

# British life and culture

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Junior 6 Regular

## The right name

Britain - or Great Britain (GB) - is the name for England, Wales and Scotland. Britain is the eighth largest island in the world.

The United Kingdom (UK) is England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It's about 250,000 square kilometres in size and 1000 kilometres from north to south.

Many people think that 'English' means the same as 'British' but England is only one of four nations in the UK. The Scots, Welsh and Northern Irish people are British too. They sometimes get angry if they are called 'English'.

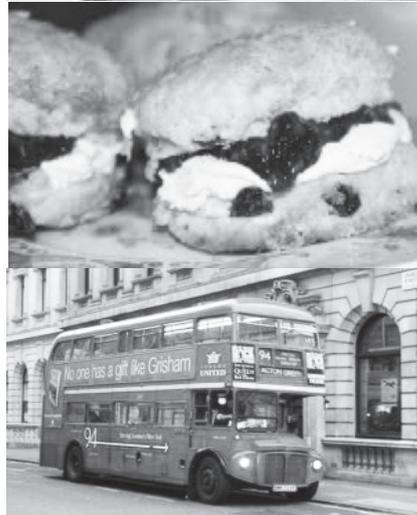
There are also millions of British people whose parents first came to Britain in the 1950s and 1960s from the Caribbean, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong and other places.

## Languages

Most British people speak English but Gaelic is also spoken in the West and North of Scotland and in Northern Ireland. Welsh is spoken by over half a million people in Wales. The UK is also home to many people who speak other languages like Arabic, Cantonese, Hindi, Mandarin, Punjabi and Urdu.

## Conversation

Over 200 years ago, Dr Johnson, a famous English writer said: "When two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather". This is still true! Conversation between British people today



often begins with the subject of the weather.

## British character

People say that Irish people talk a lot, that the Welsh are great singers and that the Scots are very careful with money. Generally these descriptions are not true! But it is true that there are some very good Welsh actors and singers like Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Tom Jones.

Foreigners have ideas about what is British but some of these things are not part of most ordinary British people's lives.

The traditional British breakfast (bacon, eggs, sausages, baked beans, tomatoes, mushrooms and fried bread) and afternoon tea (tea with small sandwiches,

cakes and scones) for example are mostly found in hotels, restaurants and bed and breakfast places that tourists stay at when they visit the UK.

Scones are a popular traditional part of British afternoon tea. They are eaten with cream and jam and are easy and fun to make.

## City of London

The city of London is the biggest financial center in Europe and one of the world's main financial centres. The other two are Tokyo and New York. The city's international activities are very important and the UK is the world's largest centre for international banking. Banks from more than eighty countries have offices in London.

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## The conflict between generations



**Oumaima Bouchhar**  
Intermediate I

The conflict between the old and the new generation is something that we hear about all the time from many older people - either old men, women or even teachers!

Many times I've heard these words from older people: "Your life is much easier than our lives were when we were your age". Well, I've heard these words at least 1,000,000,000 times from my parents, teachers and grandparents.

Back in the time of these older people, they didn't have many things - like food - and people woke up early every day and

wondered "what am I going to eat today?". However, they were satisfied and convinced about what they owned and what they had.

Even though these people now live with pride and are happy with what they did, they know they didn't have a chance for good fortune like we do today.

Today, we live in what many call 'The Perfect Society'. We have libraries of books and food for almost everybody. Everybody is able to go to school, to get an education and from a very young age, many opportunities have already opened for us. It clearly looks like life is much easier than it once was.

Older people say that the

opportunities available in modern society make life very easy, but it is those opportunities that are causing problems. Because of the many opportunities and chances we have, we don't know what we should choose and how we should plan for our future.

The huge number of inventions and technology have destroyed human skills and have made us unable to do anything ourselves.

In the past, life was physically hard but today, life is mentally hard. This is the difference between generations and I think that the mental difficulty we have is a serious problem and it's more important than the physical one.

*Continued from page 1...*

### Work in Britain

The British working week is, on average, the longest of any country in Europe. In 1998 a law was made so that workers do not have to work more than an average of 48 hours a week if they don't want to. But about 22% of British workers work more than 48 hours.

### Food

When both parents work, there isn't time to cook big meals in the evening. They want meals to be quick and easy. Ready-made meals from supermarkets and take away meals are popular.

### Eating out

Nearly every British town has at least one Indian restaurant and one Chinese restaurant. Large towns have restaurants from many other countries too.

Pubs are also very popular. There are about 58,000 pubs in the UK. The British population drinks about sixteen million litres of beer every year.

### Drinking tea

The British population drinks about 165,000,000 cups of tea a day. Tea - mostly green tea from China - came to Britain in the late 1500s. It was very expensive and only rich people drank it but eventually it became cheaper. Some people thought that drinking too much tea was bad for your health so they started putting milk in it to make it healthier.

## Dear Students and Colleagues...

I hope every one of you had a relaxing and fun-filled summer.

As I write this letter to you I am back in the United States. After more than five years living and working in Morocco I have returned to my country to pursue a different path in education. I am excited about my new career and my new outlook on life. I am truly inspired by

my experience with each of you.

It has been a distinct honor to work with my fellow teachers and to have had the privilege to teach bright, kind-hearted and motivated students. I can tell you I miss all of you and I will never forget the smiling (sometimes mischievous) faces of my students as you opened your minds and hearts to learning.

I am a better person for having known you all. I wish you the best life has to offer and I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart for your unconditional acceptance of me as your teacher and colleague.

Have a great year. You are remarkable.

With gratitude,  
Evelyn Reece





In this edition of Student Voice, Siham Lahmine, an Advanced 2 ALC student tells us more about the Community Service Club and her first experience of getting involved in the CSC.

