

ОГЛАВЛЕНИЕ

Предисловие	4
Unit 1. Introduction to Great Britain	6
Unit 2. The English: Arrogant and Unfriendly	10
Unit 3. The Englishness of England	13
Unit 4. London	16
Unit 5. The City of London	26
Unit 6. Getting Around in Great Britain	35
Unit 7. Buckingham Palace	49
Unit 8. The Tower of London	54
Unit 9. St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey	62
Unit 10. British Castles	72
Unit 11. Introduction to Housing in Great Britain	78
Unit 12. Types of Houses in Great Britain	84
Unit 13. Private Property and Public Property	94
Unit 14. The Importance of 'Home'	96
Unit 15. Individuality and Conformity	101
Unit 16. Interiors: The Importance of Cosiness	105
Unit 17. Homelessness	111
Unit 18. Russian and British Home Life	115

ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Настоящий практикум предназначен для студентов 1 курса, обучающихся по направлениям «Фундаментальная и прикладная лингвистика» и «Филология» (программа «Современные иностранные языки и литература»), и рассчитан на семестр аудиторной и внеklassной работы.

Цель практикума состоит в развитии всех видов речевой деятельности студентов – говорения, чтения, письма и аудирования.

Особенностью дисциплины «Практика устной и письменной речи» является не только направленность на формирование у студентов коммуникативной компетенции и овладение навыками и умениями иноязычного речемышления, но и расширение общего кругозора и обогащение страноведческих знаний о стране изучаемого языка. В предлагаемом практикуме разрабатывается два тематических раздела: «Лондон и его достопримечательности» и «Жилищные условия в Великобритании и России».

Материалом служат оригинальные тексты на современные и традиционные темы, подобранные из учебных пособий по чтению, сборников текстов, монографий, периодики, а также наработки из многолетнего опыта преподавания дисциплины авторами практикума и их коллегами на кафедре германской филологии.

Ядром каждого урока являются один или несколько текстов, объединенных одной темой. Соответствующие комплексы упражнений (вопросно-ответные задания, задания на перевод предложений с использованием ключевой лексики, упражнения на стимулирование устного и письменного связного высказывания, фонетические задания) обеспечивают формирование лексико-грамматических речевых навыков.

В ряде случаев для разбора и анализа студентам предлагаются диалоги. Основной критерий отбора текстов и диалогов – наличие лингвострановедческого материала, позволяющего расширить

знания о Великобритании, а также тематической лексики, необходимой для описания изучаемых явлений, построения полновесных, хорошо аргументированных монологических высказываний по конкретной теме.

Дополнением к некоторым урокам служат аутентичные видеоматериалы страноведческого характера, которые не только способствуют формированию аудитивной компетенции учащихся, но и повышают мотивацию обучения, делают процесс усвоения иноязычного материала более живым, интересным и эмоциональным. Все видеофильмы сопровождаются упражнениями: заданиями «перед просмотром» (позволяющими преодолеть возможные языковые и межкультурные трудности, настраивающими студентов на определенные ожидания) и заданиями «после просмотра» (обеспечивающими контроль правильного понимания услышанного и направленными на активизацию языкового материала).

Структура практикума отвечает дидактическим и методическим требованиям преподавания учебной дисциплины.

Unit 1

INTRODUCTION TO GREAT BRITAIN

I. Read and translate the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

Great Britain is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is a group of islands off the north-west coast of Europe. It is called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The capital is London.

How the land lies

There are many different landscapes in Britain: from high mountains to rolling hills and valleys. Places like Wales, the Lake District and northwest Scotland have high mountains and steep solid rock slopes.

Great Britain is completely surrounded by seas, being thus isolated from the rest of Europe. No part of Britain is far from the sea, which is an important resource for fishing and tourism.

Rain or shine

Great Britain has quite cool summers and mild winters. The weather changes from day to day and during the day. The climate is temperate, the country does not have long periods when it is cold or hot.

Britain's climate is getting warmer. Average temperatures have risen half a degree Celsius since 1850. This is enough to start the polar ice caps thawing. If the ice caps continue to thaw, large areas of southern and eastern England will be permanently flooded.

The mean annual temperature ranges between 11.1 °C in the south and 8.9 °C in the northeast. Fogs, mists and overcast skies are frequent, particularly in the inland regions.

Politically minded

Britain is a constitutional monarchy. The queen is the head of the state but politics are controlled by Parliament. There are two houses of Parliament:

The House of Commons who are elected by the public and the House of Lords made up of peers.

