



ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ  
«BRITISH CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS»

Read these texts and choose all the possible variants.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

The most favourite holiday in Great Britain is Christmas. Traditionally this is the day when people decorate their trees. Every year the people of Norway give the city of London a present. It's a big Christmas tree and it stands in Trafalgar square.

1.



British people usually put

2.

- a) an angel
- b) a star
- c) a deer
- d) a figure of Santa Claus on the top of the fir tree.

In Great Britain, the Christmas tree became popular while

3.

- a) king George
- b) queen Victoria
- c) queen Elizabeth I
- d) king Edward

ruled the country.

The Christmas story

4.

- a) came
- b) has come
- c) comes
- d) is coming

from the Bible. The Nativity scene – the birth of Jesus Christ is very important.

On the eve of Christmas children hang their stockings, so that Santa Claus could put presents

5.

- a) for
- b) into
- c) in
- d) under

them: oranges, sweets, nuts and if the child didn't behave properly Santa Claus can put there a piece of coal as punishment.

In the morning children check whether the stocking

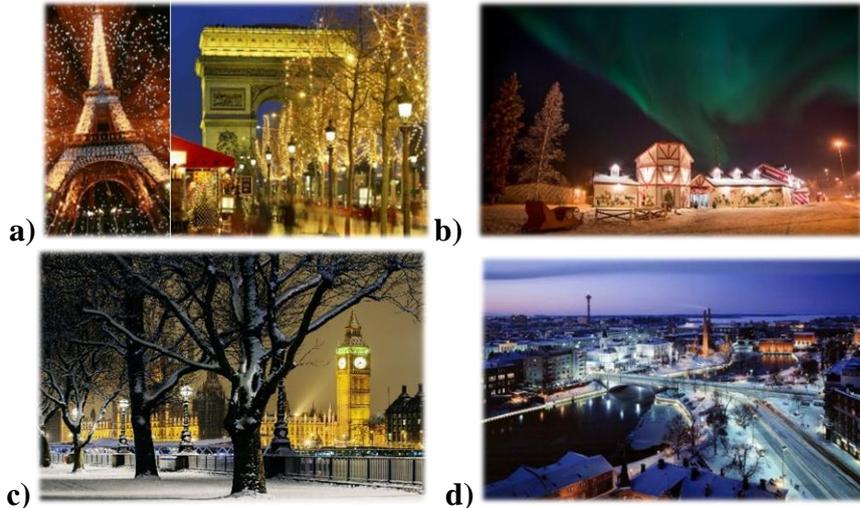
6.

- a) is filled
- b) will be filled
- c) has been filled
- d) is filling

with small toys, fruit and sweets. Larger toys will be nearby.

Father Christmas or Santa Claus is an old man with long white beard, red coat and a bag of toys. He lives in

7.



and comes on a sledge pulled by reindeer.

Christmas is a family holiday. People from Great Britain

8.

- a) sing a Christmas carol
- b) pull a cracker
- c) give money
- d) give presents to each other

at the start of Christmas meal.

A traditional Christmas meal in Britain includes

9.



After dinner a three-penny or six-penny coin

10.

- a) will have been hidden
- b) is hidden
- c) has hidden
- d) hides

inside Christmas pudding and part of the fun is to see who finds it.

The candy in the form of a Christmas staff means

11.

- a) the first letters of the name of Jesus Christ
- b) luck
- c) support and assistance in cases
- d) longevity

### BOXING DAY

The 26<sup>th</sup> of December, Boxing Day, is an extra holiday after Christmas. It's the time to visit friends and relatives. Traditionally on this day postmen, errand boys and servants of various kinds

12 .

- a) are given
- b) were given
- c) give
- d) will give

Christmas boxes with presents and/or money.

### ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

St. Valentine's Day, the 14<sup>th</sup> of February is the day of the year when friends and lovers show their affection with candy, cards and flowers. For you romantic guys and gals who

13.

- a) have been struck
- b) are striking
- c) strike
- d) have struck

with Cupid's arrow, the gift for your Valentine is usually preplanned and packaged before the month of February even arrives.

The first Valentine of all was a

14.

- a) a king
- b) a Christian priest
- c) a God of Love
- d) a surgeon

who before he was put to death by the Romans, sent a note of friendship to his jailer's blind daughter.

St. Valentine was beheaded because

15.

