

## Things that make Britain great

What things make Britain great? There are 101 answers to this thought: There is its football league with fans worldwide. Bands and singers have been leading the charts since the 60s. Great Britain is constantly producing top movie stars. It is the source of some of the best TV shows including comedy ones that are repeated and translated worldwide. It is the origin of international top class brands like Rolls Royce, Harrods, and Cadburys. There is also Tesco! It has the world's most famous and internationally known monarch – Queen Elizabeth II. There is HP and Daddies sauce, real ale, parks, piers, seashores and rock - the stuff you eat! Tea - a nice 'cuppa' PG Tips! Britain has roundabouts! It also has some of the best tabloid and broadsheet press in the world.

There is the great British sense of humour and self-ridicule. There are some super museums and art galleries. There is diversity. Britain is so culturally, religiously and racially eclectic. It has cheap air travel thanks to Ryanair that is Irish owned! There are great cities like Bath, Cambridge and Edinburgh. Britain has hot water bottles! It has 'fish & chips' with salt & vinegar wrapped in paper! Britain has equal opportunities for everyone. It has the NHS, church bells and milk floats – where in the world do you find these? It also has ice cream vans playing funny tunes. There is cricket and rugby, of course. There are toasted tea cakes. There is a delightful springtime. Other things that make Britain great include the BBC Proms, free speech, black cabs, double decker buses and some old red phone boxes. There is also Dr Who, curry, drizzle, the festive season in Oxford street, and "Mind the gap" at Bank underground.

Other possibilities for the things that make Britain great include Kew gardens, youth hostels, and post offices - those not closed yet, the Scottish Highlands and Snowdonia. There is also great British food like sausages, back bacon, baked beans and pork pies. In Britain there is green countryside and trees, blackberrying, Georgian architecture, historic castles, big houses and many ancient buildings. Britain has 'the love of an underdog', good natured swearing and vulgarity. There are Sunday roasts, British pubs and pub lunches. It also has some of the most talented

**Category: Culture / Life / Great Britain**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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artists, writers and musicians. There is afternoon tea, Little Chef, Wimbledon, the FA Cup, 'cat's eyes', the Red Arrows, cakes, scones with strawberry jam and cream, marmalade and lemon curd.

In Britain people like to picnic in the countryside. There is the BBC, the rag and bone man, and cars stopping at Zebra crossings. Other things include queuing, Richmond park near London, the Archers (a famous BBC radio drama), road works, cold weather, and plenty of people moaning about the weather. Then there is British pronunciation, with its many different accents and dialects. One mustn't forget British fashion, and some wonderful British markets – but not Chelmsford. There are bagpipes, Harry Potter, and some great public footpaths. Other great British food includes sausage rolls, Coleman's mustard, Bisto granules, Cornish pasties and some great Cheddar cheese. Last but not least is the capital - London. There are many more things, but I hope this gives you a taste of some of the things that make Britain great.

## EXERCISES

1. **Great Britain:** Have you ever been to Great Britain? When? With whom? Did you like it? What did you like? Go round the room swapping details.

2. **Geography: Great Britain:** Where is Great Britain? Name the capital. Draw a map on the board then look on Google maps to help you.

3. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

4. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

7. **Let's think!** Think of five cities/towns in Great Britain. Then add five top tourist places to visit in Great Britain. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. Maybe look on Google maps to check your findings.

Five towns/cities in GB	Five top tourist places to visit in GB
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The **teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **Great Britain:** Think of three things you like about Great Britain. Then add three things you don't like. Discuss with your partner.

Things you like	Things you don't like
1	1
2	2
3	3

The **teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

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**9. A visit to Great Britain:** In pairs/groups. Choose to be one of the following people. You are in Great Britain. Create a short story about what you are doing there. Tell it to your partner/group. Try to make it interesting! Students try to interlink **or** interact student storylines!

1	A tour guide	3	A tourist
2	A taxi driver	4	A friend in Great Britain

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

**10. Let's talk:** In pairs. You are in a travel agency. One of you is the travel agent. The other person wants to book a holiday to Great Britain. *5 minutes*.