The political party system has existed since the 17th century. The main British political parties are Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democratic. There are also Welsh and Scottish parties who seek separation from England.

The majority party forms His or Her Majesty's Government, and the second party is officially known as His or Her Majesty's Own Loyal Opposition. The opposition leader is paid a salary from public funds for that role.

In Gods we trust

The Church of England has the most members – 54 %, in Great Britain. Most members, however, live in England. The second biggest religion is the Roman Catholic Church – 13 %. Catholics are spread throughout the country. Other religions include Protestantism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Economy: pitfalls and hopes

Britain has a long history as a great and powerful country. During the 18th century Britain gained an empire by colonizing parts of North America, Africa, Asia, all of Australia and New Zealand. By the 19th century, England was bringing back much wealth from these colonies. The trade in slaves and other goods from the colonies supplied the money to build the factories and machines of Britain's Industrial Revolution. The country developed heavy industries like coal mining, iron and steel manufacturing, engineering and shipbuilding.

However in the 20th century, other countries began to compete with Britain in the overseas markets. Besides, from the 1950s on, many former British colonies in Africa and Asia became independent, thus affecting Britain's imports and exports. All over Britain factories and businesses closed. By the 1990s the worst of the decline had already been over and Britain began to concentrate on the new hi-tech and service industries.

In the last 30 years, micro-electronics has become one of the fastest growing sectors of the British industry. It is a new phase of industrial growth which scientists call re-industrialization. The future for Britain

as a manufacturing nation looks good and it depends on whether it can develop and specialize in hi-tech industries such as aerospace, computers, electronics, telecommunications and biotechnology.

II. Answer the following questions.

1. Where is Great Britain geographically?
2. Where is London, the capital?
3. What part of Great Britain do Scotland, Wales and England make up?
4. What part of Ireland does Ulster make up?
5. What kind of climate does Great Britain have? Why can we call it maritime?
6. Are overcast skies a frequent occurrence in Great Britain? Why?
7. What makes the climate of Great Britain warmer than in other countries on the continent?
8. What body rules the country?
9. What can you say about the House of Lords?
10. What can you say about the House of Commons?
11. People of what faiths can we find in Great Britain?
12. How can we explain the fact that Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism are to be found in a traditionally Christian country like Great Britain?
13. How did the fact that Britain had a great number of colonies affect its economy in the 19th century?
14. What happened to the British colonies in the middle of the 20th century?
15. What has Britain done with its economy in the last 30 years?
16. What is Britain specializing in now?

III. Write the transcription of the following words.

Isolated, temperate, Celsius, southern, Protestantism, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Catholic (Catholicism).

IV. Find English equivalents to the following Russian words and phrases in the text.

Состоять из, ландшафт, окруженный, остальная часть, довольно-таки прохладный, мягкий климат, средний, таять, постоянно, колебаться между, затянутый облаками, в частности, ежегодный,

отделение от, партия большинства, по всей стране, поставлять, кораблестроение, товары, спад в производстве.

*V. Compare Great Britain and Russia in the following spheres.
Give your stories.*

Geographical location, national composition, distances between destinations, weather and climate, political system, variety of religions, Russia and Britain as former empires, the economic situation today.

Unit 2

THE ENGLISH: ARROGANT AND UNFRIENDLY

I. Read the following text, translate it, write out the new words and memorize them.

Tourists love the British Royal family, their ancient traditions and historic buildings. But if there is one thing the foreign tourist does not like, it is the character of the British people.

Up to 1,000 respondents from 35 different nations were asked to rate Britain and the British in terms of 16 different categories which included, among others, historical legacy, scenic beauty and vibrancy. Research found that visitors listed Britain a poor 16th place on the list of countries likely to offer the most friendly welcome.

According to VisitBritain, the organization responsible for promoting Britain overseas in the eyes of the world, the British people – and in particular the English – are arrogant, unfriendly and have almost no sense of humour. And it is some of their nearest neighbours who are particularly critical about their national character.

Despite their close proximity, the French had particular problems with the English and were the least likely to visit the United Kingdom. “The French do not believe they would receive a warm welcome if they visited the UK,” the report revealed.

Perhaps not surprisingly, countries with a history of political conflict with Britain were particularly skeptical. German respondents believed that only the Russians were less friendly than the British. Argentina, meanwhile, ranked Britain 31st in terms of friendliness.

Many of the respondents were similarly unimpressed by Britain’s system of government and its foreign policy. Support for America has done serious harm to Britain’s reputation.