- a) he secretly married young couples
- b) he ran away with Emperor Claudius's daughter
- c) he was always in love with someone
- d) he sent a note of friendship to his friend's sister

St. Valentine wrote his lover a letter and signed it

16.

- a) «to my sweetheart»
- b) «Your Valentine»
- c) «Love»
- d) «from heart to heart»

Young men and women in the last century spent hours fashioning a home-made card and some of these cards

17.

- a) are seen
- b) will be seen
- c) can be seen
- d) saw

in the museums of Britain today.

Flowers are a must-have gift for Valentine's Day, a symbol of sympathy, tenderness and love. The color of roses and their number in the bouquet have different meanings —

18.

- a) red roses
- b) scarlet roses
- c) purple roses
- d) orange roses

are given to a girlfriend or a boyfriend; yellow and white — to acquaintances and relatives.

St. Valentine's day symbols are

19.



### BONFIRE NIGHT

On November 5th English people across the country celebrate Bonfire Night. There are small firework parties in back gardens. People can also watch big firework

20.

- a) displayed
- b) is displaying
- c) displays
- d) has displayed

in public parks. The reason of the celebration is because it's the anniversary of some historic date.

On November 5th 1605 a man called Guy Fawkes

21.

- a) tries
- b) was trying
- c) tried
- d) has tried

to blow up the Houses of Parliament for some political reasons. Guy Fawkes and some other men put 36 barrels of gunpowder under the Houses of Parliament in London, ready to set off a massive explosion.

One member of the group sent a letter to his friend who

22.

- a) was working
- b) works
- c) worked
- d) had worked

in Parliament and warned him to stay away on November 5th. The King found the letter. The Houses of Parliament were saved.

## HALLOWEEN

Halloween, the last day of October, has a special significance for children who dress in funny or ghostly costumes and knock at neighborhood doors. After shouting «Trick or treat»! they

23.

- a) give
- b) are given
- c) has been given
- d) will give

gifts of candy or money.

The custom of telling ghost stories on Halloween comes from the Druids. To honor the Sun god and to frighten away evil spirits, they would light huge bonfires atop high hills and as they sat grouped around watching the bright flames, they would relate scary happenings they

24.

- a) experienced
- b) had experienced
- c) are experiencing
- d) experience

What is the main symbol of Halloween?

25.



a)



b)



c)



d)

Many people know that on Halloween, children and adults cut out pumpkin lanterns. What` s the name of this pumpkin?

26.

- a) Peter Pan
- b) Jack- o-Lenten
- c) Alfred the Great
- d) Robin Hood

## EASTER

Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. Many churches hold Easter sunrise services. Churches are decorated with

27.



a)



b)



c)



d)

and are filled with people wearing new Easter outfits. The choir and congregation join in singing special hymns of joy.

For many children, the excitement of receiving an Easter basket filled with goodies and hunting for eggs

**28.**

- a) will be hidden
- b) hidden
- c) hide
- d) has hidden

by the Ester Rabbit is topped only by the excitement of receiving gifts from Santa at Christmas.

Eggs represent new life. Christians adopted eggs as an Easter symbol because Easter also represents new life. The date of Easter

**29.**

- a) determines
- b) has determined
- c) determines
- d) is determined

by the moon. The hare is a symbol of a goddess. Because of this relationship, the hare came to represent Easter. Hares and rabbits are closely related.

### APRIL FOOL`S DAY

Children throughout the English-speaking countries look forward to April 1st, April Fools' Day. By tradition, it is the day on which jokes are played. The children might decide to wake their parents with the news that the house is on fire, or that some other disaster

**30.**

- a) has occurred
- b) occurs
- c) will occur
- d) are occurring

At school serious work is practically forgotten as the children try to pin notices on one another's backs. The notices say things like «Kick Me,» or «I'm a fool.» Teachers have to be particularly careful or they

**31.**

- a) can
- b) might
- c) should
- d) have to

find themselves walking around with a silly sign on their backs.

On this day of national good humour, the television and radio service joins in the fun. Once they told the story of a building that had been built upside down by mistake. They showed an example of modern architecture, which actually did look better when it was turned the other way. Many people

**32.**

- a) are fooled
- b) will be fooled
- c) can be fooled
- d) must have been fooled

and perhaps the architect himself was given food for thought.