**11. Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) What are Zebra crossings?
- 2) What are roundabouts?
- 3) What are milk floats?
- 4) What is a hot water bottle?
- 5) What are 'cat's eyes'?

**Student B**

- 1) What do we mean by "the love of an underdog"?
- 2) What are bagpipes?
- 3) What is vulgarity?
- 4) Where do we "Mind the gap"?
- 5) What is a tabloid?

**12. Comparison:** Look at the article again. Compare it with your country. How does it differ? How does it compare? List your findings below. Discuss with your partner.

	Differences		Similarities
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	

**13. Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Great Britain**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

**14. Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Great Britain \_\_\_\_\_
- b) I like GB because \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A's questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you ever seen a milk float? If yes, where? When?
- 3) Have you ever tried eating rock? (The edible sort!)
- 4) Which is your favourite British city and why?
- 5) What do you think of British roundabouts?
- 6) Do you watch the BBC TV programme *Dr Who*?
- 7) Have you ever been to the Scottish Highlands?
- 8) Do you eat curry? What is your favourite curry?
- 9) Have you ever tried a Cornish pasty?
- 10) Can you play cricket or rugby?

### Student B's questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Do you watch the FA Cup?
- 3) Have you ever tried to play the bagpipes?
- 4) Are you a Harry Potter fan? Do you read the books or watch the films?
- 5) Have you ever visited any famous castles in Britain?
- 6) Have you ever listened to The Archers on Radio 4?
- 7) What do you think of British markets?
- 8) Have you ever seen a rag and bone man ringing his bell?
- 9) Have you bought an ice cream from an ice cream van that has just played its tune?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

### The things that make my country great

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

Discuss together.

The things that make my country great
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The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Things that make Britain great

What things make Britain (1)\_\_\_\_\_? There are 101 answers to this thought: There is its football league with fans worldwide. Bands and singers have been leading the charts since the 60s. Great Britain is constantly producing top movie stars. It is the (2)\_\_\_\_\_ of some of the best TV shows including comedy ones that are repeated and translated worldwide. It is the (3)\_\_\_\_\_ of international top class (4)\_\_\_\_\_ like Rolls Royce, Harrods, and Cadburys. There is also Tesco! It has the world's most famous and internationally known monarch – Queen Elizabeth II. There is HP and Daddies sauce, real ale, parks, (5)\_\_\_\_\_, seashores and rock - the (6)\_\_\_\_\_ you eat! Tea - a nice (7)'\_\_\_\_\_' PG Tips! Britain has roundabouts! It also has some of the best (8)\_\_\_\_\_ and broadsheet press in the world.

*source*

*cuppa*

*great*

*piers*

*stuff*

*origin*

*tabloid*

*brands*

There is the great British sense of humour and self-ridicule. There are some super museums and art galleries. There is diversity. Britain is so culturally, religiously and racially (1)\_\_\_\_\_. It has cheap air travel thanks to Ryanair that is Irish owned! There are great cities like Bath, Cambridge and Edinburgh. Britain has hot water bottles! It has 'fish & chips' with salt & (2)\_\_\_\_\_ wrapped in paper! Britain has equal opportunities for everyone. It has the NHS, church bells and milk floats – where in the world do you find these? It also has ice cream vans playing (3)\_\_\_\_\_ tunes. There is (4)\_\_\_\_\_ and (5)\_\_\_\_\_, of course. There are toasted tea cakes. There is a delightful springtime. Other things that make Britain great include the BBC Proms, free speech, black (6)\_\_\_\_\_, double decker buses and some old red phone boxes. There is also Dr Who, curry, (7)\_\_\_\_\_, the festive season in Oxford street, and "Mind the gap" at Bank (8)\_\_\_\_\_.

