



外研社·企鹅英语分级有声读物

# British Life 英伦生活

Anne Collins (英) 著  
张世钦 注



一本书  
两种收获  
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● 初中一、二年级学生适用

外语教学与研究出版社  
LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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## 英伦生活

Anne Collins (英) 著

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# 前言

亲爱的老师们，同学们，“外研社·企鹅英语分级有声读物”丛书是由外语教学与研究出版社和培生教育出版集团(Pearson Education)联合推出的又一力作。本丛书为广大学生提供了充分享受阅读乐趣的大平台！

我们出版此套分级读物的宗旨是为了给学习者提供大量的、不同题材的阅读材料。材料不仅要适合读者的语言能力水平，更要能够激发阅读兴趣——让读者感到自己是在读故事，听故事，而不是在学(study)英语，从而卸去教材课本中枯燥的语法知识的沉重负担，真正做到寓教于乐。更重要的一点是，读完一本小册子后你会很有成就感，觉得学习英语就是这么轻松、愉快！

本套丛书内容丰富，由易渐难，主要突出了以下特色：

## 分级明确

结合最新颁布的国家《英语课程标准》划分适用年级，遵循语言学习的规律，充分考虑到不同年龄段学生生理和心理发展的特点和需求；

## 配有音带

有助于提高听力水平，加强学生对语言的理解力；

## 插图生动

带你进入“读图时代”，意向直观、准确；

## 题材丰富

涵盖现代流行、经典名著和精彩原创三大类别，内容还涉及名人、名著、电影、戏剧等不同的领域；

## 注释简洁

帮助减少阅读过程中可能遇到的阻力，并激发学习者的自信心；

## 配有练习

理解题目按照阅读图式认知理论精心设计，为阅读提供了方向性指导与检测手段。

如果你们喜欢这套读物，请把它推荐给朋友们。如果你们对这套读物有什么意见和建议，也请告诉我们。愿这套读物让广大的读者受益匪浅，成为大家课外的良师益友！

很多具有丰富教学经验的中小学教师为这套读物做了注释和相关练习，我们在此表示衷心的感谢！



# Introduction

***“Foreigners have ideas about what is ‘British’.  
But some of these things are not part of  
most ordinary people’s everyday lives.”***

Most books about Britain give information for tourists\*. Visitors can learn about good hotels, nice restaurants, famous places and beautiful buildings. This book is about British life.

Who are the British? Are they the same as the English? And how is the UK different from Britain? Britain is not an easy nation\* to understand. To visitors, British life is sometimes very strange. Why, for example, do people talk about the weather so much?

Many things are changing in Britain, and one of them is family life. People’s views\* on marriage\* and the family are very different from the views of their parents and grandparents. Business is also changing fast.

Another subject\* in this book is British food. Visitors to Britain don’t always like British cooking. But why does British food have a bad name?

This book will tell you about ordinary British people. What do they like doing at weekends? What are their favourite television programmes? How important are sport and the National Lottery\*? What is the most popular pet? What is Crufts\*? What is a DIY centre? Read and find out!

Anne Collins was born in Yorkshire\*, England, but has lived in Edinburgh\*, Scotland\*, for the last six years. She has written a number of ELT readers, and she is interested in Scottish and English history. She likes everything about Scotland except the weather!

## 内容简介

外国人对于“英国人”有自己的见解，但有些认识只是对普通百姓日常生活的一知半解。

大多数关于英国的书都在为游客介绍着那里的情况：温馨舒适的宾馆、风味独特的饭店、目不暇接的名胜、美仑美奂的建筑。而本书介绍的则是英国人的生活。

谁是英国人？他们就是英格兰人吗？联合王国和大不列颠又有何区别？英国是一个难以理解的国家。在游人眼里，英国人的生活有时让人觉得不可思议。比方说，人们为什么这么热中于谈论天气？

