

## **GREAT BRITAIN**

Great Britain (official name — the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) is situated on two large islands, the largest of which is Great Britain, the smaller is Ireland. In addition to these two islands Great Britain includes over five hundred small islands. The total area of Great Britain is 240,000 sq. kms, its population is over 63,000,000 people.

In the north-west and west the country is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea, in the east by the North Sea. The island of Great Britain is separated from France by the English Channel. Northern Ireland, which is a part of Great Britain and which is situated on the island of Ireland, is separated from Great Britain by the North Channel.

The island of Great Britain is divided into two parts: mountainous (in the north and west of the island) and lowland (in the south and east) There are no very long rivers in Great Britain. The most important rivers are the Thames (the deepest) and the Severn (the longest). The rivers seldom freeze in winter. Due to the moderating influence of the sea Great Britain has an insular climate, rather humid and mild, without striking discrepancy between seasons.

Great Britain consists of four main parts: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Administratively Great Britain is divided into 55 counties. The biggest cities of Great Britain are London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Cardiff. England is the largest part of Great Britain (it occupies over 50% of the territory and its population amounts to 83 % of the total population of Great Britain). Wales is a peninsula in the south-west of the island of Great Britain. It occupies about 9 % of its territory with the population of 4.8 % of the total population. Scotland is the most northern part of Great Britain with a territory of 32 % of the total territory and with a population of 9 % of the total population of Great Britain. Northern Ireland occupies the north-east part of the island of Ireland. Its territory amounts to 5.2 % of the total territory of Great Britain. The main cities of Northern Ireland are Belfast and Londonderry.

The Welsh have their own language. However, many Welsh people do not know Welsh, and English is spoken by everyone in Wales. Scotland and Ireland also have their own languages, but these are rarely spoken and English is known by everyone there.

Great Britain is a parliamentary monarchy, officially the head of state is the Queen (or the King). However, the power of the Queen in Great Britain is not absolute. She acts only on the advice of the ministers and Parliament. There is no written constitution in Great Britain. The main principles of British legislation are expressed in other documents, like "Magna Charta", Habeas Corpus Act, "Bill of Rights", the Parliamentary Act which decided the position of the House of Lords, and the Judicature Act. British legislation does not provide written guarantees of individual political rights.

Parliament in Great Britain has existed since 1265 and is the eldest Parliament in the world. It consists of two Houses — the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The House of Lords consists of 1000 peers who are not elected by the

people. The House of Commons is a nation-wide representative body which is elected by the people at a general election, within 5 years of the last election. After the general election the Queen appoints the head of the government — the Prime Minister. As a rule the Prime Minister is the leader of the party that has won the election. The Prime Minister appoints the ministers to make up the government.

There are two main political parties in Great Britain: the Conservative party and the Labour party. The Conservative party came into being in the 19th century as a result of the evolution of the Tory party. The Labour party was founded in 1900 but since 1906 it has borne the name of the Labour Party. The Labour Party won the election for the first time in 1945.

Great Britain is a highly-developed industrial country. The main fields of British industry are machine-building, ship-building, metallurgy, and electronics.

### Names

The British Isles	Британские острова
Edinburgh	Г. Эдинбург (столица Шотландии, крупный культурный центр)
Cardiff	Г. Кардифф (столица Уэльса, крупный промышленный центр и порт)
Belfast	Г. Белфаст (столица Северной Ирландии, крупный промышленный центр)
The English Channel	Английский канал (принятое в Великобритании название пролива Ла-Манш)
The House of Lords	Палата лордов
The House of Commons	Палата общин

### Vocabulary

total area - общая площадь

population - население

separate - отделять, разделять

divide - разделять

due to - благодаря

mountainous - гористый

lowland - низменность

seldom - редко

influence - влияние

insular - островной

striking - поразительный, удивительный, резкий

discrepancy - перепады, разница

peninsula - полуостров

act - действовать, зд. править

exist - существовать

appoint - назначать

bear (bore, borne) - получать

### **Ex.1. Ответьте на вопросы:**

1. What is the total area of Great Britain?
2. What is its population?
3. Where is Great Britain situated?
4. What are the main parts of Great Britain?
5. How many islands is Great Britain situated on?
6. Which is the largest island?
7. Are there long rivers in Great Britain?
8. Why is climate humid and mild?
9. What are the biggest cities of Great Britain?
10. When was the British constitution adopted?
11. Who is the head of state in Great Britain?
12. What are the Houses of Parliament?
13. What are the main fields of British industry?
14. What is the official name of Great Britain?

