



Customs and traditions in Britain.



As any other country, Britain has a variety of different customs and traditions. People in Great Britain are proud of their traditions and try to keep them up. The best examples are their weights and measures and monetary system, which haven't been changed for many years.





Some of the British customs are very old. The example is the Marble Championship, where the British Champion is crowned. He gets a silver cup, known as Morris Dancing.

It's an event where people in beautiful clothes dance with handkerchiefs or big sticks in their hands.





The Grand National horse race is one of the most exciting horse races in the world. It takes place near Liverpool every year. Amateur riders as well as professional jockeys are welcome.



If you visit UK on the 31st of October, you can meet witches, wizards, ghosts and different types of evil spirits appearing on Halloween. It is common for people to spend thousands of dollars on dresses, masks and other types of Halloween attributes. The celebration begins long before the 31st. People decorate their houses with pumpkins – they cut out the middle of the pumpkin, cut holes for eyes and mouth and put a candle inside. Some cities make a whole competition and parade of the best pumpkins of all. Children have a special tradition to go to their neighbors and play “Trick or Treat!” . If people give them money they will go away, otherwise they will play a trick on you by drawing something dreadful on your house or your car.





One more tradition is the holiday called Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes' Night. Guy Fawkes was a man who wanted to blow up the Houses of Parliament on November 5, 1605. However, he was caught and hanged. On this day people burn jack-straws and light fireworks.



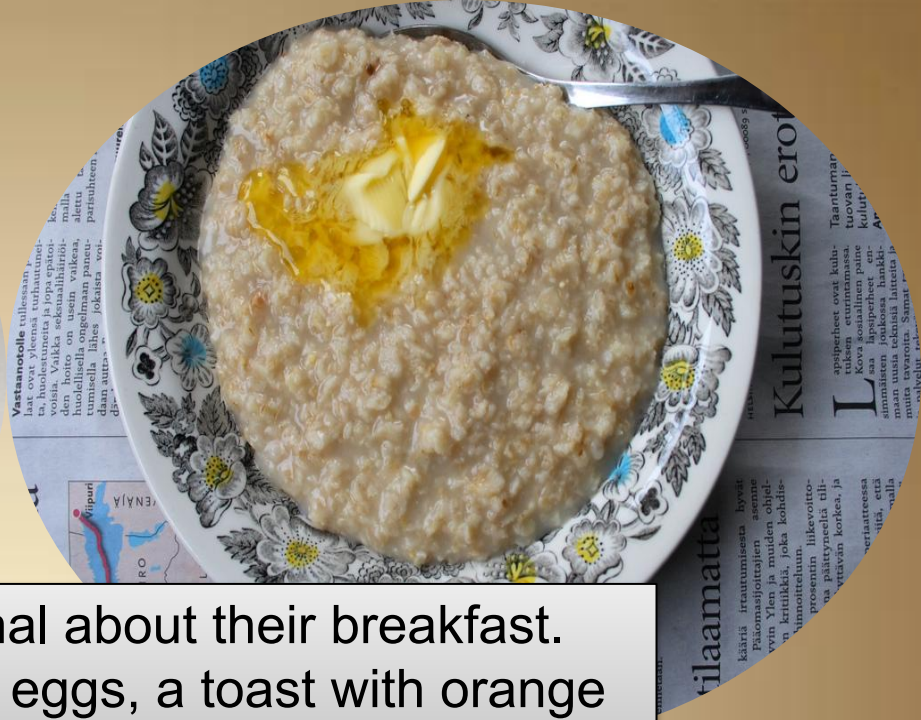
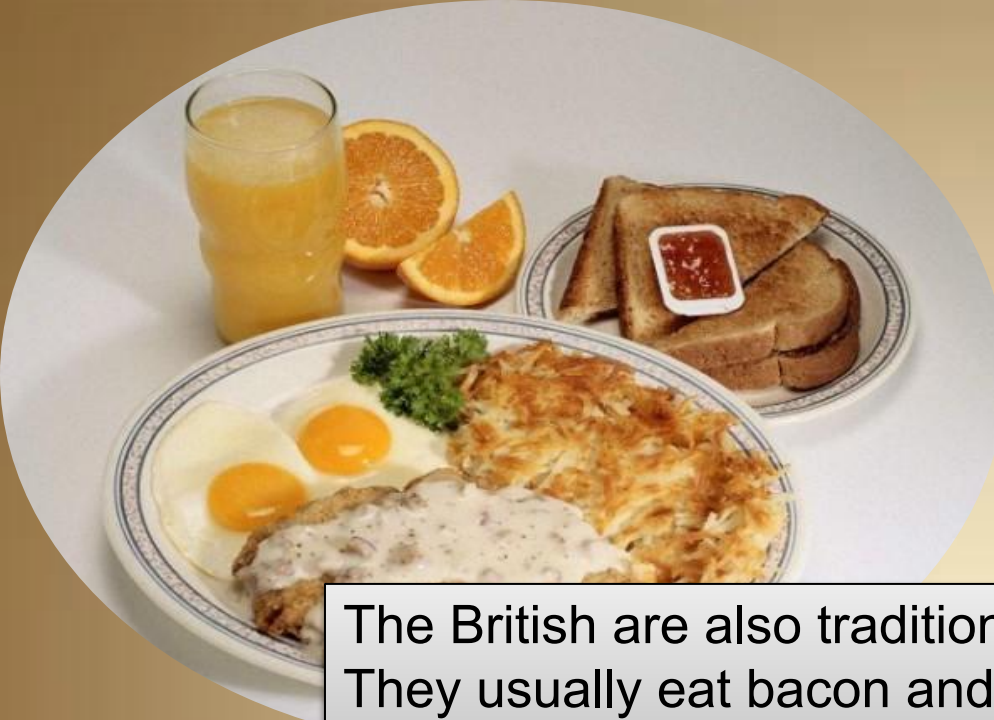
One of Englishmen's traditions is their tender love for animals. Pets are members of English families and are protected by law. There are even special cemeteries for animals in Great Britain. Most English people love their gardens too. They enjoy gardening and decorating their houses with beautiful flowers and plants.





Some British traditions are royal, such as the Changing of the Guard which takes place every day at Buckingham Palace. The Trooping of the Colour happens on the Queen's official birthday. It's a big colourful parade with hundreds of soldiers and brass bands.





The British are also traditional about their breakfast. They usually eat bacon and eggs, a toast with orange jam, a bowl of cereals or porridge in the morning.





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