

2 HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

2.1 GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIOCULTURAL VARIATION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

OBJECTIVES

This unit provides factual information and assignments on the geographical spread and sociocultural differentiation of the English language.

IN THIS UNIT, YOU WILL LEARN

- about the English-speaking countries;
- how to distinguish language change and variation;
- why English is important.

OUTLINE

- The English-speaking countries: fast facts.
- Change and variation in English.
- The Commonwealth of Nations.



COMMENTARIES

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

EUROPE



THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (UK)

Capital City: London;

Population: 63.395.574 (2013 est.);

Ethnicity: English – 83.6%;

Largest Cities: (by population)
London, Birmingham, Glasgow,
Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bristol,
Manchester, Edinburgh, Leicester;

National Day: none;

Official language: *English*;

Official regional languages: *Scots* (about 30% of Scotland), *Scottish Gaelic* (Scotland), *Welsh* (about 20% of Wales), *Irish* (about 10% of Northern Ireland), *Cornish* (Cornwall), *Manx* (the Isle of Man), *French* (c. 15.000 speakers in Jersey and Guernsey);

Immigrant languages: over 100, spoken by c. 2 mln people.

Religion: Christian (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 71.6%.

IRELAND

(local short form – EIRE)

Capital City: Dublin; **Population:** 4.775.982 (2013 est.);

Ethnicity: Irish – 87.4% (2006 census);

Largest Cities: (by population) Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Drogheda, Dundalk;

National Day: March 17, St. Patrick’s Day;

Official languages: *English* is the language generally used, *Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge)* spoken mainly in areas along the western coast;

Religion: Roman Catholic – 87.4%.

NORTH AMERICA



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(short forms – UNITED STATES, USA, U.S.)

Capital City: Washington D. C.;

Population: 316.690.000 (2013 est.);

Ethnicity: racially and ethnically diverse (White American – 72.4%, Hispanic or Latino – 16.3%, 2010 census);

Largest Cities: (by population) New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix, Philadelphia;

National Day: July 4, Independence Day;
Union Language: *English* 82%;
Official regional languages: *French* (Cajun) in Louisiana, *Spanish* in New Mexico;
Indigenous languages: about 170 *Amerindian* languages;
Immigrant languages: over 350 languages: *English* (c226 mln); *Spanish* (c23 mln), *Arabic* (c3 mln), *French* (c1.7 mln), *Chinese* (c1.6 mln), *Italian* (c1.3 mln), *varieties of German* – Hutterite, Mennonite, Pennsylvanian (c1.5 mln);
Religions: Protestant – 52%, Catholic – 24%.

CANADA (long form – none)

Capital City: Ottawa; **Population:** 34.207.000 (2012 est.);
Ethnicity: Canadian-born – 80%, whole or partial British (including Irish) origin – 28%, whole or partial French origin (centered mainly in Québec, where they constitute some 80% of the population) – 23%;
Largest Cities: (by population) Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa-Gatineau, Calgary, Edmonton;
National Day: July 1, Dominion Day;
Official Languages: *English* – 59.3%; *French* – 23.2%;
Official regional languages: *French* (Québec);
Indigenous languages: over 70 *Amerindian* languages;
Immigrant languages: mostly European, including three varieties of *German* associated with religious settlement (Hutterite, Mennonite, Pennsylvanian);
Religions: Roman Catholic – 42.6%, Protestant – 23.3%.

THE CARIBBEAN



JAMAICA

Capital City: Kingston;
Population: 2.909.714 (2013 est.);
Ethnicity: Black – 91.2%, mixed – 6.2% (2001 census);
Largest Cities: (by population) Kingston, New Kingston, Spanish Town;
National Day: August 6, Independence Day;
Official Language: *English*;

Other widely spoken language: *English based Jamaican creole (Patwa)*, used by 90% of population and gaining its prestige;
Indigenous language: an *Amerindian* language (*Arawak*);
Immigrant languages: *American Sign Language*, *Chinese*, *North Levantine Spoken Arabic*, *Portuguese*, *Spanish*;
Religions: Protestant – 62.5%, Roman Catholic – 2.6%.

