**🕮 Text: “English Character”**

***Before reading the text, define the English character as you see it. Then read the text.***

One of the most striking features of English life is self-discipline and courtesy of people of all classes. There is little noisy behavior, and practically no loud disputing in the street. People do not rush excitedly for seats in buses and trains, but take their seats in queues at bus stop in a quiet and orderly manner.

Englishmen are naturally polite and are never tired in saying «Thank you», «I’m sorry», «Beg your pardon». If you follow anyone who is entering a building or a room, he will hold a door open for you. Many foreigners have commented on a remarkable politeness of the English people.

English people don’t like displaying their emotions even in dangerous and tragic situations, and ordinary people seem to remain good-tempered and cheerful under difficulties.

The Englishman does not like any boasting or showing off in manners, dress or speech. Sometimes he conceals his knowledge: a linguist, for example, may not mention his understanding of a foreigner’s language.

The Englishman prefers his own house to an apartment in a block of flats, because he doesn’t wish his doing to be overlooked by his neighbours. «An Englishman’s house is his castle».

Many Englishmen help their wives at home in many ways. They clean the windows on Saturday afternoon, they often wash up the dishes after supper in the evening.

Sunday is a very quiet day in London. All the shops are closed, and so are the theatres and most of the cinemas.

Londoners like to get out of town on Sundays. The sea is not far – only fifty or sixty miles away and people like to go down to the sea in summer or somewhere to the country for skiing in winter.

***Vocabulary:***

courtesy – ввічливість, етикет

to rush – мчати, нестися

remarkable – видатний, чудовий

cheerful – веселий

boasting – хвастощі

to conceal – приховувати

**Lexical and communicative exercises**

**Exercise 1**.

**❓ *Answer the following questions:***

1. What is the most striking feature of English life?

2. What are the examples of English politeness?

3. What is a typical English place of living?

4. Where do Englishmen spend their Sundays and holidays?

5.Describe the author’s idea of the English character. Compare your description before reading the text and the author’s one.