

## Challenges 2

### Topic: Ireland: Talking About English-Speaking Countries.

#### Pre-reading task:

**T.:** Look at the pictures. What do you know about the Republic of Ireland?

**Work in pairs and try to choose the correct answers:**

1. What is the population of Ireland?
  - a) 3.5 mln.
  - b) 13.5 mln.
  - c) 35 mln.
2. What language do people of Ireland speak?
  - a) Irish
  - b) English
  - c) French
3. What is the climate like?
  - a) Hot and dry
  - b) Cold and snowy
  - c) Rainy and wet
4. What is the capital?
  - a) London
  - b) Edinburgh
  - c) Dublin



## Reading task:

**1. T.:** Read the text about Ireland and check your answers in the previous exercise:

# Ireland



**T**he Republic of Ireland (Eire) has a population of about three and a half million people. The official language is Irish but people usually speak English. People call Ireland the '**EMERALD ISLE**' because it is a very green island. It often rains in Ireland. The countryside is beautiful and Irish people are very friendly.

### **DUBLIN – A GREAT CAPITAL**

Have a great time in Dublin! There are wonderful shops, restaurants, music and night life. Walk around the busy streets, visit the museums or relax in one of the parks. Go to Trinity College Library. In the library, you can see the amazing *Book of Kells* from the 8th century.

### **GREAT WRITERS**

Some of the best writers in the English language are from Ireland, for example, Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde and James Joyce. See their portraits and letters in Dublin's Writers' Museum.

### **LEGENDS**

Go to Blarney Castle and see the famous Blarney Stone. People say this stone has got magic powers and you become a brilliant speaker when you kiss it!

### **AROUND IRELAND**

Explore Ireland: drive, walk or cycle around the beautiful coast and the green countryside. Stop in wonderful old towns and villages and visit historic castles and churches.

### **FUN ACTIVITIES**

Horse riding, fishing, cycling and walking are popular activities. There are fantastic beaches, too. Try surfing or scuba diving – or just have a swim!



**2. Read the text again and mark sentences true or false T/F:**

- Ireland is very green
- Irish people are not very friendly
- There are good shops in Dublin
- The stories of Swift, Wilde and Joyce are in English
- When you kiss the Blarney Stone, you become happy
- There are many historic buildings in Ireland
- Skiing is a popular activity
- The beaches are very good

**3. Complete the sentences about Ireland using the prepositions:**

*From, in (x2), of, to*

- Ireland has a population \_\_\_\_ about three and a half million people.
- You can have a great time \_\_\_\_ Dublin!
- Go \_\_\_\_ Blarney Castle and see the famous Blarney Stone.
- There are fantastic beaches \_\_\_\_ in Ireland.
- Some of the best writers in the English language are \_\_\_\_ Ireland.

**4. Look through the text about Ireland and write the same about your country.**

**Mention:**

- the population,
- languages
- climate
- the capital
- famous people and legends
- fun activities

**Find photos and illustrate your text.**