



新基点 全国高等院校商务英语专业本科系列规划教材·人文素养子系列

NEW BENCHMARK

英美国家概况



刘有发 主编

**A Survey of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland and The United States of America**



对外经济贸易大学出版社

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新基点全国高等院校商务英语专业本科系列规划教材·人文素养子系列

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出版说明

新基点 (NEW BENCHMARK) 全国高等院校商务英语专业本科系列规划教材由对外经济贸易大学出版社联合对外经济贸易大学、广东外语外贸大学、上海对外贸易学院、东北财经大学、上海财经大学等学校的骨干教授编写而成。

2007 年国家教育部批准设立了商务英语本科专业。为促进商务英语学科建设, 适应教学改革和创新的需要, 对外经济贸易大学出版社特组织编写了“新基点”系列教材。本系列教材体现商务英语专业最新教学特点和要求, 是面向二十一世纪的一套全新的立体化商务英语教材, 主要适用于全国各高等院校商务英语专业本科学生。

本系列教材旨在培养具有扎实的英语基本功, 掌握国际商务基础理论和知识, 具备较高的人文素养, 善于跨文化交流与沟通, 能适应经济全球化, 具备国际竞争力的复合型英语人才。共由语言技能、商务知识、人文素养三个子系列组成。

语言技能子系列包括商务英语综合教程 1-4 册、商务英语听说 1-4 册、商务英语写作 1-4 册、商务英语翻译 1-2 册。

商务知识子系列介绍商务基础理论和商务实践的具体知识, 主要包括经济学原理、管理学原理、商法导论、跨文化交际导论、国际贸易实务、营销学等主干教材。

人文素养子系列主要包括语言学导论、英美国家概况、欧洲文化、英美文学选读、英美散文、大学英汉翻译、大学汉英翻译等核心教材。

上述的每套子系列教材都自成体系, 合在一起又形成了有机的整体。本套教材不是封闭的, 而是随着教学模式、课程设置的和课时的变化, 不断推出新的教材。对外经济贸易大学出版社旨在广泛调动社会智力资源, 与时俱进、推陈出新, 推出一套适合新兴商务英语专业本科学生的系列教材。

编撰者们不仅具有丰富的语言教学经验, 而且获得工商管理、经济学等商科专业的硕士、博士学位, 具备商务活动的实践经验。他们集教学经验和专业背景于一身, 这正是本套商务英语系列教材编撰质量的有力保证。

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PREFACE

前 言

随着我国改革开放的深入和对外贸易的日益发展，国内各大机构和企业与国外各相关机构和企业展开了越来越频繁、越来越密切的交流与合作。尤其是商务领域对商务英语人才的需求量和素质要求都不断增加和提高，而作为高层次、复合型的商务英语人才的培养，不仅要注重语言技能、商务知识的教学与培养，也要注重人文素养的熏陶与培养。由于在当今国际交往和贸易往来活动中，英语往往成为普遍使用的工作语言之一，所以商务英语人才务必具备国际视野，深入学习和了解英语国家尤其是英美国家的社会历史文化。

本教材根据《高等学校商务英语专业本科教学要求》（试行）编写，属于全国高等院校商务英语专业本科系列规划教材人文素养子系列核心教材之一。编者在编写中力求符合英语教学实际，使学生熟悉和了解英美国家的地理、历史、文学文化传统、人文知识和风俗习惯等。提高学生对社会、文化差异的认知，敏锐而灵活地应对国际商务活动和跨文化交际中遇到的各种问题。

本教材包括了英国和美国两大部分，总共为十九个单元。全书主要介绍了英、美两国的地理、历史、政治、经济、教育、文化、节日风俗以及文学艺术等方面的基本知识。本教材突出如下特点：一是语言规范，内容选材自原汁原味英美素材；二是选材权威，集成英美国家部门或机构权威发布信息、数据以及英美学者最新研究成果；三是点面结合，在内容翔实的基础上，充分体现专业课程的地位和作用，突出知识点和启发思考、综合运用相结合；四是难易适中，拓展教材应用空间，对教材中出现的难点或较生僻之处给出中文或英文尾注注释。

另外，为了尊重参考文献原文及其作者风格，本教材语言上对英式英语和美式英语未作统一；在思想观点等方面保持原文和原作者的立场和倾向性，请读者甄别。

本教材既可供英语专业和商务英语专业本科学生使用，也可作为高等院校选修课供非英语专业的学生使用；同时也可供涉外专业本科学生及其他英语爱好者参考使用。

本教材另配 PPT 课件，并提供全部练习参考答案，供使用者参考。

本教材由刘有发教授策划、主编并审阅了全书的稿件，参加本书编写的教师有：林磊、李洁宏（英国部分）、陈润平、吕述明（美国部分）。

在编写过程中，我们参考了国内外有关专家的学术文献和网络资源，在此谨表谢意。

由于时间仓促，再加上编者水平有限，书中难免有缺点和错漏之处，恳请专家和读者批评指正。

编者
2012年5月

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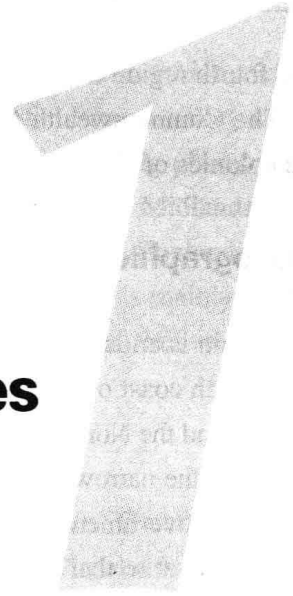
Geography, People,
and Natural Resources

Part One

**The United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland**

Unit 1

Geography, People, and Natural Resources



Objectives

1. To learn about different names of the United Kingdom;
2. To understand the features of geography, people, and natural resources in Britain;
3. To learn about British unique weather and climate.

