

Министерство образования и науки Российской Федерации
Тольяттинский государственный университет
Гуманитарно-педагогический институт
Кафедра «Теория и методика преподавания иностранных языков и культур»

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ENGLISH FOR CURIOUS STUDENTS

Электронное учебно-методическое пособие



УДК 811.111:070(075.8)

ББК 81.2Англ:76.0

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Кузьмина, В.Д. English for curious students : электронное учебно-методическое пособие / В.Д. Кузьмина. – Тольятти : Изд-во ТГУ, 2015. – 1 оптический диск.

Учебно-методическое пособие содержит много познавательной информации о жизни страны изучаемого языка и дополнительные сведения о Великобритании, что дает возможность расширить кругозор студентов при изучении дисциплины «Иностранный язык».

Предназначено студентам неязыковых гуманитарных направлений подготовки очной формы обучения в качестве дополнительного материала для практических занятий по английскому языку.

Текстовое электронное издание

Рекомендовано к изданию научно-методическим советом Тольяттинского государственного университета.

Минимальные системные требования: IBM PC-совместимый компьютер: Windows XP/Vista/7/8; 500 МГц или эквивалент; 128 Мб ОЗУ; SVGA; Adobe Reader.

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В авторской редакции

Художественное оформление,
компьютерное проектирование: *И.И. Шишкина*

Дата подписания к использованию 22.09.2015.

Объем издания 6,8 Мб.

Комплектация издания: компакт-диск, первичная упаковка.

Заказ № 1-44-14.

Издательство Тольяттинского государственного университета

445667, г. Тольятти, ул. Белорусская, 14

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Предисловие

В основе учебно-методического пособия лежат события, происходившие в стране изучаемого языка. Тематику пособия составляют тщательно отобранные статьи и сообщения о прошедших и настоящих событиях в Великобритании, что определяет его лексическое наполнение. Слова и выражения, которые использованы в упражнениях, направлены не только на развитие языковой догадки студентов, но и на работу с англо-русским и русско-английским словарями.

Разработанные упражнения являются эффективным средством усвоения новой лексики, так как в ходе их выполнения студентам необходимо снова и снова обращаться к тексту. Для контроля понимания студентами прочитанного текста можно использовать как устную, так и письменную формы контроля. К письменному контролю относятся упражнения с заданием: *Make up sentences on the subject using the words from the list*. Примером устной формы контроля являются упражнения: *Make up short conversations using the following key questions*. Для индивидуального контроля можно использовать упражнение: *Read the text again and retell it*.

В каждом параграфе есть тест. Тест, направленный на контроль понимания информации, стимулирует интерес студентов к чтению на иностранном языке, создает положительные эмоции и активизирует их мыслительную деятельность. Тестовый контроль позволяет проверить одновременно всех студентов группы и является одним из способов повышения эффективности учебного процесса. При выполнении теста студенту приходится несколько раз прочитывать текст, чтобы найти правильный ответ из нескольких предложенных вариантов. После выполнения тестовых заданий студенту легче составить свое высказывание по прочитанному тексту. Такое задание идет сразу после теста. Таким образом, тесты

в пособии, рассчитанные на небольшое количество времени, являются не только формой контроля, но и средством обучения.

Материал учебно-методического пособия соответствует требованиям программы по дисциплине “Иностранный язык” для студентов неязыковых гуманитарных направлений подготовки. Применение интерактивных методов в процессе обучения обусловило включение в учебно-методическое пособие заданий на создание диалога по прочитанному тексту, так как интерактивность означает способность взаимодействовать или находиться в режиме беседы, диалога с кем-либо. В ходе диалога студенты могут обмениваться прочитанной информацией, своими мнениями, суждениями и аргументами.

Учебно-методическое пособие как раз является тем источником информации, когда можно организовать парную и групповую работу на занятиях. Задания создать диалог и обсудить это с партнером вызывают у студентов интерес, побуждают к активному участию и способствуют эффективному усвоению новой лексики и новых выражений.

Таким образом, интерактивные формы проведения занятий позволяют включить всех студентов в процесс обсуждения. Интерактивные методы применимы и в самостоятельной работе студентов. Послетекстовые упражнения, которые содержат письменные задания, можно отнести к самостоятельной работе. Например, задание выразить основную идею прочитанного текста предполагает последующий разбор и обсуждение, т. е. интерактивность обеспечивается процессом последующего обсуждения.

Цели и задачи учебно-методического пособия

Целями учебно-методического пособия являются расширение кругозора и страноведческих знаний студентов, обогащение их лексического запаса для дальнейшей учебной деятельности, межкультурного общения и реализации своих профессиональных планов. Задачи: обогатить лексический запас студентов за

счет специально разработанных лексических упражнений, дать студентам дополнительные знания о стране изучаемого языка, развить их познавательный интерес и языковую активность.

Требования к знаниям, умениям, компетенциям

При работе с текстами студенты должны понимать прочитанную информацию, уметь ориентироваться в прочитанном тексте, а также строить монологические и диалогические высказывания по заданной теме. Изучение тем страноведческого характера предусматривается программой по иностранному языку и направлено на более глубокое знакомство с особенностями страны изучаемого языка. Материал учебно-методического пособия можно использовать при прохождении тем “Countries”, “Celebrities”, “Love stories”, “Sport”, “Presents”, “Clothes and accessories”, “Money”, “The rules”, “Stress” и “Smile”. Пополнение знаний о культуре страны изучаемого языка есть одна из задач при формировании у студентов иноязычной коммуникативной компетенции.

Методические рекомендации

Для эффективного освоения представленного в текстах материала предлагается выполнить послетекстовые упражнения. В качестве видов работ с текстами, которые наполнены актуальными и интересными фактами, предлагается работа со словарем, поиск слов и выражений по тексту, составление диалога и обсуждение текста, а также выполнение тестовых заданий, которые стимулируют интерес к чтению на иностранном языке. После теста на понимание прочитанного предлагается упражнение на обобщение информации в нескольких предложениях.

Студентам будет интереснее усваивать материал, если преподаватель использует интерактивные формы проведения занятий (диалог, обсуждение, разбор конкретной ситуации). В настоящем учебно-методическом пособии есть упражнения с заданием составить диалог или высказывание по прочитанному тексту. Интерактивные методы обучения – диалогические методы общения вносят

разнообразие в учебный процесс, обеспечивают прочность знаний, развивают творчество и фантазию студентов, делают продуктивным процесс обучения.

Известно, что наглядность является одним из интерактивных подходов в современной педагогике, поэтому пособие содержит иллюстративный материал, который носит познавательный характер. Это позволит студентам с интересом читать и более подробно знакомиться со страной изучаемого языка. Автор надеется, что учебно-методическое пособие “English for curious students” будет интересным и познавательным для студентов.

Unit 1

It was the happiest day

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice the expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

The Queen's Coronation saw many streets in Britain come alive with feasting and dancing. June 2, 1953 was a particularly cold, damp day but nothing could deter people up and down the land from holding their street parties.



A girl joins in the fun in her community with a tiara and a toy trumpet.

Neighbors pinned up the handmade bunting, pulled out the trestle tables and were determined to enjoy a good old knees-up no matter how much it rained. Members of

various communities wrapped up against the unseasonal cold and rallied on parties which the children would remember for a lifetime. “I remember red, white and blue hats of the children,” says Rosina Rowland who grew up in Derby and was eight years old in 1953. “The streets were full of bunting-all red, white and blue-and there was music, games and laughter throughout the day. All the children received a silver spoon to commemorate the event.” Dorothy Greaves remembers the tables that ran down the length of her road in Blackpool. “All our mums made food and the girls were in white dresses with red, white and blue sashes and we all had Union Flags.” Sheila Richardson, from Maidstone, remembers the commemorative tea towels her uncle carefully hung from his windows. “We also had a picture of the Queen glued to the back of a tray, standing in the front window.”

In 1953 many food items were still rationed but households were allowed to buy an extra 1lb of sugar and 4oz of margarine for the celebrations. Sandwiches, jelly and ice-cream were popular street party choices. “I was three when the Coronation happened,” says Peter Smith, from Weymouth, Dorset. “Sweets had just stopped being rationed and we had lots of cream cakes and sandwiches, squash for the kids and tea for the adults. It was the happiest day.”

It was the happiest day! But the street parties weren't all about food. Back then it was unusual for the households to have a television but those who had a set-black and white, of course-switched on and invited neighbors to come to watch the live coverage of the ceremony in London. “I was playing outside until my mother called me in and said, “This is history, come and see the Queen being crowned,” says Rosina.

There have been about 20 people crowded into this small room waiting for the moment the Queen was crowned.” Betty Ward, 89, organized all the festivities for the Leicestershire village of Kibworth Harcourt, where she has lived all her life. “We had a fancy dress parade, a glamorous contest and a pram race, which involved “nannies” (men dressed in nursemaid's uniforms) pushing “babies” (women dressed in bibs and

bonnets) around two villages. They had to stop and drink a half-pint at each of the nearby pubs,” she recalls. Fancy dress parties were a familiar theme at many of the hundreds of street celebrations. Christine Hewitt, who was seven at the time, won hers. She recalls: “I was dressed in red, white and blue crepe paper hat and skirt decorated with labels from old wine bottles and I was a Coronation Spirit!”

2. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. June 2, 1953 was a particularly cold, damp day.
2. She was a Coronation Spirit!
3. All the children received a gold spoon.
4. Dorothy Greaves remembers the tables that ran up the length of her road.
5. The girls were in white dresses with red, white and blue sashes.
6. There have been about fifty people crowded into this small room.
7. They had to stop and drink a half-pint at each of the nearby pubs.
8. Members of socialist communities wrapped up against the unseasonal cold and rallied on parties.

3. Write sentences with the expressions below:

- The Queen's Coronation;
- street parties;
- red, white and blue hats;

- music, games and laughter;
- sandwiches, jelly and ice-cream.

4. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about the happiest day in his life.

5. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. The Queen's Coronation saw many streets.....

- a. in Britain
- b. in America
- c. in Russia

2. All the children received to commemorate the event.

- a. a silver spoon
- b. a gold spoon
- c. a tin spoon

3. Those who had set-black and white, of course-switched on and invited neighbors to come to watch the live coverage of the ceremony

- a. in Cardiff
- b. in Edinburgh
- c. in London

6. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 2

The Queen's coronation

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice the English equivalents.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

The 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation has been celebrated by the nation at a service where her qualities of devotion and self-sacrifice were praised. At Westminster Abbey, where Elizabeth II was crowned on June 2 1953, Britain's leaders, royals and ordinary members of the public gathered to honour her. Six decades have passed since that historic day but the Archbishop of Canterbury said that the Queen had remained committed to her role throughout that time.

Justin Welby told that during the coronation ceremony the Queen knelt at the altar and prayed. He said: "We do not know what was prayed. Her Majesty knelt at the beginning of a path of demanding devotion and utter self-sacrifice, a path she did not choose, yet to which she was called by God. Today we celebrate 60 years since that moment, 60 years of commitment. " The Queen's coronation was a spectacle of pomp and ceremony that held the nation spellbound when the young monarch, just 27 years old, was given symbols of leadership and authority.

More than 8,200 guests witnessed the historic events and an estimated 27 million people in Britain watched on television-a relatively new medium at the time. The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "In such service we become Britain at its best. We know how to celebrate-as again last year in the Olympics. We know how to comfort in the courage of passers-by and police." He said, sitting with the Queen and her family led by

the Duke of Edinburgh, who pulled out of a royal engagement with her on Monday night after feeling under the weather, but appeared in good spirits.



Elizabeth II appeared in good spirits

2. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. Elizabeth II was crowned on June 2, 1955.
2. Six decades have passed since that historic day.
3. Today we celebrate 60 years since that moment.
4. The young monarch was just 17 years old.

5. 8,200 guests witnessed the historic events.
6. 47 million people in Britain watched the Queen's coronation on television.
7. The Duke of Edinburgh pulled out of a royal engagement with the Queen on Sunday night.
8. The Duke of Edinburgh appeared in good spirits.

3. Make up sentences on the subject using the words from the list:

- qualities of devotion;
- throughout the time;
- spectacle of pomp;
- historic events.

4. Read the text again and find a paragraph which:

- describes how the Queen's coronation has been celebrated by the nation;
- gives an example of the Queen's utter self-sacrifice.

5. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. At Westminster Abbey, where Elizabeth II was crowned, Britain's leaders, royals and ordinary members of the public gathered to honour her.
 - a. on June 2 1953
 - b. on June 2 1963
 - c. on May 2 1953

2.decades have passed since that historic day.
- a. Six
 - b. Seven
 - c. Ten
3. The Archbishop of Canterbury said: “In such service we become at its best.”
- a. Edinburgh
 - b. London
 - c. Britain

6. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 3

Guns mark coronation anniversary

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in speaking.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Royal gun salutes sounded out today in honour of the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation. The monarch, who was crowned on June 2, 1953 when she was 27 years old, reached the milestone anniversary yesterday. Soldiers from The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery used 71 horses to pull six First World War-era 13-pounder field guns into position in Green Park. A 41-gun salute was fired at midday.

At 1pm at the Tower of London, The Honorable Artillery Company fired a 62-round salute across the River Thames. In accordance with tradition, when anniversaries fall on a Sunday, royal salutes are fired the following day. The Queen, who attended the Epsom Derby on Saturday, spent yesterday privately. There will be a service for 2,000 guests in Westminster Abbey tomorrow.

It is 60 years since the Queen made her way to Westminster Abbey to be crowned. The 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation has been marked by thundering royal gun salutes. But as the anniversary fell on a Sunday, a day when gun salutes are traditionally not fired, the military spectacle was performed on Monday at lunchtime.

Soldiers from the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, the ceremonial saluting battery of the Household Division, rode out from Wellington Barracks in central London and made their way up Birdcage Walk, past the Queen Victoria Memorial and Buckingham Palace, up Constitution Hill and into Green Park. Before their arrival in Green Park, the Band of the Royal Artillery played a selection of celebratory music close to the firing position.



Guns ring out on 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation

Seventy one horses pulled six First World War-era 13-pounder field guns into position in the park, which is located next to Buckingham Palace, and fired their 41-gun royal salute at midday. An hour later at the Tower of London, the Honorable Artillery Company fired a 62-round royal salute from the Tower's Gun Wharf across the River Thames. A further 21 rounds are added to signify the City of London's loyalty to the monarch and the Royal Family. The Queen visited the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery at their barracks in Woolwich last week.

2. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

1. What was fired at midday?
2. How many horses pulled six First World War-era 13-pounder field guns into the position in the park?

3. What was done at the Tower of London?
4. What is the tradition, when anniversaries fall on Sunday?

3. Translate the following into Russian:

1. The monarch, who was crowned on June 2, 1953 when she was 27 years old, reached the milestone anniversary yesterday.
2. The 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation has been marked by thundering royal gun salutes.
3. The military spectacle was performed on Monday at lunchtime.
4. Soldiers from the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery rode into the Green Park.
5. A further 21 rounds are added to signify the City of London's loyalty to the monarch and the Royal Family.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. A salute was fired at midday.
 - a. 41-gun
 - b. 21-gun
 - c. 60-gun
2. The Queen, who attended the Epsom Derby, spent yesterday privately.
 - a. on Sunday
 - b. on Saturday
 - c. on Monday

3. But as the anniversary fell on a Sunday, a day when gun salutes are traditionally not fired, the military spectacle was performed at lunchtime.

- a. on Sunday
- b. on Saturday
- c. on Monday

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences

Unit 4

Why the royal family just love being together

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in making up sentences on the subject.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

There were 20 members of the Royal Family gathered for the occasion at Westminster Abbey to mark the Queen's 60-year reign (61 since her accession to the throne). They looked remarkably at ease together. Not bad for a family that has been battered by the four winds, stalked by the media for decades and weathered its own share of scandals, deaths, divorces and disasters.

Everyone says the Royal Family is our national soap opera but no soap has ever matched the drama that is the modern House of Windsor. Even insignificant families have their feuds. Put 20 members of the same family in one place and you'll hear the bleating of one or two black sheep. Families can be hell. At least the Royal Family is still on speakers despite everything.

The Queen must feel pleased. Kate is pregnant and beaming. She has a husband and he adores her. The world into which the baby will be born is very different from the one back in 1953 when the Queen was crowned. In many ways it's so much better. She personally has never required courtiers and politicians to cover up a single scandal about her. Her husband has been doggedly loyal, funny and in many ways a dream hubby. Philip has kept her sane.

There was Prince Andrew, noted for a filthy temper and his fondness for golf, two character traits cited in many divorces. Yet the Queen doesn't worry about him now. And just look at Harry. The biggest royal nightmare for many years might- whisper it

quietly-has learned his lesson at last. He is maturing into a soldier and people naturally warm to. It is the charismatic Harry.



The Royal Family gathered for the occasion to mark the Queen's 60-year innings
(61 since her accession to the throne)

William has none of his sense of adventure. The boys were taught to get on with all and everyone by their mother Diana. That's her legacy. And, after all the tragedy of her death, Charles has finally got the woman he always wanted. His happiness has stopped his self-pitying whines about his job.

The next generation of the Royal Family is about to become very middle class and self-reliant. William and Kate are young, happy, adored by the world and ready to reign. Under the proposed new rules that baby parked inside Kate will, if she turns out to be a girl, one day become Queen. Perhaps it explains why the Queen was looking so relaxed when she celebrated an extraordinary 60 years since her coronation day.

2. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. Good for a family that has been battered by the four winds, stalked by the media for decades and weathered its own share of scandals, deaths, divorces and disasters.
2. Everyone says the Royal Family isn't their national soap opera.
3. Put 40 members of the same family in one place and you'll hear the bleating of one or two black sheep.
4. She personally has required courtiers and politicians to cover up a single scandal about her.
5. The world into which the baby will be born is very different from the one back in 1957 when the Queen was crowned.
6. She has a husband and he adores her.
7. The families can be hell.
8. Harry hasn't learned his lesson.

3. Make up sentences on the subject using the words from the list:

- to gather for the occasion;
- to mark the Queen's 60-year innings;
- to have a filthy temper and a fondness for golf;
- to have the feuds;
- to be doggedly loyal, funny and in many ways a dream hubby.

4. Read the text again and find a paragraph which:

- describes why the Queen must feel pleased;
- describes why the Queen was looking so relaxed.

5. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. Put 20 members of the same family in one place and you'll hear the bleating of one or two sheep.

