

TRADITIONS AND HOLIDAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN (ТРАДИЦІЇ ТА СВЯТА ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЇ)

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У доповіді описуються основні свята, їх особливості, традиції та звичаї Великобританії. У деяких із них є велика історія. Одні традиції є смішними, інші – дивними. Багато з них є цікавими.

Every nation and every country has its own traditions and customs. Traditions make a nation special. Britain is full of customs and traditions. English traditions can be classified into several groups: traditions concerning the Englishmen's private life; which are connected with families incomes; state traditions; national holidays, religious holidays, public festival, traditional ceremonies. There are only six public holidays a year in Great Britain, that is days on which people need not go in to work. They are: Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Spring Bank Holiday and Late Summer Bank Holiday, Boxing Day.

The Queen is the only person in Britain with two birthdays. She has real birthday and "official" birthday, too. And on the Queen's official birthday, there is a traditional ceremony called the Trooping of the Colour.

The most popular holiday in Britain is Christmas. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people send and receive Christmas cards. A traditional feature of Christmas in Britain is the Christmas tree. An older tradition is Christmas mistletoe. Those who live away try to get back home because Christmas is a family celebration. A XX-century British Christmas dinner is roast turkey. Then, after the turkey, there's Christmas pudding.

Although the Christian religion gave the world Easter as we know it today, the celebration owes its name and many of its customs and symbols to a pagan festival called Eastre. Every spring northern European peoples celebrated the festival of Eastre to honour the awakening of new life in nature. Many modern Easter symbols come from pagan time.

On October 31st British people celebrate Halloween. It is undoubtedly the most colourful and exciting holiday of the year. It is a festival of merrymaking, superstitions, spells, fortunetelling, traditional games and pranks. On February 14th it's Saint Valentine's Day in Britain. On this day, people send Valentine cards to their husbands, wives, girlfriends and boyfriends. I have chosen the topic British customs traditions because I enjoy learning the English language and wanted to know more about British ways of life and traditions.