

Практическое занятие №1

Тема 6 . Традиции, культура и обычаи народов других стран.

План занятия:

1. English customs and traditions.
2. Free time.
3. English character.

1. English customs.

1.1. Answer the following questions:

1. How do English people spend their free time?
2. Why do we need customs and tradition?
3. What traditions and customs do we have in Russia?

1.2. Read the text.

Traditions make a nation special. They can be old or new, but they are part of people's life. Most English love gardens and this is why so many people want to live in houses more than in flats. It's a tradition with English people to have a fireplace in their house. A fireplace is usually made of stone in the wall of a room. For many years the fireplace was the natural centre of interest in the room. People may like to sit at a window on a summer day, but in autumn and winter they like to sit round the fire. In the evening when people come home, they like to sit round the fireplace. Nowadays the television is becoming the centre of interest in the room. But in many houses you can still see a fireplace.

English people like animals very much. Pet dogs, cats, birds and other friends of man have a much better life in Britain than in any other country. In Britain there are special shops that sell food, clothes and other things for dogs. There are special places where they bury dogs. The English do all they can to make animals feel well in their homes and outside their homes too. There are different societies in England, protecting all sorts of animals. The English believe that they are the only nation in the world that is really kind to animals.

Most people in Britain work a five-day week, from Monday to Friday. Schools are closed on Saturdays.

1.3. Say if the statements are true or false:

1. Most English do not love gardens and this is why many people want to live in flats.
2. A fireplace is usually made of marble in the wall of a room.
3. In many English houses you can still see a fireplace.
4. The English believe that they are the only nation in the world that is really kind to animals.
5. Most people in Britain work a six-day week.

1.4. Answer the questions:

1. What makes a nation special?
2. What is the natural centre of interest in the room of an English house?
3. Where do English people bury dogs?
4. Who protects animals in England?
5. When are schools closed in England?

1.5 Complete the sentences using the information from the text.

1. Most English love gardens and this is why so many people...
2. People may like to sit at a window on a summer day, but in autumn and winter...
3. The English do all they can...
4. There are different societies in England...
5. Most people in Britain work...

1.6 Give a summary of the text.

2. Free time.

2.1 Answer the following questions:

1. How do the English spend their weekend?
2. What is the best day for parties?
3. What is the family day in England?

2.2 Read the text.

Those who live in town like to go away for the weekend. They may go to stay in the country or at the sea. Every Englishman loves nature. Those who stay at home for the weekend do all the jobs they were too busy to do during the week. Some go shopping on Saturday morning, because the shops in the centre of big cities usually close at one o'clock in the afternoon on Saturdays and they are closed all day on Sundays. Saturday evening is the best time for parties, dances, going to the cinema or theatre. Sunday is a day for inviting friends and relatives to afternoon tea.

When meeting someone for the first time, it is common to greet them with a firm handshake in Britain. Verbal greetings are usually enough when meeting old friends or acquaintances. Among close friends and family, women usually greet each other with a kiss on the cheek. If you are unsure about what to do — especially on social occasions — the rule is to observe what other people do and go with the flow.

If you are invited to dinner or to a party by one of your friends, it is a good idea not to go empty-handed. A bottle of wine is usually enough. Though if you don't drink, don't let this dissuade you from accepting an invitation. There are a variety of non-alcoholic drinks you can bring instead, such as sparkling apple juice, non-alcoholic cider or wine, soft drinks, etc. Small snacks or nibbles (such as crisps, cake and the like) are another alternative.

Similarly, if you are invited to someone's family home —especially, if this is for the first time or for a meal, bring a small gift. If you dine together, then a bottle of wine is again ideal, but you could also bring a small gift of flowers or chocolates instead. These need not be expensive, but the gesture will be warmly welcomed. To thank your host, a phone call or 'thank you' card is a good idea. Remember that in Britain you can never say 'please', 'thank you' or 'sorry' too often!

2.3 Say if the statements are true or false:

1. The shops in the centre of big cities usually close at five o'clock in the afternoon on Saturdays.
2. The shops in the centre of big cities are open on Sundays.
3. If you are invited to dinner or to a party in their room by one of your friends, it is a good idea to go empty-handed.
4. When meeting someone for the first time, it is common not to greet them with a firm handshake in Britain.
5. To thank your host, a phone call or 'thank you' card is a good idea .

