"TITANIC"

On a beautiful afternoon, in a year now long gone, a big ship set out on its first voyage from England to America. It was a new ship called the "Titanic".

For two days the "Titanic" went on its way over the sea. Then it entered an ice-field and was hit by an iceberg.

Everyone was told to come out of their rooms. Men were putting the lifeboats over the sides of the ship, down into the water. Then all the men helped the women and children to get into the lifeboats.

There was not very much time left. The iceberg was on one side of the ship. It was like a high, white wall.

A woman came to the side of the ship. Her two children were in one of the lifeboats, and she was very much afraid.

"My children are in the lifeboat. I must go with them!" the woman called to the people in the lifeboat.

"There's no more room", someone called out. "If we take one more, the lifeboat will sink".

There was a young woman in the lifeboat called Miss Evans. When she heard the woman calling, she stood up in the lifeboat and touched one of the men on the arm.

"Let me get back on to the ship", she said. "Let that woman take my place. I have no children".

"The ship is sinking", said the man. "You know that?" "Yes", said Miss Evans, "I know that".

There was no time to talk. People helped Miss Evans to get back on to the ship. Very soon after that there was a great noise, and the "Titanic" went down under the water.

1. Listen to the text and say what it is about.

The story is about...

1. ...how an iceberg hit the ship.
2. ...how Miss Evans tried to save her life.
3. ...how the men on the ship helped the children and their mother to save in the lifeboats from the sinking ship.
4. ...how Miss Evans let the mother of the two children save their lives in the lifeboat.
5. ...how Miss Evans died.

2. Listen to the text and put "+" next to the true statements and "-" next to the false ones.

⁫ 1) "Titanic" made a voyage to England.

⁫ 2) The ship was hit by an ice-field.

⁫ 3) A big iceberg hit the ship.

⁫ 4) The passengers were getting into the lifeboats.

⁫ 5) One of the women got into the lifeboat, but her two children were still on the ship.

⁫6) There was not much room on the lifeboats.

⁫ 7) A young woman, Miss Evans, took children on her lifeboat.

⁫ 8) Miss Evans left the boat and let the woman take her place.

3. Listen to the text again and answer the questions.

1. What kind of voyage did "Titanic" make?
2. Why did the woman want to get into that lifeboat?
3. Why did Miss Evans go back onto the ship?

OUT-OF-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN BRITISH SCHOOLS

In most British secondary schools, members of the staff, and the children stay behind at school at least one or two days a week and take part in hobbies, clubs and school societies. In this way children learn to work with one another and to follow their own interests.

Schools have their own school societies, that is societies which encourage spare-time interests such as amateur drama, music making, naturalistic societies, debating societies and model aircraft classes.

Schoolchildren also indulge in out-of-door activities such as: football, basket­ball, camping, swimming, sailing, rowing, climbing, cycling, hiking, educational visits and school tours to local places of interest or to industrial enterprises, also gardening and care of pets and other animals.

In many schools form newspapers are published; they are produced by the children and edited by their form masters or mistresses. In the newspapers they advertise forthcoming school events: concerts, plays, society meetings, even school exams are billed. The most effective means of getting the necessary information for the articles are the poll and the interview. The poll is a few straightforward questions addressed to a class, something like this: "Do boys have too much pocket money? Is too much time spent on television? What do our readers really think of us?" It provides a solid basis of facts for articles which are later written by the editor-reporters.

They often write up some prominent member of the school: the new cricket captain, the winners of state scholarships, the leading actor of the school play or any other "men of moment".

Form newspaper have a good influence on the life of the school. And it is still more useful for the reporters who learn journalist writing in this way.

1. Before you listen, make sure you know the following words and expressions.  
Match them to their Ukrainian equivalents.

1. staff а) забезпечувати
2. school society b) промислові підприємства
3. to encourage c) аматорський
4. amateur d) штат, персонал
5. to indulge in e) вплив
6. industrial enterprises f) рекламувати
7. are edited g) захоплюватись
8. to advertise h) підтримувати, заохочувати
9. to provide і) спілка, організація
10. influence on j) редагуються

2. Listen to the text and mark true "+" or false "-" statements.

⁫ 1) At weekends in most British secondary schools, members of the staff, and the children stay behind at school to take part in hobbies, clubs and school societies.

