

Н. А. Красавцева, А. М. Гуреева,

## ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК (АНГЛИЙСКИЙ)

СБОРНИК ДОПОЛНИТЕЛЬНЫХ  
УЧЕБНЫХ МАТЕРИАЛОВ ДЛЯ РАЗВИТИЯ  
КОММУНИКАТИВНЫХ КОМПЕТЕНЦИЙ

«DIFFERENT WORLDS:  
VALUES AND TRADITIONS»



МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

Федеральное государственное автономное  
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«ПЕРМСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ  
НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

Н. А. Красавцева, А. М. Гуреева

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КОММУНИКАТИВНЫХ КОМПЕТЕНЦИЙ  
«DIFFERENT WORLDS: VALUES AND TRADITIONS»**

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бакалавров и магистров*



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Учебное пособие содержит материалы по географии, истории, политологии, экономике России, Великобритании, США. Актуальность пособия определяется сопоставлением информации, представленной в аутентичных материалах газет и журналов, и развитием социокультурной и аксиологической компетенций, а также обучением анализу российской и англо-саксонской культуры. Кроме текстов обзорного характера в пособии содержатся упражнения и дополнительные тексты, направленные на развитие всех видов речевой деятельности в данном содержательном пространстве. Обозначенный текстовый материал может послужить базовой основой для формирования мировоззрения (то есть совокупности взглядов, оценок и точек зрения на собственное отношение к миру, людям и жизненной позиции) как студентов, так и молодых преподавателей, начинающих свою профессиональную деятельность.

Пособие предназначено для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы студентов неязыковых специальностей в качестве дополнительных материалов при изучении дисциплины «Иностранный язык (английский)». Пособие также может быть рекомендовано для магистрантов, аспирантов, и всех, изучающих английский язык.

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## DO YOU KNOW THESE NATIONALITY WORDS?

<b>Country</b>	<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Nation</b>
Russia The USSR	Russian	a Russian	the Russians
America The USA	American	an American	the Americans
Germany The GDR The FRG	German	a German	the Germans
Italy	Italian	an Italian	the Italians
Belgium	Belgian	a Belgian	the Belgians
Brazil	Brazilian	a Brazilian	the Brazilians
Mexico	Mexican	a Mexican	the Mexicans
Norway	Norwegian	a Norwegian	the Norwegians
China	Chinese	a Chinese	the Chinese
Portugal	Portuguese	a Portuguese	the Portuguese
(also: Japanese, Burmese, Lebanese, Vietnamese, Congolese)			
Switzerland	Swiss	a Swiss	the Swiss
Denmark	Danish	a Dane	the Danes
Finland	Finnish	a Finn	the Finns
Poland	Polish	a Pole	the Poles
Scotland	Scottish Scots	a Scot a Scotsman/woman	the Scots the Scotsmen
Sweden	Swedish	a Swede	the Swedes
Turkey	Turkish	a Turk	the Turks
England	English	an Englishman/woman	the English
France	French	a Frenchman/woman	the French
The Netherlands (Holland)	Dutch	a Dutchman/woman	the Dutch
Ireland	Irish	a Irishman/woman	the Irishmen the Irish
Spain	Spanish	a Spaniard	the Spanish

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**PART I**  
**RUSSIA**  
**UNIT 1**  
**FACTS ABOUT RUSSIA**

**Read and complete the sentences:**

Russia is the largest country in the world. It takes **1)** ... hours to cross it by plane! A train journey from Moscow to Vladivostok on the Transsiberian Express takes six days! Russia has 10 **time zones**. When people in Kaliningrad are having **2)** ... people in Vladivostok are going to bed! Russia **stretches** from the Baltic Sea in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east and from the Northern Arctic Ocean to the **deserts** of Central Asia. Russian rivers are long. The Volga is the longest river in Europe. Russia has a wide range of scenery and climates, too. It has **harsh** winters with lots of **3)** ..., but the summers are quite warm. The temperature is +20° to -25° C. The lake Baikal is 636 km **4)** ... and 80 km wide. It is the world's biggest fresh water reservoir. The water is very **5)** ... . You can see the bottom of the lake through 30-40 m of water. Mount Elbrus (18,481 ft / 5,633 m), in the Caucasus **6)** ... range, is the highest peak in the country. Steppes cover all of the south of Russia, from the Black Sea to the Altai Mountains on the Chinese border. Some of the steppes have rich **7)** ... soil. Almost **8)** ... per cent of Russia is tundra. There aren't any trees there. It is frozen for the most of the year. Reindeer live there. Taiga is a thick forest with a lot of dark pine, fir, and cedar **9)** ... . Many species of wildlife live there.

**THE POLITICAL MAP**  
**OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**LEAD-IN**

- 1. Look at the map of our country (p.5). Can you find Perm on it?**
- 2. Which region do you live in? Which other regions surround it?**



### 3. What countries surround the Russian Federation?



Цифрами на карте обозначены:

- |                       |                       |                                        |                                        |                              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 - Белгородская обл. | 8 - Липецкая обл.     | 16 - Вологодская обл.                  | 20 - Карачаево-Черкесская Республика   | 25 - Республика Башкортостан |
| 2 - Владимирская обл. | 9 - Московская обл.   | 18 - Новгородская обл.                 | 21 - Республика Северная Осетия-Алания | 26 - Республика Марий Эл     |
| 3 - Воронежская обл.  | 10 - Саратовская обл. | 17 - Республика Адыгея                 | 22 - Чеченская Республика              | 27 - Республика Мордовия     |
| 4 - Ивановская обл.   | 11 - Рязанская обл.   | 18 - Республика Ингушетия              | 23 - Краснодарский край                | 28 - Республика Татарстан    |
| 5 - Калужская обл.    | 12 - Тамбовская обл.  | 19 - Кабардино-Балкарская Республика   | 24 - Ставропольский край               | 29 - Удмуртская Республика   |
| 6 - Костромская обл.  | 13 - Тульская обл.    | 20 - Карачаево-Черкесская Республика   | 25 - Республика Башкортостан           | 30 - Чувашская Республика    |
| 7 - Курская обл.      | 14 - Ярославская обл. | 21 - Республика Северная Осетия-Алания | 26 - Республика Марий Эл               | 31 - Кировская обл.          |
|                       |                       | 22 - Чеченская Республика              | 27 - Республика Мордовия               | 32 - Нижегородская обл.      |
|                       |                       | 23 - Краснодарский край                | 28 - Республика Татарстан              | 33 - Пензенская обл.         |
|                       |                       | 24 - Ставропольский край               | 29 - Удмуртская Республика             | 34 - Пермский край           |
|                       |                       |                                        | 30 - Чувашская Республика              | 35 - Коми-Пермичский АО      |
|                       |                       |                                        |                                        | 36 - Самарская обл.          |
|                       |                       |                                        |                                        | 37 - Саратовская обл.        |
|                       |                       |                                        |                                        | 38 - Ульяновская обл.        |

### 4. Look at the Russian banknotes. Which regions are represented on them?





R

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

Russia has been officially known as the Russian Federation since December 12, 1991. Before that Russia was one of the republics of the USSR. Its name was the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR).

Russia is the largest country on the Earth. It is nearly twice the size of the USA and it **spans** ten time zones and two continents. Recent **figures** show that nearly 142 million people live in Russia, giving it the fifth largest population in the world after China, India, the USA and Indonesia. The people consist of around 130 different nationalities, the largest of these being Russians – with 81,5 % of the total. The **territory** of Russia covers just over 17 million sq. km and its largest subject is the republic of Sakha-Yakutia at over 3 million

sq. km. One of the smallest is Moscow at only 1,000 sq. km. Strangely, it is one of the most **densely** populated regions with nearly 9 million citizens. Evenkia is the smallest region of Russia in terms of the population and has only 18.000 residents.

## **SPEAKING**

**Use the map to present the Russian Federation to your groupmates.**

## **NATIONAL SYMBOLS**

### **LEAD-IN**

- 1. What colour is the Russian flag? What is on it?**
- 2. In pairs, think of two questions about each symbol. Read the text on the next page and see if you can answer them.**
- 3. Read the text and say what these numbers refer to?**

Three	1668	1991
-------	------	------
- 4. Look at the picture of the eagle on p. 8 and label the parts.**

## **SPEAKING**

- What do you and your family do on national holidays?**
- In pairs, think of the emblem of Perm. Draw it and present it to the group.**

### **The Russian Flag**

First, the Russian flag appeared in 1668. It was the symbol of Russia for more than 300 years. It reappeared as the modern flag in 1991. The flag has three wide **stripes** on it. The colours of the flag are symbolic. White is “faithful and sincere”, blue is “honest and loyal” and red is “brave”. When Russian people **celebrate** their national holidays you can see the national flag in all the streets, **squares, official buildings, blocks of flats** and houses in big cities, small towns and villages.



### The Double-Headed Eagle

The double-headed eagle is the emblem of Russia. Above the heads there are three crowns. The eagle carries a scepter, the sign of state power, and an orb, the sign of unity. You can see St. George on the breast of the eagle. It is the oldest Russian symbol of love for the Motherland. You can also see the eagle on the back of modern Russian coins.



### DO YOU KNOW?

- Russia is on the two continents – Europe and Asia. But only 20 % of Russia are in Europe.
- Russia has a **population** of nearly 142 million people. 75 % of the population live in the European part. The weather is better there.
- Almost four times as many people live in cities than in villages. The 12 biggest cities have a population of over 1 million people each.

- Russian people are not always a Slavic **type**. They do not all have blue eyes and fair hair. Russian people may **look like** Spaniards, Greeks, Jews, Turks, Koreans or Mongolians.
- Russian people are part of a big **community** of more than 100 **nations** and **ethnic** groups. There are Russians, Tatars, Ukrainians, Chuvash, Bashkir, Belorussians and Mordvins.
- Everyone in Russia speaks Russian as their national language. Local languages are very important too. Children study them at school.
- There are five main **religions** in Russia. Orthodox Christians, Catholics, Muslims, Jews, and Buddhists live **side by side** all over the country.
- Russian people are all different, but together they built a strong country – the Russian Federation.

## UNIT 2

### FACTS AND FIGURES...

#### READING AND SPEAKING

**Look through all the dates of October-January suggested to you in the newspaper *The Moscow News*. Choose one of them and present it to your groupmates.**

#### October 12

**1552** The end of the Russian-Kazan War, when Kazan Khanate was annexed to the Moscow Principality. This victory accomplished the unification of a large group of politically separated Russian principalities.

#### October 13

**1928** The day Maria Fyodorovna of Denmark died. She was mother of the last Russian emperor Nicholas II and wife of Alexander III. She outlived her husband and all her children and left Russia in 1919 on board an English naval ship.

### **October 15**

**1814** This day Mikhail Lermontov, one of the greatest Russian poets, was born. From his childhood he regarded himself as an individual with a superhuman meaning for the world. “I was born for the whole world to be a spectator of my triumph or death”, as he modestly put it.

### **October 17**

**1905** The October Manifesto on the improvement of State Order, which granted several civil liberties: personal immunity, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of association. But the most important was enacting broad participation in the Duma, introduction of universal suffrage for men, and a decree that no law should come into force without the consent of the State Duma. Still, the manifesto didn't work out in reality, and accomplished little. The Tsar continued to exercise a veto over the Duma, which was eventually dissolved and never reformed.

### **October 18**

**1812** At Tarutino (near Kaluga), the Russian army won its first large scale tactical victory over Napoleon's invading army.

### **October 26**

**1824** The Maly Theater was opened in the renovated house of Vasily Vasilyevich Vargin, a Moscow merchant.

**1880** Dmitry Mikhaylovich Karbyshev was born. He was a talented Russian general, and a hero of the Soviet Union. He graduated from the Siberian Military Engineering School with flying colors, and then launched a successful career through a number of significant wars, including the Russo-Japanese War, World War I, and World War II. In December 1917 he joined the red Army and played an influential role in the Civil War. While fighting in World War II he was seriously wounded and taken as a prisoner. Karbyshev was kept in several concentration camps but never collaborated with the Nazis. On February 17, 1945 he was executed by being thrown into cold water, at the Austrian concentration camp Mauthausen. A hero

of the Soviet Union, he was generally considered to be an example and symbol of unbending will and steadfastness.

### **October 28**

**1924** France officially recognized the Soviet Union and reestablished diplomatic relations.

### **October 29**

**1928** The last act of Constantin Stanislavsky comes to an end. He had a heart attack during a performance of Chekhov's "The Three Sisters". During the last years of his life he worked only as a director and a professor.

**1984** Feodor Shaliapin's remains were reburied at the Novodevichy cemetery. On October 31, 1985 a monument was erected in the cemetery to commemorate this famous singer, 46 years after he had died in Paris on April 12, 1938.

### **October 30**

**Sailors Day.** Seamen and veterans of the Russian Navy celebrate this holiday in their honor.

### **October 31**

**1961** On the night of October 31 and November 1, Stalin's body was removed from the Mausoleum on the Red Square.

**1991** The Congress of Soviets of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic declared the pre-revolutionary tricolor to be the national flag of the Russian Federation.

### **November 1**

**1939** The Supreme Council of the USSR officially incorporated the western part of Ukraine into the Soviet Union.

### **November 23**

**1993** The reestablishment of the historical emblem of Moscow was approved by the mayor of Moscow. The historic image was first approved on December 20, 1781 by Catherine the Great. Saint

George with a spear in his hand is depicted on the emblem, slaying a dragon. Its three colors of blue, red and white appear in the Russian national flag.

### **November 24**

**1730** Alexander Vasilyevich Suvorov was born. He was a talented general and participated in more than 60 battles. His guiding principles were to attack the enemy directly on his most vulnerable side, and that the battle must be decided by a strong and decisive attack. Although attack was always his first choice, he never ignored the possibility of retreat if it could save his troops.

### **November 25**

**1339** Construction of the oaken walls of the Moscow Kremlin begins. They were built over the course of five months, under Ivan Danilovich Kalita and then largely destroyed by fire in 1365. They were replaced in 1367 with stone walls, on the order of Grand Prince Dmitry Donskoy.

### **November 27**

**1730** The Senate ordered that street lighting be placed in Moscow during the winter. It was the beginning of permanent lighting in Moscow and it transformed Moscow from a medieval city. The treasury provided money for building street lamps, but citizens were to keep them in good order themselves. All the lighting works were finished in two years and by 1776 there were more than 600 lamps installed in Moscow, by 1800 the number had grown to 6,559.

### **November 29**

**1941** Zoya Anatolyevna Kosmodemyanskaya was executed at the age of 18 by German invaders, as a partisan and collaborator with the Soviet secret services. In October 1941 she volunteered for a sabotage mission behind German lines. In the village of Petrishchevo near Moscow, she was captured. After an unsuccessful interrogation, she was stripped, flogged and made to walk through the winter weather naked. She was hanged the next day, and her body was left on the gallows for a month.



### **November 30**

**1698** Peter the Great established the first and the highest Russian title – the Order of St. Andrew. It has been awarded since for outstanding civilian or military achievement. On July 1, 1998 it was reestablished by presidential decree and the very first recipients were the academician Dmitry Likhachov, the weapons designer Mikhail Kalashnikov and the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev.

### **December 1**

**1896** Birth of Georgy Zhukov, one of the greatest marshals of the Soviet Union. Originally from a peasant family in the Kaluga region, he was awarded the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union for four times. During the Second World War he proved to be an outstanding military leader, but after the war he fell out with Stalin's favor. After Stalin's death he became the first deputy of the Soviet Minister of Defense. He died on June 18, 1974 and his ashes are buried in the Kremlin Wall.

### **December 2**

**1805** The battle of Austerlitz, the decisive French victory of the Russian-Austrian-Franco war. The battle is often regarded by historians as an example of tactical mastery. It is extensively described in Tolstoy's "War and Peace".

### **December 5**

**1931** The majestic Cathedral of Christ the Savior was demolished. The original cathedral was started in 1839, and built over the course of 40 years. It became not only a religious monument but also a historical one, as it commemorated Russian military achievements. But in summer 1931, Soviet authorities decided to raze it. The "Moskva" swimming pool stood in its place from 1960 to 1994. On August 19, 2000 the rebuilt cathedral was re-consecrated.

### **December 6**

**1741** With the help of the Preobrazhensky Guards, the youngest daughter of Peter the Great, Yelizaveta Petrovna, was put on the throne. During her reign Russia was flourishing, as she restored Peter the Great's traditions in the Russian Army and Navy, strengthening

the nation's position in world affairs. She loved luxurious things and expensive parties so the government spent the time lavishly at court. But she nevertheless encouraged the development of culture, education and science in Russia. She died on the October 21, 1761, and as she was childless, she had nominated her nephew Peter III to succeed her.

### **December 8**

**1799** Russian troops under General Lazarev marched into Tiflis. That was the beginning of the permanent presence of Russian troops in Georgia, stemmed from the signing of the Georgievsk treaty in 1783.

### **December 11**

**1240** The start of the Kiev defense against the Tatar-Mongol troops of Batu-khan. Despite the heroism of the defenders the city was taken and totally destroyed.

### **December 12**

**1993** The Constitution of the Russian Federation was adopted. This day became the Day of the Constitution and one of the most important days for Russian law-makers. The Constitution is the core of the present legal system. It is the base of the democratic system of the Russian government.

### **December 29**

**1708** On this day Peter the Great passed a decree creating the provinces of Russia. As the nation was increasing in territory, the government was increasing in power as well. Thus Peter created eight provinces in Russia and the governors of each represented the nation's military, municipal and judicial administration. In 1719 the number of provinces grew to 11 and in 1775, to 40.

### **December 31**

**1898** The first Russian inter-city telephone line began operating between Moscow and Saint Petersburg. The inter-city station in Moscow was housed in a building on Myasnitskaya Street, where the central telegraph agency was located.

**1946** The first Russian figure skating champion Lyudmila Pakhomova was born. She graduated from the Anatoly Lunacharsky University of Dramatic Arts as a ballet-master. She took up figure skating at the stadium of young pioneers in Moscow and soon tried both ladies singles and pairs skating. In ice-dancing she appeared together with her former coach Victor Rizhkin, and they became the USSR champions. But real fame arrived while working together with Alexander Georgievich Gorshkov, under the coaching of Elena Tchaikovskaia. The couple won the awards of World and Europe Championships many times, including a gold medal in the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck. Pakhomova died of cancer in 1986.

### **January 1**

**1700** On this day Peter the Great ordered the celebration of the New Year to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January instead of the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Also, a new system of chronology was established and the year 77208 was changed to the year of 1700, in accordance with the European's calendar. Peter also decreed that the New Year be celebrated from the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, and urged people to decorate the streets. Also this year, the very first fir-tree appeared in Russia.

### **January 3**

**1906** Alexei Grigoryevich Stakhanov who set an example for hard work was born on this day. He was a miner, and became the name-sake of a movement to increase worker productivity and demonstrate the superiority of the socialist economic system. Hence the “stakhanovskoye movement” was launched in the country.

*The Moscow News, 2007.*

*№№ 46-51*

*Completed by Daria Chernyshova*



## TASKS

1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases.
2. Find in the text modern terms, the names of the poll leaders and some important figures.
3. Answer the following question:  
Who would you vote for as the most important and influential people in our country?

### PRINCE NEVSKY LEADS 'MOST POPULAR' POLL

12 leaders have been chosen in the national internet poll Name of Russia which is to determine whom Russians see as the most important and influential people in their history. Saint Prince Aleksander Nevsky holds the first place while Joseph Stalin, whose allegedly inflated popularity has caused the project to restart, slid to the 12th place.

The Name of Russia project has been organized jointly by the Rossiya TV channel, the History Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Public Opinion polling center. The winner in the poll will be announced in the end of 2008 in a major talk show broadcasted on the Rossiya channel.

On Wednesday the managers of the poll announced the 12 finalists. The first places were occupied by the 13th century prince Saint Aleksander Nevsky, the 19th century poet Aleksander Pushkin, the 19th century writer Fyodor Dostoevsky, the 18th century emperor Peter I, and Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin.

The Communist dictator Joseph Stalin also made his way to the finals, but he was ranked only the 12th, in contrast with the recent situation when Stalin was the unrivaled favourite in the polls. A few months ago the organizers said that the voting was not fair and blamed some internet groups for rigging the vote and even hacking the site of the project. Eventually, the project was restarted in August with all the previous results corrected and necessary protection added.

Curiously, the new leader, while not as infamous as Stalin, is still quite a controversial figure and his popularity may mean that the Russian public still has some anti-Western sentiments. Grand Prince of the North Russian city-state of Great Novgorod, Aleksander Yaroslavovich is most famous for his victory over German crusaders – on the ice of the Chudskoye lake in 1242. Aleksander was a vassal to the Golden Horde and opposition to the Germans and Roman Catholics was natural to him, but the Russian public mostly learned the story from the 1938 movie made by the famous director Sergei Eisenstein. The film has no mention of Mongols and the Livonian knights are portrayed as all-evil invaders from the West – important point as the Soviet Union readied itself to the war with Nazi Germany.

The fact that Aleksander Nevsky was sanctified by the Russian Orthodox Church for his achievements in repelling the spread of the Roman Catholicism is also worth of some attention.

While many in Russia questioned the feasibility of the project that suggested to choose between all sorts of famous people – from leaders of the nation to poets and scientists, the producers of the poll defended their idea by saying that the main objective of the project was not to determine the nation's preferences but rather to introduce some opposition to the “glamour” icons of today.

Talking to press on Wednesday, Name of Russia's chief producer Aleksander Lyubimov said that the new results were calculated using a precise formula.

The final stage of the competition will allow voting by SMS and direct calls during the broadcast of the announcement, so the picture may still change, the organizers said.

*By Kirill Bessonov  
The Moscow News  
2008. № 38. P 3.*



## YOUR FAVOURITE RUSSIAN POET

### TASK

Choose the right author of each passage. Read aloud your favourite one.

1. I do not regret, and I do not shed tears,  
All, like haze off apple-trees, must pass.  
Turning gold, I'm fading, it appears,  
I will not be young again, alas.
  
2. I have come to greet you, dear,  
Tell you that the sun has risen,  
That its light began to quiver  
In the foliage of the season,  
That the forest is awoken,  
With its branches all aroused,  
With its birds' slumber broken,  
Now it's longing for spring hours.
  
3. Death: nothing but tremor and dread,  
And pride and need make up our essence  
We live with God, and then we're dead...  
  
Where will you be tomorrow, man?  
The clock has struck your latest hours,  
And, like your dream, your life is gone.
  
4. The night, the street, the lamp, the chemist's  
The silly light, so dim and grey...  
You may live long, but all is senseless  
Nothing will ever change. No way...  
You'll die, and start this cycle's double!  
All will recur just like before:  
The night, the ripples of the channel,

- The street, the lamp, and the drugstore.
5. The blue wave dance, they dance and tremble,  
The sun's bright ray caress the seas.  
And yet for storm it begs, the rebel,  
As if in storm lurked calm and peace!...
6. I loved you so, and, maybe, my affection  
Has not yet faded, living as afore,  
But now you're free from worry and vexation,  
I do not want to grieve you anymore.