在英国许多事情都在改变，其中之一当属家庭生活的改变。人们对于婚姻和家庭的观念已和他们的父辈和先辈大不相同了。商业的变化也非常快。

本书的另一个话题是英国饮食。去过英国的人多不喜欢英国的烹饪。那么英国饮食为何如此声名狼藉呢？

本书还讲述了一些普通英国老百姓的生活。他们周末喜欢做什么？他们最钟爱的电视节目有哪些？体育和彩票对他们有多重要？他们最喜欢养什么宠物？什么是克鲁弗兹狗展？什么是DIY中心？读完本书，您就会明白。

安妮·柯林斯出生于英格兰的约克郡，但在过去六年一直居住在苏格兰的爱丁堡。她已为英语学习者写了许多书。她本人还对苏格兰和英格兰的历史非常感兴趣。除了气候以外，她喜爱苏格兰的一切！

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# Chapter 1 The British



*“When people say England, they sometimes mean Great Britain, sometimes the United Kingdom, sometimes the British Isles\* – but never England.”*

*George Mikes, How to Be an Alien\**

## Britain – the right names

*Britain* – or *Great Britain (GB)* – is the name for England, Wales\* and Scotland. Britain is the eighth largest island\* in the world. *The British Isles* is the name for England, Scotland, Wales, both parts of Ireland\*, the Isle of Man\* and the Channel Islands. *The United Kingdom (UK)* is England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is about 250,000 square kilometres\* in size and 1,000 kilometres from north to south. The British government is the government of the UK.

Many people think that “English” is the same as\* “British”. But England is only one of the four nations in the UK. The Scots, Welsh and Northern Irish are British too. They sometimes get angry when they are called “English”.

There are also millions of British people whose parents first came to Britain in the 1950s and 1960s from the Caribbean\*, India, Pakistan\*, and other places. Their homes are mainly in the big English cities like London, Birmingham\* and Manchester\*.

## Languages

Most British people speak English, but Gaelic\* is also spoken in the west and north of Scotland and in Northern Ireland. Welsh is spoken by over half a million people in Wales. The UK also has speakers of many other languages like Hindi\*, Urdu\*, Punjabi\*, Mandarin\* and Cantonese\*. There are a lot of different religions\* in Britain today too.

## Some national differences

### Dress

This picture shows some people's idea of a Scotsman. But when you see people in clothes like these in the streets of Edinburgh, they are probably not Scotsmen. They are probably American tourists! Scottish national dress is not worn by Scotsmen for everyday life, but only at special times, like weddings\* or dances.



### Songs

The Scots, the Welsh and the Irish are very proud of their national songs. When the English play football against Scotland or Wales, the Scots sing *Flower of Scotland* and the Welsh sing *Land of My Fathers*. But the English national song is the same as the British national song – *God Save the Queen*\*

### Names

A person's name sometimes tells us where their family first came from. "Mac" or "Mc" in a surname\* (for example, McDonald) is always either Scottish or Irish. "O" in a surname (for example, O'Brien) is always Irish. Other surnames, like Morgan and Jones, are Welsh.

Sometimes, as a joke\*, Scotsmen are called "Jock" or "Jimmy" as a first name, Irishmen are called "Paddy" or "Mick" and Welshmen are called "Dai" or "Taffy". But if you don't know someone well, don't call them by these names!

## The British character\*

People say that Irish people talk a lot. They say that the Welsh are great singers. The Scots, they say, are not a very happy or fun-loving nation, and they are also very careful with money. Generally these descriptions\*are not true! But it is true that there are some very good Welsh actors and singers like Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta Jones and Tom Jones.

Foreigners have ideas about what is "British". But some of these things are not part of most ordinary people's everyday life. The great British breakfast and afternoon tea, for example, are mostly found in hotels and "bed and breakfast"\* places for tourists. And the British do not only drink tea these days. Coffee is popular too. They drink, on average\*, 3.39 cups of tea each day and 1.65 cups of coffee.

It takes time to know a British person well. British people are generally quite shy, and they do not make friends easily with strangers. Perhaps this is because they live on an island! And they are not good at learning foreign languages.

British people spend less money on clothes than the people of other European countries. Most of them are not very interested in clothes. Many British people wear suits\*to the office during the week, but at weekends they prefer to wear jeans\*.

## British Conversation\*

Dr Johnson, a famous English writer, said over 200 years ago, "When two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather." This is still true!