## What is the CSC?

When people hear about the Community Service Club, they immediately think about people who are worse off than they are.

The main idea of the Community Service Club, at ALC-ALIF is to offer help to needy people. We want people to volunteer their time to show people who are suffering in their lives that there are people who really care and think of them. The Club aims to give a hand to all kinds of people.

We cannot only stand by good or fortunate people - we cannot forget that there is a balance between good and evil in life. As John Cheever said: "Wisdom is the knowledge of good and evil, not the strength to choose between the two." I agree with John because we should not lose hope in people and that's what makes our Community Service Club so important and our work so significant.

From my humbling experience at the Center of the Protection for Girls, I have met some girls who have sold drugs or have been violent in their adult lives, with their parents or other people.

I have noticed that the reason behind this violence was only to prove that they were grown

up and mature enough to make their own decisions. If parents can't accept that their children can depend on, and look after, themselves, then there could be an unlimited number of problems which could create violence.

We have all had problems in our childhood or adult lives, but the only difference between me and the girls at the Center is that I was lucky enough not to be punished so harshly. The Community Service Club is willing to help all the needy.

**Join in!** The Community Service Club has a Facebook page and welcomes anyone from the ALC to join the page to find out more about what the club does and to get involved in club activities.

## My first experience

My first CSC experience was at the Center for the Protection of Girls at Ziat.

It was the best day of my life! When Asmae, Angela and I arrived at the Center for the Protection of the Girls at Ziat, we met the girls for the first time. They were so funny and helpful to us. I really loved their hospitality and sense of humour, but at the same time I felt sorry because each girl had her own sad story.

What tortured me the most was a little girl called Aya. She has a problem with her legs which means she cannot walk properly. And guess what? Aya asked me if I could be her big sister and I immediately said yes because I don't have a younger sister.

Later, Angela and Asmae worked together to teach the girls some of the basics of English and I worked with another American Teacher called Romy.

We did a lot of activities, for example: we played a game called Musical Chairs. The girls had to dance when the music was playing but the moment Romy stopped the music, they had to sit down quickly. Each time the music stopped, we took one chair away so, the girl who couldn't sit down was out of the game.

Asmae and I liked Angela and Romy because we had enough time to get to know both of them and without any question we loved the girls so so so so much. We are looking forward to meeting them again. I'll never forget my experience because it was the best day ever.

I want to deliver one message to both foreign and Moroccan students of the ALC: you will never regret being a part of the Community Service Club and we really do need your help.

**Find us on Facebook:** Over 390 people have already joined our Facebook page and we hope to bring you more news about what the CSC has been doing in future editions of Student Voice.



## Congratulations to the May 2012 merit scholars!

<b>Mustapha Snihji</b> Beginning 2	<b>Rita El Maammar</b> Beginning 5	<b>Aicha Kazmane</b> Intermediate 2	<b>Zineb Benkirane</b> Intermediate 5	<b>Karim El Adlouni</b> Advanced 2	<b>Abdelhak Sadik</b> Advanced 5
<b>Sanae Es-sounni</b> Beginning 3	<b>Meryem Jrifia</b> Beginning 6	<b>Salma Tazi</b> Intermediate 3	<b>Omar Mdarhri Alaoui</b> Intermediate 6	<b>Guita Azzouzi Ouedrhiri</b> Advanced 3	<b>Adam Attouk</b> Advanced 6
<b>El Mehdi Bououd</b> Beginning 4	<b>Douaa El Khalfi</b> Intermediate 1	<b>Sara Hassnaoui</b> Intermediate 4	<b>Nour El Houda Remok</b> Advanced 1	<b>Hajar Fathi</b> Advanced 4	<b>Well done!</b>



## A teenage life

Life is a short line  
So let's live it abreast  
Sometimes it's all so blind  
And we think it's too late

But baby we all can be superheroes  
Just look at your mirrors  
And find out who you really are  
Because real beauty is deep inside

A lot of crooks  
Judge from the looks  
But no-one realizes what it really took  
To be the person that we are

Everyone has his own story  
All we need is someone to listen  
'Cause when the heart is broken  
Crying in the dark and smiling outside is torment

It's OK to make a mistake  
But we shouldn't fall twice at the same place  
That's why I'm going to keep my head up  
And face all my fears.

**Kenza Zraraa**  
Intermediate 1

## Perfect Life

My life is perfect, I don't need to work it  
I think I'm going to go out, without doubt  
I'm going to fly like a feather  
Even in the raining weather  
You may think I'm bad (no, no)  
But I'm kind of mad

My life is perfect, but I fell like an insect  
It is upside down, but I'll marry Chris Brown  
I'm going to make a fight, 'cause of a  
freaking kite  
You may think I'm lazy (no, no)  
But I'm super crazy.

**Ikrane Mouhdi**  
Junior 6 Advanced

## Opposite adjectives



### ACROSS

- 1 The opposite of many
- 4 The opposite of raw
- 8 The opposite of heavy
- 10 The opposite of soft
- 12 The opposite of cheap
- 13 The opposite of deep
- 14 The opposite of dim
- 15 The opposite of best

### DOWN

- 1 The opposite of true
- 2 The opposite of smooth
- 3 The opposite of rude
- 5 The opposite of new
- 6 The opposite of safe
- 7 The opposite of crooked
- 9 The opposite of thick
- 11 The opposite of more

ANSWERS: ACROSS: 1. few; 4. cooked; 8. light; 10. hard; 12. expensive; 13. shallow; 14. bright; 15. worst. DOWN: 1. false; 2. rough; 3. polite; 5. old; 6. dangerous; 7. straight; 9. thin; 11. less.



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