridge have different societies and clubs. Different sports are very popular. But the most popular sports are rowing and punting. Every year at the end of March (or in early April) a contest between Oxford and Cambridge universities takes place on the River Thames. The course is the 4 1/4 mile stretch of river. The race usually starts at midday or at 3 o'clock.

Task 1. Answer the questions.

- 1. What does Oxbridge mean?
- 2. Which of them is older?
- 3. What makes these universities quite different from any other?
- 4. How long is the course of study?
- 5. What is the function of the University?

Task 2. Fill in the gaps.

- 1. Only ... people send their children to Oxbridge.
- 2. Each college is ... and ... .
- 3. The University is an administrative body, which ... .
- 4. Chancellor is elected for ... .
- 5. Proctor's job is to ....
- 6. The largest colleges have ... students.
- 7. Oxford as a city had existed for at least... years.
- 8. The first regular quadrangle had ... College.
- 9. The most popular sports are ... .
- 10. All the students have to wear ... .

Task 3. Fill in the table according to the text.

Uni- versity	time of	Number of colleges	The oldest college	The most famous college	The main charac- teristic feature
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Oxford

Cambridge

Text 7. Dialogue 1.

Read the dialogues and translate them.

Getting to Cambridge

Бригитта на вокзале. Она покупает билет на поезд. Бригитта: Can you tell me where the train to Cambridge leaves from? Kaccup: It usually goes from platform 14. But it'll be up on the board. You 'II have to hurry though. The train leaves in five minutes. Бригитта: What! My timetable says the train leaves at 8:40. Kaccup: Ah, that's the old time. The timetable has changed. But don't worry, if you hurry, you'll catch it. (Бригитта бежит к платформе 14.) Бригитта: Is that the train to Cambridge? Проводник: No, ma 'am, afraid not. It's going from platform 8 this morning. You'd better run. (Бригитта: Cambridge, please. Проводница: I'm sorry, love. You've just missed it. **Бригитта:** *Oh no. There's someone waiting for me at the station.* **Проводница**: *Well, don't worry. There's another train at 9:05.* 

**Бригитта:** What platform will it leave from?

**Проводница:** Let's have a look. Platform 14.

**Бригитта:** Are you sure? If I hadn't gone to platform 14 just now, I would have caught the train.

**Проводница:** It happens! Anyway it won't be long before the next one.

Dialogue 2.

# Brigitte is in Cambridge

## **Питер:** Brigitte Scherer?

**Бригитта:** Yes, you must be Peter! How did you recognize me? Margaret said you had a moustache and glasses. You're quite different. I wouldn't have recognized you.

**Питер:** Margaret sent me a photograph last week. I got rid of the moustache last year and I 'm wearing contact lenses now. Anyway, welcome to Cambridge. I've got my bicycle here but let's get a taxi to the centre. The station's a little way from the centre 'cos when the railway first came to Cambridge, the University authorities insisted that it should be kept outside the city limits.

Бригитта: Look, I'm terribly sorry I'm late. I didn't realize the timetable had been changed.

**Питер:** Don't worry. I haven't been here long. Did you have a good journey?

**Бригитта:** Not bad, I suppose. I would have caught the 8:40 if I hadn't gone to the wrong platform. I don't know what to say. I'm usually never late.

**Питер:** Look, don't worry. How were you supposed to know that they had changed the timetable? I've gone to the wrong platform before, too! They sometimes change things at the last moment and that can be a bit embarrassing if you haven't left much time.

**Бригитта:** Yes, I'd have got to the station a little earlier if I had known about the changes in the timetable.

**Питер:** Well, never mind. You're here and that's all that matters. Look, here's a taxi now. Let's go and see a bit of Cambridge.

Task 2.

- Choose one of the dialogues and represent it.

- Represent one of these two dialogues from the part of Brigitte, Peter or the Conductor.

## Text 8.

Translate the text using a dictionary.

## **Great Britain**

«Британские Острова» (British Isles) - Англия, Шотландия, Уэльс, Северная и Южная Ирландия - это понятие географическое. На Политической карте фигурирует Соединенное Королевство (United Kingdom или UK), состоящее из Англии, Шотландии, Уэльса и Северной Ирландии.

Несмотря на то, что территория Соединенного Королевства Относительно невелика, его регионы значительно отличаются друг от друга. Мы расскажем Вам о регионах Англии,

a) Юго-Восток это наиболее богатая и плотно заселенная часть Великобритании. здесь находится Лондон - столица страны и крупный торговый центр, где работают в основном люди, живущие за чертой города, и вынужденные ездить на работу в пригородных поездах. Магистраль M25 связывает юго-восток страны с Европой, что является предпосылкой дальнейшего торгово-экономического развития этого региона.