I loved you mutely, hopelessly and truly,  
With shy yet fervent, tenderness aglow;  
Mine was a jealous passion and unruly ...  
May Heaven grant another loves you so!

**Key:**

- a) Alexander Blok
- b) Gavriila Derzhavin
- c) Afanasy Fet
- d) Mikhail Lermontov
- f) Alexander Pushkin
- g) Sergei Yesenin

1	2	3	4	5	6

## UNIT 3

### FOREIGNERS' IMPRESSIONS OF RUSSIA

#### TASK

Having read the texts answer the question: **In your opinion, what is true and what is false in these articles?**

**Margarethe Torset, 23 years old**

**From: Norway**

**In Moscow: 6 weeks**

**Musician**



– **What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– I love this city. It is full of energy, inspiration, and creativity. The feeling of constant movement around you, and then, suddenly, feeling all alone somewhere in a small downtown side – street is great.

– **What was the biggest shock for you?**

– Local pace of life. I still can't really get used to it. The amount of cars is striking, too, and the behaviour of the drivers is totally different. The style of driving is very rough. I experienced it as a pedestrian. No one stops to let you cross the street, even if there happens to be a zebra. Sometimes the drivers don't pay attention to traffic lights.

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– Probably it is. For me it is not so evident, but I know that in Norway we have very high prices compared to other European countries, and here the price level is just a little bit lower, so I guess this might be called 'expensive'.

– **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– I really appreciate the fact that numerous cultural events take place here. And moreover, the whole system lets you enjoy these activities: public transport is working until very late, and also you



don't have to call the taxi service. If you want to go by car, it is enough just to raise your hand. In spite of my Norwegian friends' prejudices, I have never experienced any problems, being a lonely girl here and travelling in a car without an escort.

– **What do you think of Russian food?**

– It is somehow similar to Norwegian, but you eat more hot food, and that's good.

– **What would you like to take with you to remind you of Moscow?**

– I really want to keep in my memories some concerts I've been to, the impressions of the people's faces, the special Moscow mood I have experienced here.

**Matteo Guacelli, 31 years old**

**From: Italy**

**In Moscow: 5 months**

**Chemist**

– **What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– The downtown is a kind of precious collection of many charming buildings of the past, with many exciting venues and corners. Outside the Sadovoe koltso it looks like a continuous construction site. Another thing striking from the first glance is that people are always hurrying. There are very few people just walking. Normally they are almost running.

– **What was the biggest shock for you here?**

– The subway. On the one hand, the Moscow metro is as beautiful as it is described. Marble columns, stained-glass windows, bronze statues, mosaics, lots of light. On the other hand, there are so many beggars in the metro cars and passages, I couldn't believe my eyes. Also I have never seen so many people rushing down the escalators. And finally, I was surprised that nobody pays attention if a pregnant woman or an old lady is standing.

– **Is there anything you couldn't get used to in Moscow?**

– All that was a shock, those contrasts are still strange and striking for me. Actually, this city is all about contrasts. And I can't get used to the weather too. I love it more sunny, even if it's rather cold, and I don't like the grey sky for few weeks in a row.

– **What do you lack in Moscow?**

– Sun. Smiling people.

– **Have you ever got lost in Moscow?**

– I have, but people are mostly willing to help. Or to be honest, I'd advise visitors to address young women or old babushkas. They are eager to explain you everything, while some gloomy folks sometimes do not care to respond even with "I don't know".

– **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– It's endless. I haven't even managed to visit all theatres here yet!

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– A little bit.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 12 (4166)  
www.mn.ru /english*

**Marc Tinxet, 31 years old**

**From: Holland**

**In Moscow: 7 months**

**Writer**

– **How would you describe Moscow with a single word?**

– Challenging.

– **What was the biggest shock for you here?**

– I've heard that public servants and employees are rather brusque in Russia – well, there's probably no country where they would be ideal, but Russians have an especially bad reputation – and I was extremely surprised to find people who were eager to help me, who unsparingly spent their time to listen to my bad Russian, who were very considerate towards me.

– **Is there anything you couldn't get used to in Moscow?**

– Most of all – the rush hour crowds in the metro.

– **What do you lack in Moscow?**

– Personal time. I'm getting used to being in a hurry, to run from one meeting to another, from an office to a party... Life here passes quickly, you hardly have time to think of something – and suddenly you realize it's another week already.

– **Have you ever got lost in Moscow?**

– Not really, but I always spend quite a lot of time straying among similar buildings in remote districts, looking for the one I need. All those “korpus”, “stroenie” (additional numeration of the buildings) make me mad.

– **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– It still has a blue sky above all this mess.

– **Was there anything you thought you would be able to buy in Moscow, but you couldn't?**

– No, there wasn't.

– **What is your favourite place in Moscow?**

– There are several. First of all, Zamoskvorechie district where I rent an apartment. It seems to be one of the places where the atmosphere of old Moscow is still preserved, to some extent. At least I don't know any other place that is so peaceful and quiet. Then, Biblio-globus book store. It has a wide and varied selection of goods and moreover, it's a nice place to watch people's behavior. Also I love Moscow markets – such as Dorogomilovsky or Kon'kovo.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 09 (4163)  
www.mn.ru/english*

**David Arrod, 37 years old**

**From: Canada**

**In Moscow: 6 months**

**IT-specialist**

**– What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– That it's a city you will never know thoroughly. Even if you learn both the city map and the metro map, and your own most common routes, and if you read books on Moscow history and if you have friends who know offbeat and godforsaken places... even then you can't be sure you've solved all its riddles.

**– Is there anything that you can't get used to in Moscow?**

– I like to drink fresh juice for breakfast, but here it's quite an expensive habit.

**– Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– Some things are incredibly expensive. Some things are reasonably-priced. Some things are unbelievably cheap. It depends on your life style and the way you manage your expenses.

**– What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– So many places which are opened for 24 hours. Once we had a party at my friends' place that is situated near one of the most remote metro stations, and at 4 in the morning we decided to cook something. So we only had to walk some ten minutes to the nearest shop. And of course all of your cafes, clubs, eateries... that's amazing!

**– What is your favourite place in Moscow?**

– First of all, Moscow International House of Music. Then, Dom cultural center. Also I like walking along Tverskaya, Kamergersky, Teatralnaya.

**– Are there any habits you didn't have before but acquired while in Moscow?**

– Staying awake all night long. And on the other hand, not making too much noise after 11 p.m. because I have a neighbour up-

stairs who goes mad very quickly in these cases. Not making a lot of fuss if something is delayed or someone is being late.

*The Moscow News,*  
*№ 11 (4165)*  
*www.mn.ru /english*

**Henry Molter, 26 years old**

**From: Belgium**

**In Moscow: 6 weeks**

**Architect**

– **How would you describe Moscow with a single word?**

– Inspiring and controversial.

– **What was the biggest shock for you here?**

– A mess in the streets. Total buzz. 24 hours construction sites where people sometimes do not get necessary insurance and equipment.

– **Is there anything you couldn't get used to in Moscow?**

– Queues to get on the bus, because the control machine in the bus is automatic and slow, and there are too many people desiring to board. That's a very strange system considering how big Moscow is and how many people use public transport. On the other hand, for personal car owners, traffic jams are a disaster.

– **Is there anything about Moscow your compatriots wouldn't believe in?**

– That some people need 2 hours to get to their office, spending 3 or 4 hours in transport in total.

– **What is the biggest difference between Moscow and the place where you come from?**

– Amount of inhabitants and rhythm of life.

– **What do you lack in Moscow?**

– Bright old buildings. And cleanliness.

– **Have you ever got lost in Moscow?**

– Yes, in the suburbs where every building looks totally the same as the next.

– **What’s the loveliest feature of this city?**

– Mad people who believe they can reach the stars. And they do that.

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– No, I wouldn’t. Rather reasonable prices, except hotels.

– **What is your favourite place in Moscow?**

– Bilingua club and Dom Culture. And skating-rinks.

– **What do you think about Russian food?**

– I like it. I like that you eat soups, and I found pelmeni especially tasty, and pelmeni with cottage cheese... - vareniki... so, they are the best I’ve tried here.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 13 (4167)  
[www.mn.ru/english](http://www.mn.ru/english)*

**Hector Murillo, 29 years old**

**From: USA**

**In Moscow: 2 months**

**Lawyer**



– **What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– A city of contrasts. I remember those stylish businessmen in their Bentleys and Mercedes, or black huge Land Rovers, which occupy half of the street. Meanwhile kids begging or people drinking beer straight from bottles in metro passages. And the difference between the city center and the suburbs is also extremely vivid.

– **What was the biggest shock for you?**

– The traditions of business. For example, I will never understand the use of arranging long dinners and drinking a lot to celebrate the successful settlement of some problem. Also traffic jams are stunning. If you don't want to be late – leave a few hours beforehand.

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– Probably it depends on your income. Some locals live with only three hundred dollars per month, and some can spend this per night.

– **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– Contradictions. Multi-culturism.

– **What is your favourite place in Moscow?**

– There are some nice restaurants, say, *Yamki i povalyatsya*, if you like Japanese food, or *Venezia trattoria*, which is a kind of venue with home Italian food and lazy waiters. Also I've loved both of *Syrnaya dyrka* restaurants. For walking, Izmailovsky park is a perfect choice. Then, I enjoy visiting Novaya Opera Theatre, and Tchaikovsky concert hall.

– **What would you like to take with you to remind you of Moscow?**

– Some of those snow men I've seen in Arbat Street, which were made by artists and young people. They are very nice. Or as I wouldn't manage to take one safe and prevent it from melting, I think I'll buy some pieces of Moscow contemporary art from galleries. It seems to me that Moscow now is turning into an important art venue.

*The Moscow News,*  
*№ 06 (4160)*  
*www.mn.ru /english*

**Hans Lobjardt, 50 years old**

**From: Denmark**

**In Moscow: 4,5 months**

**Executive Manager**

– **How would you describe Moscow with one word?**

– Friendly.

– **What was the biggest shock for you here?**

– Prices to rent an apartment. They say there's really boom, but I didn't expect it to be that incredible. And a shock is a mix of everything.

– **Is there anything about Moscow your compatriots wouldn't believe in?**

– That doctors, teachers or profs can be so poorly paid. In Scandinavia these professions are rather prestigious, so it's hard to believe that a sales manager in a shop can have a three-times bigger salary than a teacher. And it seems that the shortage of money makes these people feel inferior, and thus, it is reflected in the quality of their work. I hope this situation will be changed somehow in the nearest future.

– **What is the biggest difference between Moscow and the place where you come from?**

– You have much more possibilities. Well, you have to demonstrate strong will and to be tough. But if you manage, you can reach any aim. And social limits are not so strict. On the other hand, it seems that you have less possibilities to protect your rights in case they are violated.

– **What do you lack in Moscow?**

– Mountains.

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– I would say that dining out is pretty expensive, and as for clothes you also have to know some secret spots, if you want to buy them at reasonable prices. But in other respects it's just a normal big European city.



– **What do you think of Russian food?**

– It's really good. I love various ways Russians cook potato, and most of all I love boiled potato with herring. Also I'm fond of pancakes, soups and caviar.

– **What would you like to take with you to remind you of Moscow?**

– A samovar as a sign of Russian hospitality.

*The Moscow News,*

*№ 09 (4163)*

*www.mn.ru /english*

**Nina Koevets, 20 years old**

**From: Netherlands**

**In Moscow: 10 days**

**Student**

– **What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– I always thought that guidebook pictures are edited, the colors amended, for everything to look simply perfect. But on my very first night in Moscow when I went for a walk to the center, I couldn't believe my eyes. It looked exactly as those pictures, or even more splendid.

– **What is the biggest difference between your city and Moscow?**

– The dimension. In whole Holland there are only sixteen million people, while Moscow has twelve million inhabitants. You feel really anonymous in the city, nobody knows you. Especially in the metro, I felt very different. And the relationship between people differs; you have less distance between each other. For example, for us it's not common to kiss each other when we meet, to touch each other so much, except if you are really close friends. But I have a reason for you to do that: for example, if you walk on ice, you simply need to hold each other, otherwise you'll fall. That's probably where all these habits come from.

– **What was the biggest shock for you in Moscow?**

– In the Netherlands we're much more punctual, and if we're late, it's just five minutes. But in Moscow coming thirty minutes late is almost a rule. Another shock was to see so much snow, because in Holland we have it only for several days. On the other hand, the weather was much warmer than I'd expected.

– **What will you take home with you, to remind you of Moscow?**

– That's not a thing, that's Moscow people. I couldn't expect so much hospitality. I will always remember the people I met here, so kind they were. They gave me the feeling I was welcome here. I came here because I'm interested in Russia, and I was surprised they also were interested in my country.

– **What do you think about Russian food?**

– I liked most of it. The only small drawback is that you like sweets too much. I liked pelmeni a lot, and I tried them in various places.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 01-02 (4156)  
[www.mn.ru/english](http://www.mn.ru/english)*

**Helen, 39 years old**  
**From: Belgium**  
**In Moscow: 1 month**  
**Web-designer**



– **How would you describe Moscow with a single word?**

– Chaotic.

– **What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– That nobody is looking at nobody. Everyone is deep in his or her thoughts, or talking with friends, hardly casting a glance around. Only kids are more opened.

– **What was the biggest shock for you here?**

– There was more than one. First, drivers do not fasten the belts. Then, you can give money to police. Moreover, I was shocked to see many 24-hours supermarkets.

– **Is there anything you couldn't get used to in Moscow?**

– Yes. Slippery streets make me mad.

– **What do you think of Russian food?**

– I like it! The soups are incredibly tasty.

– **What do you lack in Moscow?**

– I don't know why... But I lack Russian spirit, I'd say. Moscow is so huge, so international, so bright... I expected something more tied with Orthodox religion, more strict and calm. Some central districts correspond with this image, anyway.

– **Have you ever got lost in Moscow?**

– Yes.

– **What's the loveliest feature in this city?**

– It's alive. Say, in comparison, St. Petersburg is probably more beautiful, but you get bored quickly.

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– The prices are not that high, but I have to admit I expected them to be lower. But I know the difference between Moscow and other Russian towns is incredible, concerning money, life style, unemployment... So if you want to see it (and to have low prices) you should just go to other parts of Russia.

– **What is your favourite place in Moscow?**

– The Bolshoi Theatre. I like both the performances and its interior. Also the Hermitage garden is a very nice place for any leisure

activities: cafes, restaurants, a garden with two skating rinks, and merry people around you!

*The Moscow News,*  
*№ 06 (4160)*  
*www.mn.ru/english*

**Kawin, 23 years old**

**From: Japan**

**In Moscow: 10 days**

**Economist**

– **What’s your first impression of Moscow?**

– Very active people. Very wide streets. Many building sites in process. Green grass seen under the snow.

– **What is the biggest difference between Moscow and your native home?**

– Language is the first thing. Then, the expressions on faces in the crowd. I wouldn’t say we smile as wide and often as Americans do, but at the first sight Moscovites seem very aggressive and unfriendly. Then you get to know them, and they are surprisingly kind.

– **What was the biggest shock for you in Moscow?**

– To see so many people using mobile phones. I used to think that only in Japan people are so really fond of them, buying the last models, accessories, downloading melodies, logos, whatever. But in Moscow you can hardly find someone without a mobile too, and it’s usually a very fashionable model. On the other hand, Moscow is very huge and developed. It offers so many possibilities. The way of running business in Russia is somehow similar to the ways of eastern countries.

– **What do you think of Russian food?**

– As for me, you like near too much. But some salads are nice, and porridge too.

– **Is there anything in Moscow you can't get used to?**

– Sometimes it's too dirty. Not enough dustbins on the streets. And I've already spoken about people's aggressiveness and impoliteness.

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– No, I wouldn't. It has quite reasonable prices.

– **What do you lack in Moscow?**

– Mountains. And golf courses.

– **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– That life here is so dynamic and energetic. I love cities which never sleep.

– **Why did you come to Moscow?**

– I travel a lot, and I heard so many controversial things about Russia... that I couldn't help coming here myself.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 03 (4157)  
www.mn.ru /english*

**Luca Pucci, 27 years old**

**From: Italy**

**In Moscow: 1 month**

**Software Engineer**

– **What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– It is a huge city, even compared to Rome, where I come from (we have 2,6 mln people)! And particularly I was struck by the underground. Moscow transportation is something incredible. In Rome it's difficult to live without a car or without a scooter, but here you can do that easily. It's highly important to have such a good transport artery, otherwise you have to incur high expenses for your own car.

– **What do you think of Russian cuisine?**

– The food here is very good, I like it a lot, from drinks, such as kvass and berry drink (mors) to porridges, soups and pancakes...

– **What was the biggest shock for you in Moscow?**

– That you can use almost any car in the street as a taxi, just raising your arm up. This would be something incredible in Italy, and I started to understand that Moscow is not as dangerous as I'd expected. We receive mostly bad news about Russia from mass-media, but in general, as I've noticed, Moscow is safer than most Italian cities. Also I was surprised that Russians and Italians have many expressions and proverbs which are exactly the same!

– **What are the biggest differences between Moscow and Rome?**

– The first to be mentioned is climate difference. Furthermore, it is really interesting how the same household and technical problems are solved, relating to wires, piping, window system, everything.

– **Is there anything about Moscow your compatriots wouldn't believe?**

– It'd be hard for them to believe that people here are so friendly! We definitely lack information about Russia.

– **What was the most difficult obstacle to overcome in Moscow?**

– I think it was Cyrillic alphabet. It is almost as if you go to the Arabic countries. For me now it's easier, since I've learned some Russian already, but many foreigners feel confused when they can't understand any signs.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 01-02 (4156)  
www.mn.ru /english*

**Jason Marville, 32 years old**  
**From: New Zealand**  
**In Moscow: 20 days**  
**Architect**



- **What was your first impression of Moscow?**
  - For me Moscow looks like a huge building site... Even in the very centre on the Manezh Square, you can see cranes! There are lots of empty spaces between the buildings, and there is no architectural unity.
  
- **What’s the loveliest feature of this city?**
  - It’s never empty. Some kind of movement is always taking place.
  
- **What was the biggest shock for you here?**
  - So many beautiful women on the streets. Young or old ones, they all look nice, stylish, and they wear stunning fur coats and other fancy stuff, and so many of them wear high heels! I couldn’t believe my eyes at first!
  
- **Is there anything you couldn’t get used to in Moscow?**
  - Wild traffic. And I wonder why pedestrians pay almost no attention to the traffic lights, and drivers do the same. As if they are in some kind of unofficial agreement, knowing where to cross the street and where to turn... Strange.
  
- **Is there anything about Moscow your compatriots wouldn’t believe in?**
  - Even when it’s about minus fifteen, you do not feel cold! That is, if you worried to put your warmest outfit on.
  
- **What is the biggest difference between Moscow and the place where you come from?**
  - Hurry. We almost never do. And the climate, for sure.

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– Yes, it is. Even comparing to European cities.

– **Have you acquired any habits since you have been to Moscow?**

– I tried skating and I think I can't stand going deeper into it! Also I started drinking kefir and ryazhenka!

– **What is your favourite place in Moscow?**

– Chistye Prudy and Patriarshie Prudy. Perfect architecture and a piece of nature together.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 06 (4160)  
www.mn.ru /english*

**Marco Ragatti, 26 years old**

**From: Italy**

**In Moscow: 5 weeks**

**Doctor**

– **How would you describe Moscow with a single word?**

– Large-scale.

– **What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– It's moody. When you're in a good mood and the sun is shining, everything is ok. If the sky is gloomy, everybody is in a chafe, and you get infected with that too. And people do not smile enough, in my opinion.

– **What was the biggest shock for you?**

– Huge grey buildings. Even Stalin skyscrapers are not that bad, but enormous and ugly ones, say, the one near metro Tul'skaya or even the Russian Academy of sciences building really make me upset. I'm not fond of this architecture at all.



– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– Public transport is cheap. Tickets to museums and galleries are affordable. Meals at home are cheap, if you buy all you need at the supermarket and cook yourself. Going out to the restaurant or club is reasonably priced, well, in case you're not looking for the trendiest and most snobbish places.

– **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– A little bit of everything. I bet there isn't a thing, event or group of people you are not able to find in Moscow.

– **What do you think of Russian food?**

– The way you cook pasta – macaroni – is really strange for me! Could never think of eating pasta with cutlets, for instance! Also I'm not so used to drink a lot of tea, and especially very hot tea with lemon and sugar, as you do here. But that's a nice habit. And I became addicted to Russian sweet stuff, for example, honey-cakes or those candies... let me think ... pamadka!

– **What would you like to take with you to remind you of Moscow?**

– A lot of sweets of course, and I've already packed a bulk of pictures of snowdrifts.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 11 (4165)  
www.mn.ru /english*

**Barbara Roetscher, 57 years old**

**From: Germany**

**In Moscow: 3 weeks**

**Artist**

– **How would you describe Moscow with a single word?**

– Picturesque.

– **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– Mix of styles. Various people, wearing all you can imagine (too much of black, though), old, modern and post modern architec-

ture, strange sites. I like that Moscow seems to be very heterogeneous.

**– What was the biggest shock for you here?**

– The amount of people on the streets. Crowds, crowds and crowds.

**– Is there anything about Moscow your compatriots wouldn't believe in?**

– That politics is the topic for discussion on the streets, in the lines, between strangers, and at the same time there are very few ones who have a certain civil position, and very few ones who are ready to express it, say, officially, to someone else except an accidental comer. And some people told me they do not believe in voting results at all. I'm not too naive, but in Germany you can hardly face such indifferent and passive attitude.

**– What would you like to take with you to remind you of Moscow?**

– Many photos and paintings of Moscow streets and people.

**– What do you think of Russian food?**

– I like it! For example, I like the way of cooking meat, mushrooms and potato in a pot, altogether, and eating it straight from there. I like pancakes with herring, or sourcream, or jam, or caviar, that's all amazing.

**– What is the biggest difference between Moscow and the place where you come from?**

– Different attitude towards the communist past. I've lived for a while in Eastern Germany, and I remember how poor it was because of communism. I imagine what was here. And still Russians are taking it rather in cold blood, saying, "we'll leave that behind, and that's it".

*The Moscow News,  
№ 12 (4166)  
www.mn.ru/english*

**Anna Tizepalko, 27 years old**

**From: Poland**

**In Moscow: 2 weeks last time, few months in total**

**Public Servant**



**– What was your first impression of Moscow?**

– A lot of possibilities, absolutely great people and places where it is possible to feel the country's history and power.

**– What was the biggest shock for you here?**

– The way of crossing the streets. And I have never seen as many limousines as in Moscow. And the Moscow metro is absolutely amazing, it is like a completely different world under the city.

**– Is there anything you couldn't get used to in Moscow?**

– Yes, the cheapest taxis I have ever used, so they are nice.

**– Is there anything about Moscow your compatriots wouldn't believe in?**

– I don't know. They don't understand why I'm so amazed by this city. I think no one can understand stories about Moscow if they don't come here and feel it themselves.