- a. black
- b. red
- c. white

2. And, after all the tragedy of Diana, has finally got the woman he always wanted. on Sunday

- a. Harry
- b. William
- c. Charles

3. William and are young, happy, adored by the world and ready to reign.

- a. Harry
- b. Diana
- c. Kate

6. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 5

Camilla's style transformation

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in making up short conversations on the subject.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Camilla's image has transformed and she is now viewed as the woman who looks as if she truly should be at Prince Charles' side. As a child Camilla-known then as Milla-was a regular tomboy with an extrovert personality. She looked as if she had just jumped off a horse. However all that has now changed and the wine-merchant's daughter has allowed herself to be subtly rebranded. She has also found a style that suits her: sleek coats over matching dresses, sensible (but never dowdy) skirt suits and jewellery from the royal collection.

Her wedding day gave us the premiere of a glossy, groomed woman who knew how to work a streamlined silhouette. Her designer of choice is Anna Valentine who designed the off-white gown and long jacket she wore for her wedding to Prince Charles, as well as the pretty peach ensemble with pleated skirt that she wore to Prince William's wedding. "Her wedding day gave us the premiere of a glossy, groomed woman who knew how to work a streamlined silhouette and a good hat," says one fashion commentator.

Since Camilla married into the Royal Family she has upped her formal-wear, including developing something of a penchant for fantastically imaginative hats-often by celebrity milliner Philip Treacy (who helped to turn her into the Prince of Wales's wife with a golden halo on her wedding day)-and fabulous understated shoes by Jimmy Choo.

The duchess of Cornwall looked stylish as she arrived at St Paul's Cathedral. And Camilla has proved that she is definitely the glamorous Duchess today. Heading over to St Paul's Cathedral for a memorial service, the 66-year-old looked sophisticated and elegant in a matching monochrome dress and hat. The navy overcoat was the perfect fit for the Duchess and the matching hat sat on the right side of royal glamour. The blonde teamed her outfit with a matching clutch bag. The royal opted for a matching coat and hat combination.



The duchess of Cornwall looked stylish as she arrived at St Paul's Cathedral

The Duchess also caused a soar in the sale of bee venom earlier this month, when she revealed that her fresh-faced glow is down to the product, which she slathers to maintain a youthful visage. The 66-year-old looked sophisticated and elegant.

2. Give the meaning of the following phrases:

- to be subtly rebranded;
- to wear sleek coats over matching dresses;
- to wear sensible (but never dowdy) skirt suits;
- to be a glossy, groomed woman;
- to wear the pretty peach ensemble with pleated skirt;
- to have a streamlined silhouette;
- to wear fabulous understated shoes;
- to look sophisticated and elegant.

3. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

1. Why has the wine-merchant's daughter allowed herself to be subtly rebranded?
2. She looked sophisticated and elegant, didn't she?
3. Has she found a style that suits her?

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. And has proved that she is definitely the glamorous Duchess today.
 - a. Camilla
 - b. Diana
 - c. Kate

2. The royal opted for a matching and hat combination.

- a. coat
- b. suit
- c. shirt

3. The looked sophisticated and elegant.

- a. 36-year-old
- b. 56-year-old
- c. 66-year-old

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 6

Revision

Aim

To revise the expressions in units 1-5 and to translate the text.

1. Read the text and translate it with the help of the dictionary.

ЛОНДОН, 2 июня 2013. /Корр. ИТАР-ТАСС Григорий Зименков/. В Соединенном Королевстве сегодня отмечают 60-летие коронации Елизаветы II. По случаю празднования юбилея этим летом в Великобритании ожидается ряд торжественных мероприятий.

Одним из первых станет традиционная служба, которая в этот раз состоится 4 июня в Вестминстерском аббатстве британской столицы. На ней, помимо самой королевы, будут присутствовать ее супруг-герцог Эдинбургский принц Филипп, члены королевской семьи и около тысячи приглашенных. Помимо этого, с 11 по 14 июля сад Букингемского дворца будет открыт для всех желающих. В нем пройдет ряд выставок посвященных инновациям, техническому совершенству и промышленности Соединенного Королевства.

К этому юбилею были напечатаны специальные марки, которые уже поступили в продажу. Всего в оригинальный набор вошло шесть почтовых миниатюр, которые представляют собой коллекцию написанных в разные годы официальных портретов монарха. Эти работы охватывают весь период правления королевы. “Образ Елизаветы II является одним из самых узнаваемых в мире, заявила в этой связи глава Королевской почты Мойя Грин. Мы очень рады выпустить серию марок с ее изображением, чтобы поздравить главу государства с этим незабываемым юбилеем”.

Британия является конституционной монархией, поэтому Елизавета II царствует, но не правит, являясь символом государственности и национального единства. За годы ее правления Великобритания пережила глубокие перемены, превратившись из империи в одно из государств Европейского союза, которое, тем не менее, стремится сохранить статус мировой державы.



Елизавета II стала наследницей во многом случайно. Ее дядя, король Эдуард VIII, отрекся в 1936 году от престола в пользу ее отца, Георга VI. Причиной отречения стало непреклонное желание Эдуарда VIII жениться на своей возлюбленной американке Уоллис Симпсон. Она была разведена и поэтому, как считалось в те годы, не могла стать королевой.

Ее Величество была коронована 2 июня 1953 года в Вестминстерском аббатстве в присутствии свыше 8 тысяч гостей. Тогда в возрасте 27 лет она сменила своего отца, который умер 6 февраля 1952 года. В начале царствования Елизавета II являлась главой 32 государств. Теперь это число сократилось до 16, включая Великобританию: многие страны Содружества за прошедшие годы стали республиками. За 60 лет ее нахождения на престоле в самой Британии сменились 12 премьер-министров. На сегодняшний день Ее Величество является старейшим по возрасту британским монархом. Елизавете II необходимо оставаться на престоле до сентября 2015 года, чтобы побить рекорд королевы Виктории, носившей титул правительницы Великобритании 63 года. Лишь один из царствующих ныне монархов-84-летний король Таиланда превосходит Елизавету II по продолжительности правления. Он правит 65 лет.

Основные торжества состоятся со 2 по 5 июня. Наиболее яркими моментами праздника станут парад судов на реке Темза, а также концерт популярной и

классической музыки у Букингемского дворца. На сцене будут блистать звезды мировой величины, в том числе британец Элтон Джон и другие. Во время четырех дней юбилейных торжеств миллионы британцев отметят знаменательное событие, подняв за столом бокалы с шампанским за здоровье августейшей особы. По данным опросов, популярность монархии в стране в этом году поднялась до наивысшего уровня за последние десятилетия.

Около 80 процентов жителей в настоящее время выступают в поддержку этого государственного института. Тем самым британская королевская семья окончательно преодолела кризис, возникший в 90-е годы в связи с семейными проблемами детей монарха, о которых постоянно писали мировые СМИ. Тогда газеты гадали, не превратится ли Британия в республику после того, как правление Елизаветы II завершится.

Однако в последние годы авторитет монархии был восстановлен, во многом благодаря королеве. Подданные видели, с каким достоинством и стойкостью Елизавета II воспринимает удары судьбы, и это не могло не вызывать у них чувства уважения. Британская почта к празднику выпустила шесть марок с портретами королевы, в том числе, с портретом кисти российского художника Сергея Павленко. Она стала вторым монархом Соединенного Королевства, отметившим бриллиантовый юбилей правления.

2. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

3. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 7

A woman of mystery

Aim

To present the text, to summarize the main idea of it and to practice the expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

The Queen once told that one should never name-drop. It is a joke but she remains an elusive to many. Her Majesty has reigned both intelligently and intuitively. There is more interaction between “them” and “us” but the reality is, most of the time they act as if we aren’t even there. Once Peter Wilkinson who was the Queen’s personal cameraman was asked, how many times the Monarch had stopped to speak to him in the course of 15 years. It was only a couple of occasions! The royals offer friendliness but never friendship. The only people who really “know” the Queen are her very nearest and dearest.

Any attempts at over-familiarity are given short shrift. In a world where we are constantly in the public eye, the most famous woman on earth remains an enigma after 60 years. Since the Queen has never given any interviews, her actions have always spoken louder than words. We might not know her innermost thoughts but she has always been very visible. Not just figuratively but literally, wearing bright colours on walkabouts so everyone can see her. She is a woman who doesn’t say anything unless it’s worth saying.



Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II

Take the one she made on her 21st birthday, in which she summed up the ethos in one simple sentence: “I declare that my whole life, whether it is long or short, shall be devoted to the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.” Then there was the way she summed up the depth of her love for Prince Philip on their Golden Wedding anniversary in 1997. “He is someone who doesn’t take easily to compliments but he has, quite simply, been my strength and stays all these years.”

Being a woman she is economic with her words but never her time. She has lived her life unselfishly, putting other people’s needs before her own. Well-read, always thoroughly briefed and with a wealth of personal experience, the Queen has reigned both intelligently and intuitively. She still strikes as a tower of strength, despite her diminutive stature, as only a superwoman can do.

2. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

1. She is a woman who doesn't say anything unless it's worth saying, isn't she?
2. How did she sum up the ethos in one simple sentence?
3. Has the Queen reigned both intelligently and intuitively?