⁫ 2) In this way children learn to work with one another.

⁫ 3) School societies encourage spare-time interests such as amateur drama, music making, naturalistic societies, debating societies and model aircraft classes.

⁫ 4) Schoolchildren also indulge in sports, visit local places of interest or industrial enterprises.

⁫ 5) In many schools form masters or mistresses publish and edit school newspapers.

⁫ 6) The school newspapers are published by the schoolchildren.

⁫ 7) The most effective means of getting the necessary information for the newspaper articles are the poll and the interview which provide facts written later by the editor-reporters.

⁫ 8) They often write up the school schedule and the results of the tests.

⁫ 9) Editing form newspaper is very useful for the reporters who learn in this way journalist writing.

⁫ 10) The poll is a few questions addressed to schoolchildren and their parents about political situation in the country.

3. Answer the questions.

Do you have something of the kind at your school?

Have you ever made a form newspaper?

MY FIRST DAY IN LONDON

I'll never forget the day when I first set foot in London. I came from a quiet little town in Ukraine and I had never lived in a big city before, so London was a new world for me and I tried to find out more about it for myself.

The general opinion abroad is that London has fog or rain, or both every day of the year, but on the day that I arrived it was fine and warm, and the sky was cloudless. In Ukraine at that time the snow was still melting, and there was mud and sleet everywhere in the streets and parks. The next day was also beautiful; a slight wind was blowing and you could smell spring in the air. I went for a walk in Kensington Gardens. I found the way there quite easily. When I got my first sight of the gardens, the beauty of it took my breath away. The trees were just bursting into leaf, fresh and green, and there were beds of spring flowers, red and yellow and blue. People in light spring clothes were walking about, and to my surprise, they were walking not only along the paths but also across the grass. I passed a pool, in which ducks were swimming, children were playing in playgrounds.

It was time for me to go home, but which way was it? I hurriedly turned down one path that I thought would take me back — and found myself in Hyde Park. I ran to the left and to the right, asked some people for the way to the street where I had stayed, but I found to my horror that I could not understand what they said in reply. I walked through the park till I came to a big open place where a group of people was listening to a man standing on a chair. From time to time they were asking questions or making remarks and sometimes they were laughing at the speaker. Another group was singing loudly. This was a famous Hyde Park meeting.

Meanwhile, the sun went behind the cloud, I was terribly tired. At last I got to the park gate and came out into the street. Motorcars, bicycles, buses were running, people were hurrying along. In despair I crossed the street on to an island where I found a policeman who explained me the way to my hotel.

1. Before you listen, answer the questions:

1. Have you ever been to a strange place alone?
2. have you ever lost your way in an unknown place?
3. What places in London would you like to see and visit?
4. Do you know what the weather is like in London now? Is it different from the weather in Ukraine?

2. Listen to the text and choose the most suitable heading for it.

1. Dangerous Adventure
2. Strange Tourist
3. My First Visit to London
4. Spring in London

3. Choose the correct ending to complete the sentence.

The author during his first visit to London...

1. ...was surprised to see mud and sleet in the streets.
2. ...attended the meeting in Hyde Park.
3. ...saw almost all the famous sights.
4. ...lost his way and had to ask a policeman to help him.

4. Choose the proverb, which is the most suitable to the contents of the story.

1. East or West, home the best.
2. All is well that ends well.
3. Every country has its customs.
4. So many countries, so many customs.

SCHOOLS IN BRITAIN

My name is Chris. I'm sixteen, and I go to school in Nottingham. Our school is a large one. About 824 students study in it. In Britain children start secondary school when they're eleven. I've been at the school five years now and I'm in Year 11.

We go to school from Monday to Friday. School starts at nine o'clock. There is a twenty-minute break at 10.30, after the second lesson, and we stop for lunch at one o'clock.

A few people go home but most of us eat at school. Some of my friends bring sandwiches, but I eat lunch in the canteen.