1. Different Names for Britain and Its Parts

While reading English books, one is likely to be a little confused by coming across different names. The official name of the United Kingdom is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (U.K.). Its geographical names are the British Isles, Great Britain and England. While in informal occasions, it is often called Britain or Great Britain.

There are three political divisions on the island of Great Britain: England, Scotland and Wales.

The British Isles are made up of two large islands—Great Britain (the larger one) and Ireland, and hundreds of small ones. England is in the southern part of Great Britain and it is the largest, most populous section. Scotland lies in the north of Great Britain. It has three natural zones (the Highlands in the north; the Central Lowlands; the south Uplands). Its capital is Edinburgh. Wales is in the west of Great Britain with Cardiff as its capital. Northern Ireland

is the fourth region of the U.K. Its capital is located in Belfast.

The Commonwealth (of nations) is a free association of independent countries that were once colonies of Britain. It was founded in 1931, and has 50 member countries until 1991.

2. Geographical Features

Britain is an island country. It is surrounded by the sea. It lies in the north Atlantic Ocean off the north coast of Europe. It is separated from the rest of Europe by the English Channel in the south and the North Sea in the east. The English Channel between England and France is quite narrow and the narrowest part is called the Straits of Dover, which is only 33 km across. In 1985 the British government and the French government decided to build a channel tunnel under the Straits of Dover so that England and France could be joined together by road. After eight years of hard work this channel tunnel which is called "Chunnel" was open to traffic in May 1994.

Britain covers an area of 244 100 square km. It runs 1 000 km from north to south and extends, at the widest part, about, 500 kilometers. So no part of Britain is "cry far" from the coast and it provides a valuable resource. The British coast is long and has good, deep harbors. Sea routes extend far inland, providing cheap transportation.

Britain has, for centuries, been slowly tilting with the North-West slowly rising and the South-East slowly sinking. The north and west of Britain are mainly highlands. In western parts of Scotland this rise in the land has resulted in the formation of raised beaches-flat areas of land in an otherwise mountainous area, which provides the main farming, settlements, and industrial areas as well as routeways.

The east and south-east are mostly lowlands. They are the part called the Great European Plain, with its level land and fertile soil. There is much good farmland especially in the south and along the east coast of England.

During the Ice Age¹ great ice covered Great Britain. Ice has been responsible for most of Britain's spectacular mountain scenery especially in Snowdonia, the Lake District, and the Scottish Highlands.

It left Great Britain with mountains with flat tops, hanging valleys, and with waterfalls, ribbon lakes, flat valley floors, steep valley sides, boulder clay and fertile soil as well.

2.1 England

England occupies the largest, southern part of Great Britain with Wales to its west and

Scotland to its north. It has an area of more than 130 000 square kilometers which takes up nearly 60% of the whole island. The southwest and west except for the Severn Valley and the Cheshire-Lancashire plain (round Liverpool) are largely a plateau, with rolling plains, downs and occasional moors. The Pennines, a range of hills running from North Midlands to the Scottish border, are the principal mountain chain. But the highest peak of England, Scafell (978 m), is in the Lake District in northwest England. The east of England is mainly an open cultivated plain, narrowing in North Yorkshire to a passage (Vale of York) between coastal moors and the Pennines, and in Northumberland to a coastal strip.

2.2 Scotland

Scotland has an area of 78 760 square kilometers. It is in the north of Great Britain with many mountains, lakes and islands. There are three natural zones: the Highlands in the north, the central Lowlands, and the southern Uplands. The Highlands (300- over 1 200 m) are a wild, rocky, mountainous plateau with a coast-line deeply indented, especially in the west. Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain (1 343 m) is located here. The western part of Highlands and the islands of Hebrides are a very beautiful region.

Great sea lochs, or fiords, alternate with wild and empty hills, and on some of the lochs there are farms which can only be reached by boat. The Lowlands in the center comprise mostly the Forth and Clyde valleys, coal and iron fields and dairy pasture. This is the most important area in Scotland which contains most of the industry and population. The southern Uplands, a rolling moorland (mainly 240-600 m), are cut by small fertile river valleys. Scotland has about 800 islands including the Orkneys, Shetlands and Hebrides and hundreds of lakes. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland.

2.3 Wales

Wales is in the west of Great Britain. It has an area of 20 761 square kilometers which takes up less than 9% of the whole island. Most of Wales is mountainous: the hills rise steeply from the sea and are rather flat on top. 6% of Wales is covered with forest and much of the country is pasture-land for sheep and cattle. Only 12% of the land is arable. Wales forms a massif with a lowland fringe widest along the English border and south coast. The massif is largely between 180 and 600 m, rocky in the north and coal bearing in the south. Snowdonia (1 085 m) in the northwest is the highest mountain in Wales. The capital of Wales is Cardiff.