



# ***A Glimpse of Britain***

**Your first step  
to  
improve your  
reading skills  
Fast and Effectively**

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# Introduction

This booklet not only gives you a short summary about The UK (The United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland) but also helps you improve your reading skills. It consists of short texts read by a native speaker. By listening to them you can get familiar with the pronunciation of many words that you have already learned and get ready to feel the music of English language. To get the best result you are recommended to listen to each paragraph several times and when you feel that you can read it with the same pronunciation and intonation, read it and record your voice. Then compare your record voice with the original one. If the result is not as well as you expected, repeat this procedure till you achieve the favourite result.

This book aims at student of elementary or pre-intermediate level who have at least a knowledge of 1000 words.

A CD with audio files is provided with the books.

For any further information please contact me at [seandindar@gmail.com](mailto:seandindar@gmail.com)

- **If you don't know how to record your voice using a PC with Windows OS please read the following instruction**

## Использование программы «Звукозапись»

Программа «Звукозапись» служит для записи, наложения, воспроизведения и редактирования звукозаписей. Кроме того, звукозаписи можно связывать с другими документами или вставлять в них.

Запустите программу Звукозапись.

## Примечания

- Чтобы запустить программу «Звукозапись», нажмите кнопку **Пуск**, затем выберите команды **Все программы, Стандартные, Развлечения и Звукозапись**.
- Для использования программы «Звукозапись» на компьютере должны быть установлены звуковая плата и динамики. Для записи живого звука требуется так же микрофон.
- Для получения сведений об использовании программ «Звукозапись» обращайтесь в меню **Справка** этой программы.

# Вступление

Этот буклет не только предоставит Вам краткую информацию о Великобритании (Объединенное королевство Британии и Северной Ирландии), но и поможет Вам улучшить ваши навыки чтения. Он содержит в себе короткие тексты, прочитанные носителем языка. Слушая их, Вы будете иметь возможность познакомиться ближе с произношением многих слов, которые Вы уже выучили и приготовитесь ощутить всю мелодичность английского языка. Для получения наилучшего результата рекомендуем Вам прослушать каждый параграф несколько раз, и когда Вы поймете что прочитать его с таким же произношением и интонацией – прочитайте и запишите свой голос. Затем сравните ваш записанный голос с оригиналом. Если результат не настолько хорош, как Вы ожидали – повторяйте процедуру до тех пор, пока не получите наилучший результат.

Эта книга предназначена для студентов elementary (начального) и pre-intermediate (ниже среднего) уровней, которые знают по меньшей мере около 1000 слов.

CD с аудиофайлами входит в комплект с книгой. Для получения любой дополнительной информации, пожалуйста, пишите на [seandindar@gmail.com](mailto:seandindar@gmail.com)

- **Если Вы не знаете, как записать собственный голос, используя компьютер и ОС Windows, прочтите следующую инструкцию:**

# 1. Britain and its People

## 1.1 Northern Ireland



All of Ireland used to be part of the United Kingdom. Early this century, most of Ireland became independent. However, six counties in the north chose to stay part of the United Kingdom and this is the situation today. Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland. The country has an important shipbuilding industry and a major aerospace industry.



## 1.2 Scotland

Scotland is the most northerly country in the British Isles. For centuries, Scotland was an independent country, and today, it still has a very individual culture. Much of Scotland is covered by hills and mountains. Most of the population live in lowland areas in the centre of the country. The capital, Edinburgh, is to the East of the central area. There are many Small islands of the West coast of Scotland with their own communities. Scotland has its own legal system which is very different to the systems in England and Wales.

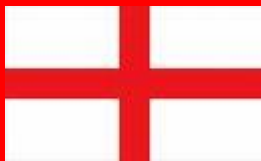




### **1.3 Wales**

**Wales is one of the four countries in the United Kingdom. It lies to the west of England. Much of Wales is covered by mountains and hills where few people live. However there is an industrial area in the south of the country. In Wales there is a strong Celtic culture and many people speak the Welsh language. Cardiff is the capital of Wales.**

### **1.4 England**



**England is the largest of the four countries in the United Kingdom. Most of the British people live in England. The name "England" comes from the Angles. The Angles were Germanic people who lived in lowland areas of Britain about two thousand years ago, after the fall of the western Roman empire. Much of England is green and pleasant, with gentle countryside. London is the capital of England.**



## 2. Health and Welfare

Britain is proud of its National Health Service, which was established soon after the Second World War. The National Health Service provides hospital care free of charge. It also provides prescriptions which are free for many people, such as the elderly. The Government has several goals to improve the health of the nation - for example, it wants people to stop smoking. People now live longer - on average, men live to the age of 74 and women live to the age of 80.



### 1. Religion

In Britain, everyone has the right to choose their religion, or to practise no religion at all. The established churches of Britain are the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, and there are several other Christian faiths. Many other religions are practised in Britain, especially among ethnic minorities.

### 2. Diet

Many people in other countries believe that the British diet is boring, the food is dull and that people are always drinking cups of tea. However, British people are now far more bold with food. They use many new styles of cooking and can buy many more different ingredients in supermarkets. People are more aware of healthy lifestyles so they eat more fruit and vegetables and less fatty foods.



### 3. Education

All children in Britain must go to school between the ages of five and sixteen.

Most children start their education at primary schools when they are five years old. Primary schools are usually run by the local authority. When children are about eleven years old, they go to secondary schools. More and more young people stay in education after the age of sixteen. Many will go on to university. Education at state schools is free. There are also many independent schools where you must pay for education.



## 3. Country and the Countryside

### 4. Climate

Many people think that it always rains in Britain. In fact, the climate is mild but changeable. Summers can be hot, winters can be cold. The temperature does not often vary, so people are surprised if there is a sudden extreme. The Atlantic Ocean brings wind, cloud and rain at any season. It is usual to have sunshine on one day, and rain on the next day. But at least the rain helps to keep Britain green.