SOUTH AMERICA CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

(short form – GUYANA)



Capital City: Georgetown;

Population: 739.903 (2013 est.);

Ethnicity: East Indian – 43.5%, Black (African) – 30.2%;

Largest Cities: (by population) Georgetown, Linden, New Amsterdam, Anna Regina;

National Day: February 23, Republic Day;

Official Language: *English*;

Widely spoken languages: *Guyanese English-based creole*, spoken by over 85%;

Indigenous languages: *c10 Amerindian* languages;

Immigrant languages: *Hindi, creole Dutch*;

Religions: Hindu – 28.4%, Christian – 27.4%.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

(short form – AUSTRALIA)



Capital City: Canberra;

Population: 23.480.939 (2014 est.);

Ethnicity: English – 32%, Australian – 27%, Irish – 7%, indigenous – 3%;

Largest Cities: (by population) Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Wollongong;

National Day: January 26, Australia Day (Anniversary Day, Foundation Day, ANA Day);

Official Language: *English* – 78.5%;

Indigenous languages: *Aboriginal* languages, spoken by less than 1%;

Immigrant languages: over 100;

Religions: Protestant – 27.4%, Catholic – 25.8%.

NEW ZEALAND (other forms – none)

Capital City: Wellington;

Population: 4.451.017 (2012 est.);

Ethnicity: European – 56.8%, Asian – 8%, Maori – 7.4%, Pacific islander – 4.6%;

Largest Cities: (by population) Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton;

National Day: February 6, Waitangi Day;

Official languages: *English* – 91.2%, *Maori* – 3.9%, *New Zealand Sign Language*;
Indigenous languages: *Maori* – 3.9%, *Samoan* – 2.1%;
Immigrant languages: *French*, *Hindi*;
Religions: Anglican – 13.8%, Roman Catholic – 12.6%.

AFRICA

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(short form – SOUTH AFRICA)



Capital City: Pretoria, Cape Town (legislative center), Bloemfontein (judicial center);
Population: 48.601.098 (2013 est.);
Ethnicity: black African – 79%, white – 9.6%, colored – 8.9%;
Largest Cities: (by population) Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Soweto, Port Elizabeth;
National Day: April 27, Freedom Day;
Official languages: 11 languages recognized in the new constitution formulated in 1993 – *IsiZulu* – 23.8%, *IsiXhosa* – 17.6%, *Afrikaans* – 13.3%, *Sepedi* – 9.4%, *English* – 8.2%, *Setswana*, *Sesotho*, *Xitsonga*, *isiNdebele*, *Tshivenda*, *siSwati*;

Indigenous languages: major linguistic groups: *Nguni* (Ndebele, Swazi, Xhosa, and Zulu), *Sotho-Tswana* (Sotho, Pedi, and Tswana), *Tsonga*, or Shangaan, and *Venda*, *Khoisan* (Bushman and Hottentot), relatively closely interrelated *Bantu* languages;
Immigrant languages: about 20 African and various European languages;
Religions: Zion Christian – 11.1%, Pentecostal/Charismatic – 8.2%, Catholic – 7.1%.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

(short form – NIGERIA)

Capital City: Abuja;
Population: 174.507.539 (2013 est.);
Ethnicity: more than 250 ethnic groups among which the most populous and politically influential are Hausa and Fulani – 29%, Yoruba – 21%, Igbo (Ibo) – 18%, Ijaw, Kanuri, Ibibio, Tiv;
Largest Cities: (by population) Lagos, Kano, Ibadan, Kaduna, Port Harcourt;
National Day: October 1, Independence Day;
Official language: *English*;
Indigenous languages: *Hausa*, *Yoruba*, *Igbo (Ibo)*, *Fulani* and over 500 additional indigenous languages;

Immigrant languages: *American Sign Language*, autochthonous languages of Africa (*Bagirmi* (Chad), *Klao* (Liberia), *Mbay*, *Mpade*, *Ngambay*, *Pana*);
Religions: Muslim – 50%, Christian – 40%, indigenous beliefs – 10%.