Nevertheless, despite the poor image, Britain remains the sixth most popular destination for tourists around the world (behind France,

Spain, the United States, China and Italy). And, according to VisitBritain, the English-speaking nations such as the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand still perceive the British to be welcoming.

Britain also scored highly in terms of its cultural history and architectural legacy, as well as being an interesting place for contemporary culture. But there was, however, a lack of appreciation for the country's scenic beauty. Britain only came 19th in the rankings for scenery and landscape.

The British sense of humour received the lowest scores. Italians, for example, rated them the second least funny people in the world. But the British themselves believe their sense of humour is the national asset, which, among other things, makes Britain such a unique destination.

II. Answer the following questions to the text.

1. What do tourists love in Britain and what don't they like?
2. Do you agree with what the text says in the first paragraph?
3. What would you say about Britain's historical legacy?
4. Why, do you think, the nations closest to Britain geographically are particularly critical of them?
5. Do you know anything about the history of relations between Britain and France?
6. Do you agree with the British that the best form of government is a constitutional monarchy?
7. Would you call the whole set-up "the Royal soap opera"?
8. What makes the USA and Britain close?
9. Who are the English-speaking nations in the world and what made them so?
10. Do you agree that Britain has a rich cultural and architectural legacy?
11. Do you know anything about the British sense of humour?
12. How would you rate Britain as a tourist destination?

III. Write the transcription of the following words.

Ancient, respondent, legacy, scenic, vibrancy, research (*noun*), nation/national.

IV. Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Up to..., in terms of, to include, legacy, heritage, vibrancy, to list, likely, unlikely, according to, to be responsible for, to promote, in particular, despite, in spite of, proximity, to be the least likely to do smth., to reveal, meanwhile, to rank, similarly, to be impressed by, to do harm to, poor image, to score highly, contemporary, a lack of appreciation, to receive the lowest scores, a national asset.

V. Find English equivalents to the following words and expressions.

Наследие, подобным образом, несмотря на, быть ответственным за что-то, близость, согласно, раскрыть, способствовать чему-либо, скорее всего, маловероятно, включать, перечислять, что касается чего-либо, тем временем, быть под впечатлением, нанести вред, в частности, современник, занять высокое место, недооценить, национальное достояние, получить низкий рейтинговый балл, оживленный.

VI. Translate the following sentences into English using the words and expressions from the text.

1. Есть одна вещь, которая мне не нравится.
2. Туристов попросили дать оценку историческому наследию этой страны.
3. Он, вероятнее всего, не окажет нам радушного приема.
4. Именно ближайшие соседи критиковали характер британцев.
5. Несмотря на географическую близость, французы недолюбливают англичан.
6. Тем временем, что касается дружелюбия, то Англия на 16-м месте.
7. Согласно данным туристического агентства, туристы не могут оценить красоту природы Англии.
8. Архитектурное наследие страны представляет большой интерес для туристов.
9. Культура сегодняшнего дня – это тот аспект, который мы должны уметь оценить.
10. Сами англичане считают, что их чувство юмора – это их национальное достояние.

Unit 3

THE ENGLISHNESS OF ENGLAND

I. *Read the text and translate it into Russian in written form.*

THE ENGLISH CHARACTER AND TRADITION (from the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms to the Windsor Dynasty)

England's coastline has helped to shape both the history of the English nation and the psychology of the English character. The knowledge that there was a wide stretch of water between Englishmen and "foreigners" encouraged a sense of security that could easily slide into one of superiority. And it was true that their physical isolation made England different. The long centuries during which the land was free from invaders meant that there could be a continuity of tradition impossible on the war-torn Continent. Englishmen have always been conscious of the history that surrounds them – from traditional royal and parliamentary ceremonies to Tudor-style villas in the suburbs.

Some English characteristics upon which both natives and visitors have tended to agree have to do with national psychology: egoism, self-confidence, intolerance of outsiders, wealth, independence, social mobility, love of comfort and a strong belief in private property. Others that have to do with the physical appearance of English town and country, are more easily illustrated than described: an urge to wander over the earth and bring back its products to make England a microcosm of the world; a preoccupation with "home" that has led to the evolution of both the English house – informal, relaxed and domestic – and its landscape setting: a love of games in which competition was less important than enjoyment; and that special feeling for the sea that made Englishmen not only great sailors and explorers but also the inventors of the seaside holiday.

