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## Необычные алфавиты на уроках английского языка

**П**реподавание иностранного языка в школе невозможно без использования страноведческого материала. Обычно такой материал содержит большое количество имен, цифр, дат и т. д. Хотелось бы, чтобы происходило не только ознакомление учащихся с предложенной информацией, но и ее запоминание и последующее использование.

Чтобы помочь учащимся запомнить необходимое количество материала, я решила располагать информацию по той или иной теме в алфавитном порядке. Практика применения таких необычных алфавитов показывает, что ученик, зная алфавит, без труда вспоминает слова на определенную букву. Предлагаю „алфавиты“: „The ABC of London“, „All about England in the ABC“ и „The ABC of English Christmas“. Данные „алфавиты“ рекомендуется использовать на уроках английского языка в 7–11-х классах.

Ознакомление с такими алфавитами можно проводить с помощью мультимедийных презентаций, где каждый слайд представляет одну букву, слово на эту букву и краткую информацию с иллюстрацией. На первом уроке учитель демонстрирует презентации, комментируя каждый слайд. При этом можно ограничиться краткой информацией, представленной на слайде, или привлечь дополнительные сведения в зависимости от языковых возможностей учащихся.

На последующих уроках необходимо вернуться к „алфавитам“, повторить изученный материал. Затем учащиеся выполняют упражнения на закрепление и проверку запоминания страноведческих фактов.

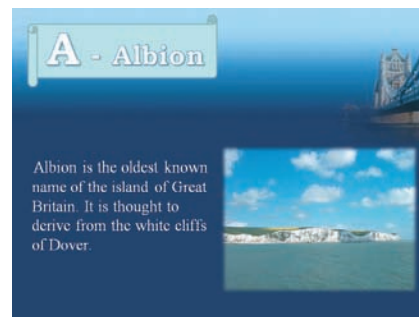
Алгоритм работы с презентациями перед выполнением контрольных упражнений (на примере презентации „All about England in the ABC“):



По первому щелчку мыши появляется буква алфавита и ее изображение. Следует не называть сразу слово на эту букву, а попросить об этом учащихся.



После второго щелчка мыши появляется слово, что проверяет предположения ребят. Теперь учащимся следует дать краткое толкование этому слову.



После третьего щелчка появляется информация на слайде.

## Упражнения на закрепление и проверку запоминания страноведческих фактов

### 1. "The ABC of London"

#### T A S K S

##### I. What is it?

1. Big Ben	a) a 135-metre tall observation wheel
2. Covent Garden	b) a royal residence
3. 10 Downing Street	c) a historic castle
4. Eye of London	d) the Clock Tower
5. Kensington Palace	e) a large, mainly Gothic church
6. Piccadilly Circus	f) office of the Prime Minister
7. The Tower of London	g) a famous road junction
8. Westminster Abbey	h) a district in London

##### II. Match the places with the right persons.

1. Albert Memorial	a) William Shakespeare
2. Big Ben	b) Darwin
3. The Tower of London	c) Peter Pen
4. Charing Cross	d) Eleanor
5. The Globe Theatre	e) Diana, Princess of Wales
6. St Paul's Cathedral	f) Prince Albert
7. Kensington Gardens	g) Sir Christopher Wren
8. Kensington Palace	h) Julius Caesar
9. The Natural History Museum	i) Admiral Nelson
10. Nelson's Column	j) Sir Benjamin Hall

##### III. Fill in the table.

Museums, galleries	Parks, gardens	Historical London	Streets, squares	Entertainment	Memorials, columns	Royal London
British Museum	Hyde Park	the Tower of London	Fleet Street	Eye of London	Albert Memorial	Buckingham Palace
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...

#### Keys:

##### I. What is it?

1d), 2h), 3f), 4a), 5b), 6g), 7c), 8e)

##### II. Match the places with the right persons.

1f), 2j), 3h), 4d), 5a), 6g), 7c), 8e), 9b), 10i)

## 2. "All about England in the ABC"

### TASKS

#### I. Complete the sentences.

1. ... is the oldest known name of the island of Great Britain.
2. ... is the longest established and largest broadcaster in the world.
3. ... is the official London residence of the British monarch.
4. ... is a popular take-away food that originated in 1858 or 1863.
5. The term ... is used for "traditional" songs for young children in England.
6. ... is a monetary unit circulating in England.
7. ... is the national symbol of England.
8. ... is more commonly known as football.
9. ... is the most famous prehistoric monument in England.
10. ... flows through London, the capital city.
11. England is a country that is part of ... .
12. People talk about ... more in England than in the most parts of the world.
13. ... is celebrated on December 25.
14. ... is a dish that originated in Yorkshire, England, and has attained wide popularity.
15. The Clock Tower called ... is known the world over.
16. ... is a bat-and-ball team sport that is first documented as being played in southern England in the 16th century.
17. ... is the piece of water between France and England.
18. The word ... is short for public house.
19. The official head of the state is ... .
20. An important tennis competition which takes place every summer in the part of London called ... .