RECOMMENDED READING

- Скибина В. И. Национально негомогенный язык и лексико-графическая практика. – Запорожье: Видавець, 1999. – С. 37-44; 66-74.
- Ощепкова В. В. Язык и культура Великобритании, США, Канады, Австралии, Новой Зеландии. – М., СПб : ГЛЮССА, 2006. – Р. 12-125.
- Commonwealth Network. – Nexus Partnership Limited, 2017. – Available at: <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org>
- English-speaking countries. – Available at: <http://sweetlittlebox.blogspot.com/2011/02/blog-post.html>
- English Speaking Countries. – Available at: http://www.xtec.cat/~ellach/English_speaking_countries.htm
- Nations in which English is an official language. – Available at: http://anthro.palomar.edu/language/English_speaking.htm
- Top 10 Most Spoken Languages In The World. – Available at: <http://listverse.com/lvauthor/flamiejamie/>
- Varieties of English. – Available at: http://the_english_dept.tripod.com/esc.html

Assignment 1. Comment on S. Daniel's and R. Burchfield's judgments about the history and future of English. Do their concepts of the English tongue differ? What do their ideas have in common? How accurate were their predictions about the future of English? Have they come true?

And who in time knowes whither we may vent
The treasure of our tongue, to what strange shores
This gaine of our best glorie shal be sent,
T'inrich vnknowing Nations with our stores?
What worlds in' yet vnformed Occident
May come refin'd with th' accents that are ours?

Samuel Daniel, Musophilus, 1599

English, when first recorded in the eighth century, was already a fissiparous language. It will continue to divide and subdivide, and to exhibit a thousand different faces in the centuries ahead. <...> The

multifarious forms of English spoken within the British Isles and by native speakers abroad will continue to reshape and restyle themselves in the future. And they will become more and more at variance with the emerging Englishes of Europe and of the rest of the world. The English language is like a fleet of juggernaut trucks that goes on regardless. No form of linguistic engineering and no amount of linguistic legislation will prevent the cycles of change that lie ahead. But English as it is spoken and written by native speakers looks like remaining a communicative force, however slightly or severely beyond the grasp of foreigners, and changed in whatever agreeable or disagreeable manner, for many centuries to come.

Robert Burchfield, The English Language, 1985

Assignment 2. Read the Fast Facts about the Anglophone countries. Answer the questions regarding the history of the English language expansion and its consequences:

- Where were the originally Celtic territories the first to experience political incorporation into the UK?
- In which of the countries was English influenced by the Irish language in various ways and emerged as a distinctive variety?
- Where did a substantial settlement by first-language speakers of English displace the precolonial population?
- In what areas did sparse colonial settlements maintain the precolonial population in subjection and allow a proportion of the access to learning English as a second (additional) language?
- Where was a precolonial population replaced by new labour from elsewhere, principally West Africa, to produce pidgins and creoles as the most complex linguistic consequences?
- In what country, or countries, were the new-comers to form what is called ‘a melting pot’ of the society, in which the ethnic origin of the immigrants from various parts is subsumed by common citizenship?
- Where did the first colonists name their settlements after English kings and queens?
- Where did the later colonists name their settlements after their original towns and villages in England?
- Where did the colonists name their settlements after the colonial governors and / or other famous people associated with Britain?

- Which of the countries has no official ‘national’ language in the legal sense?
- In what country do the speakers of English as the first native language constitute a demographic minority group?
- In what areas might the political incorporation of communities that feel they have a distinct linguistic and cultural identity provide fertile ground for the emergence of nationalist and / or religious reaction?
- In what countries does English share the status of the official language with other autochthonous language(s)? European language(s)?
- Which country currently has no single official national day?
- Where does the National Day mark the unification of the separate colonies into a single Dominion within the British Empire?
- Where is the National Day celebrated to commemorate the birth of the new nation which was no longer part of the British Empire?
- Where does the National day mark the birth of the nation, given the status of an independent country and a member of the British Commonwealth?
- Where does the National Day commemorate the person who, according to the legend, converted the inhabitants to Christianity and drove all snakes from the island, although these “snakes” probably represent a particular group of pagans or druids? Although the person was never formally canonized, many Christian churches view him as a saint.
- Where does the national day celebrate freedom and the first post-apartheid, non-racial elections? Under the apartheid regime in the country, did non-whites have any rights to vote?
- In which country does the National day commemorate a significant day in the history when the representatives acting on behalf of the British Crown and the tribal chiefs first signed the treaty securing British sovereignty over the islands?
- Whose National Day records the anniversary of the First Fleet of British Ships and the raising of the Flag of Great Britain as well as marks the formation of Federation and the birth of modern state?

Assignment 3. Use the recommended links and decide:

(A) *whether the following statements are true or false?*

- 375 million people speak English as their second language all over the world;
- 750 million people speak English as a foreign language;

- 80% of websites are in English;
- English is the official language in a lot of countries.

