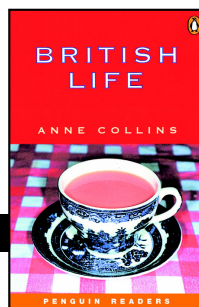


Teacher's notes

British Life

by Anne Collins



SUMMARY

British Life focuses on many aspects of contemporary British life, food, work, family. There are articles on *Geography*, *The Royal Family* and *The City of London*; also such subjects as *The Changing Family*, *Faces of Business*, *The National Lottery* and *A Nation of Animal Lovers*. By highlighting current trends and recent developments, the author attempts to give a real picture of British people and their life. The reader contains numerous illustrations and includes quizzes, picture stories and a recipe.

Map of the UK

A simple map at the start of the book of the United Kingdom has interesting facts about the country.

The British

What is the difference between Great Britain and the United Kingdom? What languages are spoken in Britain? Here are some differences between the nationalities which make up Great Britain and draws attention to key features of the British character.

The Royal Family

This section starts with a quiz – How much do you know about the British royal family? – and continues with an up-to-date family tree and other 'royal' facts.

The British at Home

Some statistics on home ownership and family size.

The Changing Family and A Change of Heart

What 'a family' today means, and the effect of the increasing divorce rate on British family life. Plus a discussion on marriage and stepfamilies. This is followed by a picture story, *A Change of Heart* about some of the dilemmas that face divorced couples and their children.

Faces of Business and The Call Centre

A recent change in business is the drop in making things in factories and the increase in providing services, which means giving help or doing jobs for people. There are statistics on average hours spent at work. The picture story, *The Call Centre*, is written from the view of a student starting work in a modern 'call centre'.

The City of London

This takes the form of an interview with Charles Rogers, who works in London at the biggest financial centre in Europe.

The British and Food / Scones

A British cook, Paul White gives his ideas on this topic. There are also useful facts and figures on British eating habits and the trends. There is an illustrated practical recipe for the tea-time favourite, scones and there are notes on the British obsession with tea.

Weekend Activities

The page on this topic picks out three of Britain's favourite



© Pearson Education 2001

leisure activities: watching television, D-I-Y (Do-It-Yourself) and gardening.

A Nation of Animal Lovers

The British love of animals is reflected by two pages on British pets, TV pet programmes, Battersea Dogs Home and Crufts Dog Show.

The National Lottery

Many countries have had a national lottery for years, whereas the National Lottery is a relatively recent feature of British life. For this reason it continues to attract considerably media attention and is still a common topic of everyday conversation.

The British and Sport

A quiz: ten questions for students to answer.

The British on Holiday

Holiday trends and statistics.

Evenings Out

This section focuses on three popular evening activities: the theatre, the cinema, musicals.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anne Collins is an experienced writer and adapter of films and stories, for many publishers. She has also taught EFL students of different ages in several countries, and lives in Scotland.

BACKGROUND AND THEMES

The subject, British life, provides many opportunities for both creative and factual work in the classroom. How do the students perceive Britain – before and after reading the book? What are the stereotypes held by the students? Does everyone have similar views on British life, if so, where have they come from? Do they change after visits to Britain? What do students think of Britain and British people they have met or read about? How does this country compare with their own country? The number of themes is endless: family, cinema, jobs, lifestyle, pets, food, holidays, entertainment, national dress and languages within a country, etc. Broader subjects on British life can come from history, geography, media – newspapers, TV programmes, politics, royal families, sport, etc.

Facts and statistics on those aspects of British life that particularly interest the students could be collected: on unemployment, money spent on holidays, numbers of people who speak different languages, for example and collated for a wider view of Britain. Facts and figures can be compared with facts on their own country.