**– Have you ever got lost in Moscow?**

– Yes, a lot of times, but it is easy – people help you. And it's enough to find a metro station.

**– Was there anything you thought you would be able to buy in Moscow, but you couldn't?**

– Yes, it is strange but it is hard to buy Russian movies. It is even hard to find Russian movies in the cinemas... I saw a lot of western influences even on the way of thinking and the way of life – I'm not sure it is good.

**– Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– Definitely. Especially clubs, cafés and so on. It's possible to live without it but why should I? So to have fun and to spend some time in Moscow you definitely will need heaps of money.

**– What would you like to take with you to remind you of Moscow?**

– Wow, what a complicated question. Maybe I would like to take some Russian friends. Anyway I will come back to Moscow – so what I’d really like is to have the possibility to come here as often as I like.

*The Moscow News,  
№ 10 (4164)  
www.mn.ru /english*

**Jack Boerman, 53 years old**

**From: New Zealand**

**In Moscow: 5 years**

**Businessman**

**– Why did you come to Moscow?**

– I was curious about the people from the other side of the world: ideologically, geographically, whatever. And I thought it would have been more distressing. Sure, in real life you see many cross-cultural differences, etc. But here I discovered there are many things to learn and get used to.

**– Is your impression of Moscow changing as time goes by and you become a regular visitor to Moscow?**

– Definitely. In the beginning I saw it as a noisy megapolis, with its buildings and sights. Then I learned about traditions and habits: it took me a year to adjust to the way people here ran a business or kept house. Afterwards I started to realize that Moscow is really good for living, crazy though. And finally, now I feel almost at home here.

**– Was there anything you thought you would be able to buy in Moscow, but you couldn’t?**

– Some outfits, some food (e. g. certain ice-cream).

**– Is there anything in Moscow you can’t get used to?**

– Very expensive restaurants. OK, I’d agree Moscow has probably the widest range of restaurants in Europe, but I don’t see

any reason for such high prices. Then, I'm still not used to the 24 hour traffic mess. I could never imagine a midnight traffic jam!

– **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**

– It depends what you want. In general – it is expensive. It takes much time to find places which satisfy your taste and needs but do not bring you to ruin.

– **What is the biggest difference between Moscow and your home place?**

– The pace of life.

– **What do you lack in Moscow?**

– First, sunlight. You can never get enough of it, even in summer. Then, bright colors – buildings are grey, clothes are grey, and only summer days bring a relief.

– **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**

– Its people.

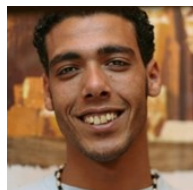
*№ 03 (4157)*

*www.mn.ru /english*

**Wael Shoman, 23 years old**

**From: Egypt**

**In Moscow: 8 months**



– **Why did you decide to come to Moscow?**

– I like Russian people. They are beautiful. I've met some tourists from Russia in Sharm el-Sheikh, we became friends and they recommended me to visit Moscow. I came for vacation first and then decided to stay here for a while.

– **Was it difficult for you to adjust here?**

– At the beginning of my stay I got tired soon, especially when I had to use public transport. When I learned how to negotiate in the Moscow metro everything became less complicated. Now I feel like

at home in Russia. The most difficult thing to adjust to was the Russian frost. I invented my own method to resist it. As I work in Strogino near the Moskva river, I started practicing winter-swimming. It helps! I guess I'm the only real Moscow winter-swimmer from Egypt. I even swam when the air temperature was -10° C and the water temperature was -1° C. So now I'm absolutely hardened.

– **What about your progress in Russian?**

– I speak English and Italian, so I'm experienced in mastering new languages. Anyway, I must confess, learning Russian is very challenging. I speak with my clients and I can understand Russian TV. My favourite programme is *My Wonderful Nanny* series with Anastasiya Zavorotnyuk. She is very beautiful.

– **How do you spend your time here?**

– I work most of the time. Sometimes I take walks. I like to explore the center of Moscow. I've travelled to St. Petersburg by train and I love that city, too.

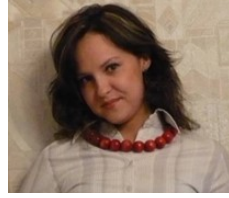
– **For how long do you intend to stay in Moscow?**

– As long as I like it here. I have to go back to Egypt from time to time to prolong my visa though.

– **What souvenirs from Russia are you planning to bring to your friends and family?**

– I will bring some Russian snow. And I also have some photographs of me, when I was walking in the snow after swimming in an ice-hole wearing a swimming suite. That will make a very impressive souvenir!

**Mary O'Brien, 28 years old**  
**From: Ireland**  
**In Moscow: 6 months**  
**Economist**



- **How would you describe Moscow with a single word?**
  - May I use a single sentence instead? It's a place where you can never be alone.
  
- **What's the loveliest feature of this city?**
  - It offers you so many things... I mean. There's a must-see program, there is a lot to visit concerning contemporary culture, too. There are many hidden places local people prefer to go, there are clubs and galleries, skating rinks and squares, theatres and cafes.
  
- **What's the worst feature of the city?**
  - Its size. Sometimes it takes so long to get from one place to another... I can't believe it's normal to spend 3 hours in transport, though many Muscovites do think so.
  
- **What do you think about Russian food?**
  - I think that actually every meal is important. You have good breakfasts and good dinners, and if you do not work too hard during the day you can also afford to spare an hour for lunch. I also appreciate eating a lot of hot dishes.
  
- **Would you agree that Moscow is expensive in general?**
  - The prices are not low, definitely. But I accept that Moscow standards of life are well-known. It's ridiculous to expect that one of the largest and most dynamic cities in the world may be cheap.
  
- **What was the biggest shock for you here?**
  - Babushkas begging. People selling all sorts of things in trains, especially in the Moscow region. Snow covering the whole motor way, with the snowdrifts occupying at least two strips of the road.

– **Have you ever got lost in Moscow?**

– Yes, I have. But I don't think it is the city that matters, what matters is my poor orientation in the city. The problem is not about getting lost, what surprises me, is that sometimes you ask in the street about some sight-seeing places, museums, and so on, and it's hard to run across someone who knows the way.

*The Moscow News*  
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*www.mn.ru/english*



**76 THINGS I LOVE (HATE) ABOUT RUSSIA**  
**(American in Moscow)**

*Robert Bridge*

**TASK**

**Read the text and make the list of your own things you love (hate) about Russia. Suggest the ways to solve the problem mentioned in your list.**



Since January is the official month of complaining, and Americans are the best complainers, here we go:

1. in Russia, it is necessary to address people with their first name plus a patronymic. For anybody who has trouble remembering just one name, this is a daily challenge;



2. overusage of the English phrase “Of course”;
3. the money exchange clerks who like to give away 1,000 rouble notes, yet many store clerks cannot find change for 50 roubles;
4. the burning trash cans outside the metro stations;
5. snow in April;
6. snow in September;
7. museums that charge extra for foreigners;
8. kiosks that charge extra for foreigners;
9. Moscow drivers;
10. getting lost at the China Town (Kitai-Gorod) metro;
11. dinner dates who assume that every American owns an oil company and then order the most expensive dish on the menu;
12. Americans in Moscow who own oil companies;
13. the cost of clothes;
14. the cost of everything;
15. fatty Russian salads;
16. the Metro at rush hour;
17. foreigners who complain about Moscow;
18. the obsession with superstitions;
19. re-living dead American fads, like lava lamps and musical car horns;
20. the custodians at the metro stations who yell when the ticket does not work at the same time a metal bar is crushing your legs;
21. people who can’t open western-style cereal boxes correctly;
22. did I mention Moscow drivers?
23. the heavy artillery that Muscovites call “fireworks” and launch non-stop from December 31<sup>st</sup> until mid-January;
24. the group of teenagers that hangs outside my window until 4 a.m.;
25. the neighbours above me;
26. the neighbours beside me;
27. the neighbours below me;
28. the brother-in-law who always complains about my Russian-speaking abilities;
29. bad vodka;
30. good vodka;

31. Russian rappers;
32. the danger of falling ice;
33. the danger of falling on the ice;
34. ice fishing;
35. nobody ever understands my pronunciation of “Miller”,  
the American beer;
36. the guy who sweeps my sidewalk at 5 a.m.;
37. my kopek collection;
38. the television show “The Last Hero”;
39. taxi drivers who just arrived in Moscow yesterday;
40. the fear of losing my passport;
41. McDonald’s in Moscow;
42. having to pay for ketchup at McDonald’s;
43. pay toilets that should pay me to use them;
44. the white sheet that is supposed to fit over the bed quilt but  
never does;
45. slow waitresses;
46. fast waitresses;
47. dark winters;
48. bright summers;
49. rowdy queues;
50. trying to roll my tongue to pronounce the Russian ‘rr’;
51. lost slippers;
52. warm beer;
53. people who laugh when I try to speak Russian;
54. people who correct my English;
55. mobile phone abusers;
56. plastic bags;
57. plastic bags that rip;
58. getting my visa registered;
59. the cost of an airline ticket to America;
60. jokes that have to be explained;
61. early spring when the dog shit starts to thaw;
62. the time between October and March when the dog shit is  
frozen;
63. dogs in general;
64. litter in parks;
65. squatting toilets (who won that Soviet award?);

66. lack of respect for western superstitions, like opening umbrellas indoors;
67. discovering that the Kraft corporation owns the Russian chocolate you lugged home as exotic gifts;
68. people who mistakenly dial your phone number and then yell at you for it;
69. face control;
70. face patrols;
71. cars with blue sirens;
72. people who park on the sidewalk;
73. people who drive on the sidewalk;
74. broken car alarms;
75. newspapers that use super-large font for soccer headlines;
76. when people ask: why do you live in Moscow?

*The Moscow News.*  
*26 January -1 February 2005.*  
*P. 16.*

### **SPEAKING**

**In pairs, make up and act out interview between Robert Bridge and a Russian journalist about his complaints.**

## PART II

### GREAT BRITAIN

(National Character. Stereotypes)

### ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, WALES...

How important are these national identifications? How United is the United Kingdom? These are difficult questions, partly because the old 'England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales' divisions have been blurred recently by other issues of race and national identity that are the result of recent immigration.

Statistics can, however, tell us something about the comparative importance of the member countries of the United Kingdom. Consider this:

**England** is about the size of Lithuania and Latvia combined, but it has almost as large a population as Ukraine (47-48 million).

**Wales** is less than half the size of Estonia but it has twice the population (nearly 3 million).

**Northern Ireland** is about one-third the size of Estonia but it has almost the same population (1.5 million).

**Scotland** is rather larger than Georgia but has about the same population (5.1 million).

### THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND

#### A Sense of Identity

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to give it its formal title, is a highly centralized and unitary state, and its largest component, England, has been so far almost 1,000 years, longer than any other European country.

In general terms, Britain has experienced three major phases of government since 1945: 1945-1979, 1979-1997 and the period since 1997. In 1945 a Labour government under Prime Minister Clement Attlee established what was later called "the post-war con-

sensus” between the two main parties, the Conservative and Labour Parties.

Despite ideological differences, both Conservative and Labour governments followed the principles for the national economy formulated by the great pre-war economist J.M. Keynes, which stated that a capitalist society could only survive if government controlled, managed and even planned much of the general shape of its economy.

Regardless of which party was in power, Britain’s economy became characterized by a ‘stop-go’ cycle: periods of inflation followed by crisis in the balance of payments, the difference between the value of total imports and exports.

*Britain in Close-up. P. 10.*

### **Labours and Conservatives**

**Put one of these into each blank: *because, because of, although, in spite of*. Sometimes more than one answer can be correct.**

1. ... we are sure our party will lose the local election, we think it is important to have a candidate.

2. Celia is a superb chairperson, ... she is very good at sharing responsibility.

3. ... very bad weather conditions, over 85 per cent of the registered voters actually voted.

4. The newspapers seem to think that Labour won their defense policy.

5. Some politicians seem to succeed not ... they are effective politicians, but ... the relationships they build with important people in the party.

6. Lawson has made a very good country councilor, ... he was in his forties.

7. The Conservatives managed to keep the majority on the council ... predictions that they would lose it.

## **CURRENT FACTS ABOUT BRITAIN**

**While reading this text decide what facts and figures appeared to be up-to-date for you.**

### **Population**

60 million (of which 1.5 million in Northern Ireland).

Different ethnic groups.

British citizens of Indian, Pakistani, Caribbean, Bangladeshi, African and Chinese origin – 4 million.

Mixed white and ethnic population – 670,000.

The average age of these groups is much younger than the average age of the white population. 20 % of the population aged 0-16 years is of non-white origin.

### **Religion**

At the 2001 census, 70 % said that they were 'Christian', 3 % said that they were Muslim, very small percentages of other religions; 15 % said they had no religion, and 7 % did not answer (probably this means no religion).

Religious practice is much higher among the Muslims than the Christians. Fewer than 10 % of Christians go to church at least once a month.

### **Families**

A change in family patterns has occurred in the last few years. Now more young men remain living with their parents for longer. 56 % of men aged 20-24 live with their parents. 37 % of women aged 20-24 live with their parents.

### **People get married later**

30 years ago, the average age of marriage for men was 24.6 years, and for women was 22.6 years. In 2001 it was 30.6 for men and 28.4 years for women.

### **Education**

34 % of boys and 43 % of girls leave school at 18 with 2 or more A levels. An 'A level' is a very serious written examination in

a school subject (but closer to the kind of written exam you might take in your first or second year at a university). So education from 16-18 years in Britain is not very broad (not many subjects) but it is deep and serious in about 3 subjects. Is this a good kind of education?

### **Computers and the Internet**

Computer ownership is the highest among the families with older children. 70 % of such families have access to the Internet (and some will have computers without the Internet).

### **Walking**

Children and young people walk less than they did. In 1985 they walked on average 580 kilometers a year. Now they walk about 440 kilometers a year. And they are getting very fat!

*Текст проф. К. Хьюит. Пермь, ПГУ. 2004*

## **BRITISH ECONOMY**

### **Translate it into Russian:**

Britain lives by manufacture and trade. For every person employed in agriculture eleven people are employed in mining, manufacturing and building. The United Kingdom is one of the world's largest exporters of manufactured goods per head of population.

Apart from coal and iron ore Britain has very few natural resources and mostly depends on imports. Its agriculture provides only half the food it needs. The other half and most of the raw materials for its industries such as oil and various metals (copper, zinc, uranium ore and others) have to be imported. Britain also has to import timber, cotton, fruit and farm products.

Britain used to be richly forested, but most of the forests were cut down to make more room for cultivation. The greater part of land is used for cattle and sheep breeding, and pig raising. Among the crops grown on the farms are wheat, barley and oats. The fields are mainly in the eastern part of the country. Most of the farms are small (one third of them is less than one hundred acres). Farms tend to be bigger where the soil is less fertile.

In the past century Britain secured a leading position in the world as manufacturer, merchant and banker. After World War I the world demand for the products of Britain's traditional industries – textiles, coal and machinery – fell off, and Britain began expanding trade in new engineering products and electrical goods.

The crisis of 1929-1933 brought about mass unemployment, which reached its peak in 1932. Britain's share in the world industrial output decreased. After the crisis production and employment increased following some revival in world trade and as a result of the extensive armament program.

During World War II Britain's economy was fully employed in the war effort. Massed raids of German planes on British industrial centres caused considerable damage to Britain's industry. World War II brought about a further weakening of Britain's might. Great Britain is no longer the leading imperialist power it used to be. It has lost its colonies which used to supply it with cheap raw materials.

Britain produces high quality expensive goods, which have always been characteristic of its industry. A shortage of raw materials, as well as the high cost of production makes it unprofitable for the British industry to produce semi-finished goods or cheap articles. Britain mostly produces articles requiring skilled labour, such as precision instruments, electronic equipment, chemicals and high quality consumer goods. Britain produces and exports cotton and woolen goods, leather goods, and articles made of various kinds of synthetic (man-made) materials.

The original basis of British industry was coalmining and the early factories grew up not far from the main mining areas. Glasgow and Newcastle became great centres of engineering and shipbuilding. Lancashire produced cotton goods and Yorkshire woollens, with Sheffield concentrating on iron and steel. Birmingham developed light engineering. There appeared a tendency for industry and population to move to the south, particularly to the London area (Britain's industry is now widely dispersed). Great progress was made in the development of new industries, such as the aircraft, automobile, electronic industries and others. A number of atomic power reactors were made. Great emphasis was made on the development of the war industry.

*Britain in Close-up. P. 10.*



## VOCABULARY TRAINING AND CONVERSATION PRACTICE

**Answer the questions, using the text information:**

1. What natural resources does Great Britain have?
2. What raw materials does Great Britain import?
3. What does Great Britain export?
4. What did the crisis of 1929-1933 bring about?
5. What is the characteristic feature of Britain's industry?
6. Why is it unprofitable for Great Britain to produce semi-finished goods or cheap articles?
7. What are the main articles produced by the British industry?
8. What are the main industrial centres of Great Britain?
9. What are Britain's main industries?
10. What can you say about Britain's agriculture?

**Complete the sentences:**

1. Great Britain is rich in ... 2. Great Britain has to import ... .  
3. When the world demand for the products of Britain's main industries decreased it began seeking compensation in ... . 4. The characteristic feature of Britain's industry is production of ... . 5. The main products of Britain's industry are ... . 6. Britain's industry is widely dispersed, but it is still possible to point out the following concentrations of industry ... . 7. A great number of new branches were added to the traditional industries such as ... .

**Speak about the economy of Great Britain, USA, or any other country, using the plan given below:**

1. ... is rich (poor) in natural resources.
2. It imports (exports) ... from (to) ... .
3. It is a highly ... country.
4. Its industry is located ... .
5. Nearly (Over) ... workers are employed in manufacturing work.

6. Special emphasis is being placed on the development of such industries as ... .

7. In recent years new branches have been added to the traditional industries of the country, such as ... .

8. It is (not) profitable for the country to produce ... because it has a lot of (very few) raw materials.

9. Great attention is also paid to the development of ...

10. The country's share in the world industrial output has (greatly) increased (decreased) in the past few years.

11. It trades with ... .

12. The main articles of its import (export) are ... .

13. The demand for its products is (great; increasing with every passing year; decreasing).

14. It is very profitable for ... to trade with ... .

15. The main crops grown in the country are ... .

**Answer the following questions on the economy of any country you like:**

1. Is ... rich in natural resources? What are its main natural resources?

2. Does it import raw materials from other countries? What raw materials does it import? From what countries?

3. What are its main industries? Where are the main industrial centres located?

4. Is it profitable for the country to produce semi-finished goods or cheap articles? Why is it (not) ...?

5. Are many workers employed in manufacturing? How many...?

6. Does ... trade with other countries? What countries ...?

7. Does it depend financially and economically on any other country?

8. Is the policy of its government influenced by any other country? By which country...?

9. What is being done to intensify production and increase labour productivity?

10. What is being done to make the farmer's work more productive?

11. How is management training organized?



## TASKS

- 1. Read the extracts and find similarity in the sentiments of all the authors describing cultural marginality.**
- 2. Answer the questions given below.**

### HOW TO BE AN ALIEN

I believe, without undue modesty, that I have certain qualifications to write on “how to be an alien”. I am an alien myself. What is more, I have been an alien all my life. Only during the first twenty-six years of my life I was not aware of the fact. I was living in my own country, a country full of aliens, and I noticed nothing particular or irregular about myself, then I came to England, and you can imagine my painful surprise.

It was like this. Some years ago I spent a lot of time with a young lady who was very proud and conscious of being English. Once she asked me – to my great surprise – whether I would marry her. “No”, I replied, “I will not. My mother would never agree to my marrying a foreigner”. She looked at me a little surprised and irritated, and retorted: “I, a foreigner? What a silly thing to say. I am English. You are the foreigner. And your mother too”. I did not give in. “In Budapest, too?” I asked her. “Everyone”, she declared with determination. “Truth does not depend on geography. What is true in England is also true in Hungary”.

I saw that this theory was as irrefutable as it was simple. I was startled and upset. Mainly because of my mother whom I loved and respected. Now I suddenly learned what she really was.

It was a shame and bad taste to be an alien, and it is no use pretending otherwise. There is no way out of it. A criminal may improve and become a decent member of a society. A foreigner cannot improve. Once a foreigner, always a foreigner. There is no way out for him. He may become British; he can never become English. How to be an alien? One should not be an alien at all. There are certain rules, however, which have to be followed if you want to be as acceptable and civilized as you possibly can.

Study these rules, and imitate the English. There can be only one result: if you don't succeed in imitating them, you become ridiculous; if you do, you become even more ridiculous. Apply for British citizenship. Roughly speaking, there are two possibilities: it will be granted to you, or not. In the first case you must recognize and revise your attitude to life. You must pretend that you are everything you are not and you must look down upon everything you are.

If naturalized, remember these rules:

1. You must start eating porridge for breakfast and allege that you like it.

2. Speak English with your former compatriots. Deny that you know any foreign language (including your mother tongue). The knowledge of foreign languages is very un-English. A little French is permissible, but only with an atrocious accent.

3. Revise your library. Get rid of all foreign writers whether in the original or translated into English. The works of Dostoevsky should be replaced by a volume on English Birds.

4. Speaking of your new compatriots, always use the first person plural.

In this aspect, though, a certain caution is advisable. I know a naturalized Britisher who, talking to a young man, repeatedly used the phrase "We Englishmen". The young man looked at him, took his pipe out of his mouth and remarked softly: "Sorry, Sir. I'm a Welshman", turned his back on him and walked away.

*By G. Mikes*

1. Why does the author find that he has certain qualifications to write on "how to be an alien"?

2. What kind of painful surprise was waiting for Mikes when he came to England?

3. Why did the lady's proposal seem unexpected for George?

4. Why did George reject the woman's suggestion?

5. Why did the lady think that it was him who was an alien?

6. What kind of theory did the woman use to prove her point?

7. What made George particularly disappointed to hear that he was an alien?

8. What is the difference, in George's opinion, between a criminal and an alien?
9. What should the alien do to imitate the English?
10. What does the process of 'naturalization' mean?
11. What changes in one's behaviour ought to take place if naturalized?
12. What does the author imply while speaking about foreign language teaching in Britain?
13. What changes should one make in his library?
14. What change in the status of the alien is demonstrated by the use of the first person plural while speaking of his new compatriots?
15. What was the reason of the blunder of the alien described by the author?

*Кабакчи В. В.*

*Англоязычное описание русской культуры.  
М.: Центр «Академия», 2009. – 224 с. С. 73-74.*



## **TASKS**

- 1. Answer the questions supplied below.**
- 2. Translate this extract into Russian and comment on this wise observation of F. Bacon's essay.**
- 3. Write a simplified, modern English version of the extract.**

### **OF TRAVEL**

When a traveler returns home, let him not leave the countries where he hath traveled altogether behind him, but maintain a correspondence by letters with those of his acquaintance which are of most worth; and let his travel appear rather in his discourse than in his apparel or gesture; and in his discourse let him be rather advised in his answers, than forward to tell stories: and let it appear that he doth not change his country manners for those of foreign parties; but only prick in some flowers of that he hath learned abroad into the customs of his own country.