Хотя плотность населения юго-восточной части и велика, Вы можете встретить здесь области с живописнейшими сельскими пейзажами. Графство (county) Кент даже называют "Садом Англии", и юго-восток славится своими морскими курортами (Brighton), портовыми городами (Dover, Folkestone и Southampton) и, конечно же, своей архитектурой (например, величественный собор в Canterbury, одном из самых известных юродов этого региона).

б) Север, Северо-восток и Северо-запад. В последние годы эти регионы переживают экономический спад. Такие крупные города как Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, в прошлом центры текстильной, машиностроительной и судостроительной промышленности, не имеют больше столь важного значения для экономики страны в связи с возникновением новых отраслей производства. Безработица в северной части Великобритании - большая проблема, чем на юге страны. Многим людям новыми профессиями, чтобы найти приходится овладевать работу. Некоторые политики говорят уже о необходимости отделения Севера от Юга (North/South divide). Но ... забудем о проблемах и полюбуемся великолепным горным ландшафтом региона Lake District, первозданной природой Yorkshire посетим Durham, старинный университетский городок с его Dales, маленьким собором.

в) Midlands. Midlands - это сердце Англии. В 19 веке этот регион становится промышленным центром Великобритании, но и посей день сельское хозяйство является основным занятием для многих жителей этой (Shropshire, Worcestershire, Leicestershire). страны Туристы, части приезжающие в Midlands, направляются в первую очередь в городок, где Shakespeare (Stratford-on-Avon), родился великий в знаменитый университетский город Oxford в Coventry с его собором, построенным в современном стиле.

*с) East Anglia*. Этот сельскохозяйственный регион известен, прежде всего, благодаря таким городам как Norwich и Cambridge. Кембридж - это не только город-университет, но и центр компьютерной индустрии.

д) Юго-запад

Большую часть этого региона занимают сельскохозяйственные угодья, хотя промышленность и представлена в городах *Bristol, Portsmouth* и *Southampton*. Многие британцы приезжают в *Somerset, Devon* или *Cornwall*, чтобы провести там свой отпуск.



**Text 9.** Read the text.

#### **The Royal Family**

At present the British Royal family is headed by Queen Elizabeth. When the Queen was born on April 21, 1926, her grandfather, King George V, was on the throne and her uncle was his heir. The death of her grandfather and the abdication of her uncle brought her father to the throne as King George VI. As a child she studied constitutional history and law as well as art and music. In addition she learned to ride and acquired her enthusiasm for horses. As she grew older she began to take part in public life, making her first broadcast at the age of 14.

The marriage of the young Princess Elizabeth to Philip, Duke of Edinburgh took place in November 1947. She came to the throne after her father's death in 1952 and was crowned in Westminster Abbey in June 1953.

Regular visits to foreign countries are among Queen Elizabeth's many duties. The Queen has done much to signify the formalities of the monarchy, including allowing the BBC to make a documentary film about the everyday life of the royal family. She also started the tradition of the "walk about", an informal feature of an otherwise formal royal visit, when she walks among the public crowds and stops to talk to some people.

The Queen's heir is Charles, Prince of Wales, who was born in 1948, married Lady Diana Spenser and has two children, Prince William and Prince Harry. The Prince of Wales is well known as a keen promoter of British interests. It was a shock to the public when Diana divorced her husband. The Queen's other children are Princess Ann (born in 1950), Prince Andrew (born in 1960) and Prince Eduard (born in 1964). Ann, Princess Royal, has acquired a reputation of being arrogant, but in recent years has become quite popular with the general public. The Queen Mother, the widow of the late King George VI, celebrated her ninetieth

birthday in 1990 and continued to carry out many public engagements every year. The Queen's only sister, Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, is one of the most unconventional members of the royal family. She is well known for her charity work, including her support of Barbados, the Girl Guides association, and the St.John Ambulance Brigade.

# CURIOUS ROYALTY

King George I of England couldn't speak a word of English. His native tongue was German, he communicated with his cabinet in French. Queen Elizabeth I of England was completely bald. She lost her hair after suffering a smallpox at the age of 29. To disguise her loss she always, wore a wig, thus creating a vogue for wigs in Europe that lasted several hundred years.

Task 1. Make the dialogues or monologues on the following questions.

1. What's your attitude to the Royal power? Why do Englishmen say that their Queen reigns but doesn't rule? Prove your point of view.

2. What do you know about the geographical position of U.K.?

3. How does the climate of the British Isles influence the so-called (так называемый) British character? Prove your point of view.