3. Give the meaning of the following phrases:

- to remain an elusive to smb.;
- to offer friendliness but never friendship;
- to be constantly in the public eye;
- to be very visible;
- to live unselfishly.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. Not just figuratively but literally, wearing colours on walkabouts so everyone can see her.
 - a. bright
 - b. dark
 - c. grey
2. She has lived her life unselfishly, putting other people's needs before own.
 - a. her
 - b. his
 - c. their

3. She still strikes as a tower of strength, despite her diminutive stature, as only a can do.

a. superwoman

b. superman

c. woman

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 8

A dazzling day marks the Queen's glory

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice the expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

St. Edward's Crown, made from solid gold for the coronation of Charles II in 1661, will be brought to the Abbey to rest on the High Altar as the royals turn out in force to commemorate the historic milestone. More than 20 members of the Royal Family will be at the service. It will be the first time that the crown, which is set with 444 precious stones and weighs almost 5lb, has left the Tower since the Coronation and it was used to crown the Queen.

The priceless St. Edward's Crown in the Abbey is a powerful symbol of the moment of Coronation. The service today has been divided into the Recognition, Anointing, Homage and Thanksgiving, reflecting parts of the original Coronation ceremony. Ahead of the Anointing, Prime Minister David Cameron will read from the Old Testament First Book of Kings, where the anointing of Solomon as King is described. The Homage is reflected in a poem.

On show will be the restored Coronation Chair, which dates from around 1300 and was made on the orders of King Edward I. Gunfire fired a 62-gun salute from the Tower of London while the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fired a 41-gun salute from Green Park.

2. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about St. Edward's Crown in the Abbey.

3. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. St Edward's Crown, made from solid gold for the coronation of Charles II in 1662.
2. More than 20 members of the Royal Family will be at the service.
3. The priceless St Edward's Crown in the Abbey isn't a powerful symbol of the moment of Coronation.
4. The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fired a 41-gun salute from Green Park.
5. The Homage is reflected in a song.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. It will be the first time that the crown, which is set with 444 precious stones and weighs almost 5lb, has left and it was used to crown the Queen.
 - a. Green Park
 - b. the Abbey
 - c. the Tower
2. The priceless St. Edward's Crown in the Abbey is a symbol of the moment of Coronation.
 - a. powerful
 - b. poor
 - c. bright
3. The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fired a 41-gun salute from
 - a. Green Park
 - b. the Abbey
 - c. the Tower

5. Read the text once more and retell it.

Unit 9

Her Majesty has done her duty once again

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice the expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

She sat on a gold throne decorated with heraldic symbols in her robe, wearing her magnificent crown, before her serried ranks of peers in their robes and the MPs summoned to the House of Lords to attend. To her left sat her husband and slightly behind to her right her heir Prince Charles-both men in gold-braided military uniform.

She still rides in Rollsies and horse-drawn coaches; she doesn't ride a bicycle like the Dutch and the Danes but she does pay taxes now which are more than some mega-corporations do. We know she turns the lights off in her palaces and tries to heat enormous rooms with ancient two-bar electric fires-she isn't exactly fuel-poor but unlike most other multimillionaires she has a respect for her power bills. She hasn't even got a yacht. Small things in the context of a hereditary monarchy perhaps but they don't count for a lot.

There is much to be said for coming to the throne young. Princess Elizabeth was a serious and dutiful girl; Charles was a serious and dutiful boy. Elizabeth had the good fortune to marry a very suitable husband who has been with her throughout; Charles did not have that good fortune and has suffered for it. Though it may be difficult for some to accept, Camilla seems to fit the role very well. She is good at meeting people and liked by all who meet her.



Her Majesty Elizabeth II

The Queen's popularity took a dive when Diana died. But she came to London and made the right speech. The Empire has become the Commonwealth and she is extremely devoted to it.

A great monarch is on the throne and she is continuing to do a great job. The world has changed but the monarchy less. The prime ministers come and go but the Commonwealth goes on forever.

2. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

1. What can you say about the private life of Her Majesty?
2. When did the Queen's popularity take a dive?
3. Did Elizabeth have a good fortune to marry?

3. Give the meaning of the following phrases:

- ranks of peers;
- gold-braided military uniform;
- horse-drawn coaches;
- a hereditary monarchy;
- to heat enormous rooms;
- to be devoted to something;
- to pay taxes.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. She still rides in Rollsies and horse-drawn coaches; she doesn't ride a bicycle like the

.....

- a. Dutch.
- b. Kate
- c. William

2. She hasn't even got a

- a. horse
- b. yacht
- c. car

3. was a serious and dutiful boy.

- a. William
- b. Charles
- c. Harry

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 10

The Changing Face of British Coins

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in making up dialogues about reading.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Sixty years after being crowned, the Queen returns to Westminster Abbey for a service of celebration. There she is joined by her children and grandchildren, along with other members of the Royal Family. The choir performs music sung at the coronation on June 2, 1953; and the prayers and readings echo rituals that go back a thousand years.

As Queen Elizabeth II celebrates the 60th anniversary of her Coronation, it's been revealed that more than 54,640,000,000 coins have been struck featuring the Queen's portrait since 1953. A total of four portraits have graced British coins since the Queen's reign began and they have today released statistics on how the change in our pocket has changed in the past sixty years.

In 1953, a bronze coin shows a rather basic portrait of the Queen but 15 years later in 1968, the new portrait of the Queen arrived for UK coins and this time shows her wearing a crown. It was around this time that the Royal Mail introduced First and Second Class Post too.



Two of the portraits that have graced British coins since her reign began



In 1985, another new portrait was introduced at the same time that British Telecom announced that they would be phasing out the red phone box. Thirteen years later another portrait was introduced just in time for the issue of the £2 coin. The newest coin is the 2013 UK £5 coin which features the latest portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and the Imperial State Crown.

2. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. A total of two portraits have graced British coins since the Queen's reign began.
2. The newest coin is the 2013 UK £5 coin which features the latest portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and the Imperial State Crown.
3. Another portrait was introduced just in time for the issue of the £2 coin.
4. In 1953, a gold coin shows a rather basic portrait of the Queen.
5. In 1987, another new portrait was introduced.

3. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about the face of British coins.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. A total of portraits have graced British coins since the Queen's reign began.
 - a. one
 - b. two
 - c. four
2. In 1953, a bronze coin shows a rather basic portrait of the Queen.
 - a. gold
 - b. silver
 - c. bronze
3. The newest coin is the 2013 UK coin which features the latest portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and the Imperial State Crown.
 - a. £2
 - b. £5
 - c. £10

5. Read the text once more and retell it.

Unit 11

Happy and glorious

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in reading it with a dictionary.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

The Queen relived the solemn scenes and triumphant fanfares at a majestic service celebrating the 60th anniversary of her Coronation. Surrounded by 24 members of the growing Royal Family, Her Majesty listened intently as the Archbishop of Canterbury recounted the pomp and ceremony of a rainy June day at Westminster Abbey in 1953.

He recalled how a demure 27-year-old monarch knelt in prayer “at the beginning of a path of demanding devotion and utter self-sacrifice”. Justin Welby told that the 87-year-old monarch’s public service over those decades symbolized the very nature of being British. “We celebrate 60 years since that moment; 60 years of commitment and we established a country that is open-handed and open-hearted, serving others with joy. In such service, we become Britain at its best,” he said.



Her Majesty with the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Queen was wearing an Angela Kelly dress, hat and coat, with the clothes made from silk-satin. Beside her sat Prince Philip. Philip, who will be 92 on Monday, appeared in good spirits. He made no attempt to hide his amusement when Lady Victoria appeared in a bright yellow uniform. With red-coated Life Guards in their white-plumed helmets were standing by and the choir was singing-Long Live Queen Elizabeth- it was a service of thanksgiving. Pregnant Kate Middleton looked elegant in matching coat, hat and shoes.

The ceremony included representatives of countless other faiths-including Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, Zoroastrians and Buddhists as well as the main Christian churches. The changing face of the Royal Family was reflected in a gathering that included two Kings-in-waiting- Princes Charles, 64, and William, 30 and Prince Harry, 28. Kate, 31, wore a bespoke delicate, daisy-lace dress with silver-grey ribbon detail and a soft-peach silk shantung jacket by British designer Jenny Packham, whose frocks routinely cost between £2,000 and £3,000.

Many of the royal ladies were dressed in pale colours choosing a pale blue frock coat and matching wide-brimmed hat. The Countess of Wessex, accompanied by husband Prince Edward and their nine-year-old daughter Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor, also opted for a wide-brimmed hat with a white lace Bruce Oldfield dress. Zara Phillips wore a bright yellow dress.

2. Make sure that you know the words and phrases below (use a dictionary if necessary):

- a path of demanding devotion;
- a demure monarch;
- the years of commitment;
- to listen intently;
- white-plumed helmets;

- open-handed and open-hearted;
- to hide an amusement.

3. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. It was a service of thanksgiving.
2. The dress cost between £2,000 and £3,000.
3. Princes Charles is 65, William, 30 and Prince Harry, 28.
4. Philip, who will be 95 on Monday, appeared in good spirits.

4. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about the members of the Royal Family.

5. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. Philip, who will be on Monday, appeared in good spirits.
 - a. 97
 - b. 92
 - c. 90

2. Lady Victoria appeared in a bright uniform.
 - a. red
 - b. pink
 - c. yellow

3. Zara Phillips wore a bright dress.
 - a. pink
 - b. red
 - c. yellow

6. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 12

The Queen's passion

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in reading it with a dictionary.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

The Queen's family and friends discuss her lifelong passion for horses in a highly personal television documentary to be screened on Monday. Away from the burdens of state, the private life of the 87-year-old monarch is dominated by an obsession with equine. It is an enthusiasm shared by her family, from jump racing to carriage driving and polo. It is the one subject on which people with knowledge of horses, can talk to her on a level.