*F. Bacon*

1. What does Bacon mean by saying “let him not leave the countries where he hath traveled altogether behind him”?
2. Who should a wise traveler maintain a correspondence with?
3. What does Bacon mean by saying “let his travel appear rather in his discourse than in his apparel or gesture”?
4. How should we interpret the philosopher’s words “in his discourse let him be rather advised in his answers, than forward to tell stories”?
5. Why can we say that there is much wisdom in his advice “let it appear that he doth not change his country manners for those of foreign parties; but only prick in some flowers of that he hath learned abroad into the customs of his own country”?

*Кабакчи В. В.  
Англоязычное описание русской культуры.  
М.: Центр «Академия», 2009. – 224 с. С. 73-74.*



## TASKS

1. Before reading the text answer some questions:  
**What do you know about Japan?**  
**Could you answer the question suggested in the title of the text?**  
**Have you ever been to these countries?**  
**What is your (stereotypic) attitude to them?**
2. After having read the article find some facts indicating that:
  - this article was written some (many?) years ago;
  - it is still up-to-date.

## WHY BRITAIN AND JAPAN ARE REALLY THE SAME COUNTRY

Some years back, when I was nearing the end of my tour as Tokyo correspondent of *The Washington Post*, my boss asked: “Why don’t you take the London bureau?”

I was shocked. I had spent a quarter of a century learning Japanese; I had written a bunch of books on Japan. Why would they send a guy like me to cover Britain? Being a good corporate citizen, though, I accepted the boss’s idea – and I’m glad I did.

Personally, our whole family has loved living in this beautiful and exciting country. Professionally, the boss turned out to be right. Covering Japan was great preparation for my current job – because Great Britain and Japan are basically the same country. Some of the parallels are obvious to anyone. The two small island nations with limited natural resources achieved wealth and global stature disproportionate to their size and for largely the same reasons: a commitment to education, a love for innovation and a belief in hard work. Both are hierarchical societies where rank and title still resonate. That probably explains why both countries spend huge amounts on elaborate pampering of figure-head royal families.

But there is another connection perhaps visible mainly to American eyes. Looking outward from the United States, Japan and Britain seem to fill the same geographic and political space. They are both islands, floating between our country and the next continent. Each one serves as America’s strongest ally, as our bridge to the mainland. And both countries have the same ambiguous relationship with the continent just off their shores.

The British have the old joke that “the Channel is as wide as the Ocean”. The Japanese have almost the same quip, declaring that their islands sit “mannaka” – that is, dead centre – between the US and the Asian mainland.

Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former Prime Minister, used to remind Washington that the Japanese islands comprise “an unsinkable American aircraft carrier” just off the coast of Asia.

I could understand that, in Japan. That country lost the Second World War and its greatest strategic threat today comes from the looming giant of its traditional enemy just across the East China Sea. No wonder the Japanese feel comfortable nestling in America’s lap.

I didn't expect to find the same attitude here. Britain won the Second World War, after all. It doesn't have to worry about attack from its European neighbours across the channel. And yet London, too, seems to be happy in its role as Washington's go-between with the Continent.

Tony Blair keeps coming up with new ways of saying the same thing about the UK's place in the world. Britain is the "bridge nation". Britain will serve as the 'essential link' between the US and the impending United States of Europe. This is just like Japan.

I have given several lectures suggesting that Britain and Japan are the same country. The Americans tend to agree with my argument, many finding it so obvious that it barely needs stating. The Japanese love the thesis; they are thrilled to be told that, deep down, they are Brits.

But the British hate it. Whatever Britain's self-definition may be, it does not seem to include "being just like Japan".

As a geopolitical matter, though, Britain is just like Japan these days. Britain does for the US in Europe exactly what Japan does for us in East Asia. I don't know whether the British people are satisfied with this role, but I don't hear many Brits suggesting a different one.

The other night I took part in a debate on US foreign policy at the Cambridge Union against George Galloway, the formidable Labour VP. He put on a bravura (and winning) performance, attacking US policy by attacking the intelligence of George W. Bush. I argued that to condemn US policy was to condemn Britain's as well, since they are nearly identical.

Galloway pounced. "I don't mind being the tail of the dog", he said, "but not if the head of the dog is a complete imbecile who stole an election".

The Cambridge kids stopped and cheered. But I was left wondering: the tail of the American dog? For the planet's last imperial power, the mother nation of a great Commonwealth, the fourth-richest country in the world – is that what's left?

*By T. R. Reid,  
The London Bureau Chief of the Washington Post  
The Times. 2002. May 21. P. 16.*





## TASKS

**Decide for yourself:**

- **What do you agree with and what disagree and then share your attitudes with the group-mates.**
- **Did you enjoy reading it? Why (not)?**
- **If you were asked the question suggested in the title of the article what would you answer?**

## WHAT ARE THEY LIKE: THE BRITISH AND THE RUSSIANS?

Have you ever been to England? Or have you ever had a conversation with an Englishman? As for me, I've had a chance to visit that country and to speak with natives there. That's why I know how important it is to understand the British and their attitude to Russians.

In the modern world everything is in interaction. All countries and nations communicate with each other. To make this communication productive, people should learn and understand the culture of the people they are talking to.

I have been to Great Britain twice. As it is written in the book by George Mikes *How to Be a Brit* in England everything is the other way round. On Sundays on the continent even the poorest person puts on his best suit, tries to look respectable, and at the same time the life of the country becomes cheerful; in England even the richest peer dresses in some peculiar rags and the country becomes dreary. On the continent there is one topic which should be avoided – the weather; in England, if you don't repeat the phrase "Lovely day, isn't it?" at least two hundred times a day, you are considered a bit dull. On the continent people have good food; in England people have good table manners. Although the author refers to the continent, all this is perfectly true of Russia, as well.

In contrast to us, the British never wash themselves under the stream of water. They splash in a wash-stand. Also the English don't usually rinse after the bath, but begin to dry themselves in the bath foam. This custom extends to washing the dishes.

At the first sight the British seem very kind and sympathetic. They always help foreigners find the way to where they're going; shopkeepers are always friendly too. But we should realize that their smiles are not always sincere. "Sorry", but they don't really mean it. In Russia we behave in another way: if we are in a bad mood, we don't smile at everyone. Our feelings and emotions are often seen on our faces.

The British are keen on being polite. Asking them for something, you should remember such words as "could you ... please", "don't you mind" and so on. Without those words it seems to them that you're rude or are going to argue. It's very important to say all those phrases. You can't even say "Give me, please" instead of "Could you give me...". Not knowing all that, lots of people don't get a job, because their potential employers consider them to be rude.

During my first visit to London I remember seeing a man in the underground asking for information from a ticket seller. The latter didn't reply and the man said "Thank you very much", started walking off, and then turned around and said "stupid". This situation shows that the English polite way of behaviour is probably a mask for all kinds of other feelings. They may partly be polite because they are afraid of drama and confrontation.

Everyone knows that the English are very restrained. But it doesn't prevent them from joking. Humour is widely spread in Britain; however, it's very dry and ironic. Russian humour may be more visual than verbal. I remember that when in Britain we studied British humour, we found it very interesting. Humour helps people to relax and the British understand exactly how important it is. Humour, however, may conceal our feelings. I quite agree with Sigmund Freud who said: "Humour helps us express things in a roundabout way". It's a way of releasing repression and this is really important for the average British character.

Great Britain is a country of private life. An Englishman isn't so looped on money and works as the Russians do. The English value their personal life and their homes. That is why, as I can see it, they like gardening and pets.

A cat or a dog in England is a favourite member of the family. The English say: "If you are walking with a friend – you can keep

silent, but if you are walking with the dog – you should talk”. This saying illustrates the relationship between the British and their pets.

Once, I was chatting with my English friend, whose name is Richard, and our conversation turned to a circus. He told me that in Britain animals never perform in circuses. To tell the truth, I was very surprised. I can't imagine a circus without animals. I asked my friend why it is so. And his answer was: the English are afraid that animals may feel embarrassed in the circus arena. It sounds strange for us, but we shouldn't forget the English love for pets and animals. Most Russians also have pets, we treat them kindly; but we love them realizing that they're just animals.

Being in Great Britain, I was very interested in how the British see us, what they think about us. At first the information wasn't very satisfactory. Russia seems a brutal country for the British. I consider that probably foreign television, which most of the time shows only our criminality, is guilty of that point of view. Also the English compare Russia to a bear, which has been sleeping for a long time and now it's waking up. And no one knows how this bear is going to behave at the next moment. Of course such thoughts come straight from the history of our country. However, I hope that opinions like this one will soon fade from the minds of the English.

The thing that really made me glad was the information that the British consider us to be very stylish, especially as we know that the English people are a little conservative in dress. One thing that surprised me a lot was that the British think that there is great shopping in Moscow, while the Russians, on the contrary, try to do their shopping abroad.

Chatting with Richard a few days ago, I told him that I was watching a TV program about a psychic. First he didn't believe me, because, as he said, if in England they had such a program, no one would watch it, because they don't believe such things. He said that the Russians were very superstitious. I've never thought about it before. But after being told about that, I reflected on this theme. And honestly, I agreed with him, because we believe lots of strange things. For example, if we leave something at home, we don't like to return. And if we nevertheless have to return, we always look in the mirror, just because our parents told us about this superstition in the early childhood.

Everyone in England knows that Russians are well educated, especially that we are good at literature. As an example, I can remind you of our underground. In the Moscow metro lots of people read, which is not popular in Great Britain. I was really pleased to hear that our classical education is so famous. Richard said to me that the English considered Tolstoy and Dostoevsky to be as famous and important as Byron and Shakespeare.

“The Russians are very friendly” – most of the British think. What can I say? Yes, we are! We are very hospitable, we like enjoying our life, we like dancing, having fun, having strong drinks (which seems strange to the people who always drink beer). And the Russians like foreigners. Maybe we like them because there haven’t been many of them in our country. We especially like the English. They are not really Europeans; they live their own lives as we do.

As we have seen, the British and the Russians are different, but I should say that we have some things in common. I found some common characteristics, such as the well-known “empire mentality”. Great Britain, as we know, was once geographically really great and many British people still think of their land as both great and strong. They still think that the British are “the best”. I can see such a similarity in the Russian attitude.

There is one more major similarity. The British are definitely romantic, surface it to remember their Thomas Moore, Percy Shelley, William Wordsworth. They seem to be much more romantic than Italians and this is the result of being shy and reserved. The Russians are also romantic, but the reason is different. It has more to do with the latitude and the emptiness of the Russian landscape, I believe, which helped to develop Russian philosophy and has something to do with the famous “Russian soul”.

When the British relax and let themselves go, they can be very talented actors – real actors, without pretence, with intense emotions. I found that theatre is very professional in Britain.

Also there are plenty of things that I like about the British, of course, besides their humour. I like the British breakfast, English tea, gardens, Romanticism and the English language. I think the British will like Russia and the Russians, if they visit us. Old and strange stereotypes about our country should be forgotten forever.

We live in a modern world, each of us communicates with different people; sometimes they're from different countries. To understand a person, the motives of behavior, emotions and feelings, we have to know the culture of the country where the person we're talking to was born and lives now.

Stereotypes can be wrong sometimes. They don't show the real situation. In this case it's always better to know for yourself what's going on, to look at things objectively.

And we can help foreigners not to see Russia in the way that stereotypes impose, to see our real way of life.

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## **SUPPLEMENTARY READING**

### **The Average British Family: a Stereotype**

The average British family lives in a semi-detached house with a garden in the south of England. They own their house, which is situated in the suburbs of a large town. The house has three bedrooms. On average they have two children and a pet. The family drives a two-year-old Ford Cortina.

He works in an office of an engineering company for 40 hours a week and earns £ 200 per week. He starts his work at 9.00 in the morning and finishes it at 5.30 in the evening. He goes to work by car, which takes him 20 minutes. He doesn't particularly like his job, but there are chances of promotion.

She works in a service industry for three days a week and earns £ 95. She works locally and goes there by bus. She quite likes her job as it gets her out of the house, she meets people, and it is close to the children's school.

The children go to a state school which is a few miles from home. A special bus comes to pick them up every day. They are at school from 9.00 to 3.30.

The most popular evening entertainment is watching television or video, which the average person does for two and a half hours a day. After that, the next most popular activity is visiting friends, going to the cinema or a restaurant, or going to the pub. The most popular hobby is gardening and the most popular sports are fishing, football and tennis.

## FAMILY EXPENDITURE IN BRITAIN IN 2004

### Discuss it with your groupmates

A couple **A** aged 29, **B** aged 27 with a child aged 1. **A** works full time as a teacher. **B** looks after the baby and works every Saturday. They live about 250 kilometres from London in a small market town. They consider that they are typical of ‘teacher couples’ of their age with small children.

<u>INCOME per month</u>	<u>Pounds sterling</u>
<b>A:</b> gross earning	1817
<b>B:</b> gross earnings	150
Child – child benefit	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2027</b>

**Annual income: £ 24324**

#### TAX etc

(This is deducted at source)

<b>A:</b> Income Tax	293
National Insurance (for Pension)	128
Teacher’s occupational pension	109
<b>B:</b> Negligible taxes	
Council tax (Local tax)	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>587</b>

<u>NET INCOME per month</u>	<b>1418</b>
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#### EXPENDITURE

<b>(a) Regular Outgoings</b>	
Mortgage on house	342
Life Insurance	28
House insurance	16.50
Mortgage repayment insurance	33

Further life insurance for <b>B</b> .	16.50
<u>Repayment of loans</u>	
1. <b>A</b> 's student loan	15.50
2. Credit card loans – lots of interest	72
3. Deposit-on-house loan	16.50
4. Home improvement loan	37
5. Insurance on home improvement loan	7
6. Basement conversion loan	50
Teachers Trade Union subscription	7
Water	21
Electricity	29
Gas	19.50
Telephone	10
TV licence + radio	8.70
Charities	5.50
Washing machine rental	16.50
Car: Insurance and tax. MOT and	66
Savings	100
<b>TOTAL – Regular outgoings</b>	<b>916.7</b>
<u>(b) Cash Expenses</u>	
Food (mostly in supermarket, plus small extras)	174
Household items: soap etc. and toiletries)	25
Alcohol (in pub and for home drinking and entertaining)	90
Child (nappies, bits and pieces)	32
Petrol for car	60
Bus fares	8
Entertainment (sports fees, records, books)	30
Clothes	30
Shoes 15	
Holidays (one week rented cottage in Wales paid for out savings), plus visits to and from friends.	
Extra petrol and food	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>494</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1410.70</b>

**So there is less than £10 left over at the end of the month. Basically, each month, everything is spent and they are waiting for the next pay cheque. 'We worry every month'.**

Savings: these are to be paid for special occasions (holidays) and for emergencies – the plumber, the engineer who will solve house problems, the dental surgery...

The mortgage of £50,000 is very small by London and Southern England standards, where housing is more expensive. In outer London this couple paid £400 a month for the *rent* of a two-roomed flat a few years ago.

Alcohol. 4 pints (half-litre) of beer a *week* in the pub. 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  litres of spirits (whisky or vodka) a *month*. 20 small bottles (a quarter-litre) of beer a *week*. 2 bottles of wine a *week*. (Cheap but decent wine). This is for themselves and friends. They have many friends.

The car is essential. The teacher's school is 25 kilometres away. It is third-hand and was bought by one of their parents.

They have not been to a restaurant for 2 years. They have not been to a theatre or a cinema for a year. (This is 50 % having a child, 50 % because we can't afford it).

They are heavily in debt. Besides the basic mortgage they have a loan for house improvement: for central heating and for a bathroom. There was no central heating, and no bathroom, though there was a shower in a damp corner at the back of the house.

They have also decided to go into debt (for three years) to pay for a basement conversion which gives them another room.

They say that they do not look forward to Christmas because of the need to buy presents. They like giving presents, but it is very difficult to afford them. On the other hand, their large family provides them with many good short (1-3 days) holidays.

They do not want to complain, but they do not understand why the newspapers assume that they, as young professionals, can afford the luxuries in the shops. They can't.



## **IT'S NECESSARY TO VALUE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE**

Maxim Tikhonov arrived at the editorial office of the Perm local newspaper "Mercury" in connection with his future work. He wanted to obtain the advice of some journalists by asking a range of questions. When the conversation got going it emerged that this young man had recently returned from England and had lived there for quite a long time. He also worked there and witnessed first hand the everyday joys of living. And he made contact with the very people who had belonged to that very first capitalist-enlightened country. The answers to our questions proved to be both interesting and quite unexpected. That's why we decided to acquaint you with him, dear readers.

**Maxim, tell us how you got to be in England. What made you go there?**

The state of my health. From childhood I had problems with my kidneys. Only abroad could I be properly cured of this. Incidentally, I received a medical education and studied various courses with the aim of curing my illness myself. I remember getting the Red Cross invitation to be given treatment in Canada, but the hospital services would have cost 70,000 Canadian dollars. I couldn't possibly get this sort of money. Then I found the possibility of obtaining a work visa for England. I flew there in the middle of April.

**Tell us about London**

My first impressions were of two queues at the airport – one for EC citizens and one for others. This wasn't very pleasant. I arrived at about 10.00 p.m. and knew that public transport would soon be finishing for the day. Unfortunately, the visa control people noticed something wrong with my papers. They ignored my request to be a little quicker and did everything very reluctantly. Finally things were sorted out after two hours and I went to my hotel. The hotel turned out to be expensive: 25 pounds per day (tiny kitchen, shower, room) and very cold. No heating in April is very unusual for us. Being able to phone home direct was, however, very convenient.

**By western standards you had very few dollars in your pocket. How did you live?**

On the North Sea coast there is the village of Frinton. It has 18,000 people. This is where I settled and worked as a shopkeeper.

**Was finding work a problem?**

There is work to be found: cleaners, drivers, postmen, shop assistants, untrained nurses. The pay, however, is very low. The minimum is three pounds an hour. I was receiving less – two pounds an hour for a 16 hour day from 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. The salary, as a rule, is paid monthly but rent needs to be paid weekly, so strict budgeting is an absolute necessity.

**Are you prepared to demonstrate such calculations?**

Yes. The average wage of a worker, of a low-paid employee, ranges from 600 to 1,000 pounds a month. A third to one half of this goes on accommodation. In England there are three types: rented accommodation (50-70 pounds a week); if you are a British citizen you can buy a house on credit over 20-25 years with monthly payments of 1,500 to 2,000 pounds; and some people, due to personal circumstances, live in caravans. Sometimes there are settlements of such people on the outskirts of cities.

It is necessary to insure your car and buy petrol. This is a further 150 pounds a month. A family of three that eats modestly will pay roughly 10 pounds per day on food, that's 300 pounds per month. Plus different types of taxes. In short, workers and employees can scarcely make ends meet – from one pay to another. One must economise on food or use less transport. It's very expensive. I paid 17 pounds to travel about 150 km. by train. This is the price we would pay for a trip from Perm to Moscow and back.

**Do owners of businesses and businessmen seem to live well?**

All the ones that I spoke to repeatedly said that ten years ago they were better off and now, thanks to the politics of John Major, we have become worse-off. As for small-scale businesses, it would seem they are disadvantaged today in England. Even the state isn't encouraging the creation of new firms, shops etc. so as not to produce new bankruptcies. And large-scale big businesses are fighting

to survive. As an example the owner of my shop has several branches. He works with no breaks so as to remain afloat. The goods in the small shops are too dear. Of course, in a supermarket they're cheaper and the salary of the staff is higher. Also, the average person in the street prefers to do his or her shopping in big shops. Not without reason many of my English acquaintances – in the main immigrants from North Africa, Asian countries, from India – are getting ready to leave the island and invest their money in other countries: Korea, Hong Kong, France and especially in China. In England they say small business is decaying.

**And of native Englishmen. What impressions remain for you?**

Life is very regimented, for everyone, even to a greater extent than we had in the USSR. Even newspapers, judging by their content, conclusions, selection of facts, have only one perception. The role of women in the family, in the society, is unimpressive. A husband, a man, as they say, is always right. As I noticed, parents are practically indifferent to the destiny of their kids, and speaking financially, parents don't help their children. The spirit of nationalism contains a feeling of superiority which is quite evident in relations to Italians and to representatives from other countries. The dress sense is very modest, I would even say, poor. Surprisingly, there are many beggars, like we have, on crossroads and in the subways. What is this? An unwillingness to work? There are curious facts from the life of the unemployed: accommodation and communal services are paid for from a municipal budget straight out. They are handed out just enough money per day to eat, smoke and buy a can of beer. However, to be unemployed is not so simple and as soon as you start working, even for half a day, you lose your right to claim.

**What's the attitude to Russia and the social and economic changes that are taking place?**

Since the Russian economy isn't included into the world economy, Russia doesn't really exist for the English people. The English people don't know our country.

### **What about your treatment? Were you able to be cured?**

Alas, no. In England I saw the sorts of queues for the doctor that we have. I sat and waited for many hours and saw indifferent doctors. It's necessary to mention that the medical services are free after it turns out that you need to wait for a long time. First of all, there is a medical examination, then the decision of the doctor to operate if he thinks it is necessary. This all takes many months. The period of my visa has expired and I went home.

**Read, translate and give the summary of the text.**

### **AT THE PUB**

For company and conversation the English go to the "pub". The cafes in England sell only coffee, tea and "soft" drinks. You can go to a café for meal or for a quick cup of tea, but not to sit and to watch the world going by. When you want to relax after a day's work, you go to the local public house.

Everybody goes there, except children, who are not allowed in. If you go up to the bar, you may find every kind of person: doctors, schoolmasters, and workmen. They all go there to talk and to drink their usual drink.

Nearly everyone drinks beer. Most pubs, in fact, have a piano and on Saturday night the customers may well gather round it and sing. The songs they sing are the same all over England. Songs from the 1914 war, sentimental and sad, like "If You Were the Only Girl in the World". They are easy to learn.

The people who want to sing ask someone to play the tunes on the old piano. They group themselves round it and they buy drinks for the pianist. That is the custom. The one who plays has free drinks as long as he plays.

Good humour and good temper give English pubs their character. If you go there regularly the landlord will try to get to know you. He will remember what you usually drink and may well become a personal friend. The pub is the place where you meet people. You get

to know other “regulars”, you buy drinks in turn, which is called “to stand a round” and you talk. You talk about the weather or how the English cricket team is doing in the Test Match against Australia.

The pub is often the only place where men may meet each other after their work. It is very surprising, but even in large cities each public house has its own regular customers who go there every night to drink one or two pints, slowly, and to have a game of dominoes or to play darts. And although they see each other almost every night for years, the regulars who meet there will never go into each other’s homes.

*Аристова Е. А. Английский язык:  
методические рекомендации и контрольные задания  
для студентов заочного отделения. Пермь, 2005. – 56 с.  
Р.7.*

**PART III**  
**THE USA**  
**(a brief outline)**

**AMERICA IN CLOSE-UP**

The United States is a society of immigrants. Since its early days, the country has admitted more than 50 million newcomers, a larger number of immigrants than any country in history. Most people came, and still come today, for wealth, land, and freedom.