E

1

2

3

4

5

6

PRE-
INTERMEDIATE

BRITISH LIFE



Teacher's notes

Communicative activities

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

- Find out what students already know about Britain. Give them a time limit of 1 minute to write down one or two facts about each of these topics:
British food / London / The Royal Family / The countries that make up Great Britain / Spare time activities / Holidays / Sport
- Students work in pairs or groups.
They should imagine they have won a week's holiday in Britain. The pair or group plan how they would spend the week.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

Pages 1-8

- With their readers closed, ask students to draw a sketch map of the British Isles, marking these countries and cities:
England / London; Scotland / Edinburgh; Wales / Cardiff
Northern Ireland / The Republic of Ireland.
- In pairs, get students to discuss these questions:
 - Why are so many British people from India, Pakistan, Hong Kong and The Caribbean?
 - What are the pros and cons of a multi-racial society?
 - On page 4 the writer describes British people as being shy, not very good at making friends and not very interested in clothes. Are British people you know like this? How are people from your country different from this?
 - Do you think the Royal Family is good for Britain?
 - Why do you think so many British people prefer to own their homes rather than rent them? How many people in your country own their homes?

Pages 9-25

- How far do you agree with these statements about family life? Use a scale of 1-5. 1 = completely agree / 5 = completely disagree
 - The ideal age to get married is 25. ____
 - If couples do not want to have children, there is no point in getting married. ____
 - Even if they don't love each other, couples should stay together for their children. ____
 - Divorce usually damages children. ____
 - Divorce should be made more difficult. ____
 - Women should stay at home and look after their children instead of going to work. ____
 - Men are mainly to blame for the break-up of marriages. ____
- At the end of *A Change of Heart* how do these people feel?
 - Luke
 - Luke's mother
 - Luke's father
 - Steve
 - Who do you feel most sympathy for?
- How do these facts about Britain from *Faces of Business* compare with the situation in your country?
 - 75% of people work in service industries.
 - The working day runs from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
 - British workers get 4 weeks paid holiday a year.
 - 45% of British workers are women.
 - 16% of men are self-employed.
- In *The Call Centre* what problems does Emma face? Would you do this kind of work? Why? Why not?

Pages 26-39

1 Food

- Students each pick out one or two facts from the section on British food that they found interesting or surprising. They then compare the facts they have chosen in pairs or small groups.
- Which kinds of food and drink mentioned in this section have you eaten? Did you enjoy it / them?

2 Weekend activities

- How popular are watching TV, D-I-Y and gardening in your country?
- What other popular weekend activities are there?

3 Animals

- What is your reaction to the British attitude to animals?
- How does this compare to the situation in your country?
- Does your family own any pets?

4 Lottery Work in a group.

Your group has just won £5 million. How will you spend it? How will it change your lives?

5 Sport

When students have tried the quiz and checked the answers, they could discuss these questions.

- Does anything you have read surprise you?
- How important is sport in your country / to you?

6 On holiday

Some British people are going to spend two weeks on holiday in your country. Make a list of suggestions for places they should visit and things they should do. This could be done as a role play, with two British tourists talking to two people from the country.

7 Evenings out

Have you seen any of the films listed in the paragraph on Cinema? What did you enjoy about them? Compare ideas in groups.

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practised in the 'Before You Read' sections of exercises at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the *Longman Active Study Dictionary*.)

Pages 1-8

average (adj.) the amount you get by adding several quantities together and dividing the result by the number of quantities

character (n.) all of the qualities that make a person different from any other

divorce (n.) the legal end of a marriage

isle (n.) an island, it is used in literary texts

royal (adj.) belonging to a king or queen

tradition (n.) doing something in the way it has been done for a long time

Pages 9-25

couple (n.) two people who are married or who have a romantic relationship

financial (adj.) to do with money

increase (vb.) to become larger

insurance (n.) when you pay a company in case you become ill, or have an accident. They then pay the costs

service industry (n.) an industry that provides help or does jobs for people

step-family (n.) a family with members from a previous marriage

Pages 26-39

chat (n. / vb) talking in a friendly and informal way

cricket (n.) a game where two teams hit a ball with a bat between two wickets

flour (n.) powder from grain, used to make bread and cakes

lottery (n.) competition where people win money if they choose the same numbers as the competition organisers

nursing-home (n.) a small hospital for old and ill people who need looking after

pudding (n.) the last part of a meal, which is sweet

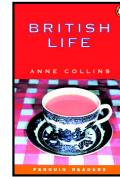
rat (n.) a large mouse

scone (n.) small, round sweet cake, eaten with butter, jam and sometimes cream too.