Clare Balding, whose grandfather, father and brother have all trained racehorses for the Queen, paints the Queen's portrait. "For the Queen, horses are both an escape and an emotional outlet. Far from the demands of royal duty, they reveal a different side," she said. Her documentary shows that the Queen visits some stables and trainers' yards at which she keeps 180 horses and ponies. It also features her first pony, called Peggy, given to her when she was four by her grandfather George V. The documentary reveals that the Queen spent her 87th birthday at Herridge Racing Stables. Princess Anne recalls: "Horses were everywhere and ponies were a natural extension to the pram basically". And it's still a very great thing for a family.



For the Queen, horses are both an escape and an emotional outlet

2. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

1. What is dominated in the private life of the 87-year-old monarch?
2. What is the subject on which people can talk to her on a level?
3. What is an emotional outlet of the 87-year-old monarch?

3. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. The Queen's family and friends discuss her lifelong passion for horses in a television documentary to be screened on Sunday.
2. It isn't an enthusiasm shared by her family.
3. Clare Balding paints the Queen's portrait.
4. She keeps 180 horses and ponies.
5. Her first pony, called Peggy, was given to her when she was five.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. The Queen's family and friends discuss her lifelong passion forin a highly personal television documentary.
 - a. cats
 - b. dogs
 - c. horses
2. Her documentary shows that the Queen visits some stables and trainers' yards at which she keeps horses and ponies.
 - a. 60
 - b. 75
 - c. 180
3. It also features her first pony, called Peggy, given to her when she was by her grandfather George V.
 - a. four
 - b. twelve
 - c. six

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 13

Sunshine on a rainy day

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice the expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

The Queen keeps smiling despite the gloomy weather at Horse Show. It might have been wet and windy during the day of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, but Queen Elizabeth II was not about to let that put a dampener on her spirit. The Queen remained in high spirits at the Royal Horse Show, despite the gloomy weather. Instead of ducking out of the dreary weather, the monarch put up her hood and made the most out of the British summertime, beaming from ear to ear as she stood and watched the show in her khaki rain mac and headscarf.

Accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall-who looked a little more prepared propping up an umbrella, the Queen seemed unfazed by the sudden downpour, smiling and chatting away. Obviously used to the wet months, she simply threw on a rain mac and embraced the gloomy day. Camilla on the other hand, decided that an umbrella was a must. The Duchess, who has been praised for her recent youthful look, protected her hair from the wind and rain under a see-through broly and smiled. The Duchess wore a neutral coloured mac and toted a small tanned bag. Used to it!



The monarch and the Duchess looked pleased to see each other

The monarch seemed unfazed by the gloomy weather. Prince Philip was smiling and chatting to competitors. The show has been a staple part of the royal calendar after it was first set up in 1942. The Queen first became a patron of the show in 1952, and it steadily grew in popularity during the latter half of the 20th century.

2. Give the meaning of the following words and phrases:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| - despite | -gloomy |
| - a dampener | -dreary |
| - a hood | -embrace |
| - to beam | -to seem unfazed |
| - to prop up | -staple |
| - downpour | -to tote |

3. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about the high spirit of the Queen.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. The Queen keeps smiling despite the gloomy weather at Show.

- a. Cat
- b. Dog
- c. Horse

2. on the other hand, decided that an umbrella was a must.

- a. The Queen
- b. Kate
- c. Camilla

3. The show has been a staple part of the royal calendar after it was first set up in

- a. 1953
- b. 2010
- c. 1942

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 14

The Queen is “deeply saddened”

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in marking the statements as they either true or false.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Queen reveals she is “deeply saddened” by Oklahoma tornado horror. The Queen has said she is “deeply saddened” by the loss of life and devastation caused by the horrific tornado in Oklahoma and sent her “deepest sympathies” to all whose lives have been affected.



The Oklahoma City suburb of Moore in the US Midwest

The Queen today said she was “deeply saddened” by the loss of life. More than 90 people are feared dead, including 20 children, after the huge tornado ripped through the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore in the US Midwest, destroying scores of homes and

flattening two primary schools. In a message of condolence to US president Barack Obama, the Queen said: “I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of life and devastation caused by yesterday’s tornado in Oklahoma.

Prince Philip joins me in offering our heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families at this difficult time. Our deepest sympathies go out to all those whose lives have been affected, as well as the American people.”

Oklahoma has been left devastated by the monster tornado. The tornado flattened entire neighborhoods with winds up to 200 mph. Obama has declared a major disaster in Oklahoma, ordering federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

2. Make sure that you know the words and phrases below (use a dictionary if necessary):

- Tornado horror;
- to be deeply saddened;
- devastation;
- to destroy scores of homes;
- a message of condolence;
- winds up to 200 mph;
- a major disaster;
- local recovery efforts.

3. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. The Queen has said she is “deeply saddened” by the loss of life and devastation.
2. She didn’t send her “deepest sympathies to all whose lives have been affected.
3. More than 100 people are feared dead, including 50 children.
4. The huge tornado ripped through the Oklahoma City suburb in the US Midwest, destroying scores of homes and flattening twelve primary schools.

5. She was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of life and devastation caused by today's tornado in Oklahoma.
6. Prince Philip joins me in offering our heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families at this difficult time.
7. The deepest sympathies go out to all those whose lives have been affected, as well as the Russian people.

4. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about the monster tornado.

5. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. More than 90 people are feared dead, including 20 children, after the huge tornado ripped through the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore in Midwest.
 - a. Great Britain
 - b. Spain
 - c. the US
2. today said she was "deeply saddened" by the loss of life.
 - a. The Dutch
 - b. The Queen
 - c. Kate
3. The tornado flattened entire neighborhoods with winds up to 200 mph.
 - a. 60
 - b. 120
 - c. 200

6. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 15

The Queen must step down if she's not well

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice English equivalents of the expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

More and more people think the Queen should step down from the throne if she becomes too old or ill to carry out her royal duties. And a growing number now believe that Prince Charles would make a good king, a new poll has revealed. But only 16 per cent say that Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, should become queen.

The news comes after Buckingham Palace announced that the Queen, now 87, would not attend November's meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Sri Lanka because of the exhausting 11-hour flight. Instead 64-year-old Prince Charles will represent her at the summit, held every two years. The survey also follows the abdication in the Netherlands last month of Queen Beatrix, who stood down at the age of 75 in favour of her eldest son Prince Willem-Alexander.

Asked if the Queen should continue as monarch if poor health prevented her carrying out her royal role, only 43 per cent agreed while 48 per cent said she should abdicate if such a situation arose. Only just over half of those polled believed the Queen should remain head of state for life, down from almost two-thirds in March. Meanwhile, exactly half said the Prince of Wales would make a good king.

Only 23 per cent thought he would not. A spokesman said: "Support for the Queen staying in power for the rest of her life has dropped significantly. At the same time, three-fifths believed Prince Charles he made a positive contribution to the monarchy with only 15 per cent disagreeing. The younger generation is even more popular, with 85 per cent believing Prince William made a positive contribution to the Royal Family.



The Queen and her son Prince Charles

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the findings. But the fact Charles accompanied the Queen to the State Opening of Parliament last week for the first time since 1996 fuelled speculation. Joe Twyman, director of political and social research, said: “The Queen has a lot to do for a woman of her age and Charles has taken on more ceremonial roles.”

Respected royal biographer Hugo Vickers said that people “shouldn’t read too much” about the Queen, who had a triumphant Jubilee, not going to Sri Lanka. And he added: “The Queen will not abdicate. But Charles must have his chance. His reign could be fun.”

2. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. 64-year-old Prince Charles will represent her at the summit, held every ten years.
2. The Queen would not attend May’s meeting of Commonwealth leaders.
3. The Queen, now 87, would not attend November’s meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Sri Lanka because of the exhausting 8-hour flight.

4. Hugo Vickers added: “The Queen will not abdicate.”
5. 20 per cent of people say that Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, should become queen.

3. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

1. What do people think about the Queen if she is not well?
2. What did the respected royal biographer Hugo Vickers say?

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. And a growing number now believe that Prince would make a good king, a new poll has revealed.
 - a. Harry
 - b. William
 - c. Charles
2. 64-year-old Prince Charles will represent her at the summit, held every years.
 - a. two
 - b. five
 - c. ten
3. The younger generation is even more popular, with 85 per cent believing Prince made a positive contribution to the Royal Family.
 - a. Charles
 - b. Harry
 - c. William

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 16

Prince Philip puts his foot in it...

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice English expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

The Queen made a lasting impression on Cornwall yesterday as she carefully placed her feet into a cast to leave a permanent footprint behind. She was joined by the Duke of Edinburgh who also took to the task with aplomb, only slightly losing his balance as he stepped on to the wet concrete. Excited crowds greeted the royal couple in warm spring sunshine everywhere, turning the trip into one big outdoor party.

The Queen looked delightful in a delicate lilac coat and hat that she teamed with a posy of spring flowers. She was happy to step on to plastic-covered concrete in her black patent court shoes to leave permanent footprints at the foot of St Michael's Mount. Prince Philip, who is known for his sometimes gaffe-prone remarks, put his health problems far behind him.

The pair laughed with hundreds of well-wishers. They were greeted in glorious - sunshine by hundreds of well-wishers who were waving Union flags. They made the most of the weather with a walkabout. Two-year-old Amy Beth presented the Queen with flowers. She also received a hand-drawn picture of a corgi.