*cricket*

*eclectic*

*vinegar*

*underground*

*funny*

*rugby*

*drizzle*

*cabs*

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Things that make Britain great

(1)\_\_\_ things make Britain great? There are 101 answers to (2)\_\_\_ thought: There is its football league (3)\_\_\_ fans worldwide. Bands and singers have been leading the charts since the 60s. Great Britain is constantly producing top movie stars. It is the source of some of the best TV shows including comedy ones (4)\_\_\_ are repeated and translated worldwide. It is the origin of international top class brands like Rolls Royce, Harrods, and Cadburys. (5)\_\_\_ is also Tesco! It has the world's (6)\_\_\_ famous and internationally known monarch – Queen Elizabeth II. There is HP and Daddies sauce, real ale, parks, piers, seashores and rock - the stuff you eat! Tea - a nice 'cuppa' PG Tips! Britain has roundabouts! It (7)\_\_\_ has (8)\_\_\_ of the best tabloid and broadsheet press in the world.

**that**

**some**

**most**

**this**

**what**

**with**

**there**

**also**

There is (1)\_\_\_ great British sense (2)\_\_\_ humour and self-ridicule. There are some super museums and art galleries. There is diversity. Britain is (3)\_\_\_ culturally, religiously and racially eclectic. (4)\_\_\_ has cheap air travel thanks to Ryanair that is Irish owned! There are great cities like Bath, Cambridge and Edinburgh. Britain has hot water bottles! It has 'fish & chips' with salt & vinegar wrapped (5)\_\_\_ paper! Britain has equal opportunities for everyone. It has the NHS, church bells and milk floats – where in the world do (6)\_\_\_ find these? It also has ice cream vans playing funny tunes. There is cricket and rugby, of course. There are toasted tea cakes. There is a delightful springtime. Other things that make Britain great include the BBC Proms, free speech, black cabs, double decker buses (7)\_\_\_ some old red phone boxes. There is also Dr Who, curry, drizzle, the festive season in Oxford street, and "Mind the gap" (8)\_\_\_ Bank underground.

**at**

**you**

**the**

**it**

**in**

**so**

**of**

**and**

## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	thought	11	pronunciation
2	internationally	12	marmalade
3	monarchy	13	constantly
4	tabloid	14	roundabout
5	broadsheet	15	diversity
6	self-ridicule	16	underground
7	culturally	17	delightful
8	eclectic	18	possibilities
9	racially	19	architecture
10	delightful	20	vulgarity

### LINKS

[http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-news/w-latest\\_news/w-greatbritain.htm](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-news/w-latest_news/w-greatbritain.htm)

<http://www.walletpop.co.uk/2010/04/16/the-best-things-about-living-in-the-uk-are-cheap-and-cheerful/>

<http://www.shropshirestar.com/latest/2008/11/11/50-things-that-make-us-british/>

### ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Things that make Britain great: What things make Britain **great**? There are 101 answers to this thought: There is its football league with fans worldwide. Bands and singers have been leading the charts since the 60s. Great Britain is constantly producing top movie stars. It is the **source** of some of the best TV shows including comedy ones that are repeated and translated worldwide. It is the **origin** of international top class **brands** like Rolls Royce, Harrods, and Cadburys. There is also Tesco! It has the world's most famous and internationally known monarch – Queen Elizabeth II. There is HP and Daddies sauce, real ale, parks, **piers**, seaside and rock - the **stuff** you eat! Tea - a nice 'cuppa' PG Tips! Britain has roundabouts! It also has some of the best **tabloid** and broadsheet press in the world.

There is the great British sense of humour and self-ridicule. There are some super museums and art galleries. There is diversity. Britain is so culturally, religiously and racially **eclectic**. It has cheap air travel thanks to Ryanair that is Irish owned! There are great cities like Bath, Cambridge and Edinburgh. Britain has hot water bottles! It has 'fish & chips' with salt & **vinegar** wrapped in paper! Britain has equal opportunities for everyone. It has the NHS, church bells and milk floats – where in the world do you find these? It also has ice cream vans playing **funny** tunes. There is **cricket** and **rugby**, of course. There are toasted tea cakes. There is a delightful springtime. Other things that make Britain great include the BBC Proms, free speech, black **cabs**, double decker buses and some old red phone boxes. There is also Dr Who, curry, **drizzle**, the festive season in Oxford street, and "Mind the gap" at Bank **underground**. (V1)

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