24 English-speaking countries

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- ***Geography***

Great Britain (London) + Northern Ireland (Belfast)
divided into England (London)
Scotland (Edinburgh)
Wales (Cardiff)

- situated off the NW coast of Europe in the Atlantic Ocean
- not big country, but varied scenery:
  - east coast – there are flat plains, rich farmland – lowland
  - Wales+Scotland – mountains, highlands;
  - Northern Ireland – green hills

Rivers: - the longest – Severn, Thames (England); Clyde (Scotland)
Lakes: Loch Ness (Scotland, famous for mysterious monster)
Climate: temperate, but changeable, continental type of weather
Economy: natural energy resources – coal, oil, natural gas
Agricultural production, textiles, fishing, electronics, tourism, publishing, chemicals, financial service
Other Cities: Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bristol, etc.
Population: over 60,270,000 people;
multi-racial nation today: English(predominant), Scots, Irish, Welsh, West Indians, Indians, Pakistanis
Currency: Pound sterling (£)
Languages: English (official), Welsh, Gaelic
Political system: constitutional monarchy
Head of state: Queen Elizabeth II

- ***Places of interest***

England
Bath – famous for its hot springs, on the River Avon
Hadrian´s Wall - important monument, built by the Romans
Stonehenge – one of the most famous prehistoric monuments in Europe
Brighton – the most famous seaside resort on the English Channel
Stratford-upon-Avon – W. Shakespeare's birthplace
Oxford, Cambridge – university cities
London
The City– ancient(the oldest) part of London, now business and banking centre
West End – expensive houses and shops
East End
Transport: - 5 airports, Heathrow – largest(W), Gatwick(S)
- riverbuses on the Thames
- highway and railway junction, bus routes
- underground ("tube") – oldest in the world

Sightseeing in London:
The Tower of London – a fortress, prison, now a museum; the Crown Jewels are kept there
The Tower Bridge – one of the most famous bridges in the world, a gateway to London from the sea it opens in the middle
The Houses of Parliament – famous Big Ben (a clock tower)
*Trafalgar Sq*uare – Admiral Nelson Column, National Gallery
St. Paul´s Cathedral
Buckingham Palace – The Royal Family official London home
*Westminster Abbe*y – coronation church of queens and kings
Piccadilly Circus – the meeting point of 6 main streets, the Statue of Eros in the middle
Covent Garden – favourite meeting place for young people, in the past fruit, vegetable and flower market
Wimbledon – home of tennis
Museums: *The British Museum – the world´s largest and most important museum*
The Tate Gallery – national gallery of British Art
the National History Museum, the Science Museum
Madame Tussaud´s – world´s most famous waxworks
Parks: *Hyde Park* – speaker´s corner, the Serpentine (artificial lake)
Kensington Gardens
St. Jame´s Park – prettiest and oldest of the Royal parks
Regent´s Park – famous for ZOO

Scotland
Edinburgh - capital, international Festival City
Glasgow – largest city, cultural capital of Scotland
LochNess – lake, mysterious monster

- ***Entertainment***

Theatres, cinemas, discotheques, leisure centres, restaurants, pubs

- ***Sports***

Cricket, football, rugby, golf, jogging, fishing,

- ***Famous people***

the Beatles, Sting, Agatha Christie, W. Shakespeare, Ch. Dickens

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- ***Geography***

4th largest country in the world

location: in N America, between the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean

borders: S – Mexico, E – the Atlantic O., N – Canada, W – the Pacific O.

part of the USA – Alaska – N of the continent,

- Hawaiian Islands – S-W of California
- US territory can be divided into 4 regions. The Noertheast, the South, the Midwest and the West
- about one half of the country is occupied by **Cordilleras**(W) which are divided into several ranges: the ***Rocky Mountains***, the Great Basin, the Colorado Plateau with Grand Canyon
- the highest peak in the USA – Mt. McKinley (Alaska)
- *rivers* : longest - **Mississippi , Rio Grande, Yukon**, Missouri, Hudson, Colorado, etc.
  - major lakes – **Great Lakes** - on the N, on borders with Canada,
    Lake Superior, L. Michigan, L Huron, L. Erie + L. Ontario = Niagara Falls (world famous natural wonder)
- *climate* . varied: arctic in the N, subtropical in the S, but temperate climate prevails
- *economy:* highly developed industrial country - most important industrial areas: N-E, Great Lakes area
  - world leader in many branches: aerospace research, automobile industry, electronics, computing
  - one of the greatest foodstuffs exporters (highly advanced agriculture esp. Midwest region & California: dairy products, wheat, beef cattle, fruits, vegetables,…)
- *currency:* US dollar ($)
- *Capital*: Washington, D. C
- *Other cities:* New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Dallas, Phoenix, San Francisco, Atlanta, Las Vegas, etc.
- *Languages*: English (official), Spanish
- *Population:* white Americans, African-American, Asian/Pacific islanders, American Indians, Eskimos, Hispanic
- *Political system*: federation of 50 states and a small area that does not belong to any state – the capital Washington D. C. (the District of Columbia)
- *Head of state and government*: president (Barrack Obama)

- ***Places of interest***

Washington, D. C.

- the Capitol – the site of Congress; Washington Monument – the white marble obelisk
- Lincoln Memorial (inspired by Greek architecture)
- Arlington National Cemetery
- The Pentagon – headquarter of the Department of Defence
- White House – the president's residence

New York

- largest US city & industrial port, important financial, commercial and cultural centre in the world
- has 5 boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island(Richmond)
- Statue of Liberty – 1st sight to attract visitors, symbol of freedom an US
- Manhattan – famous for a large number of skyscrapers on a small area
- Wall Street – financial centre, Stock Exchange, many banks
- World Trade Centre – twin towers, aim of the terrorist attack
- Empire State Building, Central Park,

Other places of interest:
Mt. Rushmore, Niagara Falls, Las Vegas, LA(Hollywood, Disneyland), San Francisco (Golden Gate Bridge), Grand Canyon (Arizona), Yellowstone National Park (California), Salt Lake City, etc

- ***Sports***

  Baseball, soccer, ice-hockey, basketball, etc.