

**Great Britain**  
**PRE-READING**

**Task 1. Rewrite sentences from Active to Passive voice. Do not change their meaning.**

People all over Britain speak English.

The United Kingdom lies on the British Isles.

The Atlantic Ocean washes UK in the north.

The English Channel and the Strait of Dover separate the UK from the continent.

**Task 2. Look at this box and try to make sentences about UK.**

1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	are is	London.
2. The UK		is situated on the British Isles and consists of four parts: Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England.
3. The capital of Wales		is the official name of the state.
4. The capital of England		is washed by the North Sea in the east and by the Atlantic Ocean in the north
5. The capital of Scotland		Cardiff.
6. The capital of Northern Ireland		Edinburgh
7. The UK		Belfast

**Task 3. Complete this text about Great Britain.**

Use the words: *mild, large, falls, rain, sightseeing, Western, Atlantic, temperature, pound, population, Highlands, English, London.*

Great Britain is a (1) .... country, a kingdom in (2) .... Europe. It lies on several islands and has a (3) .... of about 57 mln people. Great Britain's capital is (4).... and the national currency is a (5) .... . (6) .... is the language that people speak in the country.

The climate in Great Britain is very (7) .... . There are a lot of (8) .... falling out all the year round. The wind brings rain from the (9) .... Ocean. Snow only (10) ....

occasionally and doesn't stay for long except in the (11) .... of Scotland. The usual (12) .... in England and Wales are + 4°C in January and + 16°C in July and August.

A lot of tourists come to Great Britain every year to do some (13) .... in its big and small towns.

**The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK)** is the official name of the state, which is situated on the British Isles. This state is also called Great Britain after the main island with the same name.

The UK consists of four countries, which are England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their capitals are London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. The UK is an **island state**. The two main islands are Great Britain (where England, Scotland and Wales are situated) and Ireland (where Northern Ireland and the independent Irish Republic are situated). The two islands are separated by **the Irish Sea**. **The UK** is washed by **the Atlantic Ocean** in the north and **the North Sea** in the east.

The UK is separated from the continent by **the English Channel** and **the Strait of Dover**. The Strait of Dover is the narrowest part of English Channel. The nearest point to Europe is **Dover** which is only thirty-two miles from France. Dover is one of the most ancient ports. If you cross the English Channel by ferry you can see **the white chalk cliffs of Dover** and **Dover Castle**.

Everyone who was born in Britain is British. People from England are English. People from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are not English. They are Scottish or the Scots, Welsh and Irish.

Everyone in Britain speaks English. But in some parts of Scotland and Wales people speak different languages as well. The Welsh are especially proud of their language. They like to speak Welsh, to sing songs in Welsh and when you travel you can see road signs in Welsh all over Wales. Everyone in the UK speaks English but they all speak it differently. A Scottish person has to listen carefully if he wants to understand a Londoner or a Welsh person. The Scottish people speak Gaelic.

More than 56 million people live in Britain. Many of them live in big industrial cities like London. The biggest cities of England are Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool (England); Edinburg, Glasgow, (Scotland).

Foreigners are often surprised by the fact that much of land in Britain is open country. There are many lonely hills, quiet rivers, deep lakes and just farmlands especially in the south of the country. The open country is named Lowlands but it changes for hills called Highlands in the north of the country.

The climate in Great Britain is very mild. The winter temperature is between +3° and +7°. Snow does not cover the ground very long, except on the mountains. The summer temperature is between +15° and +18°. It often rains.

The English weather is very changeable. So when English people make plans for holidays they usually begin, “If the weather...”

### **WHILE-READING**

**Task 4. Find the facts that prove following statements.**

**Model:** The UK has several names because its official name is The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Also people use abbreviation “UK”. It can be named by the biggest island Great Britain

- A. Great Britain consists of some parts.
- B. Britain is a detached state.
- C. People in the UK speak English differently.
- D. London is the most populated city.
- E. The landscape of Britain is various.
- F. English people can't make concrete plans for their holidays.

**Task 5. Put these questions in a correct order according to the text.**

1. What do we call the narrowest part of the English Channel?
2. Is English the only language people speak in the UK?
3. What language is spoken in Scotland? In Wales? In Ireland?
4. What parts does the UK consist of and what are their capitals?
5. What do we call people who were born in Britain? In Scotland? In Wales? In Ireland?
6. What is the national symbol (emblem) of England (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)?
7. How does the scenery change across the country?

8. What is the English weather like?
9. What separates Great Britain from the continent?
10. Why is the UK called an island state?
11. How big is London compared with other cities?
12. What is the official name of Great Britain?
13. What are the names of two main islands of the British Isles?
14. What is the British climate like?

**Task 6. Answer these questions.**

### POST-READING

**Task 7. Speak about the UK using the plan.**

- I. Names of UK.
- II. UK's countries.
- III. Geographical position.
- IV. Languages in UK.
- V. Cities.
- VI. Landscape and climate.

**Task 8. Do the project "Great Britain" using the plan and following statements.**

the official name of the state

the UK consists of

an island state

everyone who was born

people speak different languages

more than 56 million

Britain is open country

the winter temperature

the summer temperature