Afternoon lessons start at 1.45 and finish at 3.45. After school, I do sport. In our school you can also join the music group or belong to a club. The basketball club is very popular. When I get home I have to do my homework.

We all study the same subjects and have the same lessons until we are four­teen. At fourteen we choose the subjects we want to do for the national GCSE exams.

What are GCSE exams?

Well, in Britain students aged 16 take GCSE (General Certificate of Second­ary Education) exams between May and June. They get the results in August. The exam grades from A (the top) to G. Students can leave school at 16 if they want to.

Students who do well in their GCSE exams often go on to study for A (Ad­vanced) levels in three or four subjects. They take their A-level exams at the age of 18. Many of them then go to the college or university.

Well, I'm doing eight subjects — I have to study English and Maths, and I choose French, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Art and Design, and Information Techno-logy. My best friend chose different subjects so we don't ha-ve many lessons together anymore even though we are still in the same form. We also do P. E. but there isn't a P. E. exam.

Now that I'm sixteen, I can leave school at the end of the year. However, if my GCSE results are good, I hope to stay on at school for two more years and study for my A levels. We only study three or four subjects at A level but it's hard work because we have to know the subject in depth. After school, I'd like to go to university but I haven't decided what I want to study yet.

1. Decide if the following statements are true or false. Put "+" next to the true statements and "-" next to the false ones.

⁫ 1) British schoolchildren go to secondary school when they're ten.

⁫ 2) They take public exams when they're sixteen.

⁫ 3) They can leave school when they are sixteen.

⁫ 4) They start school at 8 a. m.

⁫ 5) They usually have lunch at school.

⁫ 6) They don't have lessons in the afternoon.

⁫ 7) They go to school on Sundays.

⁫ 8) They take GCSE exams between May and June.

2. Write the subjects which British and Ukrainian schoolchildren study at school.

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| --- | --- |
| Great Britain | Ukraine |
|  |  |

BIRTHDAYS

In the United States most people celebrate their birthdays on the da, of the month they were born.

Birthdays are celebrated with family and friends. Invitations are sent for a party.

A birthday cake with candles is served. The number of candles represents the age of the birthday person. The candles are lighted. The person makes three wishes and then blows the candles out in one breath so the wishes will come true. People sing "Happy Birthday" and wish the person health and long life.

It is traditional to bring or send birthday cards and gifts to the birthday person. Many people send flowers. Other gifts can be clothing, books, records, or perfumes. There are birthstones and flowers for each month of the year. These can also be appropriate gifts.

Parties for children are usually held at home. At children's parties, children wear birthday hats and get souvenirs from the birthday child. Sometimes birthdays are celebrated at school, in the classroom with classmates. Some parents organize parties at a restaurant. They reserve a special room for the birthday group and supply the refreshments and decorations.

Some birthdays are special. Girls have a special celebration for the sixteenth birthday, called "sweet sixteen". The eighteenth birthday is important because it is the legal voting age. The legal age for driving and drinking alcohol varies with each state.

Some people want to celebrate the birthday of a relative or friend with a "surprise party". They organize the party, but the birthday person does not know about it. When the person comes to the party everyone shouts "SURPRISE!"

It is nice to remember the birthday of family and friends. One way to show this is by sending birthday cards, making a telephone call, or sending telegrams. Some people make contributions to charities in the name of the birthday person.

1. Before you listen, discuss the following topic.

Which is your favourite holiday? Some people choose the New Year or Christmas. Others think about birthday anniversaries as their favourites.

2. Answer the questions choosing the right option.

⁫ 1) Which of these is served during a birthday party:

a birthday cake b) a birthday pudding

⁫ 2) What is the name of the song people sing to a birthday person?

a) "Merry Birthday" b) "Happy Birthday"

⁫ 3) Americans give gifts at birthdays. Which of these two can be appropriate?

a) birthstones b) cornerstones

4) This birthday anniversary is important because it is the legal voting age. Is it

a) the eighteenth b) the twentieth?

5) Do relatives and friends sometimes organize a) a "secret party" b) a "surprise party"?