(B) on the following questions:

- Which are the “Top ten” spoken languages in the world?
- How many people is estimated to speak English around the world?

You can find some help with these sources:

- Nations in which English is an official language;
- Top 10 Most Spoken Languages in The World;
- Varieties of English;
- English-speaking countries.

Assignment 4. On the map below, the places where English is used as (A) the official language or (B) an official, but not a primary language are marked in black and light grey. Write the names of the countries on the map.

Use this link: English Speaking countries at http://www.xtec.cat/~ellach/English_speaking_countries.htm



Assignment 5. The following examples (EWL, 1982, p. 3) are versions from Luke 8:22 translated into different varieties of English. Study the examples and (A) *find differences* in vocabulary, grammar, and spelling; (B) *explain why* these current varieties may suggest debate about being accepted as equally English; (C) *express your opinion* on the fact that these varieties are historically and structurally related to the international community English.

- One day Jesus jelled into a boat with his mushes, and rokkered to them, “Let’s jell over the pani” (*Anglo-Romani as spoken by travellers in Britain*);

- And it cam, that on ane o' the days, he gaed intil a boat, he and his disciples, and he said till them, "Lat us gang ower till the other side o' the Loch!" (*Lowland Scots*);

- Long wanpela de Jisas i goap long wanpela bot wantaim ol disaipel bilong en. Na em i tokim ol. "Yumi go long hapsait bilong raumwara".

(the Tok Pisin of Papua New Guinea)

Assignment 6. Look into the following passages (Fisiak, 2000, p. 13-14) from St. Mathew's Gospel which were translated from Latin (A, B) and Greek (C, D) into English at different periods of its history. Find examples of the changes that occurred in the English vocabulary, grammar, and spelling.

(A) And æfter six daȝumnam¹ se Hælend² Petrum, and Iacobum, and Iohannem, hys broðor, and lædde hiȝ on-sundron³ on ænne heahne munt⁴, and he wæs ȝehiwod⁵ beforan him. And hys ansyn⁶ scean swa swa⁷ sunne; and hys reaf⁸ wæron swa hwite swa snaw (*West Saxon Gospels, c 1000*);

¹ took, ² the Lord, ³ together, ⁴ mountain, ⁵ transfigured, ⁶ countenance, ⁷ as, ⁸ garments

(B) And after sexe dayes Jhesus toke Petre, and Jamys, and Joon, his brother, and ledde hem asydis in to an hiȝ hill, and was transfigured bifore hem. And his face schoon as the sunne; forsothe his clothis were maad white as snow (*Wycliffe Version, c 1382*);

(C) And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his rainment was white as the light (*Authorized Version, 1611*);

(D) Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light (*The Jerusalem Bible, 1966*).

Assignment 7. Read about *the Commonwealth*. Use this link: Commonwealth Network at <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org>

(A) *Answer the questions:*

- What official name often appears in its short form of *The Commonwealth* /'kɒmənwelθ/?
- What countries does this organization consist of apart from the United Kingdom?
- Who do all member states recognize as the Head of the Commonwealth?

- When was the Commonwealth formally constituted by the London Declaration?

- What is recognized as a symbol of the members' heritage?

- What elements does the Commonwealth flag comprise?

(B) *Find out about:*

- the number of the member countries;

- the most widely-used definition of the Commonwealth;

- if membership is entirely voluntary;

- if there is some restriction of membership.

2.2 GEOGRAPHY, NATURE AND NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES: THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

OBJECTIVES

This unit provides factual information and assignments on the geography, nature and cultural symbols of Great Britain. It also sheds light on the history of the country through the history of its place-names.

IN THIS UNIT, YOU WILL LEARN

- about the origin of the place-names in the UK;

- what national symbols and floral emblems are used in the UK.

OUTLINE

- Geography of the UK.

- National symbols and emblems.



COMMENTARIES

Britain /'brɪtən/ and the *British* are often called *Brythonic*, from Welsh *Brython* "Briton". The Brythonic is one of two groups of the modern Celtic languages, the other being Goidelic. The Brythonic languages are or were spoken on the island of Great Britain and consist of Welsh, Cornish, and Breton.

The names *United Kingdom*, *Great Britain*, and *England* are often confused, even by U.K. inhabitants. *England* is just one country within the kingdom. Great Britain comprises England, Wales, and Scotland, while the