When they settled in the New World, many immigrants tried to preserve the traditions, religion, and language of their particular culture. The language and culture of the more numerous English colonies, however, had the over-riding influence. American society was predominantly English – white Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP). Those immigrants who did not want to feel separate from the dominant WASP culture learned English and adopted English customs.

The United States is a spacious country of varying terrains and climates. To get from New York to San Francisco one must travel almost 5,000 kilometers across regions of geographical extremes. Between the coasts there are forested mountains, fertile plains, arid deserts, canyonlands, and wide plateaus. Much of the land is uninhabited. The population is concentrated in the Northeast, the South, around the Great Lakes, on the Pacific coast, and in metropolitan areas. People within a region generally share common values, economic concerns, and a certain relationship to the land, and they usually identify to some extent with the history and traditions of their region.

*America in Close-up. P. 13.*

**DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. Are there different ethnic groups in your country? Where do they come from? Where do they live? How do they differ from the majority of people in your country with respect to customs, religion, clothing, food, music, etc.?

2. How is immigration handled in your country? Are there any major restrictions? What do you know about the immigrants' motives for leaving their mother countries and what are their expectations about living in your country?

3. To what extent do you think immigrants of different ethnic backgrounds should be integrated into society? How do the ethnic minorities themselves feel about this issue?

## **ESSAY WRITING**

### **“Emigrating to the U.S. Today”**

**Write an essay of about 300 words on this topic expressing why you could or could not imagine emigrating to the United States.**

## **US ECONOMY**

### **Translate it into Russian:**

The United States is rich in natural resources, the main being iron ore, coal and oil. The nation produces more than 100 million tons of iron a year. Four fifths of the ore mined in the USA comes from the Great Lakes region. Though a great deal of the ore has been used up, its resources have not been exhausted. Most of the coal mined in the USA is used by power plants to produce electricity. Coal is also used in the chemical industries for the manufacture of plastics and other synthetics. The production, processing and marketing of such oil products as petrol (called “gasoline” or “gas” in the USA) make up one of America’s largest industries. The basic metals and minerals mined in the United States are zinc, copper and silver. Some of the main crops grown in the USA are wheat, maize, cotton, tobacco and fruit. Cattle breeding and pig raising make up an important branch of America’s agriculture.

To make the farmer’s work more productive scientific methods of farming are employed and modern technique of freezing, canning and packaging farm products is used.

The United States is a highly industrialized country with various branches of heavy industry, prevailing of which are the mining, metallurgical, automobile and chemical industries as well as engi-

neering. Many branches of light industry are also developed, among them are the textile, food and wood-working industries.

A great deal of attention in American industry is devoted to research and emphasis is made on the use of labour-saving machines. In the past few years the number of workers has increased only for a few percent, while the number of scientists and engineers in the plants has almost doubled.

Mechanisation and automation do away with thousands of office jobs, intensify production and increase labour productivity. But they also bring about a further growth of unemployment.

New industries are created as new discoveries are made in physics, chemistry and other sciences. Atomic energy, for example, has created a wide range of new industries. Electronics has become a major industry.

Throughout American industry great emphasis is being made on management training. A great number of schools are training young people to become industrial leaders.

American industry is distributed unevenly. Most of the industrial enterprises are located in the eastern part of the country. But industry is spreading out, as there was a tendency to build factories far removed from the home plant and closer to natural resources and markets. Good transportation facilities and rapid communication systems make it possible for the main plants to keep in touch with branch factories.

The leading US exports are industrial machinery, electronic equipment, textiles, grain, iron, coal, oil products and chemicals.

agriculture	сельское хозяйство
be employed in agriculture (industry)	быть занятым в сельском хозяйстве (промышленности)
employ smb.	нанимать кого-либо
mining	горнодобывающая промышленность
manufacturing	обрабатывающая промышленность
manufactured goods	промышленные товары
per head of population	на душу населения
apart from smth.	помимо, кроме чего-либо
raw materials	сырье
industry	промышленность
an industry	отрасль промышленности



timber	строевой лес
cotton	хлопок; хлопчатобумажная ткань
used to be smth.	был когда-то кем-либо (чем-либо)
used to do smth.	делал что-либо когда-то
make room for smth.	освобождать пространство (место) для ч.-л.
cattle	крупный рогатый скот
sheep	овца; овцы
pig	свинья
breed (bred, bred) smth.	разводить (животных)
crop	сельскохозяйственная культура
wheat	пшеница
barley	ячмень
oats	овес
one third, two-thirds, etc.	одна треть, две трети и т.п.
acre	акр (= 0,4 га)
tend to do smth.	иметь тенденцию делать что-либо
soil	почва, земля
fertile	плодородный
merchant	купец, торговец
demand for smth.	спрос на что-либо
textiles	изделия текстильной промышленности
machinery	машины, машинное оборудование
expand trade (in smth.)	расширять торговлю (чем-либо)
engineering	машиностроение; машиностроительная промышленность
electrical	электрический
crisis ( <i>pl.</i> crises)	кризис
bring about smth.	приводить к чему-либо, вызывать что-либо
unemployment	безработица
reach smth.	достигать чего-либо, доходить до какого-либо предела
share	доля
industrial output	выпуск промышленной продукции
decrease (smth.)	уменьшаться, уменьшать что-либо
revival (of smth.)	возрождение, оживление, возобновление чего-либо
article	изделие, товар, предмет производства
require smth. (doing smth.)	требовать чего-либо, нуждаться в чем-либо

skilled labour	квалифицированный труд
precision instruments	точные инструменты
chemicals	изделия химической промышленности
consumer goods	товары широкого потребления
wool	шерсть
woolen	шерстяной
leather	кожа ( <i>выделанная</i> )
factory	фабрика, завод
steel	сталь
disperse smth.	рассредоточить что-либо
make progress	делать успехи
aircraft industry	авиационная промышленность
atomic power	атомная энергия
make emphasis on smth.	делать упор на что-либо, придавать особое значение чему-либо
war industry	военная промышленность
mine coal (ore, etc.)	добывать уголь (руды и т.п.)
exhaust smth.	истощать (исчерпывать) что-либо
power plant	электростанция
chemical	химический
plastics	пластмассы
process smth.	обрабатывать что-либо
silver	серебро
maize	кукуруза
branch	отрасль
employ smth.	использовать (применять) что-либо
technique	методы, приемы, техника
can smth.	консервировать что-либо
package smth.	упаковывать, паковать что-либо
heavy industry	тяжелая промышленность
light industry	легкая промышленность
textile	текстильный
research	научно-исследовательская работа, научные исследования
labour-saving machine	машина, экономящая труд
in the past few years	за последние несколько лет
scientist	ученый
plant	завод
do away with smth.	покончить с чем-либо, ликвидировать что-то
labour productivity	производительность труда

make a discovery	делать открытие
physics	физика
chemistry	химия
distribute smth.	распределять что-либо
unevenly	неравномерно
enterprise	предприятие
grain	зерно, зерновые культуры

### **Complete the sentences:**

1. The United States of America is rich in natural resources, such as ... . 2. The USA is a highly industrialized country with various branches of heavy industry prevailing, namely ... . 3. A great deal of attention in American industry is devoted to ... . 4. American industry is spreading out as there is a tendency to ... . 5. Good transportation facilities and rapid communication systems ... . 6. The leading exports are ... . 7. The main crops grown in the USA are ... . 8. In the USA they breed ... .

### **BASIC INGREDIENTS OF THE U.S. ECONOMY**

The first ingredient of a nation's economic system is its natural resources. The United States is rich in mineral resources and fertile farm soil, and it is blessed with a moderate climate. It also has extensive coastlines on both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, as well as on the Gulf of Mexico. Rivers flow from far within the continent, and the Great Lakes – five large, inland lakes along the U.S. border with Canada – provide additional shipping access. These extensive waterways have helped shape the country's economic growth over the years and helped bind America's 50 individual states together in a single economic unit.

The second ingredient is labour, which converts natural resources into goods. But natural resources and labour account for only part of an economic system. These resources must be organised and directed as efficiently as possible. In the American economy managers, responding to signals from markets, perform this function.

**Are there any more ingredients?**

## CONTINUITY AND CHANCE

The United States entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century with an economy that was bigger, and by many measures more successful, than ever. Not only had it endured two world wars and a global depression in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but it had surmounted challenges ranging from a 40-year Cold War with the Soviet Union to extended bouts of sharp inflation, high unemployment, and enormous government budget deficits in the second half of the century. The nation finally enjoyed a period of economic calm in the 1990s: prices were stable, unemployment dropped to its level in almost 30 years, the government posted a budget surplus, and the stock market experienced an unprecedented boom.

In 1998, America's gross domestic product – the total output of goods and services – exceeded \$8.5 trillion. Though the United States held less than 5 percent of the world's population, it accounted for more than 25 percent of the world's economic output. Japan, the world's second largest economy, produced about half as much. And while Japan and many of the world's other economies grappled with slow growth and other problems in the 1990s, the American economy recorded the longest uninterrupted period of expansion in its history.

As in earlier periods, however, *the United States was undergoing profound economic change at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

### What was it?



### TASKS:

**After having read the text**

- 1. Explore your feelings about Theodore Dreiser's story. For example, was his opinion similar to or different from your own ideas?**
- 2. Does the author sound a bit aggressively to you?**
- 3. Have you read any novels written by Th. Dreiser? Name them (it), please.**

## LIFE, ART AND AMERICA

I am talking about the mental, the social, the artistic condition of America as it is today.

To me it is a thing for laughter, if not for tears; one hundred and twenty million Americans, rich (a fair percentage of them, anyhow) beyond the dreams of avarice, are scarcely a sculptor, a poet, a singer, a novelist, an actor, a musician, worthy of the name. One hundred and forty years (almost two hundred, counting the Colonial days) of the most prosperous social conditions, rich soil, incalculable deposits of gold, silver and precious and useful metals and fuels of all kinds, a land amazing in its mountains, its streams, its valley prospects, its wealth-yielding powers, and now its tremendous cities and far-flung facilities for travel and trade – yet contemplate it. Artists, poets, thinkers, where are they? Has it produced a single philosopher of the first rank – a Spencer, a Nietzsche, a Schopenhauer, a Kant?

A novelist of the rank of Turgenev, de Maupassant or Flaubert? A scientist of the standing of Crookes or Röntgen or Pasteur?

Inventors, yes; by the hundreds, one might almost say thousands; some of them amazing enough, in all conscience, world figures, and enduring for all time. But of what relationship to art, the supreme freedom of the mind?

There is not a chemist, a physiologist, a botanist, a biologist, a historian, a philosopher, an artist, of any kind or repute among them; not one. They are secretaries to corporations, teachers, missionaries, college librarians, educators in any of the scores of pilfered meanings that may be attached to that much-abused word. They are curators, directors, keepers. They are not individuals in the true sense of that word; they have not been taught to think; they are not free. They do not invent, lead, create; they only copy or take care of, yet they are graduates of this college and its theory, mostly ultraconventional, or, worse yet, anemic, and glad to wear its collar, to clank the chains of its ideas or ideals – automated in a social scheme whose last and final detail was outlined to them in the classrooms of their Alma Mater.

And although by degrees the average American is feeling more and more keenly the sharpening struggle for existence, yet his faith in his impossible ideals, is as fresh as ever. God will save the good American and seat him at His right hand on the Golden Throne.

With one hand the native American takes and executes with all the brutal insistence of Nature itself; with the other he writes glowing platitudes concerning brotherly love, virtue, purity, truth, etc. etc. A part of this right-or-left-hand tendency, as the case may be, is seen in the constant desire of the American to reform something.

*Theodore Dreiser,  
Life, Art and America.  
PP. 252-253.*



## TASKS

**Answer the two questions after having read these rules:**

**Is there any contradiction between your stereotype of an American teacher and the image from the text?**

**Could such rules appear in the XXI century? Why?**

## COMMUNICATIVE CURRICULUM DESIGN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

“You may not loiter downtown in ice-cream stores.

You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.

You may not dress in bright colors.

You must wear at least two petticoats.

You must start the fire at 7 a.m. so the school room will be warm by 8 a.m.”

*The rules for teachers.  
Goodland, Kansas, 1915.  
Savignon Sandra J.  
Communicative Curriculum Design  
for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
English Teaching Forum. 2002. January*



## HANDS-ON TASKS

**1. Express your attitude to such a quotation: “Americans everywhere are worried about the state of their nation”. Do you agree or disagree with it?**

**2. “When in Rome do as the Romans do”. Respond in writing to this proverb, confirming its truth by the following stories.**

### LIFE ON THE STREETS FOR AMERICANS IN EUROPE

**I.** Before coming to France, we had heard all the horror stories of how the French and particularly the Parisians didn’t like Americans and how they were all rude all the time.

But in fact I find the French to be really nice. If you’re lost, they take time to show you the way, and if you need help at all, they will do what they can to help you. We’ve been in France on holiday and the only things we have to complain about are the air conditioning – or lack of it – on the TGV trains and the noise in Paris.

*Brian Kelly,  
a tourist on holiday in Europe*

**II.** I love the history and the culture here and the fact that there is life beyond McDonald’s. This place is 1,000 years old. Why should it take lessons from a country that is just a couple of hundred years old?

*Arlene Mlodzik,  
Dean of the American Business School in Paris*

**III.** I don’t really feel that people in France don’t like me because I’m American. I just think the French are more reserved. The French don’t invite you into their homes easily and don’t talk easily. Back home, it’s all. “Hi, how are you?” In five minutes, people are friends, in France it takes five years. At first, they shake your hands and are incredibly formal and it’s only after they have got to know you well that they invite you in.

*Barbara Ward,  
a student of the university in Paris  
The Times. 2002. May 21. P. 16*



**TASK**

**Answer the following questions:**

**What is this article about?**

**What do I already know about this subject?**

**What does the writer think?**

**What is the evidence?**

**What is right or wrong in it?**

**THE MODERN UNITED STATES:  
TRUE AND FALSE VALUES IN STUDYING THE USA.  
THE SUBJECT OF AMERICAN STUDIES**

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy hood with brotherhood  
From sky to shining sea.

*Katherin Lee Bates*

I am an English teacher. While being to the USA, I promised to develop American Studies at my school and to teach students the subject. I kept my promise and as a result I've been teaching American Studies since 1993.

First it was merely American History, but then I realized that my students needed more information. So I had to expand the area of my subject and touch upon American realities, not just past times. Thus step by step I came to a particular program for almost 5 years and to my mind I've got some success in illuminating people about what America is though I think there's much to be improved.

Actually neither of us can say for sure that he or she knows the United States. Most Russians know about the country by watching



TV and reading mostly local newspapers. So we are greatly influenced by far from being strict to the point information that very often reflects ideas of temporary one-hour politicians, but what we really need is to have a wish to study each other's cultures without any interference or any outside impact.

Sometimes the question is risen, "What is the practical use of American Studies?" Some people mean that Russian students do not know their own history, their own culture and traditions or very few do. The same can be said about Americans. And I am sure that the question of the kind is being asked somewhere in America. But it may be also said if a person is interested in culture of a different nation he or she will soon get interested in his national culture.

The United States of America is an extremely young nation, being compared to most European countries. All visible American history can be framed by a rather short period of time of approximately 5 hundred years, and the history of the USA, even if counted since 1776 will come to 224 years totally.

It seems unbelievable but a lot of Americans do not know their own history. More than a hundred years ago Moses Coyte Tyler who became the first US historian who taught the subject at colleges and universities made a very apt remark saying that far anybody was able to explain such a strange contradiction in American national traditions, when Americans praise their history immensely but in reality they stubbornly oppress any ray of knowledge of the subject.

American historian Bernard Wiceberger compared the history of the USA to a huge mosaic panel, that depicts all famous events with a certain amount of sublimity. We see the first settlers at New Plymouth who disembarked *The Mayflower* without making their feet wet; barefooted patriots in the snowy Valley Forge; iron-sided Lewis and Clark; 49-ers; President Lincoln at Gettysburg and his "For score and seven years ago..."; Theodor Roosevelt at St. Juan Hill; first flights of the White-brothers; Empire State building etc. Now it is far more clear that this panel bears all drawbacks of this particular kind of art: the colors are too bright, the main characters are too much idealized; villains are too sketched; the positions and gestures are quite unnatural. We can easily observe a history of the country which is mostly cloudless; no sharp angles, everything is smooth. An observer watches a history which was created mainly by

the males in the country that was almost deprived of any contradictions, and the nation has never doubted either its advantages and achievements, or its future.

Now, more than a half of American universities and colleges don't study US history as a subject and there are very few ones which taught World history. One third of US university students do not know when Columbus expedition left Spain for the New World; they can't tell you for sure when the Declaration of Independence was signed either. Two thirds can't imagine time boundaries of American Civil War or World War I, and almost half of students never heard the names of Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin.

The only reasonable question here is “*Why?*” No other nation in the world has proclaimed its foundation so loudly and surely as the USA. The United States considered themselves to be the happy heir to the history of all countries and nations, as it was then said – “the Nation of nations”. Herman Melville in the early works said that Americans were a special selected nation – Izrael of new ages and all the liberties of all people of the world gathered in the American arc. He was sure that God had predicted and foreseen that America would do lots of heroic deeds, and the grateful and excited mankind waited for the divine American mission to be excellently performed.

James Polding wrote that the New World didn't need ancient history because, being convinced of brighter future, Americans didn't need the past. He compared other countries to the old people who were talking about their old-time victories and success, and all those things only stressed their old age.

*Dmitri J. Kuzmin*

*School № 37 (AMTEC), Cherepovets*

*American Studies in the Regions. Cherepovets, Vologda, 2001. 76 c.:*

*материалы конференции и тезисы докладов. Череповец, ЧГУ.*

*C. 32-33.*

## SUPPLEMENTARY READING

### MALL OF AMERICA

When the Mall of America opened in Bloomington, Minnesota, in 1992, it ushered a new era in American commerce. The largest enclosed shopping center in the country, the mall contains more than 400 stores, dozens of bars and restaurants – including one in which a tropical thunderstorm erupts every 20 minutes – and 14 movie theaters. Some visitors rely on electric carts just to navigate the far-flung corridors.

Minnesota's steamy summers and frigid winters make climate-controlled shopping a popular idea with residents. The country's first enclosed mall opened in 1956 in nearby Edina, Minnesota. However, at only 400,000 square feet, it was tiny compared with the Mall of America, which sprawls over 4.2 million square feet – large enough to command its own zip code.

Visitors do just about anything at the mall, from playing miniature golf on a bi-level course completed with waterfalls, to getting married at the Chapel of Love, where the “Mega Wedding” package includes an Elvis impersonator, if needed. The mall's centerpiece is the seven-acre Knott's Camp Snoopy, the country's largest indoor theme park. Set amid 30,000 flowering plants, it has been likened to a “rustic clearing in the Great North Woods”, albeit one with a roller coaster and a three-story inflated replica of Snoopy. Today the Mall of America attracts some 38 million visitors a year, making it a tourist attraction more popular than Disney World and the Grand Canyon combined.

## GETTING READY FOR A TEST

1. How can you tell an American? Do you like the American accent? Has anyone you know the American accent? Where did he (she) get it? How can one get the American accent without living in the states?

2. Jerome K. Jerome said in his book *Three Men in a Boat* that travellers when getting ready for a journey should take along only such things as they can't do without. Do you agree with it? Why is it much more convenient to travel light?

3. Where do people get on and off the bus in this country, at the back or at the front? What about London and New York buses?

4. What questions are to be answered when one fills in a declaration form? When is a declaration form to be filled in?

5. What is not allowed free when one goes through the customs?

6. Why do you think learners of English often mix up the words *avoid* and *escape*, *address smb.* and *turn to smb. for smth.* and others? What should one do not to mix up these words and other words of the same kind?

## PART IV

### VALUES

#### UNIT 1

#### TASKS

**1. As the title suggests, this text describes cultural American values which Americans share. So, before you begin reading it, answer the following questions:**

**What is a cultural value? Give an example, please.**

**2. List three cultural values which you feel are important. Do they reflect the values of our native country? Why or why not?**

**3. Before starting the reading, try to predict at least 5 of the 11 values, the article claims are important to Americans.**

**4. After having read the whole text write about the differences between the culture of the United States and our own native culture.**

#### AMERICAN VALUES (the USA)

Most Americans would have a difficult time telling international visitors, specifically, which values they live by. They probably have never given the matter any thought. Even if Americans considered this question they would probably decide not to answer it in terms of a definitive list of values. The reason for this decision itself is one American value – that every individual is so unique that the same list of values could never be applied to all, or even most of their fellow citizens.

Americans may think of themselves as being more varied and unpredictable than they really are. Americans think they have only been slightly influenced by family, church or schools. In the end, each believes, “I personally *chose* which values I want to live *my own life* by”.

Despite this self-evaluation, an anthropologist from another country could observe Americans and produce a list of common values which would fit most Americans. The list of typically American values would stand in sharp contrast to the values commonly held by people in some other cultures.

The different behaviors of a people or a culture make sense only when seen through the basic beliefs, assumptions and values of that particular group. When an international visitor encounters an action, or hears a statement in the United States which surprises him or her, he or she should try to see it as an expression of one or more of the values listed in this passage. For example, if a female visitor asks Americans for directions to get to a particular address in their own city, they may explain, in great detail, how she can get there on her own, but may never even consider walking two city blocks with her to take her there. Some visitors have interpreted this sort of action as showing Americans' "unfriendliness". Instead, the *self-help concept* (value number 1 in the list) is so strong in Americans that they firmly believe that no adult would ever want, even temporarily to be dependent on another. Also their *future orientation* (value 7) makes Americans think it is better to prepare oneself to find other addresses on his or her own in the future.

It is necessary to point out that Americans see all these values as very positive ones. They are not aware, for example, that many people around the world view *change* (value 4) as negative or threatening. In fact all 10 of these American values could be judged by many other cultures as negative and undesirable. Therefore, it is not enough simply to familiarize oneself with these values. One should also, so far as possible, consider them without the negative or derogatory connotation (= a meaning of the word that shows a lack of respect – V.H.) which they might have for them, based on their own experience and cultural identity.

### **1. Self-help concept**

In the United States, a person can take credit only for what he or she has accomplished by himself or herself. Americans get no credit for having been born into a rich family. Since that is considered to be "an accident of birth", Americans pride themselves for being born poor and, through their own sacrifice and hard work, having reached a certain level of successes all by *themselves*. The American social system has made it possible for many Americans to move up the socio-economic ladder.

Take a look in an English-language dictionary at the composite words that have the word "self" as a prefix. In the average desk

dictionary, there will be more than 100 such words, as *self-confidence*, *self-conscious*, *self-contended*, *self-control*, *self-criticism*, *self-deception*, *self-defeating*, *self-denial*, *self-discipline*, *self-esteem*, *self-expression*, *self-importance*, *self-improvement*, *self-interest*, *self-alliance*, *self-respect*, *self-restraint*, *self-sacrifice* – the list goes on and on.