The Queen also received a hand-drawn picture of a corgi

The royal couple visited the Royal lifeboat, which gleamed in the sun, and they were introduced to its crew. Then they had travelled to the Duchy in the first-class royal train.

2. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

1. Why did the excited crowds greet the royal couple in warm spring sunshine?
2. Who was happy to step on to plastic-covered concrete in her black patent court shoes to leave permanent footprints?
3. Who received a hand-drawn picture of a corgi?

3. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. Excited crowds greeted the royal couple in warm sunshine everywhere, turning the trip into one big outdoor party.
 - a. spring
 - b. summer
 - c. winter

2. She was joined by the Duke of who also took to the task with aplomb, only slightly losing his balance as he stepped on to the wet concrete.

- a. Edinburgh
- b. London
- c. Britain

3. Then they had travelled to the Duchy in the royal train.

- a. second-class
- b. first-class
- c. fifth-class

4. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 17

Prince Charles's Coronation tribute to his mother

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in writing sentences with expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Prince Charles launched his own personal tribute to his mother today to mark the 60th anniversary of her Coronation. Standing in his four-acre wild flower meadow at Highgrove House, his country home in Gloucestershire, the heir to the throne revealed plans to create a similar wild flower meadow in every county of the United Kingdom-107 Coronation Meadows in total-to revive flora and fauna lost in the 60 years since the Coronation.

“We plant woods and avenues and things like that and I suddenly thought why we don't use the Coronation anniversary this year as an excuse to provide a wonderful opportunity to create the wildflower meadows,” he said. Prince Charles spoke of his concern that 97 per cent of the UK's wildflower meadows have disappeared. The first 60 flower-rich grasslands across the UK have been designated as Coronation Meadows today, ranging in size from 400-acre to three quarters of an acre. Charles, 64, spoke of his concern that 97 per cent of the UK's wildflower meadows have disappeared since the 1930s, mainly as a result of intensified farming.



Prince Charles

He hopes to create a chain of connected wildflower meadows across the country, grazed by traditional breeds of sheep and cattle, and in the process help save birds and bees - including Britain's threatened honey bees - that thrive on the traditional flora.

2. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. Prince Charles launched his own personal tribute to his mother yesterday.
2. Standing in his six-acre wild flower meadow, the heir to the throne revealed plans to create a similar wild flower meadow in every county of the United Kingdom.
3. Prince Charles spoke of his concern that 97 per cent of the UK's wildflower meadows have disappeared.
4. Charles, 54, spoke of his concern that 97 per cent of the UK's wildflower meadows have disappeared since the 1930s.
5. The honey bees thrive on the traditional fauna.

3. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about Prince Charles's Coronation tribute to his mother.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. Prince Charles the heir to the throne revealed plans to create a similar wild flower meadow in every county of the

- a. Edinburgh
- b. United Kingdom
- c. Britain

2. The first flower-rich grasslands across the UK have been designated as Coronation Meadows today.

- a. 60
- b. 87
- c. 54

3. The first 60 flower-rich grasslands across the UK have been designated as Coronation Meadows today, ranging in size from 400-acre to quarters of an acre.

- a. seven
- b. five
- c. three

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 18

Queen's view is blighted by a sea of algae

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice the expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

The Queen's view from her front window has suddenly taken on a nasty tinge. She has to look out on a slimy green coating that has covered the lake in St James's Park, just opposite Buckingham Palace. It's the unwelcome result of the current warm spell which has sparked a surge in the growth of algae on many of Britain's waterways. Ducks on the royal park lake in London have found themselves entangled in the algae and weed.



Buckingham Palace overlooks a green-tinted St James's Park

Experts say that the green algae should be harmless, unlike a blue-green version which caused problems in reservoirs two years ago. And the green carpet is likely to stay around with temperatures climbing through the week to hit 80F (27C) or above in parts of the South by the weekend. Forecasters said that it could be the hottest day of the year so far with highs of 77F on the cards. Met Office spokeswoman Lindsay Mears said: “The weekend has a nice, sunny weather-it looks like summer has arrived.”

A duck struggles with the green mess. Bookies slashed the odds on this weekend being hotter than the Algarve, in Portugal, the Canary Islands and Ibiza. Jonathan Powell, of Vantage Weather Services, said the heat wave is expected to continue until thunderstorms arrive by the end of next week. That won't be too soon for some Britons.

Research reveals that the most people are the happiest at a constant temperature of 74.3F. Anything over 82.9F is considered too hot. But if the mercury is below 66.2F at this time of year we feel it's too cold. A spokesman for promotionalcodes.org.uk said: “One of our favorite pastimes is to moan about the weather. So it was interesting to find a temperature which everyone is happy with.”

2. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. She has to look out on a slimy green coating that has covered the lake in Green Park.
2. This is the unwelcome result of the current cold spell.
3. Experts say that the green algae should be harmless.
4. Forecasters said that it could be the coldest day of the year.
5. Anything over 82.9F is considered too hot.

3. Give the meaning of the following words and phrases:

- a nasty tinge;
- to slash the odds;

- an unwelcome result of the current warm spell;
- to spark a surge in the growth of algae;
- to entangle in the algae and weed;
- a blue-green version;
- to moan about the weather.

4. Make up a dialogue. Ask your partner about the lake in St James's Park.

5. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. Ducks on the royal park lake in have found themselves entangled in the algae and weed.

- a. Edinburgh
- b. London
- c. Britain

2. Experts say that the algae should be harmless, unlike a blue-green version which caused problems in reservoirs two years ago.

- a. green
- b. brown
- c. red

3. A struggles with the green mess.

- a. duck
- b. bird
- c. dog

6. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 19

Britain prepares for the hottest day of the year

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in speaking.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Thousands of sun-lovers have flocked to the great outdoors to lap up the rays as Britain basks in a glorious burst of summer. Quite possibly this could be the best burst of summer this month, this June. As forecasters said the mercury could nudge 80F (27C) by Friday, and even higher at the weekend.

The families have headed to Britain's parks, beaches and open spaces to make the most of the sunshine and warmth. The blast of hot weather arrived on Saturday, the official first day of summer, with blue sky and sunshine. Although the best of the weather is expected in the South, thermometers across the country will comfortably stay all the week.

Friday is likely to be the hottest day of the year. Experts said Britain could be in the "best summer spell" of the year with the hot weather during the week and a half. They said much of the UK is in for a scorching weekend with sunshine. Jonathan Powell, forecaster for Vantage Weather Services, said: "Britain is enjoying a major heat spike of the year. Quite possibly this could be the best burst of summer we see this month."

The Met Office said that the temperatures will widely reach 75F (24C) this week with little or no rain. Spring downpours were in the past few months. The forecaster Helen Chivers said: "It is going to be a lovely week. Without exception everybody is going to have a plenty of sunshine with temperatures above an average for the time of the year."



Sunshine is predicted to bathe Britain this weekend

Blue skies and sunshine have apparently been encouraging Britons to take to the great outdoors under canvas. Sales of camping gear have rocketed over the past two weeks. Sales of tents have shot up 80 per cent while hammocks are up 200 per cent and portable fold-out tables are up 48 per cent.

Spokesman Laura Wilkinson-Rea said: “The sun has finally graced us with its presence and Brits are really making the most of the warm weather. From small tepees to 12-man tents available, camping equipment has always been popular on the site, but this summer Brits are flocking to the site more than ever to prepare for their for their sunny British holiday. Thursday and Friday will be fine and warm. Most places will be dry with prolonged sunny spells by day, though there is a risk of heavy and thundery showers in the northern areas. The sunshine will be a welcome change from the spring cold.”

2. Give the meaning of the following words and phrases:

- to nudge;
- a scorching weekend;
- apparently;
- sales of camping gear;
- to rocket;
- a hammock;
- to shoot up;
- a tepee;
- sales of tents;
- to flock;
- to prolong;
- sunny spells.

3. Make up short conversations using any of the following key questions.

- a) Why have the families headed to Britain's parks, beaches and open spaces?
- b) What can you say about the sales of camping equipment?
- c) When is everybody going to have a plenty of sunshine?

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1 Quite possibly this could be the best burst of summer this month, this

- a. June
- b. May
- c. October

2.is likely to be the hottest day of the year.

- a. Friday
- b. Sunday
- c. Tuesday

3. Sales of camping gear have rocketed over the past weeks.

- a. two
- b. ten
- c. six

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 20

Tea still reigns as Britain's queen of drinks

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice in reading it with a dictionary.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

A new census of Britain's tea-drinking habits shows that 11 million gallons are drunk every day, and almost a quarter of people have five cups or more. Britons drink 166 million cups of tea every day, according to a survey published yesterday.

In comparison, only 70 million cups of coffee are consumed daily despite the rapid expansion of the coffee shop sector in Britain. One in five admits that he needs his morning brew before he can even think about starting his day. Most of Britons always use the same cup or mug, and more than half of them say that the way they take their tea has not changed in years. Most like it darker and stronger rather than weaker and milkier. The teapot, though, is increasingly losing out to the teabag. Only one in five Britons makes tea in a traditional way.



Tea still reigns as Britain's queen of drinks

The survey of 2,000 adults was carried out to highlight the role that sharing a cup of tea and a chat can play in easing loneliness. William Gorman, chairman of the UK Tea Council, said that tea's benefits for health would guarantee and it would remain the most popular drink in Britain. "When you look at what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, tea is right up there. It calms the muscle system, it is a fantastic source of hydration being 99 percent of water, and has a fraction of the caffeine that is contained in coffee," he told The Times newspaper.



