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Customs and traditions



- Every nation and every country has its own customs and traditions.
- Englishmen are very proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up.
- Some ceremonies are rather formal, such as the Changing of the Guard, Trooping the Colour, the State opening of Parliament, the Ceremony of Keys.
- Some customs are famous all over the world – bowler hats, 5 o'clock tea, talking about the weather, for example.



At – home traditions

- They say: “An Englishman’s home is his castle” and it’s true.
- The Englishman prefers his own house to an apartment in a block of flats.
- Traditionally, it is a two – storey house with a lawn in front of it and a garden behind it.
- British houses are not large, but comfortable and well – planned.
- The British used to say: “There is no place like home” or “East or west – home is best”.





- In English homes the fire – place has always been the centre of interest in the room.
- People are fond of sitting round the fire watching dancing flames.
- Above the fire – place there is a shelf on which you can see candles and Christmas cards.
- On Christmas Eve people hang stockings, because children believe that Santa Clause will come down the chimney and fill them with presents.
- A carrot for the reindeer is left on the mantel - piece.



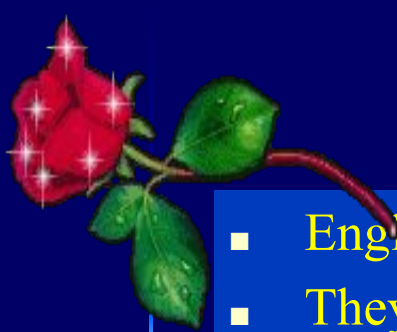


- One of the most famous English traditions is 5 o'clock tea.
- Afternoon tea can hardly be called a meal, it is a sort of meeting when friends come in for a chat and they have a cup of tea with cake or biscuit.
- 5 o'clock tea is not usually served at the table though Englishmen don't find it convenient.
- Each person has a cup and saucer and a spoon in his hands.
- Strong tea is mostly drunk with sugar and cream or milk – such tea is known as English tea.
- Tea with lemon is called Russian tea in England.



- Everybody knows that Englishmen like animals.
- Their care of them is touching.
- As a rule there is a pet in every English home.
- It can be a dog, a cat, a bird, a guinea – pig, a hedgehog, even a snake or a monkey.
- But their favourites, of course, are dogs of any kinds and horses.
- Even the domestic cat is, for the most part, only viewed as an inferior kind of dog.





- Englishmen are fond of gardening.
- They like to grow plants and to look after them.
- Special attention is given to every bed of flowers, each bush or a tree.
- The Englishmen are great lovers of roses and , as you remember, the national symbol of England is a rose.
- Flower - shows and vegetable - shows , with prizes for the best exhibits , are very popular.
- As you know the Englishmen prefer to live in houses rather than flats and gardening for them is the most loving and popular hobby.
- Much leisure time is spent by people in their individual plots in the countryside.



Holidays and anniversaries

- There are eight holidays a year in Great Britain.
- They are: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter, May Day, Spring Bank Holiday, Late Summer Bank Holiday.

The word holiday means “holy day”, and most of these holidays are of religious origin, but nowadays they are simply days when people relax and don't go to work.

All the public holidays (except New Year's Day, Christmas and Boxing Day) are movable, they don't fall on the same date each year.

- Besides public holidays, there are other festivals, anniversaries, holidays, on which certain traditions are observed.
- But if they don't fall on Sunday, they are ordinary working days.



- Christmas Day is the most popular of bank holidays. It is celebrated on December, 25.
- On this day many people go to churches, open their Christmas presents, decorate Christmas trees.
- This day is a traditional family day, all the family gather at table to eat traditional dinner of roast turkey and Christmas pudding.
- Boxing Day is on December, 26. People usually gave “Christmas boxes” or gifts of money to servants on this day.
- New Year’s Day is on January, 1. It is not marked with any custom in Great Britain. Traditional New Year parties and dances are held on New Year’s Eve.



St.Valentine's is the saint of people in love.

On that day people send valentine cards and presents to their beloved.

Traditionally you must never write your name on it.



- St Valentine's Day is celebrated on February, 14.
- Every year thousands of people travel to a small village on Scotland's border with England to get married. The village is called Gretna Green.
- It's romantic reputation began in 1754.
- In that times in England marriage for people under 21 without parents' permission was banned, but in Scotland it was possible to marry.
- Gretna Green was the first stop across the border.
- Many young couples came to Gretna Green to get married.
- Nowadays , in this place , at least one couple gets married every day of the year.



- Good Friday is the Friday before Easter when the church marks the death of the Christ.
- On this day people eat hot – cross buns – buns marked on top with a cross.
- Easter is celebrated either as a start of spring or a religious festival.
- In England presents traditionally take the form of an Easter egg.
- Easter eggs are usually made of chocolate.
- Sometimes eggs are hidden about the house for the children to find them.
- Every year London greets the spring with Easter Parade in Battersea Park on Easter Sunday.

HOT CROSS BUNS.

Hot cross buns,
Hot cross buns.
One a penny,
Two a penny,
Hot cross buns.
If you have no daughters
Give them to your sons.
One a penny,
Two a penny,
Hot cross buns.



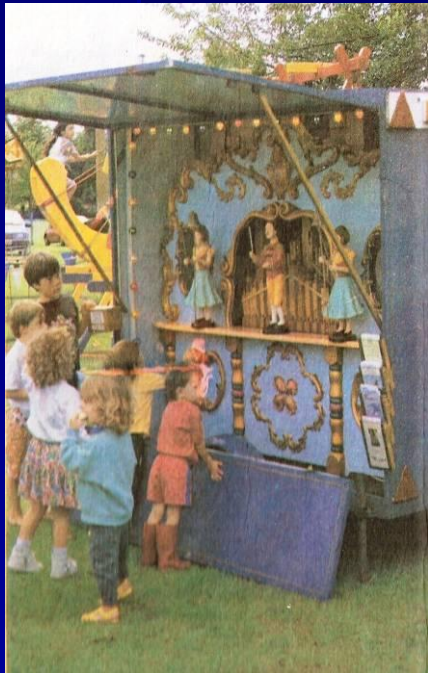


- April, 1 is April Fool's Day in Great Britain.
- This is a very old tradition from the Middle Ages.
- At that day servants were masters for one day of the year.
- Now April Fool's Day is different.
- It's a day of jokes and tricks.
- Children like the holiday very much and they never forget to play jokes .
- Most of the tricks are not original.
- They have been used so often that many tricks become traditional





- May ,1 was an important day in the Middle Ages.
- In the very early morning girls went to fields and washed their faces with dew.
- They believed this made them beautiful for a year.
- Also on May Day men tried to win prizes with their bows and arrows and danced round the Maypole.
- On May Day different outdoor events are held.
- Usually May Queen , the most beautiful girl of the celebration , is selected.





- Another popular festival - Guy Fawkes Night is celebrated on the 5th of November.
- All over the country people build bonfires in their gardens.
- On the top there is a figure of “Guy Fawkes” made of straw , who put a bomb under the Houses of Parliament and tried to kill King James the First in 1605.
- But the king’s men found the bomb.
- Nowadays people make fireworks on this day.





- This holiday on October 31 is not an official one, it is a very special day.
- It is called Hallowe'en.
- It is traditionally associated with old customs such as telling ghost stories, making bonfires, overdressing in costumes of witches and ghosts.
- This is the way the Celts welcomed the beginning of winter.
- Jack -o - lantern is a symbol of Hallowe'en.
- It is a pumpkin with holes in the form of man's face.
- Usually they put a candle into it to scare witches.
- Children go into the streets and ask for sweets saying "Treat or Trick".



Thank You

