



## **Ростова Інна Михайлівна**

Вчитель англійської мови  
спеціалізованої школи №82 м. Києва

### ***Conversational Topics with Active Vocabulary based on the textbook In Touch 2***

#### **ACTIVITIES**

It's holiday time and we are going to the seaside. My family and I are fond of hiking that's why we are going to spend a few weeks in the camping at the sea.

We are packing at the moment and getting ready to set off. We need a tent and sleeping bags, a torch and matches, of course. It's so exciting to make a fire in the evening and to sit near it watching the stars in the night sky. My father is keen on swimming and diving. He has already put his swimming costume, snorkel, mask and flippers into his rucksack. We hope to go to the mountains for some days. So my father's compass, map and our hiking boots are in the rucksack, too. My elder brother enjoys canoeing. We have already had a lot of his photos where he is wearing a life jacket and a helmet. He is so funny there! I'd like to have my photo in the canoe with a paddle.

#### **GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF GREAT BRITAIN**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the official name of the country which is situated on the British Isles. The British Isles are situated to the north-west of Europe. They consist of two big islands and a great number of small ones. The main islands are Great Britain and Ireland. Great Britain consists of three parts: England, Scotland and Wales. Their capitals are London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. Ireland consists of two parts: the independent Irish Republic and Northern Ireland which capital is Belfast.

The British Isles are separated from France by the English Channel and the Strait of Dover that is the narrowest part of the Channel and the nearest point to France. Once, the British Isles were a part of the continent as the Channel is shallow and not very wide.

The British Isles are washed by the Atlantic Ocean from the north and west and by the North Sea in the east. Great Britain and Ireland are separated by the Irish Sea. The mild climate of the Isles depends on the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. The winters are not very cold and the summers are not very hot there

The capital of the UK is London.

## **HOBBIES**

Different children like doing different things. Different children have different hobbies. Most British children have a hobby. Some children collect stamps, pictures, cups, toys, stickers, books and many other things. But collecting things isn't the only hobby they have. Some make doll's houses or model aeroplanes. Some are fond of travelling. Other children enjoy listening to music or playing computer games. Very many boys and girls are keen on sports and that is their hobby.

Many adults have hobbies, too. Many houses in Britain have a small garden and gardening is a very popular pastime. Bookshops are full of gardening books and magazines. Gardening programmes on TV are very popular.

I think that hobbies are very important as they help us to relax and enrich our outlook.

## **POLLUTION PROBLEMS**

My country, Ukraine, has many beautiful places and historic buildings. It has modern cities with big sports stadiums and shopping centres. But like many other countries it also has problems.

There are too many people in the cities. They go to the cities to find work. There are also too many cars in the streets and the traffic jams and pollution are terrible. The air we breathe, the water we drink and the environment we live in cause a lot of diseases. That's why people who live in big cities are not very healthy.

There are problems in the countryside, too. Most of the farmers have a hard life. Some villages don't have a hospital or a school. But we can't say that droughts and floods are often for our country.

## **THE OLYMPIC GAMES**

The world's greatest international sports games are known as the Olympic Games.

The Olympic idea means friendship, fraternity [frə'tɜ:nɪti] and cooperation among the people all over the world. The Olympic emblem is five interlinked rings: blue, yellow, black, green and red. Any national flag contains at least one of these colours.

The original Olympic Games began in Ancient Greece in 776 B.C. The games were part of a festival in honor ['ɔ:nə] of God Zeus. They were held every fourth year at the palace called Olympia. It was a great athletic event including competitions in wrestling ['restliŋ], foot racing and chariot [tʃæriət] racing, rowing and others. The games were for men only.

The modern Olympic Games were revived by a Frenchman, Baron de Coubertin, in 1896. They follow the traditions of the Ancient Olympics which were held in Greece until 384 B.C. as well as they founded their new ones, for example, to have a mascot. A mascot is an animal or a toy that represents the games and is thought to bring the sportsmen luck.

The modern games are divided into summer and winter games and take place every four years at different locations. The 2008 Summer Olympics will be held in Beijing in China.

## **THE MODERN GLOBE THEATRE**

The modern Globe Theatre is in London on the South bank of the River Thames. It was built in exactly the same place as the original theatre. It opened in London in 1997 but it isn't a modern theatre. It is a wooden building and most of the audiences stand in the open air to watch the plays. That's why the plays are performed there during the summer only.