The Queen's favorite drink is tea

2. Make up short conversations using any of the following key questions.

- a) What is Britain's queen of drinks?
- b) What is the most popular drink in Britain?
- c) What's constitute a healthy lifestyle in Britain?
- d) What is the morning brew of Britons?

3. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. A new census of Britain's tea-drinking habits shows that 11 million gallons are drunk every day, and almost a quarter of people have cups or more.

- a. two
- b. five
- c. six

2. Only one in five Britons makes in a traditional way.

- a. coffee
- b. milk
- c. tea

3. One in five admits that he needs his brew before he can even think about starting his day.

- a. morning
- b. afternoon
- c. day

4. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 21

Blini and a bear on Trafalgar Square

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice the words and expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Spring fever is in the air, as the fun-filled Maslenitsa party hits the capital-and there are not only pancakes. At the culmination of the celebrations, Lady Maslenitsa will wave winter goodbye. Do you like to make pancakes? Really good pancakes are another matter entirely. Russians make pancakes often, not necessarily on the Russian folk festival known as Maslenitsa.

But don't believe the popular myth that the Russian tradition is to eat pancakes or blini with spoonfuls of caviar. The Soviet Union would probably be alive today if comrades had enjoyed such luxury-they did not. Anyway, you should be by London's Trafalgar Square on Sunday, March 6, and the delicious sweet-smelling pancakes will be in abundance, together with pirozhki (small pies). There will be many bizarrely dressed Russians resembling Matryoshka dolls, and a strolling bear who will give you his paw-if you have the courage to take it.

Meanwhile tuneful balalaikas, folk orchestras and the best voices on the Russian stage promise to give such a powerful performance that the Trafalgar Square pigeons risk going deaf. The Russians are famous for entertainment but it is a difficult business, indeed. There's never a dull moment. And during holidays, such as Maslenitsa, this irrepressible energy is used purely for fun and amusement.

On the same day, Maslenitsa will be celebrated all over Russia, and at 3pm GMT, Londoners will be able to wave to the party-goers near Red Square via satellite link. So don't hesitate to come. This will be the first-ever celebration of Maslenitsa on Trafalgar

Square. Pancakes have never been made at this famous London landmark-and certainly never by Russian bakers.

This year, the London Mayor's office made a generous gesture, offering the Trafalgar Square. Mayor Boris Johnson took into account the substantial size of the Russian community in London, which he has praised as "enormously influential-in business, in sport and in culture." He also rightly remarked: "We are familiar with Matryoshka dolls and onion domes but this vast nation has a rich cultural heritage."



Maslenitsa on the Trafalgar Square

But why was Maslenitsa chosen to represent Russia in London? "It is a very happy festival," said Balakleets. "Farewell to winter, the welcoming of spring and the sun. It is a time when people go to each other's houses and forgive each other all past offences. It is, I think, the most beautiful and the most 'folkloric' of all the Russian festivals."

Nobody knows exactly how many Russians live in Britain today. But it's clear: there are an awful lot of them. Professor Donald Rayfield, a Chekhov translator, once joked that it had become impossible to have a private conversation in Russian on the London Tube: invariably there will be a native Russian speaker in the same carriage.

Britain has become a home for hundreds of thousands of Russians. In gratitude for this hospitality, they have taken to sharing with the British what they have: rich culture and traditions. People who lived for many decades behind the Iron Curtain are now discovering a world that had been closed to them. That is why it is so important to Russians to show themselves and to see others. And to make a foreign country feel like home-with one's own samovar, one's own pancakes, and even one's own bear.

2. Read the text again and find a paragraph which:

- describes why Maslenitsa was chosen to represent Russia in London;
- describes why you should be by London's Trafalgar Square on Sunday, March 6.

3. Discuss the questions.

1. Do you like making pancakes?
2. When do you like making pancakes?
3. Do you like celebrating Maslenitsa?
4. How do you celebrate Maslenitsa?
5. Maslenitsa is a very happy holiday, isn't it?

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. But why was Maslenitsa chosen to represent Russia in

- a. Edinburgh
- b. London
- c. Moscow

2. On the same day, Maslenitsa will be celebrated all over, and at 3pm GMT, Londoners will be able to wave to the party-goers near Red Square via satellite link.

- a. Russia
- b. Britain
- c. America

3. That's why it is so to Russians to show themselves and to see others.

- a. good
- b. bad
- c. important

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 22

Maslenitsa in London

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice the expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Maslenitsa, the Russian sun festival celebrating the end of winter and start of spring, will be held again in London from March 11-17. The biggest event is at Trafalgar Square on Saturday March 16, when the crowd can feast on traditional blini pancakes as they enjoy a wide range of entertainment.



Maslenitsa in London

London's Maslenitsa festival has become the biggest Russian cultural event outside Russia. In 2012 more than 100,000 revelers gathered in Trafalgar Square to celebrate the traditional Orthodox Shrovetide event. And in the run-up to the 2014 Winter Olympics

in Sochi, this year's festivities will be even bigger and better. London Mayor Boris Johnson said: "We have a big Russian population here in London, and this fantastic festival gives everyone a chance to join in with a major cultural celebration of that magnificent country."

Celebrations begin on March 11 with a fashion show by Russian designers at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The focus will be on a collection by the celebrated designer Igor Chapurin. And on Tuesday March 12, Mari Vanna restaurant will present an evening of Russian cuisine. Visit Waterstones bookshop on Piccadilly the following day for a perfect chance to find out more about Russian culture. Actors from Moscow's Praktika Theatre will present readings from Russian classic and contemporary literature.

There are also master classes for those of a less literary persuasion: try your hand at traditional Russian crafts at the Rossotrudnichestvo Cultural Centre in Kensington High Street. The biggest event is at Trafalgar Square on Saturday March 16, when the crowd can feast on traditional blini pancakes as they enjoy a wide range of entertainment. The festival concert will feature performers including Buranovskiye Babushki, runners-up in last year's Eurovision Song Contest. The show looks at life in Russian villages of the 20th century through contemporary eyes. The festival ends on March 17 with Praktika's Babushki at the Duke of York's Theatre.

2. Mark the following statements as either true or false.

1. Maslenitsa is the Russian sun festival celebrating the end of winter and start of spring.
2. The biggest event is at Trafalgar Square when the crowd can enjoy a wide range of entertainment.
3. London's Maslenitsa festival has become the biggest Russian cultural event outside Russia.
4. In 2010 more than 100,000 revelers gathered in Trafalgar Square to celebrate the traditional Orthodox Shrovetide event.

5. And in the run-up to the 2013 Winter Olympics in Sochi, this year's festivities will be even bigger and better.

6. The biggest event is at Trafalgar Square on Saturday March 16, when the crowd can feast on traditional blini pancakes.

3. Make up sentences on the subject using the words from the list:

- Russian cuisine;

- to find out;

- contemporary literature;

- literary persuasion;

- runners-up.

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. London's Maslenitsa festival has become the biggestcultural event outside Russia.

- a. Russian
- b. American
- c. Indian

2. Actors from’s Praktika Theatre will present readings from Russian classic and contemporary literature. good

- a. Togliatti
- b. Samara
- c. Moscow

3. The festival ends on 17 with Praktika's Babushki at the Duke of York's Theatre.

a. March

b. April

c. May

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

Unit 23

A taste of Russia's pancake festival

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice English equivalents to the Russian expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Russia's Maslenitsa spring carnival starts on Mar. 11, even though, climate-wise, it still feels like winter. To warm themselves, Russians spend the festival week eating tons of pancakes with countless different kinds of fillings. Russia has a special kind of festival. To start with, it is not called Festival like many other festive seasons celebrated around the world right before Lent. Instead, Russia's festival is called "Maslenitsa" or "Dairy Week."

Instituted in the dim and distant past (like other self-respecting carnivals) and dedicated to the cult of fertility and ancestor worship, Slavic Maslenitsa survived the Christianization of the ancient state of Russia and entered the Orthodox calendar as the last week before Lent. The main feature of Maslenitsa is pancakes, which Russians make by a hundred different recipes: using sour dough and without yeast; rich and without eggs; from wheat, rye and buckwheat flour.

Like their Western cousins, British pancakes and Bulgarian palachinki- Russian pancakes have innumerable fillings, both sweet and savory. However, there is one thing their fillings always contain, and that is melted butter and sour cream (used as a sauce in most dishes in Russian cuisine, including soups). Finely crumbled hardboiled eggs are also preferable, but you can manage without them.

Beyond this, the composition of the filling depends on the imagination of the cook- but fish dishes are essential. First place goes to caviar, followed by herring in spicy brine, sturgeon, salmon, sterlet and, finally, sardines and sprats. Russian brine is different from the Northern European version: there is none of the dill that Russians love so much, but there is ginger and coriander seeds.

The smoked fish for filling can be hot or cold, salty or unsalted, or prepared with herbs and steamed. The next candidates for fillings are mushrooms, cheese and crumbly buckwheat porridge. Some people also enjoy using boiled tongue and various cooked meats as fillings. Dessert means more pancakes, but served with jam and honey (preferably white) this time.

This Slavic festival is marked not only by eating pancakes but also by riding on troikas and parading around the Maslenitsa effigy, which symbolizes the harsh winter. The most charming carnival tradition of Maslenitsa is the conquest of the snow town: one team builds a snow fortress and defends it, while the other tries to destroy it.