### **Ex.2. Переведите следующие слова и выражения:**

Соединенное королевство Великобритании и Северной Ирландии; Британские острова; четыре основные части; официальное название государства; благодаря умеренному влиянию; островной климат; без резких перепадов; графство; население насчитывает; парламентская монархия; Британское законодательство; представительский орган; назначать министров; главные политические партии; основные отрасли промышленности.

**Ex.3. Заполните пропуски подходящими по смыслу словами, используя текст:**

1. The rivers seldom ... in winter.
2. ... the moderating influence of the sea Great Britain has an ... climate.
3. Great Britain is divided into 55 ... .
4. Wales is a ... in the south-west of the island of Great Britain.
5. The Welsh have their own ... .
6. Great Britain is a ... .
7. There is no written ... in Great Britain.
8. Great Britain is a ... industrial country.

**Ex.4. Закончите предложения подходящими фразами из правой колонки:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ... | a) ... England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.       |
| 2. The island of Great Britain is divided into two parts ...    | b) ... the Atlantic Ocean, the Irish Sea and the North sea. |
| 3. Great Britain consists of four main parts...                 | c) ... is situated on two large islands.                    |
| 4. The country is washed by ...                                 | d) ... mountainous and lowland.                             |
| 5. The main fields of industry are ...                          | e) ... 63,000,000 people.                                   |
| 6. The population of Great Britain is ...                       | f) ... machine building, ship building, metallurgy.         |

**Ex.5. Вставьте пропущенные предлоги, артикли или местоимения:**

1. ... the north-west and west ... country is washed ... the Atlantic Ocean.
2. ... island... Great Britain is separated ... France... the English Channel.
3. Due ... ... moderating influence ... the sea Great Britain has ... insular climate.
4. Great Britain consists ... four main parts.
5. Great Britain is ... parliamentary monarchy.
6. The Queen acts only ... ... advice ... ... ministers and Parliament.
7. The Labour Party won the election ... the first time ... 1945.

8. Parliament consists ... .. Houses - the House ... Lords and the House ... Commons.

**Ex.6. Подберите соответствующие значения:**

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. to be washed        | a. Уэльс                 |
| 2. British Isles       | b. Северная Ирландия     |
| 3. mountains           | c. столица               |
| 4. climate             | d. омываться             |
| 5. Northern Ireland    | e. Британские острова    |
| 6. Wales               | f. горы                  |
| 7. capital             | g. климат                |
| 8. shipbuilding        | h. монархия              |
| 9. island state        | i. крест                 |
| 10. Atlantic Ocean     | j. власть                |
| 11. European continent | k. запад                 |
| 12. monarchy           | l. европейский континент |
| 13. power              | m. кораблестроение       |
| 14. cross              | n. самолетостроение      |
| 15. west               | o. островное государство |
| 16. aircraft           | p. Атлантический океан   |
| 17. Irish sea          | q. Ирландское море       |

**Ex.7. Соответствуют ли данные предложения содержанию текста:**

1. In the west the country is washed by the North Sea.
2. The island of Great Britain is divided into 6 parts.
3. Administratively Great Britain is divided into 60 counties.
4. Great Britain has an insular climate.
5. Ireland is the largest part of Great Britain.
6. Great Britain is a parliamentary republic.
7. The power of the Queen in Great Britain is absolute.
8. Officially the head of state is the Queen (or the king).
9. The written constitution was adopted in the 17 century.
10. Parliament in Great Britain has existed since 1265 and is the eldest

Parliament in the world.

**Ex.8. Составьте предложения, используя данные выражения:**

To be situated on; in addition to; the total area of; population; to be separated from; to be divided into; due to; insular climate; consist of; language; parliamentary monarchy; the powers; absolute; legislation; representative body; political party; is founded; industrial country.

**Ex.9. Переведите слова в скобках:**

1. Great Britain (находится) on two large islands.
2. The island of Great Britain (делится) into two parts: mountainous and lowland.
3. The island of Great Britain (отделяется) from France by the English Channel.
4. Great Britain (состоит) of four main parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
5. English is not the only language which people (используют) in the UK.
6. The flag of the UK (состоит) of three crosses.
7. The climate of the country is (влажный и мягкий).
8. Great Britain is a (высокоразвитая) industrial country.
9. Great Britain is a (парламентарная монархия).
10. The Labour party (была основана) in 1900.

**Ex.10. Перескажите текст, используя план:**

1. Geographical position of Great Britain and the main parts it consists of.
2. Language the English people use.
3. Great Britain is a parliamentary monarchy.
4. Parliament.
5. Political parties.
6. Industries of the UK.