2.4 Answer the questions:

1. When is it possible to go shopping in England?
2. When are shops open in England?
3. What is a common way of greeting people in England?
4. What can you bring if you are invited to dinner or to a party?
5. How can you thank the host of a party or dinner?

2.5 Complete the sentences using the information from the text.

6. Those who stay at home for the weekend ...
7. Saturday evening is the best time for parties, ...
8. Among close friends and family, women usually greet ...
9. If you are invited to dinner or to a party ...
10. If you dine together, ...

2.6 Render into English:

1. Устное приветствие обычно достаточно при встрече старых друзей или знакомых.
2. Существуют различные безалкогольные напитки, которые вы можете принести вместо вина, например, яблочный сок, безалкогольные сидр и вино, и другие безалкогольные напитки.
3. В Великобритании при встрече с кем-нибудь впервые принято здороваться крепким рукопожатием.
4. Если вы приглашены на обед или на вечеринку в квартиру одного из ваших друзей, хорошей идеей будет прийти не с пустыми руками.
5. Если вы не пьете, это не повод отказываться от принятия приглашения!

3. English character.

3.1 Answer the following questions:

1. What are the ways of addressing different people in England?
2. What are popular stereotypes about British people?
3. Is it impolite to jump the queue?

3.2 Read the text.

‘**Cheers**’ is one of the most commonly used words in Britain. It has two uses. One is at the pub, where you will hear it said as a toast over drinks. But you will also hear it said instead of ‘thank you’ or ‘good bye’ or ‘thanks and good bye’ almost everywhere. Similarly, people will sometimes say ‘you all right?’ instead of ‘How are you?’.

A final point of note is about to how to address your tutors. As elsewhere, the general rule of thumb is to address a tutor as ‘Dr.’ or ‘Professor Burton’. But don’t be surprised if you hear other students referring to their tutor by his/her first name, or if a tutor invites you to address them by their first name (for example, ‘John’). This is not unusual in Oxford. To repeat and to avoid any misunderstanding, the best —and by far the safest— thing for you to do is to address them as ‘Dr.’ or ‘Professor’, and only if they ask you to do so and you are sure they won’t mind, then by their first name.

In general, the British are very polite most of the time. ‘**Please**’ and ‘**thank you**’ are among the most commonly used words in Britain. People also have a tendency to apologize —some would say too much— and so, you will also hear ‘sorry’ and ‘excuse me’ a lot. The popular stereotype of the average British person is more often than not true —they will say sorry to you, even when it is in fact you who has accidentally stepped on their toes or bumped into them!

It will not surprise you to know then that queuing, or waiting in line so that someone who arrived first is served first, is another British near-obsession.

It is sacrosanct. Seriously! Be it in the pub, at the supermarket or at a bus stop, people in Britain queue for everything. Pushing in or cutting into a queue is considered very impolite and you will be heavily frowned upon for doing it. It is one of the few occasions when the famously reserved British can get visibly annoyed in public, so do bear it in mind.

In most cases, queues are easy to spot. They tend to be tidy lines of people waiting. In public places, including shops and restaurants, there will also usually be a sign —such as ‘Please Wait Here to Be Served’ or ‘Please Queue Here’. Where it can be a bit tricky is in pubs, where the lines are neither tidy nor so easy to spot at the bar. The best thing to do is to take note of who was there before you and wait your turn to be served after them. Bar staff are usually very good about keeping track of who should be served next.

Finally, punctuality is important in Britain. As a rule, you should arrive on time for lectures, tutorials and any other appointments. Similarly, if you've arranged to meet someone at a pub, cafe or elsewhere and find yourself running late or unable to make it, then let the person you are meeting know.

3.3 Say if the statements are true or false :

1. It will not surprise you to know that drinking is another British near-obsession.
2. Pushing in or cutting into a queue is considered polite and you won't be frowned upon for doing it.
3. Bar staff do not usually keep track of who should be served next.
4. Punctuality is not that important in Britain.
5. Most people in Britain work a six-day week.

3.4 Answer the questions:

1. What makes a nation special?
2. What is the natural centre of interest in the room of an English house?
3. Where do English people bury dogs?

4. Who protects animals in England?
5. When are schools closed in England?

3.5 Complete the sentences using the information from the text.

1. Most English love gardens and this is why so many people...
2. People may like to sit at a window on a summer day, but in autumn and winter...
3. The English do all they can...
4. There are different societies in England...
5. Most people in Britain work...

3.6 Give a summary of the text.

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