The fact that Britain is an island has been decisive in so many aspects of her history: in the Reformation, which determined the course of religion in England; in the development of trade, which led to the formation

of the Empire; in the growth of a navy with its influence on the political system; even in the well-known “insularity” of English art and music. The cultural moat has often been wider than the twenty-one miles of water that separate Dover from Calais.

All that prefigures the English boarding-school tradition. Foreigners regarded as heartless the English custom of boarding out children at the age of seven to nine to be apprentices for the next eight years in other houses and families. The customary explanation is that parents did this to ensure that their children learned better manners.

There were other important differences, which may have been a cause or consequence of the English spirit of individualism. The majority of ordinary people in England from at least the 13th century were extreme individualists, highly mobile, geographically and socially, economically “rational”, market-oriented and acquisitive, ego-centered in kinship and social life.

Another feature is the fluidity of English society. England from an early stage avoided the rigid stratification between the merchants of the cities and the rural seigneur. One of the most significant aspects of the trend towards a highly competitive and socially egalitarian society was the impetus it gave to the English colonies of the 17th century in America. America’s heritage of libertarianism, hostility to government, skepticism about the role of the state and hatred of interference, originates from the people who went out to that dangerous continent and were not the grandes of the upper class. Another significant feature in the development of England is the language. It is of Germanic origin but half the words come from other sources, and the result is an astonishingly wide vocabulary acquired quite early in its history.

One of the by-products of England’s geographical separation is the relatively small amount of fighting on English soil. This separation from continental Europe gave a special position to the Navy, which protected England. It produced a sense of security and led to a prosperity, which the major rival countries did not enjoy.

(From *The English World: History, Character, and People* by R. Blake¹)

¹ CM.: Blake R. *The English World: History, Character, and People*. London, 1982. P. 5–7.

II. Give answers to the following questions.

1. How can you compare England's coastline with the one Russia has?
2. Has a wide stretch of water ever influenced the psychology of Russian character?
3. Why have land borders played a more important role in Russian history than the sea ones?
4. What invaders into Russia do you remember from Russian history? Who were the invaders into Britain?
5. What can you say about the colonizing policy of Great Britain and that of Russia?
6. What role has the Navy played in Great Britain and in Russia?

III. Write the transcription of the following words.

Psychology, superiority, suburb, microcosm, rational, seigneur, acquisitive, libertarianism, interference, grandees.

IV. Comment on the following statements and phrases.

1. A wide stretch of water between England and the Continent encouraged a sense of security and superiority in the British.
2. A continuity of tradition impossible on the war-torn Continent.
3. Intolerance of outsiders.
4. English society is class society.
5. Social mobility.
6. A strong belief in private property.
7. Independence and individualism.
8. Love of comfort.
9. A preoccupation with "home".
10. The English language has an astonishingly wide vocabulary.
11. The Navy in England and the Navy in Russia.
12. Hatred of interference.

V. How would you answer the following questions?

1. Do you think that all the features of the English mentioned in the text could somehow have influenced the people who colonized such countries as the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada?
2. In their early history both England and Russia started out as monarchies. What developments took place in that sphere throughout history? What form of government would you support?

Unit 4

LONDON

For work on this topic we recommend you to use the textbook by V. D. Arakin “Practical course of English”².

I. Read the following dialogue, write out the new words and memorize them.

- London is literally “soaked” in history, isn’t it?
- Oh, yes. It’s full of history from the earliest times to the present day.
- That’s right! Its name is of Celtic origin, but there is no evidence of a pre-Roman settlement. Some historians think the name is derived from a Celtic personal or tribal name. Others maintain its name was first Llyndun, the town on the lake.
- I remember that the town was growing quickly under the Romans and later it became a large thriving centre of commerce and trade.
- Now it is the capital of the United Kingdom, a great political, industrial and cultural centre of the country.
- In the 19th century its growth was very rapid and it developed into what we call Greater London.
- London and the City are not the same, are they? The City is the central part of London, its business and shopping centre.
- Where are we now?
- We are on The Strand. It’s an old street that runs along the Thames. “Strand” means a strip of land running along the coast or the bank of a river. You can’t see the Thames from here now, but in the old days when there were no houses here you could. If we face the river, to the left there is St. Paul’s Cathedral and further on The Tower. To get to St. Paul’s Cathedral you have to pass through Fleet Street.

² Аракин В. Д. Практический курс английского языка. 2 курс : учеб. для студентов вузов. 7-е изд., доп. и испр. М., 2005. С. 85–116.

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