## **2. Individualism and privacy**

The concept of individualism which was developed in Western Europe in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, has taken its most exaggerated form in the 20<sup>th</sup> century United States. Each individual is seen as completely and marvelously unique – totally different from all other individuals and, therefore, particularly precious and wonderful. Americans resist being thought of as representatives of a homogeneous group, whatever the group. They may, and do, join groups – in fact *many* groups – but somehow believe they are just a little different, just a little unique, just a little special, from other members of the same group. And they tend to leave groups as easily as they enter them.

The concept of privacy, the ultimate result of individualism, is perhaps even more difficult for many international visitors to comprehend. The word “privacy” does not even exist in many languages. If it does, it is likely to have a strongly negative connotation suggesting loneliness or isolation from the group. In the United States privacy is not only seen as very positive but also is viewed as a necessity for their psychological health. It is not uncommon for Americans to say and believe such statements as “If I do not have at least half an hour a day to myself, I will go stark raving mad!”

## **3. Competition and free enterprise**

Americans believe that competition brings out the best in people, that it forces or challenges each person to produce the very best that is humanly possible. In some other cultures, on the other hand, the emphasis is on cooperation. The free-enterprise system is based on the premise that competition leads toward the production of better goods and services and encourages people to try their hardest.

Competition reinforces the values of individualism, self-help, and hard work. In the United States creating a niche for oneself is a

competitive process, as many people may be striving, some unsuccessfully, for the same niche.

#### **4. Action/Work orientation. Change.**

“Don’t just stand there”, goes a typical bit of American advice, “do something!” This expression is normally used in a crisis situation, yet in a sense, it describes most Americans’ entire waking life, where action – any action – is seen to be superior to inaction.

Americans routinely plan and schedule an extremely active day. Any relaxation must be limited in time, pre-planned, and aimed at “recreating their ability to work harder and more productively once the recreation is over”. Americans believe leisure activities should assume a relatively small portion of one’s total life. People think that it is sinful to waste one’s time, to sit around doing nothing, or just to daydream.

Such a no nonsense attitude toward life has created many people who have come to be known as workaholics, or people who are addicted to their work, who think constantly about their jobs and who are frustrated if they are kept away from them.

Americans consider anything other than the most direct and open approach to be dishonest and insincere. They will quickly lose confidence in and distrust for anyone who hints at what is *intended* rather than saying it outright. Anyone who in the United States chooses to use an intermediary to deliver the message may be considered manipulative and untrustworthy.

Change is seen as positive in the United States because it is strongly linked to development, improvement, progress and growth. In other societies around the world, change is seen as a destructive, disruptive and destabilizing force. In such societies continuity and stability are seen as positive.

In the United States, for example, changing jobs is seen as opportunity to develop new skills, to earn more money and to move up in the world. In many other cultures, however, changing jobs several times often indicates instability and lack of loyalty to the company.

These first two values – the belief that we can do anything and the belief that any change is good – together with an American belief in the virtue of hard work and the belief that each individual has a



responsibility to do the best he or she can do have helped Americans achieve some of their most challenging goals.

### **5. Equality/Egalitarianism**

Equality is the most cherished American value. This concept is so important for Americans that they have even given it a religious basis: they say that all people are “created equal”. Most Americans believe that God views all humans alike without regard to intelligence, physical condition or economic status. In secular terms, this belief is translated into the assertion that all people have an equal opportunity to succeed in life. Americans differ in opinion about how to make this ideal into a reality. Yet, virtually all agree that equality is an important civic and social goal.

In many countries rank, status, authority and age are seen as measures with which to address people, and maintain a certain order within the society. The manner in which U.S. service personnel (such as waiters in restaurants, clerks in stores, taxi drivers, etc.) treat their customers is rarely based on social standing.

### **6. Time and its control**

Time is of utmost importance for Americans. For many international visitors Americans seem to be more concerned with getting things accomplished on time (according to a predetermined schedule) than they are with developing deep interpersonal relations. For Americans, schedules are meant to be planned and then followed in the smallest detail. It may seem that most Americans are completely controlled by their watches, cutting their discussion off abruptly to make it to their next appointment time.

The language of Americans is filled with references to time, giving a clear indication of how much it is valued. Time is something to be *on*, to be *kept*, *filled*, *saved*, *used*, *spend*, *washed*, *lost*, *gained*, *planned*, *given*, *made the most of*, even *killed*. Many American proverbs stress the value in guarding our time, using it wisely, setting and working toward specific goals, and even expending our time and energy today so that the fruits of our labor may be enjoyed at a later time.

## **7. Present/Immediate future orientation**

Americans, at one time emphasized looking towards the future, but this value has evolved into a present and immediate future orientation. Many societies place great importance on the past, seeing it as a source of identity and a reference point for both the present and the future. In the United States, however, the past is not as significant as the present or future. As happy as the past might have been, Americans have traditionally been hopeful that the future would bring even greater happiness. Almost all energy is directed toward realizing that better future.

## **8. Informality**

International visitors find Americans extremely informal. Americans believe that formality distances people and creates inequality. Formality as found in rituals, is thought to be inefficient in a culture that emphasizes the new and practical. U.S. bosses often urge their employees to call them by their first names, and often feel uncomfortable if they are called by the title Mr. or Mrs.

Dress is another area where U.S. informality will be most noticeable. One can go to a symphony performance, for example, in any large U. S. city nowadays and find some people in the audience dressed in blue jeans, short-sleeved shirts and without a tie.

## **9. Practicality and Efficiency**

Americans have a reputation of being extremely realistic, practical and efficient people. The practical consideration is likely to be given highest priority in making any important decision in the United States. Americans pride themselves in not being very philosophically or theoretically oriented. If Americans would even admit having a philosophy, it would probably be that of pragmatism.

Will it make any money? Will it pay for itself? What can I gain from this activity? These are the questions which seem to be traditional for every American.

## **10. Materialism/Acquisitiveness**

International visitors generally consider Americans much more materialistic than Americans are likely to consider themselves.

Americans would like to think that their material objects are just the natural benefits which always result from hard work and serious intent – a reward, they think, which *all* people could enjoy if they were as industrious and hard-working as Americans. In addition, many of these possessions are considered to be essential for efficient and practical living. This means that they value and collect more material objects than most people in some other countries would dream of owning. It also means they give a high priority to obtaining, maintaining and protecting their material objects.

**The modern American typically owns:**

one or more color TV sets  
VCR  
an electric dryer  
an electronic calculator  
a stereo  
a clothes washer and a dryer  
a vacuum cleaner  
a powered lawn mower  
a refrigerator and a dishwasher  
a stove, a micro-wave oven  
one or more automobiles  
several telephones  
an answering machine  
many own personal computers.

Since Americans value newness and innovation, they sell or throw away many of their possessions frequently and replace them with newer ones. A car may be kept for only two or three years, a house for five or six years before trading it for another one.

*Completed by Vladimir Pavlov  
Adapted from Robert Kohl's article  
"The Values Americans live by"  
from the book "Explorations in American Culture"  
by Kathrina Jason and Holly Posner:  
Heinle and Heinle Publishers, 1995. PP. 4-15.*

## UNIT 2

### TASKS

**1. Before you read imagine this situation: You have been offered a one-time-only scholarship to study at the prestigious university in the USA. The week before you are planning to leave, your father has a heart attack. As the oldest child, you are asked to make a choice between your needs and those of your family. What will you do? Explain your decision.**

**2. After having read the text answer the following questions:**

**What are the main Chinese values?**

**Do they speak for the collectivist society?**

**People with a collective focus tend to think in terms of long-term goals, which benefit the whole group, don't they?**

**What philosophy mostly influences the Chinese people?**

### CHINESE VALUES (China and Hong Kong)

The numerous and magnificent spiritual and artistic achievements and accomplishments of Chinese civilization do not go unrivalled in other parts of the world. While the brevity of the European occupation of the Americas might disqualify them from serious competition, the clear thinking and spiritual values of the Ancient Greeks must put them in contention; the organizing abilities and breadth of conquest of the Roman Empire matched the Chinese; above all the Italian Renaissance threw up artistic giants who might be considered to have equaled (or even surpassed) Chinese aesthetic masterpieces, whether in the field of music, painting, opera, dance or architecture. Leonardo, Michelangelo, Titian, Raphael, Verdi, Rossini and Dante are a hard act to beat.

The Chinese would not deny this. They are capable of expressing admiration for European artistic creation, *dans son genre*, just as they appreciate the efficiency of American, British and French political systems and technological progress. Where they feel superior is in the area of moral and spiritual values. In as much as most nations feel that their norms are the correct ones – that their behaviour alone is truly exemplary – this is not surprising in itself. The Chinese, however, like the Russians and the Muslims, combine their sense of

moral righteousness with fierce criticism of western societies. The large European nations of former imperial glory – Britain, France, Spain and Portugal – they see in decline, decay and spiritual disintegration. They see the American culture as having begun to decline before it reached its peak. The Japanese, once earnest students of Chinese philosophies and precepts, have succumbed to materialism and consumerism. Russia was never admired.

What are these superior Chinese values? They are not slow to tell you. They list them as follows:

modesty  
tolerance  
filial piety, courtesy, thrift  
patience, respect for elderly  
sincerity, loyalty, family closeness, tradition  
trustworthiness, stoicism, tenacity, self-sacrifice, kindness  
moderation, patriotism, asceticism, diligence, harmony towards all  
resistance to corruption, learning, respect for hierarchy  
generosity, adaptability, conscientiousness  
sense of duty, pride (no losing face)  
being undemanding, friendships  
gratitude for favours  
impartiality, purity  
gentleness  
wisdom

A westerner, ploughing through this list of self-ascribed values, might wonder about modesty and impartiality, but, in the main, the Chinese do go about their daily lives, especially at the individual level, exhibiting many of those characteristics. Whatever they might think of us, we can hardly fail to see them as hard-working, conscientious, patient, undemanding and thrifty. They seem generally to be in harmony with each other (good team members) and towards us they are usually courteous and compliant.

To understand why individual Chinese go about their affairs in an orderly, respectful fashion, we would do well to examine some of the basic tenets of their beliefs and philosophies. The most important influence is that of Confucianism.

Stability of society in China, according to Confucian views, is based on unequal relationships between people. This is almost dia-

metrically opposed to British, American and Scandinavian ideas, but it is hardly questioned in China.

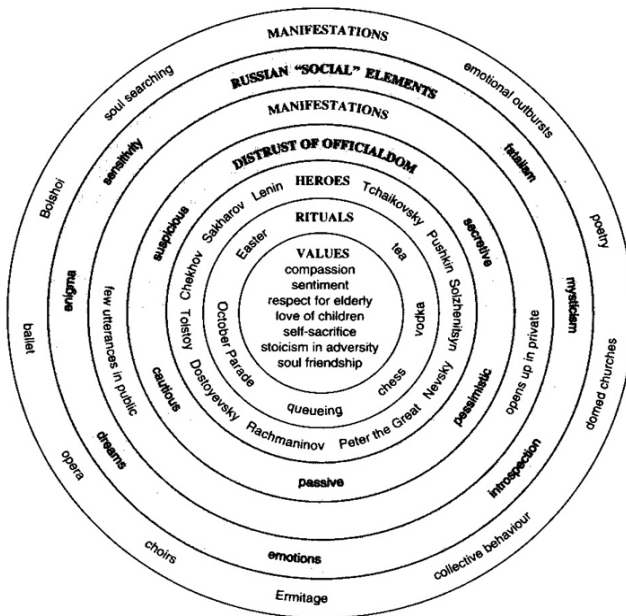
Lewis R. *When Cultures Collide*. P. 381.

### UNIT 3

#### RUSSIAN VALUES

Russian values are essentially human, their heroes are universally authentic, their manifestations and symbols are richly artistic and aesthetic. To succeed with Russians, one must maintain these qualities in clear focus as opposed to paying too much attention to the enigmatic and often paradoxical aspects of their behaviour and current attitudes.

1. Analyse this diagramme suggested by Richard D. Lewis in his book “When Cultures Collide” (p. 309).
2. Discuss it with your groupmates.
3. Could you suggest *your* diagramme (table, figure, list, etc.) of Russian values?



Lewis R. P. 317.

**UNIT 4**  
**CONFUCIAN / WESTERN CULTURE**

**HANDS-ON TASK**

**Compare Confucian (Chinese) and Western values in language pedagogy and mark off those relating to your home teaching culture.**

<b>Confucian culture</b>	<b>Western culture</b>
Respect for teacher authority	Teacher as a facilitator
Family pressure to excel	Teacher is open to critique
Face-saving and silence	Individual development
Group orientation	Self-expression
Avoidance of failure	Creativity in learning

*Millrood Radislav*  
*Language Pedagogy / Theory of Language Teaching. Vol. 3,*  
*Tambov, 2004. P.95*  
*(adapted from Jordan 1997)*

## PART V

### MIND THE GAP

#### TASKS

1. Explain the meaning of the underlined sentences in the text.
2. What are the author's examples proving her statements? Do you agree or disagree with her?
3. Give your own examples proving your views and ideas.

#### RUSSIA'S CLOSED DOOR POLICY

**Cultural gaps can be funny or tragic. In any case, most of them make for a good story.** *The Moscow News* has heard of a billion mishaps occurring to foreigners who try to adapt to Russian mentality. We hear these from our readers and colleagues every day. Now, you can share your cultural experience too – send your stories or observations to [gap@mn.ru](mailto:gap@mn.ru).

#### Ann Limerick

There is a perception that Russians are rather generous. They share their natural sources, personal wealth, and feed you up until you are about to split your sides. But Russians are very niggard in respect of rational distribution and organization of public services. The thing I hate most of all is the Russian habit to close three doors of four in a building. And when, say, the crowds flow out from after a theater performance or a concert, even the most polite and self-possessed personalities can hardly restrain themselves. What is the point in keeping doors closed? Last time when I witnessed this kind of situation an old lady seemed to have had her foot dislocated after she had been pushed from behind.

Or another example. Once I was rushing to catch my train to Saint-Petersburg, and there was a similar situation at the railway station: half of the doors were locked, so people had to sneak in through residuary ones nudging one another and pushing each other with their bags and suitcases.



Also in adherence to keeping everything closed Russians often create lines: in some shops, drug-stores or museum ticket-offices, and that's a strange phenomena for me too. Because in most cases there are enough cash desks or ticket windows but there is nobody to serve you in some of them.

Who is responsible for this stupid "closing" policy?

*Moscow News № 2 (4166)  
30 March – 5 April  
2005*



## TASKS

**1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and word combinations.**

**2. Make up your own sentences using some of the underlined words.**

**3. What are the key words of this text?**

**4. Give the main points of these stories, using the following phrases:**

- The article introduces to us the views of ...

- The attraction (emphasis) of the article lies in the fact(s) that ...

- Among the other things the author shows that ...

## OVERCOMING DISTANCES

Cultural gaps can be funny or tragic. In any case, most of them make for a good story. *The Moscow News* has heard of a billion mishaps occurring to foreigners who try to adapt to Russian mentality. We hear these from our readers and colleagues every day. Now, you can share your cultural experience too. Send your stories or observations to [gap@mn.ru](mailto:gap@mn.ru). Today all of the stories concern in one way or another distances: geographical distances, distances between media image and reality. Actually, what is distance? It is just another way of saying gap, isn't it?

## Jackie Ramosh, Ireland

When I traveled to Russia for the first time, certainly I knew it was far away from my home, farther than I'd ever been before. But what I didn't expect was that the distances in Russia are so tremendous. To escape from Moscow is more than enough time to get from Paris to Amsterdam, for instance. Sure, rush hours are typical of a megalopolis, but Moscow beats everything I've experienced before. Then, when my friends come to visit me in Moscow, they normally ask me to arrange for us trips around Russia. And if I say it's impossible to manage all they want to see, say, in one week, nobody believes me! But it takes hours and hours, days and nights to come from Moscow to other cities, especially over the Ural mountains, I believe the biggest cultural gap for Europeans is to realize the scale of Russian territory not on the map, but as it is in reality. How can a Russian live knowing he will never be able to see all places in his native country even if he spends most of his life travelling around?

And imagine someone, a normal average European, I dare say, for whom two hours is often enough to get to his nearest neighbour country, seven hours is enough to travel the length and breadth of his own country, and when one comes to Russia... that's an impression.

## Adam Brown, USA

My misunderstanding, or cultural shock, call it as you like, is to see the contrast between the image I got about Russia and Moscow in particular from media, especially TV reports, and what I saw when I came here.

What do we usually see on the blue screen? Poor villages, people, deeply concerned with their problems, reports about police injustice, chaotic elections, corrupted governors, about Chechnya war and Russian mafia (now less than it used to be, but the certain image is appearing unconsciously).

Then, when you come to Moscow... I was speechless! Red Square looks stunning, as you never see it on TV. Huge spaces, bright cupolas, near red bricks of the wall. Manezh square, shining with marble and fountains, is perfect for a summer walk, the wide street up to Pushkin monument is packed with fashionable places and stores. Young people look as if they've just been participating in a

fashion show. How can you explain this? Why is it never talked about? There are poor old ladies selling flowers, there are beggars in the subway, but Russia is no way a poor country we're often taught to take it as.

Well, on the other hand, I shall admit that there's a distance between Moscow and other Russian cities and towns. Distance both in a literal and metaphoric way: without mentioning that it takes hours to get somewhere (only here I realized why trains are so important in Russian literature and for Russian mind as general, and why the symbolism of the road itself too is extremely significant).

Moscow is posh, and other cities are less pretentious, less Western, they have less reconstructed buildings and less ads and billboards, and less high-tech. But, again, there's nothing to do with that extreme level of poverty I used to think of.

### **Dear Jackie and Adam,**

17mln km<sup>2</sup>: that is the size of Russia. It is almost twice the USA and about 250 times Ireland! In Russia, size matters.

The territory always played a distinctive role in Russia's culture and identity. Since the creation of the country, expansion has been a historical constant. Russians often associate their identity with vastness, and the loss of territory is taken as a tragedy.

Distance means power – it is impossible to ignore the world's largest country; distance means security – acting as a buffer zone against foreign enemies; distance means also freedom where one may live a life-time unnoticed (such as the Lykov family discovered after decades of complete isolation); distance means opportunities in a country with a fertile soil and underground resources; but distance can mean danger with penal colonies or wilderness.

Compared with other countries, the development of Russia was quick and recent (not so different from the USA). Many big towns were just big villages a few centuries ago. Moscow appeared 850 years ago, Samara 400, Vladivostok about 150... Subsequently, cities throughout Russia, despite gigantic distances between them, are relatively similar in shape, architecture and atmosphere. Also, compared with “smaller” countries such as UK or Spain, Russia has very mild language differences.

Managing such a territory has always been a challenge for the rulers who combined strong centralisation with some independence as long as it was not against their own interests. No wonder many reforms today are linked to the organization of the “subjects” of the Federation.

Furthermore, distance played a crucial role in history: a handicap in the Crimean war but a protection during WWII.

Distance was, and is, the first determinant of the Russian culture; it is always astounding for the foreign eye: welcome to the land of Gigantism...

*Comment done by Jerome Dumetz,  
teaching cross-cultural communication  
at the REA Plekhanov in Moscow  
and independent consultant  
The Moscow News  
№ 26 (4180) [www.mn.ru/english](http://www.mn.ru/english)*



## TASKS

1. Translate this article from Russian into English.
2. Respond in writing to one of the quotations. Then get together in groups and share what you have written.
3. Work with a partner or your group to discuss one or more quotations. You may want to agree, disagree or compare it to similar statements in your native language.

## БРЮССЕЛЬ ПЫТАЕТСЯ ВЕРНУТЬ КОНТРОЛЬ НАД МЕДИЙНОЙ СРЕДОЙ

Европейская демократия постепенно мутирует в самую настоящую тиранию.

Европа находится в политическом и мировоззренческом тупике. Если вы не согласны с официальным пониманием демократии – либеральным, прогрессистским и глобалистским – рискуете оказаться на обочине. Верующие христиане у нас стали социальными маргиналами. А если вдобавок ко всему ты хорошо относишься к России, будут большие проблемы. Прежде

всего психологическое давление и сложности с поиском работы. Официальные издания стали очень политизированными. Еврокомиссия пытается вернуть контроль над медиапространством. Реальный враг Запада засел не в Кремле. Истинный враг – сам западный безбожный истеблишмент, стремящийся уничтожить христианскую культуру по всей планете. Цель политических сил, доминирующих в единой Европе, – разрушение христианской цивилизации. Но зачем им это?

Секуляризация играет на руку расширению бездуховности, оглуплению, вырождению европейских народов.

*Ибен Транхольм,  
датская журналистка и богослов  
газ. «Культура», 2017, 3-9 февраля*



## TASKS

**Answer the questions:**

**What country is the author from: Eastern or Western?**

**Why do you think so?**

**What is the golden rule? (look at the last paragraph).**

**What do you think about it?**

## LET'S TEACH OUR YOUTH THE GOLDEN RULE

Cultural gaps can be funny or tragic. In any case, most of them make for a good story. *The Moscow News* has heard of a billion mishaps occurring to foreigners who try to adapt to Russian mentality. We hear these from our readers and colleagues every day. Now, you can share your cultural experience too – send your stories or observations to [gap@mn.ru](mailto:gap@mn.ru).

### **John Lahai**

I've been living in Russia for 8 years already, and one thing about the cultural gap that comes through to me loud and clear is the refusal of youths to give seats to the elderly in public services (bus, tram, metro, whatever).

I have witnessed hundreds or thousands of occurrences and many interactions and heard many questions posed to youths. The answer from them is: - I pay but the elderly travel free. I see this as a personal right, taking precedence over social obligations.

And what about the announcements that seats should be allocated to the elderly, invalid, pregnant women, and people with children. Do these energetic youths pay any attention to these messages?

My Russian colleague told me it's just a habit. – Can't you believe in it? – he exclaimed. And I said yes. Habits are formed under the influence of the customs of a group. Probably, the youths are brought up within these customs and an outlook on the elderly; because mature and better equipped beings are aware of the consequences of their acts, and that's why even these elderly weakened citizens do not demand seats from the energetic youths.

I am inclined to mention that Russian youths perhaps are not being taught the golden rule “do unto others as you will like them do unto you”. As the saying goes “as you are so the elderly were and as they are now, so you will one day be”.



## **TASKS**

**1. Explain the meanings of the underlined words and phrases.**

**2. Answer the questions:**

**What is the tone of the narration?**

**What are some external human values as covered by the writer?**

**What is the image of the ideal accommodation for you? Why?**

**Try to explain it.**

**3. Could you present any photos of semi-detached houses in England? What is your attitude to the picture? Would you like to live in such a house?**

## SUBURBAN DREAMS

### Philip Marriott, Great Britain

In Britain people rush to buy housing, to get a place on the ladder and work their way up – buying their first home and then selling it a few years later at a profit, using that money to buy the second larger place and so on until by the time they retire they should be owning a large detached or semi-detached house with two or three bedrooms, a front room, dining room, kitchen, several bathrooms and so on, plus, of course, the front and back garden. The reality is a little more uneven, however, with most people living in big cities and towns. This means that most people are living in flats/apartments in older terraced housing. In other words, houses are physically connected to the next one and so forming a continuous line along the length of the street. They're not too bad; there is usually a small back garden or yard for those on the ground floor or basement level. Those upstairs just have to look out the window in summer and feel jealous. The point is that every family wants that suburban dream house I described earlier – the idea of living in a place without access to a garden is anathema to the British mind. The idea of having to share a corridor, stairway or lift with other people is also similarly repugnant. This, I think, is the most glaring difference I have found between life here and back there. For a while I fooled myself into thinking that really all Russians would like a cottage in the country, or a small townhouse of their own but I'm beginning to realize that I'm wrong. Time and time again I come up against the reaction that 'well, there's nothing there in the country-side' or, 'how will I make a living out there'.