#### II. What is it?

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Yorkshire pudding       | a) the longest river in England         |
| 2. Christmas               | b) a football club                      |
| 3. Viking Centre           | c) a Christian holiday                  |
| 4. The Thames              | d) a British luxury car                 |
| 5. Manchester United F. C. | e) a constitutional monarchy            |
| 6. The lion                | f) traditional songs for young children |
| 7. Jaguar                  | g) a dish                               |
| 8. The United Kingdom      | h) the night of October 31              |
| 9. Nursery rhymes          | i) a symbol of national strength        |
| 10. Halloween              | j) an archaeological museum in York     |

#### III. Wright or wrong?

1. The black double-decker buses in London have become an icon of Britain.
2. England is situated on the British Isles.
3. It has been said that the English are a nation of animal lovers.
4. The University of Cambridge is the second youngest university in the English-speaking world.
5. Guy Fawkes' Night is on November 4th when people light fireworks and burn a guy on a bonfire.
6. When you want to cross the street, look first to the left and then to the right.
7. Britain is a parliamentary monarchy.
8. England is a coffee-drinking nation.
9. London is the capital of the UK.
10. Parliament consists of one chamber or house: the House of Lords.

**Keys:****I. Complete the sentences.**

1. Albion; 2. The British Broadcasting Corporation; 3. Buckingham Palace; 4. Fish and chips; 5. nursery rhyme; 6. Pound; 7. The red rose; 8. Soccer; 9. Stonehenge; 10. The Thames; 11. the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; 12. the weather; 13. Christmas; 14. Yorkshire pudding; 15. Big Ben; 16. Cricket; 17. The English Channel; 18. pub; 19. the king or the queen; 20. Wimbledon.

**II. What is it?**

- 1g), 2c), 3j), 4a), 5b), 6i), 7d), 8e), 9f), 10h)

**III. Wright or wrong?**

- 1 -, 2 +, 3 +, 4 -, 5 -, 6 -, 7 +, 8 -, 9 +, 10 -

**3. "The ABC of English Christmas"****TASKS****I. Finish the sentences with the following words:**

helper; the North Pole; Bethlehem; decoration; sugar; Christmas gifts; holiday; the mother of Jesus; Christmas Day; Jesus Christ

1. Advent is the period between Advent Sunday, the Sunday closest to the 30th of November, and ... .
2. Angel is a traditional Christmas ... .
3. Candy Cane is a treat and a decoration made of ... .
4. Elf is a diminutive creature that lives with Santa Claus in the North Pole and acts as his ... .
5. Christmas is a family ... .
6. Christmas is the day on which Christians celebrate the birth of ... .
7. According to a tradition which can be traced to the 1820s, Santa Claus lives in ... .
8. Reindeers pull the sleigh of Santa Claus and help him deliver ... .
9. Star revealed the birth of Jesus to the magi, or "wise men", and later led them to ... .
10. Virgin Mary is identified in the New Testament as ... .

**II. Choose the right word.**

1. Bauble is one of the most popular Christmas ... .  
a) presents   b) ornament designs   c) dishes
2. A standard Christmas meal includes ... .  
a) turkey or goose   b) roast beef   c) fish and chips
3. Eve is the evening or entire day preceding Christmas Day that takes place on December ... .  
a) 24   b) 25   c) 26
4. Jingle Bells is one of the best-known ... in the world.  
a) books   b) films   c) songs
5. Mistletoe is used as a Christmas decoration, and people often ... under it.  
a) kiss   b) sing   c) eat
6. This piece of clothes is hung by children on Christmas Eve for Santa Claus to fill it with presents and sweets.  
a) stocking   b) mitten   c) hat
7. The children must ... when Santa Claus makes his rounds delivering gifts.  
a) walk   b) play   c) sleep
8. Santa Claus is a figure with legendary, historical and folkloric aspects who brings ... for children on the night before Christmas Day.  
a) sweets   b) presents   c) good news