Published and distributed by Pearson Education
Factsheet written by Simon Haines
Factsheet series developed by Louise James



Student's activities



British Life

E
1
2
3
4
5
6

PRE-INTERMEDIATE

BRITISH LIFE

Photocopiable

Students can do these exercises alone or with one or more other students.

Activities before reading the book

Read the Introduction on page iv of the book and then close the book and fill the gaps in these sentences. Finally, open the book again and check your answers.

Who are the British?

Are they the **a** _____ as the English?
 And how is the UK **b** _____ from Britain?
 Britain is not an easy **c** _____ to understand.
 To **d** _____, British life is sometimes very strange.
 Why, for example, do people talk about the **e** _____ so much?
 Many things are **f** _____ in Britain and one of them is **g** _____ life.
 People's **h** _____ on marriage and the family are always different from the views of their **i** _____ and grandparents.
j _____ is also changing fast.

Activities while reading the book

The British

- 1 Match the names with the correct definitions
- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| (a) <i>Great Britain</i> | a name for a Scotsman |
| (b) <i>The United Kingdom</i> | The British national song |
| (c) <i>The British Isles</i> | England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland |
| (d) <i>Gaelic</i> | England, Scotland and Wales |
| (e) <i>God Save the Queen</i> | a name for a Welshman |
| (f) <i>Jock</i> | England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland |
| (g) <i>Taffy</i> | language spoken in the north of Scotland |

The Royal Family

- 1 Who is /are or was / were...
- the sister of Charles Prince of Wales?
 - the brother of Prince William?
 - the mother of Princess Beatrice of York?
 - the mother of Andrew, Duke of York?
 - the youngest son of Philip, Duke of Edinburgh?
 - the first husband of Anne, Princess Royal?
 - the nieces of Charles, Prince of Wales?
 - the aunt of Prince Henry?

The British at Home

- Match the two halves of these sentences.
- 67% of British people...
 - Fewer people in Scotland own their homes...
 - Most people over the age of 65...
 - Children usually leave their parents' home...
 - When they get old, parents do not usually live...



© Pearson Education 2001

- ...live alone.
- ...own the homes they live in.
- ...than people in the rest of Britain.
- ...in the same house as their children
- ...when they go to work or university

The Changing Family

- 1 Work in pairs or groups
 Read the long letter on page 10, then discuss your ideas.
- Do you agree or disagree with the letter writer?
 - Which of the readers' views 1-5 (page 10-11) do you agree with?

Faces of Business

- Put the words in the right order.
- are / businesses / fastest / growing / in / industries / service / The / the / UK
 - employ / industries / million / more / people / Service / than / twenty
 - 5 p.m. / 9 a.m. / a / British / days / five / from / Most / people / to / week / work
 - 365 / a / a / companies / customers / days / give / Many / 'round the clock' / service / their / year.
 - Britain / Europe / has / in / longest / the / week / working
 - a / Employers / four / give / have / holiday / paid / their / to / weeks / workers / year.
 - because / do / family / jobs / Many / part-time / spend / their / they / time / to / want / with / women

The Call Centre

- Who says or thinks these things, who are they talking to and what are they talking about?
- I'm going to show you how to make calls.
 - Don't call me again!
 - You don't look very happy.
 - Is this going to take much longer?
 - Sixty in one day!
 - I really need the money.