It is only now that I realize the true extent to which Russia should not be seen as a continuous landmass but rather as one giant sea dotted here and there with islands of urban living and I should say relative economic success at least in relation to the vast agricultural hinterland full of kolkhoz or collective farms, or failing that just wilderness.

The biggest island is Moscow, followed in order of size by the other main cities. But how much of the Russian population does this represent? At a rough guess Moscow has about 12 million, St. Petersburg 6, and being generous, all the other major cities lumped to-

gether would make up the same as Moscow and St. Petersburg, which means 30 to 40 million out of a population of 145.6 (in 2000 according to Moscow State Linguistics University). Even with a projected fall in numbers to 134 by 2016 this still means the country is predominantly rural with the urban islands floating on top. So the question at the back of my mind still remains: why in the world's largest country does a population so small in relation still insist on living in panel housing?

*The Moscow News*  
2005. № 3, 16-22 March



## TASKS

**1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases.**

**2. Answer the questions:**

**Does the title of the article imply an advise for foreigners or the Russian women?**

**Do you agree with the comment by Jerome Dumetz, teaching cross-cultural communication at the REA Plekhanov in Moscow?**

**If you worked as an independent consultant what recommendation would you give to the author of the article in respect of Russian women “national” traits?**

## AVOID ARROGANCE AND RUDENESS

### **Adam Voichik, the Netherlands**

At the TV screen or reading books you may receive a false impression of Russian women: majority is shown as pretty, charming and kind. But when you come to Moscow you are discovering that in reality there are many types of them. And if, say, I dare assume, that all Dutch women have a lot in common Russians do not have a single “national” trait at all.

So, first of all, there are Russian women as Western men used to think of them: family-oriented, shy, hard-workers, kind, etc. They



tend to work in state offices or in creative jobs. The interesting thing is that when you need their help they are often very eager to respond. On the other hand, it seems they are a bit lazy about their duties. There are also women with a kind of feminist mindset, they tend to be highly educated and independent, but still it's not as bad as in Western Europe. They work in management or politics, they are smart and charming. Perhaps that's the best type of all. Then, there are young fashionable ladies, their only wish is wealth. They do not pay any attention to you if you are not showing off. And the arrogance is striking here: mostly they judge only by appearance, so if one doesn't look rich he has no chances. I find it idiotic. Of course, there are business women who concentrate on their career. They are Westernized, but at the same time pay close attention to family matters. Unlike European women, they seem more likely to be risky and more tough in facing obstacles at the same time. They know how to deal with colleagues and clients.

There are sales women. This is a peculiar type. They show neither favour nor respect to other people. It mainly happens in small stores, especially Soviet-style ones. But even in big supermarkets or fashionable shops they can demonstrate the same attitude.

### **Dear Adam,**

Your ideas about Russian women raise a few explicative comments from a cross-cultural point of view.

I'll set aside the grimy faces of the saleswomen and the immoral, money minded girls to concentrate on the overall image westerners have of Russian women.

Russia is a non-equalitarian society. It does not mean citizens are not equal in front of the law. It means people believe everyone is after all different, hence each is accepted in his or her uniqueness while expected to stick to a certain pattern of behaviour. Thus, the gender definition is rather strict. In other words, men are expected to behave in a "manly" attitude while women are likely to fit in the women's role; feminine (sexy) dress code for young ladies, extensive use of cosmetics for young professional mothers, and granny-type of behaviour after a certain age (often earlier than in the West).

That is also why courting looks so anachronous (or romantic) for foreigners in Russia. Everyone is expected to follow a proper ceremonial where the boy brings flowers to a date and the girl is late.

In a more equalitarian society such as Holland, genders tend to blend into a unisex way. Crossing Russian ladies path may then be an exotic and bewildering experience...

*Comment by Jerome Dumetz,  
teaching cross-cultural communication  
at the REA Plekhanov in Moscow,  
and independent consultant*

*The Moscow News № 13 (4167)  
www.mn.ru/english*



## TASKS

1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases.
2. Having read the text, pick out characteristic features of the Russians, and write them in the left column, then – of the Americans and write them in the right column.
3. Do you feel the cultural gap between the Russians and the Americans to be rather tragic or funny? Why?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the author of the article? Prove your statement.

## ON DEMOCRACY AND PRESSURE

### Jack Griffith

I have observed with dismay that Russians will blame everything except themselves. Why? Because they are circumstance-directed.

We all know that Paris is the birth place of communism. In 1914 someone said that to find 2 or 4 communists in Paris would be a wonder or a miracle. And yet in five years the communists had cap-

tured Russia and challenged the world. With the breakdown of communism everyone is now blaming the system they once idolized.

Once serving as a waiter at a banquet, my managers gave me contradictory orders. I became upset and objected. Whereupon, one man asked, “Well, if you get upset with us, what do you do when the women are here?” I replied, “That’s simple. I just throw my mind in neutral and go where I am pushed”.

In 1991, Russians simply threw their minds into neutral and are now going where circumstances push them. It’s like “Anybody got a car going anywhere?”

My Russian colleagues and me are trying to find a way out between Russia and America. I usually tell them: “Don’t you see what’s happening? You are allowing the Americans to determine your conduct. You say, if they do this, we shall do that. Why don’t you work out the problem and find a way out through the application of your own principles?”

Russians must behave from principles, not from pressure. No matter what the other powers of the world do, Russia should be an inheritor of its own democracy. Remember that without a sense of guidance life turns dull and insipid.

*The Moscow News № 11 (4165). P.11*



## TASKS

1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases.

2. Answer some questions:

Where is the author from? What is another name of this country?

Were there many mishaps occurring to the author of this article?

Did he easily cope with them? Why? What do you think?

What is a very good advice for the readers of the article suggested by an experienced alien?

“When in Rome, do as the Roman do”. Do you agree with this proverb?

3. Make up your own sentences using the underlined words and phrases.

## A COMFORTABLE LIFE IN MOSCOW

### Florian, the Netherlands

When you live in a foreign country, it's tough to accept its culture entirely and unconditional. Every day you have to comprehend incomprehensible situations, etc. But there's one very important thing about that. Until you are a foreigner – and you always are, until you have lived there for ages – normal people will treat you as a stranger. Saying normal, I mean those who didn't experience the same – living abroad – at least for half a year.

So, I've been living in different European countries, also in Syria, China and Mexico. And I hope that I can compare foreigners' sensations with a fair degree of confidence.

And I'd like to say that Russian environment is rather easy to live in. Of course, if you consider Europe, especially countries from one region, we reach understanding within few seconds. In Moscow it took me three months. But then again I want to admit that Russian people strongly support you in adapting to their country. A foreigner is always in a kind of privileged position here. My cultural gap is that I didn't expect that here I will feel more comfortable than in any other country I had to work in. My Moscow friends took their time to explain all I couldn't understand. And another thing is that Russians themselves very often do not understand where this or that situation is originating from, just taking it for granted. And that is very useful to learn from them too.

*The Moscow News № 10 (4164). P. 11*



### TASKS

1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases.
2. The tone of narration is ironic. Find examples of irony. Read them.
3. Find examples of colloquial style. Why does the author use it?

## FREE TALK ON FREE STUFF

Cultural gaps can be funny or tragic. In any case, most of them make for a good story. Now, you can share your cultural experience too – send your stories or observations to [gap@mn.ru](mailto:gap@mn.ru).

### Jeffrey McDouglas, USA

I'm running a food company and when I have to deal with Eastern European countries, Russia becomes part of my business interest. I come here on many occasions and always participate in exhibitions, including the biggest ones. I wanted to let you know which image I've got of Russian people visiting exhibitions or promotion shows.

First, even if the exhibition is a certain business-to-business meeting, there can be always found people who have nothing to do with trade. They walk around taking a view of everything, and when you address them, in search for partners or at least useful contacts, they disappear as quick as one can imagine, sometimes pleading business cards are off, sometimes smiling confusedly. They collect leaflets, brochures, handouts, booklets, pens, mugs with or without logos, they try every kind of food you offer, they can even inadvertently filch some important papers you had put too close to visitors.

It's just stunning: how the Russian people like stuff you give them for free. It's the third year in a row that I have participated in Moscow Expocenter, and I'll describe you what I still see very often. There is at least one left who can hardly drag his feet, hugging one, two and even three bags crammed full, but he still comes to every stall and stand, examining their content and certainly at least one paper or sticker is added to his collection. If you have something you wanna get rid of – just put it on your exhibition stand.

*The Moscow News № 3 (4157). P. 11*



### TASKS

1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases.

2. Give the main points of the story using the following phrases:

**the attraction of the story lies in the fact that...;**

**we might as well mention here that ...;**

**among the other things the story shows that ...**

3. There are some differences between the German women mentality and the Russians' one. Find the extract telling about it in the text and read it.

## RUSSIAN WOMEN: MORE THAN BEAUTY

### Frank Rothfuss, Germany

So far I've heard a lot about Russian women. About how beautiful and kind they are, about their intelligence and attractiveness, but I wasn't really prepared for one thing: that they are really strong and moreover, incredibly hard-workers, I wouldn't pretend to have conducted a deep research concerning this issue, but I will give you a peculiar example.

Once we had a party in Moscow with our Russian friends. We were drinking until early morning, and in a few hours, after a short sleep, all the women woke up, made a breakfast for us and left for their offices, since it was a weekday. As for the men, they had breakfast, then some went back to bed and some picked their way to the nearest shop to buy some more alcohol to go on with.

My aim is not to prove that Russians drink a lot, I met lots of Europeans who drink much more than an average Russian. I want to emphasize the feeling of responsibility Russian women have, and that in similar situations they always work harder than men do, and have more health and strength to fulfill that. And what's even more important, they do not scold their men for laziness!

That's a real difference from Germany, and I have some explanations for this.

Most probably after the revolution of 1917, Soviet women were given free rein far before the feminist movement. They also proved themselves to be courageous workers during the war. They fought as hard as the men did and were treated the same way. When women gained liberty and equal rights, it somehow let them reveal

their potential, but they do not deny the usefulness of Adam's descendants.

*The Moscow News № 01-02 (4156)*

*www.mn.ru/english*



## TASKS

**1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases.**

**2. Answer the questions:**

**How many issues are touched upon in this text?**

**Are you fond of vodka or do you prefer any other beverages?**

**How could our state improve the situation of 13 or 14 years old teens' addiction to vodka?**

**The author says that "it looks like nobody cares". Do you agree with it?**

**Is the tone of the narration ironic? Find examples of irony.**

**3. In both extracts think of some external human values as covered by the authors.**

## TWO BASIC ISSUES: VODKA AND SOUL

### Ann Dodge, Wales

Everybody knows that Russians drink. Moreover, everybody assumes that Russians prefer vodka to all other alcoholic beverages. Thus foreigners look in wide-eyed astonishment if some Russians explain that they are not so fond of vodka at all, they prefer tequila, martini, absinth, wine or whatever else. Well, living in Russia for few years I probably can say that I faced all kinds of those situations, both when Russians were angry when I proposed them vodka or refused to drink with them.

But the cultural shock about vodka is that there are so many young people who drink it, and since a very early age. I witnessed them even right in the streets, teens of 13 or 14 years old, with a couple of bottles and plastic glasses! You may see that on a weekday afternoon! It looks like nobody cares. Or may be it is the part of the

background of an average Russian, as some people say. The part of socialization you need to go through...

### **Albert Dreisender, USA**

Have you heard about ‘Russian soul’? I haven’t heard of it before I came to Russia. And it’s something I still can’t catch the full sense of. Some friends of mine told me that it’s about devoting yourself to others. Say, spending hours of your personal time visiting friends, talking, laughing, crying. Or lending money to a neighbour who is desperately in need, though you yourself are not so well off, and even if he surmises that he won’t give your money back.

Can we say that having a Russian soul is equal to being unselfish and irrational?

*The Moscow News № 9 (4163). P. 11.*



### **TASKS**

- 1. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases.**
- 2. In both extracts think of some external human values as covered by the writers.**
- 3. What are the values of the countries the two authors are from which clarify their attitude to the problems of “long lines” and “iron doors”?**
- 4. Have you ever noticed these shortcomings? Why?**

### **LONG LINES AND IRON DOORS**

#### **Jennifer Stove, Canada**

I know it’s not like that anymore, but I wanted to share with you an experience I had back in the late eighties, some fifteen years ago, in Moscow, and which was quite a cultural shock for me: standing in a line for a few hours! These were the biggest lines I’ve ever seen, one – to the first McDonald’s in Moscow, and the other – to the Mausoleum. Standing three hours outside for each destination in the middle of the winter, with sub-zero temperatures, was a test of sur-



vival. Finally, I saw Lenin's tomb and got my cheeseburger. And now many years later it was actually another shock to see how much your capital has been changed. Seems like there are less "gaps" between us now, fortunately.

### **Francis Throoks, USA**

My cultural gap is the following: I can't get used to those solid iron doors and bars of yours. All that is a kind of shock for me. Something similar I've seen only in Israel. Each time you enter one of those old buildings, especially those which were built in Stalin's epoch, you face a huge iron door slamming with a bang behind your back. And what's strange, I can't get used to those heartbreaking sounds, even though I've been hearing them for three or four years already. I think Americans are unaccustomed to this from their mentality, as we have nothing like this. In my mind, these solid iron doors are still a perfect tool to remind both Russians and foreigners of the Iron Curtain times.

*The Moscow News № 6 (4160). P11*



### **TASK**

**Use the materials you've read to discuss the following questions.**

**What problems could be faced by people who came to a foreign country for the first time?**

**Have you ever been abroad?**

**Did you experience any kind of cultural shock?**

**Was there anything during your stay in a foreign country that surprised you greatly or struck you as something unusual?**

**Could you remember anything of the kind from the books you've read or other people's stories?**

## ON THANK YOU LETTERS

... Speaking of gratitude, there is a peculiar issue to be dwelt upon. The Russians are quite often labeled by foreigners as people devoid of elementary notion of proper manners. This assumption is frequently based upon a persistent habit of “forgetting” to write *letters of thanks*. I think the matter is not that simple and involves cross cultural differences, namely some divergence in mentality. Being no professional psychologist, I’ll still risk to express a personal opinion. In my view, this phenomenon is closely connected with our attitude towards the notion of formality which in many cases is synonymous to a routine to be endured and done away with. Yes, there are certain rules in “the game” and our way of saying *thank you* is mostly confined to verbal manifestations and – presents, quite a variety to choose from for different types of occasions. As to letters, this had – traditionally – been something far more personal and therefore informal and sincere, not something to be *just endured*; after all, no one would like to permit any intrusion of *alien propriety* into *private* domains: if I do have something to say – be it a matter of business or an exchange of professional views – I’ll do it gladly and of my own free will without any restrictions imposed by the norms of formal communication.

Of course, by all that I don’t mean to say that the Russians will persist in ignoring the accepted etiquette. I’m only trying to show that in our culture verbal expression of gratitude accompanied by gifts giving on a formal occasion is often more than enough and in most cases equivalent to letter writing. No offense meant, - cultures differ and that’s all to it. I think our friends and colleagues overseas will understand and bear us no grudge: if they hadn’t received the appropriate number of *thank you* letters it by no means was a sign of underestimating their efforts. We appreciated them greatly; moreover, it was this realization of what they had *actually* done for us that inspired those modest notes’ writing. There, as I secretly hope, words and *sentences* of gratitude will help to compensate – if only partly so – for the frustrating inabundance of *letters* of thanks.

Кузьменкова Ю. Б.  
*ABC’s of Effective Communication. P. 88.*



## TASK

**Think and answer these questions:**

- 1. Why do you think the writer starts the text with a modern romantic fable?**
- 2. What are the points where you agree with the writer?**

**DISCUSSION POINTS:**

1. Interest in earning money is not a modern phenomenon. People are not interested only in that.
2. Education is not money-orientated, it's skill-orientated (because of progress in modern technology).
3. Many young people are not motivated by money and reject materialistic values.
4. Social welfare in many countries makes it unnecessary for people to struggle for money.

## **THE ONLY THING THAT INTERESTS PEOPLE TODAY IS EARNING MORE MONEY**

Once upon a time there lived a beautiful young woman and a handsome young man. They were very poor, and as they were deeply in love, they wanted to get married. The young people's parents shook their heads. "You can't get married yet", they said. "Wait until you get a good job with good prospects". So the young people waited until they found good jobs with good prospects and they got married. They were still poor, of course. They didn't have a house to live in or any furniture, but that didn't matter. The young man had a good job with good prospects, so large organizations lent him the money he needed to buy a house, some furniture, all the latest electrical appliances and a car. The couple lived happily even after paying off debts for the rest of their lives. And so ends another modern romantic fable.

We live in a materialistic society and are trained from our earliest years to be acquisitive. Our possessions, "mine" and "yours" are clearly labeled from early childhood. When we grow old enough to earn a living, it does not surprise us to discover that success is meas-

ured in terms of the money you earn. We spend the whole of our lives keeping up with our neighbour. If we buy a new television set, we can be sure that he will buy one better and get two new cars: one for his wife and one for himself.

It is not only in affluent societies that people are obsessed with the idea of making more money. Consumer goods are desirable everywhere and modern industry deliberately sets out to create new markets. Gone are the days when industrial goods were made to last forever. Cars get tinnier and tinnier. You no sooner acquire this year's model than you are thinking about its replacement.

This materialistic outlook has seriously influenced education. Fewer and fewer young people these days acquire knowledge for its own sake. Every course of students must lead somewhere, i.e. to a bigger wage packet. The demand for skilled personnel far exceeds the supply and big companies compete with each other to recruit students before they have completed their studies. Tempting salaries are offered to them. Recruiting tactics of this kind have led to the "brain drain", the process by which highly skilled people offer their services to the highest bidder. The wealthier nations deprive their poorer neighbours of their most able citizens.

*L. J. Alexander "For and Against" –  
an oral practice book for advanced  
students of English. – Longman, p. 34*



## **TASK**

**Answer the following questions after reading the text:**

- 1. How does the author characterize Dostoevsky? What characteristics do you agree and what – you do not agree with, why?**
- 2. How does the title correlate to the main ideas of the another?**
- 3. What facts from Dostoevsky's life would you like to add to this article?**

## DOSTOYEVSKY, HOT KITCHENS AND THE RUSSIAN MENTALITY

Over the holidays, I attended a party that was hosted by a fellow expat. Sometime between a quarter to Chardonnay and a half-past Bordeaux, I proceeded to compliment the host on such a fine evening. I told him that my better half, who happens to be Russian, hates when we have parties because she always feels the need to slave in the kitchen over the hot stove, cooking while the guests are getting fat and sauced. And my friend looked me in the eye and said, "Do you know why she does that, Robert?" And I replied, "No, why does she do that?" And he said, "She does that because the Russian people love to suffer. It is suffering that gives them purpose and a meaning to their lives".

Mind you, we were hardly in the condition to start a deep philosophical discussion, but we tried like hell anyways.

From what I can recollect from my wine-stained memories, I argued that was nonsense, that no people enjoy suffering (hiccup) and my dear wife would much rather be plopped clown on the couch in the living room than suffering in a tiny kitchen over a hot stove just because she is Russian, dammit. And so on and so forth.

My friend then suggested that I read more of Dostoyevsky to appreciate (how much the Russian people truly enjoy suffering.

So I did. The next day, despite the train wreck in my head, I pulled Dostoyevsky in 90 Minutes (the book lied, it took me 120) from my bookshelf and fell into a recliner and opened to a passage about Dostoyevsky's father, Mikhail, a landowner and alcoholic who "would flog the serfs mercilessly, and took to debauching their young daughters."

According to the author, Paul Strathern, "The serfs were eventually driven beyond endurance. One summer morning when he set out from Darovoe (his estate near Tula) in his carriage, a group of serfs waylaid him on a deserted country track, crushed his testicles with their bare hands, and forced vodka down his throat until he choked to death." Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous, Russian-style.

Now I ask: if pain and suffering was really an inherent part of the Russian character, would those serfs have reacted in such a manner to their plight? If anybody truly understood suffering it was Fyodor Dostoyevsky. On the morning of Dec. 22, 1849, the 28-year-old writer, and other members of the Petrashevsky Circle (a group attracted to socialist ideas), was dragged kicking from his bed by the Tsar's guard and imprisoned. Several months later, after numerous interrogations, Tsar Nicholas I decided to teach a cruel lesson to the young provocateurs. As Strathern recounts, "At dawn, the conspirators were lined up, and one by one their names were read out, followed by the words 'to be put to death by firing squad.'"

Just as the firing squad had raised their rifles to shoot, a messenger on horseback galloped up and delivered a pardon - "infinite clemency" - from the tsar himself.

This mock execution was followed by four years hard labor, and then service in the army.

Instead of those incredible events breaking Dostoyevsky (as they did others), they seem to have steeled him with a desire to expose the cruelty and, yes, the suffering, of his day (Perhaps it is better to say that the Russians know suffering - but this does not mean they crave it).

In arguably his most "spiritually ambitious" novel, *The Idiot*, Dostoyevsky creates "a curious blend of a holy fool," Strathern writes, "a Christ-like figure, and Don Quixote," who is "possessed by Christian goodness as he moves through a fallen secular world."

The agonies that Prince Lev Nikolayevich Myshkin (the 'idiot' of the title) endures are not simply suffering for sufferings sake, but in order to emancipate Russia from "the current decadence of the Western European world," which Dostoyevsky saw as the scourge of his day due to its intense Individualism and industrialism.

Thus, Dostoyevsky in many ways contributed just as much to the rise of a 'socialist Utopia' as did Karl Marx, whose work *Das Kapital* hit the bookstands around the same time as *The Idiot* (1867). Dostoyevsky would certainly weep if he saw what sufferings his efforts provoked during Russia's 70-year fling with communism.

Perhaps I am interpreting 'suffering' too literally. Maybe the suffering that the Russian people supposedly strive for is of a more

spiritual type, possibly connected more with severe religious asceticism.

"A member of the Orthodox Church is not a stoic extolling the greatness and importance of his suffering but a diligent disciple of Christ Who bore the Passion of the Cross instead of the glory and joy which was owed him," wrote Szymon Romanczuk, PhD, in a book entitled, *The Russian Mentality...* "It was poverty, illness, the cross, distress and devotion, the seeking of agony and death that accompanied their lives."

Or maybe, as my fellow colleague and trusted advisor told me from across the great cubicle divide, Russian suffering is all about love. In other words, when Russians suffer, they can be sure that they will not be alone.