9. Poinsettia is ... and star shaped.  
a) red b) green c) yellow
10. The British thoroughly choose Christmas ... for their relatives, friends and even their pets.  
a) clothes b) decorations c) presents

### III. Mark the sentences as true (T) or false (F).

1. Candle is a traditional Christmas decoration.
2. Carol is a popular song that is sung at Christmas.
3. Cracker is an integral part of Christmas celebrations.
4. The traditional colors of Christmas are green, snow white, and heart red.
5. Holly has fruit in winter. Its berries are red and symbolize fire.
6. Pudding is not served on Christmas Day.
7. The children should be quiet on Christmas Eve waiting for Santa Claus.
8. Wreath is a Christmas decoration to celebrate the birth of Christ.
9. Xmas is a common abbreviation of the word "Christmas".
10. The expression "Yule log" has come to refer to log-shaped Christmas toys.

### Keys:

#### I. Finish the sentences.

1. Christmas Day, 2. decoration, 3. sugar, 4. helper, 5. holiday, 6. Jesus Christ, 7. the North Pole, 8. Christmas gifts, 9. Bethlehem, 10. the mother of Jesus.

#### II. Choose the right word.

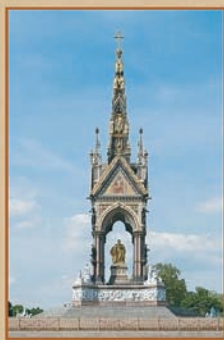
- 1b), 2a), 3b), 4c), 5a), 6a), 7c), 8b), 9a), 10c

#### III. Mark the sentences as true or false.

- 1T, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5F, 6F, 7T, 8T, 9T, 10F

### "The ABC of London"

## A – the Albert Memorial B – Big Ben



- is situated in Kensington Gardens, directly to the north of the Royal Albert Hall. It was commissioned by Queen Victoria in memory of her beloved husband, Prince Albert who died of typhoid in 1861.



- The Clock Tower called "Big Ben" is known the world over. The name Big Ben actually refers not to the clock-tower itself, but to the thirteen ton bell hung within.

**A** — The Albert Memorial is situated in Kensington Gardens, directly to the north of the Royal Albert Hall. It was commissioned by Queen Victoria in memory of her beloved husband, Prince Albert who died of typhoid in 1861.

**B** — Big Ben — The Clock Tower called "Big Ben" is known the world over. The name Big Ben actually refers not to the clock-tower itself, but to the thirteen ton bell hung within. The bell was named after the first commissioner of works, Sir Benjamin Hall.

The British Museum is a museum of human history and culture in London. Its collections, which number more than seven million objects, are amongst the largest and most comprehensive in the world and originate from all continents, illustrating and

documenting the story of human culture from its beginnings to the present.

**Buckingham Palace** — Buckingham Palace is the official London residence of the British monarch. Located in the City of Westminster, the palace is a setting for state occasions and royal hospitality.

**C — Charing Cross.** The name of the place comes from the time of Edward I, who in 1291 built a stone at the village of Charin, a mile from Westminster in memory of his deceased wife, Eleanor, who was buried there. You may see the reproduction of the old cross in the entrance to Charing Cross station.

**Covent Garden** is a district in London. It is mainly associated with the former fruit and vegetable market located in the central square which is now a popular shopping and tourist site, and the Royal Opera House, which is also known as “Covent Garden”.

**D — 10 Downing Street** in London, colloquially known in the United Kingdom as “Number 10”, is the official residence and office of the First Lord of the Treasury of the United Kingdom or the Prime Minister. Number 10 Downing Street is one of the most famous addresses in the United Kingdom and the world. Almost three hundred years old, the building contains about one hundred rooms.

**E — Eye of London** or Millennium Wheel, formerly the British Airways London Eye is a 135-metre (443 ft) tall observation wheel situated on the banks of the River Thames in the British capital. It is the tallest Ferris wheel in Europe, and the most popular paid tourist attraction in the United Kingdom, visited by over 3.5 million people annually.

**F — Fleet Street** is a street, named after the River Fleet, a stream that now flows underground. It was the home of the British press until the 1980s. Now it continues to be used as a metonym for the British national press.

**G — The Globe Theatre** was a theatre in London associated with William Shakespeare. It was built in 1599 by Shakespeare's playing company and was destroyed by fire on 29 June 1613. A second Globe Theatre was built on the same site by June 1614 and closed in 1642.