Conversations between British people today often begin with the subject of the weather.

# Chapter 2 The Royal\* Family

**How much do you know about the British royal family?**

Answer these questions.

- 1** What is the family name of the present royal family?  
**a** Stuart **b** Windsor **c** Tudor
- 2** When did Queen Elizabeth II become Queen?  
**a** 1945 **b** 1952 **c** 1960
- 3** Who was her father?  
**a** George VI **b** Henry VIII **c** Prince\* Philip
- 4** What is the name of the Queen's younger sister?  
**a** Margaret **b** Anne **c** Mary
- 5** Which of these children of the Queen is NOT divorced\*?  
**a** Princess\* Anne **b** Prince Andrew **c** Prince Edward
- 6** Which of these places is NOT used as a royal home?  
**a** Buckingham Palace\* **b** Balmoral **c** the Houses of Parliament\*
- 7** What are the Queen's favourite animals?  
**a** birds **b** cats **c** dogs
- 8** Who was once part of the British team in the Olympic Games\*?  
**a** Prince Philip **b** Prince Charles **c** Princess Anne
- 9** How old was Princess Diana when she married?  
**a** 25 **b** 19 **c** 21
- 10** Which city did Princess Diana die in?  
**a** London **b** Paris **c** Rome
- 11** Who was Sarah Ferguson married to?  
**a** Prince Andrew **b** Prince Philip **c** Prince Charles

## Answers to questions on the British royal family

*Give yourself 3 points for each correct answer.*

- 1 **b** Windsor.\* The Stuarts\* and the Tudors\* are the names of past British royal families.
- 2 **b** 1952, after her father died.
- 3 **a** George VI. Henry VIII was king from 1509 to 1547. Prince Philip is the Queen's husband.
- 4 **a** Margaret. She was born in 1930 and is four years younger than the Queen.
- 5 **c** Prince Edward. He married Sophie Rhys-Jones on 19 June, 1999. Their titles are the Earl\* of Wessex and the Countess\* of Wessex.
- 6 **c** The Houses of Parliament. Buckingham Palace is the royal family's famous London home. They use Balmoral, in Scotland, as a holiday home.
- 7 **c** Dogs. The Queen has eight small pet dogs.
- 8 **c** Princess Anne. She was part of the British horse-riding team in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.
- 9 **b** 19. Charles and Diana married on 29 July, 1981.
- 10 **b** Paris. Diana was killed in a car accident on 31 August, 1997.
- 11 **a** Prince Andrew. Andrew and Sarah divorced in 1996. They have two daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie.

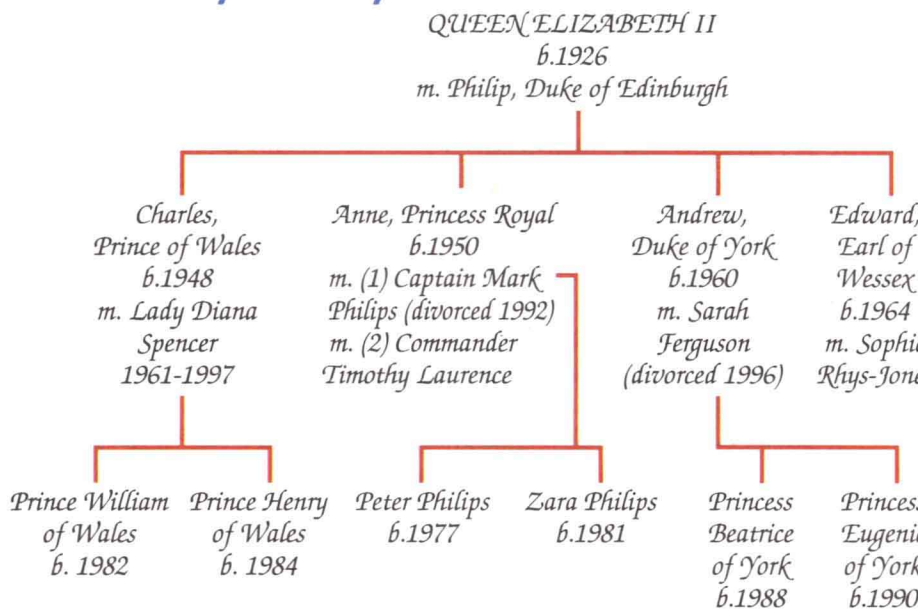
**27–33 points** You are clearly very interested in the British royal family. Perhaps you can write a book about them!

