

## 25. The Countries Whose Language I am Learning

English is a mother tongue for most people living in the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

GREAT BRITAIN consists of England, Scotland and Wales. The political state is officially called THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. The capital city is London.

· English people are famous for their politeness, selfdiscipline, reliability and for their specific sense of humour. It is also true that the British people rarely shake hands when they meet. They like sports, especially football, cricket, golf, tennis and horse racing.

· Scottish people are famous for their whisky and for wearing kilts, the typical knee-length skirts for both men and women.

· Wales is rich in culture and history. The Welsh people are known for their love of music and poetry.

The Republic of Ireland is a sovereign state and is mostly Catholic. But there are many problems between Protestants and Catholics! The Irish people are hospitable and friendly, they like music and dancing. And they like going to pubs where live music and drinking is very common.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is a country lying in the southern half of North America, with additional territory in Alaska and Hawaii. It is made up of 50 states. The capital city is Washington D.C. It is the world's leading economic power. Americans are friendly, open, hard-working and independent. America is a wealthy country and Americans enjoy high standart of living. Some people said that Americans are noisy, dressed in colourful clothing, extremely self-confident and most of them are very fat. They like eating hamburgers and sandwiches and they prefer fast-food restaurants.

It is a typical custom to teach children independence from an early age. Each adult member of a typical American family has his/her own car. Americans like travelling and they often drive long distance through the country, especially during the holidays, to visit their friends and relatives. Americans do not usually stay in the same town all their lifes. They like to move. Nowadays, more and more Americans take care of their health. They do some sport, eat healthier food, smoke less and drink less alcohol.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Which English-speaking countries do you know?
2. Which English-speaking countries would you like to visit?
3. Have you ever met any British people or Americans?
4. What do you know about the lifestyle of an American family?
5. What are the English people like?