Maybe that's why so many Russians are always found gathered in the stifling kitchen.

*the Moscow News, Robert Bridge*  
*26 January - 1 February / The Moscow News / №03*  
*(4257)*  
*www.mn.ru/english*

**PART VI**  
**TESTING YOUR INTERCULTURAL  
COMMUNICATION SKILLS**  
**INTERACTING WITH THE AMERICANS**

**A. True or False**

1. Americans tend to value material possessions more than spiritual enlightenment.
2. Most Americans like formality and ritual in daily interactions.
3. Americans usually rely on themselves for help rather than asking people.
4. Americans value time and its control and are future-oriented.
5. Americans customarily collect evidence and make decisions based on their feelings.
6. The majority of Americans use indirect messages to refuse an offer.
7. Many Americans are open and share their space.
8. Americans tend to see themselves as confident and hard-working.
9. Most Americans are a present oriented society.
10. Americans are inclined to believe in equality and free competition.
11. Americans usually believe being on time for an appointment shows respect.
12. Most Americans believe they can control their destiny by their own actions.
13. Shaking hands is important when you meet an American.
14. Many Americans like to deal with problems directly and frankly.
15. Americans usually use ambiguity to avoid conflict and loss of face.



**B. Please circle the most appropriate answer: *a, b, c or d***

1. In general Americans value most:
  - a) social recognition
  - b) happiness
  - c) equality
  
2. Many Americans see themselves as
  - a) modest and shy
  - b) family members
  - c) formal and ritualistic
  - d) created equal to others
  
3. Other cultures may see Americans as:
  - a) victimized by war time
  - b) reliant on their families for help
  - c) group-oriented
  - d) ignorant about other cultures
  
4. When writing an American company, it is very important to:
  - a) refer to your source
  - b) start your letter with a flattering introduction about your company president
  - c) have your letter signed by your company director and president
  - d) be specific on the purpose of the letter
  
5. In a business introduction to an American he may ask you to call him by his first name because:
  - a) he is not interested in business
  - b) he likes harmony in discussion
  - c) his last name may be hard to pronounce
  - d) he wants to be comfortable and move into an informal stage of business discussion

6. When talking with an American business partner on the phone, it is common for him first to ask you about:
- a) your family health
  - b) your financial situation
  - c) when you are planning to visit him
  - d) how you are doing
7. Mr. Saito, from Japan, is leaving the office of the businessman who says to him, "We should get together sometime". Mr. Saito should:
- a) invite his American friend for dinner
  - b) expect that his American friend will invite him to the bar
  - c) consider it as just a friendly talk
  - d) stop by his house to have a drink
8. American business meeting usually starts with
- a) discussion of the past weekend baseball game
  - b) formal agenda and tasks to be accomplished
  - c) period of harmony
  - d) introduction about everyone's past work experience
9. In American business meetings you are expected to:
- a) wait until the end and state firmly your position
  - b) talk about how it is difficult to get to the meeting
  - c) maintain group harmony and do not ask embarrassing questions
  - d) express your ideas openly and rationalize them aggressively
10. At the end of the American business meeting the participants may:
- a) all go to the cafeteria to have a drink
  - b) write a conclusion and/or action plan with specific responsibilities and dates
  - c) conduct behind-the-scene discussions to change the conclusion
  - d) apologise to each other for any confrontations they had during the meeting

11. Working under an American supervisor you should:
- a) be polite and not interrupt his instructions
  - b) not let him know that you did not understand
  - c) hide your mistakes until he discovers them
  - d) maintain ongoing honest communication about work problems and progress
12. If you are having family problems, your American supervisor is probably expected to:
- a) listen to you just as he would to a friend
  - b) discuss it with you and make a plan of action to solve the problem
  - c) give you a week vacation to solve the problem
  - d) visit your home and discuss the problems.
13. Your American co-worker has invited you to play tennis with him for the second time in a month. This could mean that:
- a) you are now his close friend
  - b) you can talk with him about your problems with your family
  - c) he expects you to solve the technical problem he has at work
  - d) he just enjoys playing tennis with you
14. You are working hard to finish your project. Your American co-worker is sitting down reading the newspaper. He might:
- a) come very close and look at what you are doing
  - b) bring you a cup of coffee to keep you awake
  - c) try to help you only if you asked him
  - d) ask you to stop working and join him to go to the movies
15. Most American companies will start marketing a product when it:
- a) is in a prototype stage
  - b) is on the drawing board
  - c) is on the shelf as if it is ready for the customers
  - d) has passed the quality control test

16. An American leaves the office telling his foreign co-worker, "Let's get together this week". The foreign worker should:
- a) invite the American to his house for a homemade dinner
  - b) expect the American to invite him for dinner at his house
  - c) expect the American to invite him to play tennis with him
  - d) accept it as a friendly comment
17. Many Americans are inclined to feel confident that they can accomplish many tasks because:
- a) they possess a strong infrastructure to complete the task
  - b) they like to work hard day and night
  - c) they believe nature and God will help them
  - d) they can depend on other people to help them
18. During his performance of ice appraisal, an American employee might:
- a) fully agree with his manager's evaluation
  - b) defend his performance and justify his actions
  - c) ask his manager to write down his future goals
  - d) not ask questions about his next promotion or salary increase
19. An American will almost always arrive on time for business appointments because:
- a) he will want to relax for a while
  - b) he wants to get the sale
  - c) he shows respect for the host's time
  - d) he has a lot of spare time
20. You are travelling on an American bus. Beside you there is an American. You should:
- a) greet him
  - b) ask where he is going
  - c) introduce yourself
  - d) just sit quietly

21. You meet an American friend in the hallway who says, "How are you?" You should:
- a) stop and shake hands with him
  - b) tell him just "fine", and continue walking
  - c) tell him about problems you have with your family
  - d) look at him and keep going
22. Your co-worker called you on the phone and asked, "How are you doing?" You should:
- a) say, "OK, thank you"
  - b) explain to him how hard it is to work under pressure
  - c) discuss with him your family problems
  - d) ask him if he has time to listen to a detailed reply
23. You have completed a business transaction with an American firm. You expect your American businessman will:
- a)
24. You are at a business luncheon. You have been approached by an American businessman. He introduces himself and exchanges cards with you. He will probably:
- a) give a detailed presentation of his company
  - b) keep talking with you until lunch time
  - c) excuse himself by meeting more people
  - d) ask about your family
25. Frequently major decisions in American companies are made basing on:
- a) employee services and interests
  - b) middle line manager's recommendations
  - c) first line management
  - d) top executives' vision and market data
26. You are on a training assignment in a US company. You should:
- a) introduce yourself to all department personnel

- b) get permission from your supervisor every time you leave the office
  - c) learn to depend on yourself to solve your problems
  - d) try to establish harmony within your group
27. This is your first week of training in an American company. Your department secretary seems very friendly and helpful. She may be:
- a) expecting you to invite her to your country
  - b) doing her job
  - c) interested in going out to dinner with you
  - d) expecting you to bring her some flowers

## **INTERACTING WITH THE ARABIANS**

How culturally sensitive are *you*? Here is the first in a series of exploratory questionnaires to be presented by *IBC* over the coming months.

### **A. True or False**

1. Arabs mostly do not like bargaining.
2. Religion has an impact on almost everything in the Arabian culture.
3. Compliments and well-presented flattery are generally appreciated.
4. Expressive and sensitive people are usually not liked.
5. Most Arabs do not value eloquence.
6. Arabian businessmen separate business from personal friendship.
7. Your education credential will be enough in dealing with Arabian businessmen.
8. It is courteous to shake hands every time you meet your Arabian friend.
9. It is customary in Arabia to expect foreigners to dress as an Arabian when visiting.
10. Social status and distinctions are very important in Arabian society.

11. Expressions of open disagreement are desirable.
12. Gifts should be opened in the presence of a giver.

**B. Now circle the answer you find most appropriate: *a, b, c* or *d*.**

1. Arabians frequently value most:
  - a) freedom
  - b) happiness
  - c) competition
  - d) family unity and security
  
2. You are in Saudi Arabia. Your host offers you a cup of Arabian coffee. You don't drink coffee. You should:
  - a) say "No, thank you"
  - b) say "Thank you, I don't drink coffee"
  - c) tell him that coffee makes you nervous
  - d) accept the cup of coffee
  
3. You are visiting the house of an Egyptian businessman. You are admiring the picture on the wall. Your Egyptian host says, "Would you like to have it?" You should:
  - a) thank him and ask him to deliver it to your hotel
  - b) thank him and accept the invitation
  - c) say, "No, I have one in my house just like it!"
  - d) thank him and say, "It looks very nice right here"
  
4. You have received a fax from your Arabian client. He asks for prices for 10,000 computers. He is probably interested in:
  - a) 10,000 computers
  - b) your ability to deliver
  - c) your bottom price
  - d) 10 computers
  
5. You are in Arabian businessman's office making a presentation. Another guest arrives. You should:
  - a) continue your presentation

- b) ask for another appointment
- c) wait until your host asks you to continue
- d) ask the guest to excuse you and continue your presentation

6. You are in an Arabian businessman's lounge waiting for his arrival. His secretary asks if you are enjoying visiting the city.

You will respond:

- a) I do not have time
- b) I have seen many places like this before
- c) I am on a business trip
- d) I will enjoy seeing the historical places

7. You are invited to visit the house of your Arabian businessman.

You should:

- a) give some money to his children
- b) ask about his wife
- c) bring a box of chocolates or some flowers
- d) leave soon after dinner so that the family can talk together

8. You are managing the office of an American company in an Arab country. Local employees might see you as:

- a) coming for a vacation and to play golf
- b) an expert in the field and trying to help them
- c) aggressive and demanding
- d) an American who is on vacation overseas

9. Arabians are motivated mostly by:

- a) promise of a salary raise
- b) becoming a group leader or manager
- c) group harmony
- d) national security

10. You are inviting an Arabian businessman to your American home for dinner. You should:

- a) introduce him to your family
- b) ask your wife to prepare a good pork meal



- c) have a discussion with him about Islam and Middle East politics
  - d) serve a good brand name wine with the dinner
11. You are managing a factory operation in an Arab country. You notice that most workers spend about 10 to 20 minutes in the morning socializing and drinking tea. You will try to:
- a) ask the cafeteria not to serve tea in the morning
  - b) put a note on the board asking them to start work at 8.00 a.m.
  - c) join them in the social session
  - d) ask them to stay late after working hours
12. You are entering the office of your Arabian host. In the room there are several other staff and guests. You should:
- a) greet them loudly
  - b) shake hands with your host and ignore the others
  - c) open your arms and wait for your host to give you a hug
  - d) shake hands with everyone in the room
13. You are supervising a group of Arabian workers. You may have noticed that:
- a) they work in a harmony
  - b) they compete against each other
  - c) they stay late after work to catch up with work
  - d) they go out after work together and play football
14. If a problem arises on the factory floor, an Arab worker may often:
- a) ignore it and continue working
  - b) call his supervisor for advice
  - c) fix it himself
  - d) call for a meeting with his colleague to fix the problem
15. You are supervising a group of Arabian workers who are fixing a problem with a machine. You noticed that before they start work

some of them will talk quietly to themselves. They are likely:

- a) wishing that you are not around
- b) setting up a plan to finish soon
- c) reciting a few words from the Koran so that God will help them
- d) waiting for you to give them instructions

16. In dealing with an Arabian businessman you notice he may delay his purchases in order to:

- a) see if you will send him a gift
- b) wait until the market price drops
- c) check your references
- d) bargain on price

17. In written business communications with Arabians you noticed that Arabian letters are on average longer than others because:

- a) Arabs like to write in English
- b) they want to make sure you understand their request
- c) they usually start and end with flattering words and compliments
- d) they have plenty of time

18. You are planning your first business trip to Arabia to introduce your products. You should plan your booking for:

- a) two months
- b) two days
- c) five days
- d) two weeks

19. You are making a technical presentation to Arabian clients. You could expect:

- a) no one will understand what you are talking about
- b) no one will ask questions because you are their guest
- c) some generic questions about the subject
- d) detailed technical questions about application

20. You are visiting the office of a high Arabian official. You should:
- a) ask your wife to be with you
  - b) ask your local representative to be with you
  - c) hand him personally a gift from our country
  - d) arrive one hour before the meeting
21. You are invited to visit the house of an Arabian businessman. You should:
- a) dress casually to show your American informality
  - b) wear that Arabian shirt you bought from the market last night
  - c) dress formally in a suit and tie
  - d) dress formally but as soon as you arrive take off your jacket
22. You are having dinner with your Arabian hosts. You notice that they do not use a fork or a spoon. You should:
- a) do the same and use your hands
  - b) say, "I am not feeling comfortable eating"
  - c) ask for a fork and a spoon
  - d) ask permission to use your hands as well
23. Your Arabian businessman is calling you from Arabia and informing you of his visit to your office next week. You will offer him:
- a) to be picked up from the airport by limousine
  - b) to meet him personally at the airport
  - c) to be met by your secretary
  - d) to meet him the day after his arrival
24. You are working for an Arabian company in Arabia. You noticed that your Arabian co-worker receives many guests for social purposes. You should:
- a) tell him this is a workplace and guests are not permitted
  - b) leave the room when his guests arrive
  - c) greet his guests and welcome them to the office

- d) report to his manager about him and file a complaint
25. You are a supervisor on the factory floor in an Arab country. You notice that every time you pass by, most workers would look at you. You should:
- a) publish an order for everyone to keep looking at his work
  - b) look back at workers and greet them in Arabian words
  - c) ignore their look
  - d) put on an Arabian dress when working so that no one will recognize you
26. You are invited to a wedding of an Arabian worker. You should:
- a) turn down the invitation because he is a worker and you are the expert
  - b) tell him you are coming but send flowers instead
  - c) accept the invitation and go for a while
  - d) go to the wedding and join them in the Arabic dance
27. This is your first week in an Arabian factory. You become acquainted with a few Arabian managers. You should:
- a) prepare an American barbecue in your house and invite them
  - b) wait until your host's manager invites you to his house
  - c) ask your co-manager if you can visit his house and meet his family
  - d) invite them for a potluck at your home

## **INTERACTING WITH THE JAPANESE**

Assess *your* cultural sensitivity. Here is the second part of our series of exploratory questionnaires.

### **A. True or False**

1. The Japanese tend to reward individual achievements.
2. Seniority is important and highly respected.
3. Japanese companies frequently prefer casual business and avoid long-range commitments.
4. Most Japanese are not concerned with losing face.

5. Many Japanese value decisions made by the consensus.
6. The Japanese usually discuss important decisions at an informal meeting.
7. Most times when a Japanese says “Yes, Yes”, he is confirming his agreement.
8. Generally when a Japanese sucks air through his teeth, it is very warm.
9. Often if a Japanese smiles and nods his head, he dislikes what you say.
10. Japanese supervisors will usually give minimum instructions to their foreign subordinates to help them depend on themselves.
11. In a group situation, the Japanese usually use silent periods to sense others’ feelings and thoughts.
12. A Japanese tends to use eye contact to force you to say “yes”.
13. The Japanese habitually measure time as past, present and future. They most often put emphasis on the future.
14. The majority of Japanese managers like a private office with a family picture on the wall.
15. The current Japanese government advises Japanese companies to increase working hours.
16. It is customary that you should not raise your cup when a Japanese is pouring a drink for you.

**B. Now circle the answer you find most appropriate: *a, b, c* or *d*.**

1. The Japanese predominantly value:
  - a) long working hours
  - b) confrontation
  - c) inner harmony
  
2. The Japanese are inclined to value a foreign partner who is:
  - a) a specialist in new technology
  - b) aggressive
  - c) compromising, friendly and in harmony
  - d) able to make a decision by himself

3. When making first contact with Japanese companies it is a good idea to:
  - a) be aggressive and demanding of a fast response
  - b) offer your best price
  - c) refer to another Japanese business partner you dealt with
  - d) ask for information about the Japanese company
  
4. When Japanese and American businessmen are drinking together, after the Americans leave, the Japanese may go to another bar because:
  - a) they like drinking until they get drunk
  - b) the American meeting was boring
  - c) they could not be relaxed with foreigners
  - d) they need to discuss frankly in the group what they talked about for a consensus
  
5. A Japanese manager sometimes seems very rude and aggressive because:
  - a) most of the Japanese are rude and aggressive
  - b) he is not interested in your business
  - c) he is trying not to be misunderstood
  - d) he is not confident of being alone
  
6. A Japanese manager usually does not invite foreigners to his home because:
  - a) his house is small and he does not want to be embarrassed by others
  - b) his wife does not like foreigners
  - c) he and his wife do not want to spend money on guests
  - d) they are not sure how to treat foreign people at home
  
7. Japanese society may seem reluctant in dealing with foreigners because:
  - a) they hate foreign people historically
  - b) they think they are superior to foreign people
  - c) they are embarrassed

- d) most foreigners do not speak Japanese
8. If you are in Japan, you will seldom meet a Japanese saying “excuse me” in crowded places or trains because:
- a) social life only exists in the group to which he belongs
  - b) Japanese are rude and do not care about people
  - c) saying “excuse me” seems like losing his face
  - d) so many people are there that it’s impossible to say “excuse me” every time
9. At the negotiating table with Japanese businessmen, usually only one person speaks because:
- a) the rest of them do not speak English
  - b) the person is both the boss and the decision maker
  - c) they made the conclusion before the meeting; the person is just like a spokesman
  - d) younger people should not be involved in discussion
10. In a Japanese company in the US, an American-born Japanese manager rarely takes the chair of presidency because:
- a) he is not a Japanese, despite he looks
  - b) Japanese management prefers people educated in Japan
  - c) American staff will not support him
  - d) he is not one of them
11. While meeting with a Japanese company manager on business, when he was asked to make some minor decision, he said he could not answer until tomorrow because:
- a) he needs the consensus of his department members
  - b) he is not qualified to answer
  - c) Japanese are not decisive people
  - d) this is a typical Japanese negotiation technique
12. Japanese mostly wear dark coloured suits because:
- a) bright colours do not look good on Japanese skin

- b) bright colours are usually expensive in Japan
  - c) they do not want to stand out
  - d) they want to distinguish themselves from foreigners
13. Japan is usually viewed as a seniority society. If a younger person becomes an older person's boss, what will happen?
- a) The older person will leave the company for his dignity
  - b) The young boss has to take care of him as an elder person in any occasion
  - b) The boss treats him as a subordinate in business, but in private he treats him as an elder person
  - d) The boss treats him like a younger person
14. You are working in Japan for a Japanese company. After work it is customary for your fellow workers to:
- a) go straight home to their families
  - b) stay and play baseball
  - c) go out to a bar to discuss problems and solutions
  - d) have a meeting to prepare for tomorrow's work activities
15. In an introductory business meeting a Japanese will probably be more interested in:
- a) your last name and family history
  - b) your company name, size, and extent of activities
  - c) your title
  - d) your responsibility in the company and technical knowledge
16. Japanese have a special love and taste for Japanese rice. In most occasions they may:
- a) eat the rice first
  - b) eat it plain at the end of the meal
  - c) mix it with a fish dish
  - d) mix it with a special sauce
17. When a Japanese businessman has dinner with an American, he could look uncomfortable because:



- a) he is inexperienced with foreign people
  - b) he does not like foreigners
  - c) he does not like American food
  - d) he may not be as outgoing as the American
18. During a social drinking session with your Japanese partner you should:
- a) keep drinking until he asks you to stop
  - b) keep pouring drinks for him every time his glass is empty
  - c) exchange pouring toasts to each other
  - d) always fill his glass half full
19. During a formal presentation, a Japanese member may close his eyes. This may mean that:
- a) the subject is boring
  - b) the speaker is not dynamic
  - c) he is falling asleep
  - d) he wants to focus harder on the subject
20. Working in a Japanese company you are likely expected to:
- a) be aggressive and rationalize every decision you make
  - b) be in harmony with the company employees
  - c) plan your career goals and submit them to your manager
  - d) point out loudly to your co-worker mistake so that he will not repeat it again
21. Japanese meetings are usually held to:
- a) put the cards on the table and make the decision
  - b) exchange information and give out responsibility
  - c) force the issue on the other group
  - d) formally agree on a decision made during unofficial informal discussions
22. Meeting with a Japanese negotiating team you could expect them to:
- a) lay down all their information

- b) give you the lowest price they can sell for
  - c) seek further information and clarification
  - d) make a decision on the spot and stand behind it
23. Mr. Hiro is from Japan working for you. You notice he is motivated by:
- a) being part of a strong leading international company
  - b) promise of a good salary raise
  - c) becoming the group leader with a change in title
  - d) promising him a trip to Hawaii with his wife after the project
24. In the meeting with a Japanese team, you noticed a senior, older member of the group. He is possibly attending the meeting:
- a) for a ceremonial reason and he may leave after the introduction
  - b) to watch other members and find out how they speak English
  - c) to make the final decision
  - d) to speak on behalf of the team so that no one can make a mistake
25. The American president of a joint venture Japanese/American company is visiting the factory. He gave a pat on the shoulder to a Japanese worker for exceeding his output. The Japanese worker might:
- a) continue working as if nothing has happened
  - b) thank the president and shake hands with him
  - c) look at the American president in the eye and smile
  - d) say, "Thank you Mr. President for the pat on my back!"
26. The new Japanese generations are most interested in:
- a) no other cultures
  - b) Chinese culture
  - c) European culture
  - d) American culture

27. Most decisions in Japan are in fact made by:

- a) upper management
- b) staff members
- c) middle managers
- d) everyone in the organization

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## KEYS

### Americans

#### A

1. T	4. T	7. F	10. T	13. T
2. T	5. F	8. F	11. T	14. T
3. T	6. F	9. T	12. T	15. F

#### B

1. c	8. b	15. a	22. a
2. d	9. d	16. d	23. d
3. d	10. b	17. b	24. c
4. d	11. d	18. b	25. d
5. d	12. a	19. c	26. c
6. d	13. d	20. d	27. b
7. c	14. c	21. b	

### Arabians

#### A

1. F	4. F	7. F	10. T
2. T	5. F	8. T	11. F
3. T	6. F	9. F	12. F

#### B

1. d	8. b	15. c	22. d
2. d	9. b	16. c	23. b
3. d	10. a	17. c	24. c
4. c	11. c	18. d	25. c
5. c	12. d	19. c	26. c
6. d	13. b	20. b	27. b
7. c	14. b	21. c	

## Japanese

### A

- |      |      |      |       |       |       |
|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 4. F | 7. F | 10. F | 13. F | 16. F |
| 2. T | 5. T | 8. F | 11. T | 14. F |       |
| 3. F | 6. T | 9. F | 12. F | 15. F |       |

### B

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 8. d  | 15. b | 22. c |
| 2. c | 9. c  | 16. b | 23. a |
| 3. d | 10. d | 17. c | 24. a |
| 4. d | 11. a | 18. c | 25. a |
| 5. c | 12. c | 19. d | 26. d |
| 6. d | 13. c | 20. b | 27. c |
| 7. d | 14. c | 21. d |       |

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