4. Ask your friend about the history of Great Britain and the reasons that influenced a lot of differences between England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

## Text 10

Look through the text given below and fill in the blanks by the verbs from the list. You are free to use some of the items more than once or not to use some of them at all:

to build	to loose	to rise
to become	to locate	to remain
to collaborate	to situate	to go
to cover	to expand	to be
to offer	to witness	to come

## THE CITY OF EDINBURGH

Edinburgh is a capital city. Its foundation as the capital of Scotland in the late 11th century and its development in the following centuries into a distinctive city crowded on a hill within a defensive wall can be traced through its buildings. Bursting free from the encircling wall in the late seventeen hundreds, the city first ...... rapidly to the north in the extensive New Town of broad streets and remarkable buildings, before developing steadily through another two centuries until now it.....the coastal slope between the sea and hills. Although all but a small part of the encircling wall...., the older part of the city, with its narrow winding streets, which ..... so much of Scotland's history, is still clearly separate from the New Town, that is being surrounded by the Victorian and Edwardian developments. A compact city of some 500 000 people, Edinburgh.....on a slope which.....gently from the sea, on the northern boundary, to the foot of a boarder of

hills on the southern. It is about 10 kilometers broad and surrounded by rich agricultural land.

Although Scotland has been part of the United Kingdom for two and a half centuries, it has never lost its identity as a separate nation, and Edinburgh ..... the centre of its government, its church, and its law. As a capital, it is a city of festival and pageant, and of art galleries, museums and libraries. It ..... a centre of business and commerce, with an important place in banking and insurance. There is industry too, though this is not so evident.

Because it is the hub of so many activities, Edinburgh has excellent communications to other parts of Scotland and the rest of the UK. There is a busy airport nearby with regular services to London and some to overseas. There are very fast rail services to all major cities and there are cheap road services to all parts of the UK.

# **Text 11.**

Task to the Dialogue.

Read the Dialogue using the dictionary. Choose one state of the UK and represent the information about it.

# States of the UK

- What is the largest and most densely populated part of the United Kingdom?

- England is. The population of England is 47.837 million people.

- What city is the capital of England?

- The capital of England is London, which is the largest city in Britain. It is situated on the River Thames (the most important one).

- What are the parts of England?

- Northern England, Midland and South England are. Each part is different but very picturesque.

- Where do the English like to spend their holiday?

- The English like to spend their holiday in the Lake District which is in the Northern England.

- What are the main industries in England?

- The main industries in England are the wool industry (with its centre in Leeds and Bradford), heavy machinery, shipbuilding, the cotton industry (the centre is Manchester).

- What is the most northern part of the Island of Great Britain?

- Scotland is the most northern part of the Island of Great Britain. Its population is over 5 million people.

- What marks the boundary between England and Scotland?

- The Cheviot Hills do.

- What regions is Scotland divided into?

- Scotland is divided into three parts: the Highlands, the Lowlands and the Southern Uplands. The Highlands are among the oldest mountains in the world. There are a lot of valleys and lakes in this region, the best known lake is Loch Ness.

- What is the biggest city?

- The biggest city is Glasgow. It is an industrial city and an important port in the United Kingdom.

- What is the capital of Scotland?

- The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh. It is the cultural centre of Scotland.

- What can you say about industry?

-Shipbuilding is the leading industry. But other industries such as iron and steel, engineering and coal-mining are highly developed too.

- Prince Charles is Prince of Wales. Where does this title come from?

- In 1301 after defeating the native princes of Wales, King Edward I of England named his son Prince of Wales. Since then the eldest son of the King or Queen of England has traditionally been given this title.

- When was Wales brought into English system of government?

- In 1536 Wales was brought into the English system of national and local government by Act of Union.

- What can you say about the population of Wales?

- The population of Wales is over 3 million people. About 75 per cent of the people of Wales live in urban districts.

- The Welsh are fond of folk music, singing and poetry. Welsh literature is one of the oldest in Europe.

- What is the official language in Wales?

- Welsh and English are both official languages in Wales now.

- What is the relief of Wales?

- Wales is a highland country of old, hard rocks. North Wales is a country of mountains and deep valleys. South Wales is a land of high hills.

- What is the capital of Wales?

- The capital of Wales is Cardiff (an industrial city and a port). Cardiff is an administrative and educational centre.

- What industries are developed in this part of the country?

- Such industries as coal-mining, steel production, electronics, electrical engineering are developed.

- When was the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland signed?

- In 1800 the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland was signed.

- What can you say about the territory and population of Northern Ireland?

- The population of Northern Ireland is about 1.5 million people. It occupies one-sixth of the territory of the United Kingdom. 53 per cent of the population live in urban areas.

Бобылева Татьяна Владиславовна Захарова Ирина Эрнстовна

# АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Практикум по развитию навыков устной речи для студентов II – III курсов всех специальностей. Страноведение. Нью-Йорк, Вашингтон, Лондон.

# Редактор Н.М. Кокина

Подписано к печати	Формат 60 х 84 1/16	Бумага тип № 1
Заказ	Усл. печ. л. 2,5	Уч. изд. л. 2,5
Печать трафаретная	Тираж 100	Цена свободная

Редакционно-издательский центр КГУ 640669, г. Курган, ул. Гоголя, 25 Курганский государственный университет