Fortunately, the tradition of fist fights ended by the time the Soviet government came to power. In the old days, the young men and youths of various districts used to gather in an agreed upon place and test their strength in a showdown. There were a few rules: kicking and using brass knuckles or other objects to add weight to your fists was not allowed; still, serious injuries and even deaths occurred regularly among those taking part. Nowadays, soccer fans still engage in this kind of amusement, but without regard to the Lent calendar.



Russia's Maslenitsa spring carnival.

But let's stick to pancakes. We can credit the Soviet period not only with putting a stop to fist fights but also with a pancake recipe that was nowhere to be found in cook books before the revolution.

Beer pancakes

- 16 ounces milk
- 16 ounces beer (lager, or darker beer for sweeter taste)
- 2 cups sifted wheat flour, or 1 ½ cups of wheat flour, or ½ cup rye flour
- 1-2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or melted butter
- 1 tablespoon sugar or white honey

- 1 teaspoon salt

- ½ teaspoon baking soda

- ½ potato

1. Mix the milk, slightly warmed, together with the beer. Keep stirring and add flour.
2. Carefully mix the batter, adding the eggs, vegetable oil or melted butter, sugar or white honey, salt, and, just before you finish mixing, baking soda. The more fluid the batter, the thinner the pancakes will be—experiment and find out how you like them.
3. The pancakes must be cooked in a cast-iron frying pan: do not wash it; instead, warm it and wipe it with a napkin before using it.
4. Traditionally, the frying pan is greased with half of a raw potato on the end of a fork. Cook the pancakes in a very small quantity of melted butter.
5. Put the finished product—they should be a beautiful dark red in color—into piles and pour melted butter over them. Guests can make their own fillings, though this differs from the way Hungarian and Czech cooks make their pancakes.

2. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

- a) Is there a special kind of festival in Russia?
- b) What is the main feature of Maslenitsa?
- c) Do you know recipes to make pancakes?

3. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. has a special kind of festival.

- a. Russia
- b. Britain
- c. Spain

2. This Slavic festival is marked not only by eating pancakes but also by riding on troikas and parading around the Maslenitsa effigy, which symbolizes the harsh

- a. winter
- b. spring
- c. summer

3. Dessert means more, but served with jam and honey (preferably white) this time.

- a. fish dishes
- b. pancakes
- c. apples

4. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

5. Read the text again and retell it.

Unit 24

Pagan spring festival

Aim

To introduce the text and to practice English equivalents to the Russian expressions.

1. Read the text. Use the dictionary to make sure you understand it in detail.

Russia's Pancake Week begins in Russia on Mar. 11 this year. People are preparing for the arrival of spring by gathering with relatives to eat pancakes. Typically, Maslenitsa is celebrated with sledding, burning scarecrows, and bonfire jumping. "Maslenitsa" is a holiday vaguely similar to Pancake Day in the UK. It is an ancient Slavic holiday that dates back to pagan times, having somehow survived the onset of Christianity. The Church incorporated the spring holiday into its cycle of religious observances, placing it on the Shrove Tuesday before the start of Lent. This year, the week of Maslenitsa begins on Mar. 11.



One of the most popular Maslenitsa's festivities is building and burning scarecrows

Some people say the name Maslenitsa (variously translated as “Butter Week,” “Cheese Week,” or “Pancake Week” in English) comes from the fact that, according to Russian Orthodox tradition, meat is already off-limits by Shrovetide week, but dairy is not. Maslenitsa is the richest and merriest of Russia’s festivities. It runs for a whole week. Rural folk used to call the holiday “sugar lips,” “kissy week,” “merrymaking,” and even “pig-out week.” One essential part of the merrymaking was horseback riding—and, of course, the horses donned their finest festive trimmings.

Young bachelors who hoped to wed would get hold of special sleighs, and every young couple took part in the tradition. Downhill sledding was also very popular amongst children, as were jumping hand-in-hand over bonfires and besieging ice forts. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the central event of the Maslenitsa festivities would have been Mummers Plays, with villagers playing symbolic characters such as “Maslenitsa,” “The Voivode” (“The Warlord”), and so on.

Throughout the years, Maslenitsa always clung to its roots as a folk festival: all of its events are in some way related to the idea of driving away the winter and re-awakening nature from its slumber. Maslenitsa was celebrated with magnificent singing on the snowy hills. The symbol of Maslenitsa was always a scarecrow, decked out in women’s clothes and paraded around before being burned on the bonfire—along with the pancake in its hand.

Pancakes are the principle dish and symbol of the festival. They are made every day during the week, starting Monday, but most of all from Thursday to Sunday. Pancake-making is a pagan tradition that goes way back in Russian history. It is the pagan sun god “Yarilo” who banishes the winter darkness, and the round golden pancake is meant to represent the sun.

Housewives jealously guarded their own special pancake recipes and handed them down to their daughters, from one generation to the next. People would make them from

wheat flour, buckwheat, oats or cornmeal, sometimes adding wheat or millet porridge, mashed potato, pumpkin, apples or cream as fillings.

An old custom in Russia declares that the first pancake of the batch symbolizes peace; usually the first pancake was be given to a beggar in remembrance of the dead, or simply put out on the window ledge. People ate their pancakes with sour cream, eggs, caviar and other tasty dressings, gobbling them down from noon until night, in between other tasty delights.

Maslenitsa has many jokes, sayings and songs associated with it. For example: “To the snowy hills go off, taking pancakes there to scoff!” “When is life at its best? Why, at sweetest Butter Week fest!” “It’s the time to fill your tummy, with everything to eat that’s yummy!” “Don’t begrudge your hard-earned cash, spend it all and have a bash!” There were also warnings of the fasting ahead: “When the Butter Week has passed, we must endure the Great Lent Fast.”

The festive week was often called “the pure, the broad, the quaint,” as well as “Madam Maslenitsa” or “Lady Maslenitsa.” Even now, each day of the holiday has its own special name, hinting at the customary festivity for that day. Sunday preceding the festival is set aside for visiting relatives, friends and neighbors, and welcoming guests. Since meat was forbidden by Lent throughout the week of Maslenitsa, this final Sunday was called “Meat Sunday,” and fathers were expected to invite their sons-in-law “to eat up all the meat.”

Maslenitsa Monday is the day for greeting the holiday. Snow-slides should be laid out and built. Kids would make the Maslenitsa scarecrows, dress them up, and parade them through the streets. Swings were set up, along with tables full of sweets. Tuesday is the start of the merriment! Young men and women would go downhill sledding before having their pancakes.

Young men would be on the lookout for a future bride, while girls would scope out the selection of prospective husbands. Even if a match was made, the happy couple had

to wait until after Easter to marry. Wednesday is the day for those with a sweet tooth. The emphasis was on entertaining guests-with pancakes, of course! Sons-in-law visit their mothers-in-law, who make pancakes.

Thursday is the day for going out. In order to help the sun drive winter away, people would ride horseback “around the sun”-that is, around the whole village in a clockwise direction. The main attraction for the village lads on Thursday would be splitting into two teams-to defend, or besiege-the ice fort. On Friday mothers-in-law visit their sons-in-law for pancakes. Saturday is the day for family gatherings. Villagers would make the round of visits to all their relatives and, of course, eat pancakes with them.



Maslenitsa in London

Sunday-the final day of Maslenitsa-is the day for forgiving. On this day, people would ask forgiveness from their nearest and dearest for any sleights or grievances that might have happened over the year. Then, of course, there was singing and dancing. There would be a village bonfire, on which the scarecrow was be burned in a ritual to see off the winter. The bonfire would be in the village square, and the scarecrow would be carried off with jokes, songs and dances.

Winter was mocked and derided for bringing the frost, but thanked for the winter fun and games. Once the scarecrow caught light, a sequence of happy songs and chants would begin. Once “winter” burned out, the final round of hijinks began: youngsters and young couples would jump over the bonfire, and their display of ability would thus bring the Butter Week festivities to a close.

Maslenitsa’s end is marked on “Clean Monday,” the first day of Lent-a day to cleanse oneself of impure thoughts and unapproved foodstuffs. Villagers would ritually cleanse themselves by going to the Russian bath houses (“banya” in Russian). Womenfolk would wash all the household paraphernalia, and “steamed” the dairy utensils to remove any traces of foods forbidden during Lent.

2. Translate the following sayings into Russian:

1. “To the snowy hills go off, taking pancakes there to scoff!”
2. “When is life at its best? Why, at sweetest Butter Week fest!”
3. “It’s the time to fill your tummy, with everything to eat that’s yummy!”
4. “Don’t begrudge your hard-earned cash, spend it all and have a bash!”
5. “When the Butter Week has passed, we must endure the Great Lent Fast.”

3. Make up short conversations using the following key questions.

1. How is Maslenitsa celebrated in Russia?
2. What is the symbol of Maslenitsa?
3. Do you know special names of each day of the holiday?

4. Test. Choose the correct variant.

1. Maslenitsa was celebrated with magnificent singing on the snowy
 - a. hills
 - b. houses
 - c. mountains
2. is the day for those with a sweet tooth.
 - a. Sunday
 - b. Wednesday
 - c. Monday
3. On mothers-in-law visit their sons-in-law for pancakes.
 - a. Friday
 - b. Monday
 - c. Wednesday

5. Summarize the main idea of the text in eight-ten sentences.

6. Read the text again and retell it.

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