**15–24 points** You know something about the British royal family. But you still have a lot to learn.

**0–12 points** Don't you know anything about the British royal family? You should read more magazines!



## The royal family tree



In the days of Queen Victoria\* (1837–1901), ordinary British people thought that the royal family was very special. Victoria, her husband and their nine children were seen as an example of perfect\* family life.

But today things are different. The Queen is still generally\* popular,\* but there have been too many problems with royal marriages. The Queen's sister and three of her four children – Charles, Anne and Andrew – are now divorced.

Prince Charles, the Queen's oldest son, married Princess Diana in 1981. Diana was young and beautiful and the newspapers and television were very interested in her. Soon she was more popular than Charles, her husband. But her marriage to Charles was not happy. When Diana died in a car accident in 1997 with her lover, Dodi Fayed, many British people were very sad.

The royal family is still very important for tourism\* in Britain. Special days like the State opening of Parliament in November and

the royal weddings bring colour to\*people's lives. People in Britain enjoy reading about the lives of the royal family in newspapers and seeing them on television.

## Britannia

Even the British royal family have to think about saving money sometimes. In the past few years, they have tried to find different ways of cutting costs\*.

The royal ship, the *Britannia*, was very famous for more than forty years. From 1953 to 1997 it travelled all over the world. It was used by the Queen and her family for business – for example, for visits by people in foreign governments – and for family holidays. After Prince Charles and Princess Diana were married, they had a holiday on the *Britannia*.

But many people thought that the royal family did not need an expensive ship like the *Britannia*. So finally the royal family stopped using it. It was taken to Edinburgh, and thousands of tourists visit it there. Today ordinary people can enjoy walking around this wonderful ship!

# Chapter 3 The British at Home

## Owning\* a home

Today, most British people own the home that they live in. Of all the homes in Britain 67% (16.7 million homes) are owned by the people who live in them. In the south of England, the numbers are 74.7% in the south-east and 72.8% in the south-west. In Wales 71.5% of homes are owned by the people in them. In Northern Ireland the number is 71.4%. But in Scotland the number of home-owners has traditionally\* been lower (now 60.2% of homes).

## Family size

On average, 2.4 people live as a family in one home in Britain. This number is smaller than in most other European countries. About 65% of people over the age of 65 live alone. When children grow up, they usually leave their parents' home for university or work. After they buy their own home, their parents do not usually come and live with them.

### *Number of people living in one house in Britain*

	1961	1981	1998
One person	14%	22%	28%
Two people	29%	32%	35%
Three people	23%	17%	16%
Four people	18%	18%	14%
Five people	9%	7%	5%
Six or more people	7%	4%	2%

# Chapter 4 The Changing Family

The family in Britain is changing. By the year 2020 there will be fewer married people than single people.

In the past, people got married and stayed married. Divorce was very difficult and took a long time. The only reason for a short marriage was usually the death of the husband or wife. But today people's views on marriage are changing. Many couples\*, mostly in their twenties or thirties, live together without getting married. About 60% of these couples do get married in the end\*.

People get married at a later age now and many women do not want to have children immediately. They prefer to do well at their jobs first. So they often decide not to have a baby until they are in their late thirties, or even forties.

In the past, people married before they had children, but now about 40% of children in Britain are born to unmarried parents. The number of single-parent\* families in Britain is increasing. Single parents are usually divorced women (2/3) or women who have never married (1/3). The government gives help to single parents, but money can still be a problem. And studies\* show that, in general\*, children are happier and more successful in traditional two-parent\* families.

## Divorce

The number of births in Britain is falling. There are fewer marriages, but more divorces. In 1969, the divorce laws were changed and divorce became quicker and easier. But can people walk away from\* marriages too easily now? Do couples not try hard enough to stay together?