The British and Food

- 1 Are these sentences Right or Wrong? Write R or W, then check in the book.
- British eating habits have hardly changed at all during the past 20 years. ____
 - British people eat more red meat than they used to. ____
 - They eat more fruit than they used to in the past. ____
 - British people don't like cakes and chocolates. ____
 - A few British towns have Indian and Chinese restaurants. ____
 - On average British people drink more than 100 litres of beer a year. ____



Student's activities

- 2 Complete this recipe for scones by putting in the correct verb from the list, then put the sentences into the correct order.

add / cook / cut / make / mix / put / put / take

- ___ for 7–10 minutes.
- ___ into a large flat shape on a table.
- ___ into round pieces.
- ___ milk on top of each piece.
- ___ the flour and salt into a bowl.
- ___ the milk.
- ___ the mixture out of the bowl.
- ___ with a knife.

Weekend Activities

Which word on page 31 means:

- (to) find out
- animals and plants in natural conditions
- animals that live with people
- work to keep the place you live in clean and tidy
- pleased, satisfied
- person who owns a home
- giving work to
- someone who makes a house

A Nation of Animal Lovers

- 1 Find the animals

Example act = cat

- red bug raig _____
- god _____
- termash _____
- bitbar _____
- shif _____
- pineguapi _____

- 2 Here are some answers. What were the questions?

- 100,000
- 24.2
- nearly 14,000
- 1.5 million
- 1891
- 1991

The National Lottery

Match the two halves of these sentences.

- The British lottery is on television...
- The British lottery...
- Lottery tickets cost...
- More than 70% of British homes...
- You have a better chance of winning if you play...
- Over a quarter of the money taken by the lottery...

- ...take part in the lottery every week.
- ...is spent on things to help Britain.
- ...£1 each.
- ...was started in 1994.
- ...on Wednesday and Saturday evenings.
- ...the new game 'Thunderball'.

The British and Sport

Look at the ten questions on page 36.

- In which sports are there balls?
- Which are team sports?
- Which are racing sports?
- Which sport uses a racket?
- Add more sports to the lists you have made.

The British on Holiday

Answer these questions

- When did ordinary British people start going on holiday?
- Where did they go to traditionally?
- Where are the most popular holiday areas in Britain?
- Where is Blackpool?
- How many people went abroad for their holidays in 1998?
- Why do more people now go on holiday to Caribbean countries and Australia than in the past?

Activities after reading the book

Work with one or more other students.

1 What do you remember?

What did you find interesting in this book? Write down three things that you remember.

Compare your list with those of other students.

2 Your country

If you wrote a book about life in your country, how would it be different from this book?

- What would you write instead of these chapters?
 - The Royal Family
 - The City of London
 - A Nation of Animal Lovers
 - The National Lottery
- Which recipe would you include in the chapter on food?
- What picture would you put on the cover of your book?

Britain Quiz

- Which city is the capital of Wales?
- What is the old language called that is spoken in the north of Scotland and Northern Ireland?
- What is the name of the Queen's home in Scotland?
- What percentage of British people own their own homes?
- At what time do most people start and finish work in Britain?
- What is the other name for the Bank of England?
- What are the four ingredients of scones?
- What does **DIY** stand for?
- Which are more popular as pets in British homes: dogs or cats?
- What sport is played at Lords (London)?
- Which is the most popular country for British holiday-makers?
- Who wrote the musicals *Evita*, *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*?



England - England - Cultural life: England's contribution to both British and world culture is too vast for anything but a cursory survey here. Historically, England was a very homogeneous country and developed coherent traditions, but, especially as the British Empire expanded and the country absorbed peoples from throughout the globe, English culture has been accented with diverse contributions from Afro-Caribbeans, Asians, Muslims, and other immigrant groups. British Life and Culture. by Mandy Barrow. Cookie Policy. British customs and traditions are famous all over the world. Our British Life and Culture website will tell you some of the fascinating facts and information about our beautiful country, in a way that is easy to read and to understand. When people think of Britain they often think of people drinking tea, eating fish and chips and wearing bowler hats, but there is more to Britain than just those things.