William Shakespeare wrote and performed his plays in the original Globe Theatre. His comedies "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "Comedy of Errors" are light and bright. His tragedies "Othello", "Romeo and Juliet", "Hamlet" strike by the depth of thought. William Shakespeare is England's greatest playwright and his plays are still among the most famous ever written.

In Shakespeare's time the audiences were always noisy in the theatre. They threw rotten fruit at the bad actors. They cheered and clapped the heroes and heroines and booed the villains. There were no actresses in the play in those times. Men played the women's roles.

The Globe Theatre burnt down over 400 years ago and was restored only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **THE NASCA LINES**

The Nasca lines are huge drawings of birds, animals and insects in southern Peru. They are carved into the surface of the ground. They are called so because they were made by the Nascan people who used to live in Peru many years ago. The drawings were made about 500 BC and AD 500.

You can't see them very well from the land as they are very big. They cover 200 square miles. That's why they weren't discovered for many years. You can only see them clearly from the airplane. They were first seen by airline pilots flying across Peru in the 1930s.

They are so big because the Nascans wanted their sky gods to see them. Some people think that the Nascans had hot air balloons. They possibly used them to go up in the sky and look at their drawings.

## **THE PYRAMIDS**

The pyramids in Egypt were built over 3,000 (thousand) years ago. The kings of ancient Egypt were called Pharaohs ['feərəuz] and they were buried in the pyramids. When the kings died their bodies were dried and they turned into mummies. A dead body was dried with a white powder called natron, not with salt as many people think. Then the body was left for forty days and finally it was wrapped in bandages.

## **CLAY MODELS OF SOLDIERS**

There are many wonderful things in China. Clay models of soldiers are amazing. They were made 2,000 years ago for the tomb [tu:m] of the Emperor of China. He wanted his army with him when he died. He had an army of 600.000 soldiers. His artists made models of every soldier.

They were discovered by some farmers in 1974. They were digging and suddenly they saw all those models. Now only 6,000 are found. The others are still buried underground.

## **THE RSPCA**

The RSPCA is a popular charity in Britain. It receives a great deal of practical help and financial support from the public. The organization has centers for animals around Britain.

British people love animals and they usually take good care of their pets. Sometimes people find a lost or hurt animal, and they can take it to the RSPCA – The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. This organization finds new homes for about 80,000 stray animals every year. Many people work without pay as volunteers for the RSPCA.

## **UNICEF**

UNICEF is the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. It was founded over 50 years ago to raise money to help children. It funds programmes to improve children's health, education and nutrition. It also assists children affected by disasters.

Supporting charities is a part of British culture. Fund-raising events for charity, like jumble sales, are very common. People contribute items from their homes that they no longer need and buy second-hand items.

emergency [i'mə:d ənsi] критичне положення, надзвичайна необхідність  
to improve [im'pru:v] покращувати  
education [edju:'keiʃən] освіта  
nutrition [nju:'triʃən] харчування  
to assist [ə'sist] допомагати  
affected [ə'fektid] постраждалий  
a disaster [di'sɑ:stə] катастрофа, біда  
to support [sə'pɔ:t] підтримувати  
charity ['tʃærɪti] благодійність  
fund-raising events - збір коштів  
jumble sales - розпродаж на благодійному базарі за низькими цінами  
common - звичайний, поширений  
to contribute [kən'tribju:t] робити пожертви, сприяти, вносити вклад  
an item ['aɪtəm] окрема річ

## **SHOPPING**

Shopping is my favourite hobby. I usually shop with my mum or aunt. Sometimes I go shopping with my best friends. My mum and aunt like to go to the jeweller's where they can spend an hour or so watching rings and necklaces, which are very expensive. That's why they don't often buy them. Then occasionally we come to the florist's to enjoy bunches of different flowers. At the newsagent's I usually buy newspapers and magazines for my dad and granddad.

I can't imagine our everyday life without shopping. We visit different shops to buy presents, to get ready for the parties, to buy clothes and furniture. My granny goes to the greengrocer's to buy fruit and vegetables, to the baker's to buy bread, to the butcher's to buy meat and to the fishmonger's to buy fish. When somebody falls ill in our family we go to the nearest chemist's to buy aspirins or bandages.

There is a huge supermarket not far from the place where I live. We can easily buy everything there saving our time and money.