**The Green Park** is one of the Royal Parks of London. Covering 19 hectares it lies between London's Hyde Park and St James's Park. By contrast with its neighbors, Green Park has no lakes, no buildings and few monuments. The park consists entirely of wooded meadows.

**H — Houses of Parliament** or Westminster Palace, is the meeting place of the two houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom — the House of Lords and the House of Commons. It lies on the north bank of the River Thames in the heart of the London borough of the City of Westminster.

**Hyde Park**, originally a royal hunting forest, is the largest park in London. In summer the Serpentine canal, which flows through the park, is always full of swimmers, rowers and sunbathers. The park is contiguous with Kensington Gardens. Hyde Park covers 142 hectares (350 acres).

**I — Imperial War Museum** is a British national museum organisation with branches at five locations in England, three of which are in London. The museum was founded during the First World

War in 1917 and intended as a record of the war effort and sacrifice of Britain and her Empire.

**K — Kensington Gardens**, once the private gardens of Kensington Palace, is one of the Royal Parks of London, lying immediately to the west of Hyde Park. The park covers an area of 111 hectares. The open spaces of Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Green Park and St James's Park together form an almost continuous “green lung” in the heart of London between Kensington and Westminster. Children gather here by the statue of Peter Pan, James Barrie's well-known storybook character.

**Kensington Palace** is a royal residence set in Kensington Gardens. It has been a residence of the British Royal Family since the 17th century. It was the official residence of Diana, Princess of Wales (until her death in 1997), of Princess Margaret (until her death in 2002) and of Princess Alice (until her death in 2004).

**L — London Bridge** is a bridge over the River Thames, connecting the City of London and Southwark, in central London. It was the only bridge over the Thames downstream from Kingston until Putney Bridge opened in 1729.

**M — Madame Tussaud's** is a major tourist attraction located in Central London. It is famous for recreating famous people, or celebrities, in wax. It is the original Madame Tussaud's attraction, having been situated on Marylebone Road since 1884. It was set up by wax sculptor Marie Tussaud. It is operated by Merlin Entertainments.

**The Marble Arch** was originally planned as a monument to Nelson and was to be the main entrance to Buckingham Palace,

but by mistake it was made too small for the State carriage to pass through, and in 1851 it was placed in its present position. It is a white Carrara-marble monument almost directly opposite Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park.

**N** — **The National Gallery** contains one of the finest collections of pictures in the world. The National Gallery in London was founded in 1824 and houses a rich collection of over 2,300 paintings dating from the mid-13th century to 1900 in its home on Trafalgar Square.

**The Natural History Museum** is home to life and earth science specimens comprising some 70 million items within five main collections: Botany, Entomology, Mineralogy, Paleontology and Zoology. Many of the collections have great historical as well as scientific value, such as specimens collected by Darwin. The museum is particularly famous for its exhibition of dinosaur skeletons.

**Nelson's Column** is a tall column with the figure of Nelson at its top. The column is guarded by four bronze lions. It is a monument in Trafalgar Square built to commemorate the death of Admiral Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

**O** — **Oxford Street** is a major thoroughfare in the City of Westminster in the West End. There are 548 shops in Oxford Street; it is Europe's busiest shopping street, as well as the most dense. The street was formerly part of the London — Oxford road.

**P** — **Piccadilly Circus** is a famous road junction and public space of London's West End in the City of Westminster, built in 1819 to connect Regent Street with the major

shopping street of Piccadilly. In this context, a circus, from the Latin word meaning "circle", is a round open space at a street junction.

**Poet's Corner** is the name traditionally given to a section of the South Transept of Westminster Abbey because of the number of poets, playwrights, and writers buried and commemorated there (such as Chaucer, Dickens, Tennyson, Browning, Hardy, Kipling and others). Here, too, though, these writers are not buried in Westminster Abbey, are memorials to Shakespeare and Milton, Goldsmith and Scott, Thackeray and Longfellow.

**Q** — **Queen Victoria Memorial** is a sculpture, placed at the centre of Queen's Gardens in front of Buckingham Palace. It was completed in 1911. It has a large statue of Queen Victoria and bronze statues of the Angel of Justice, the Angel of Truth and Charity.

**R** — **Regent's Park** is one of the Royal Parks of London. It is in the north-western part of central London. A trip along Regent's Canal in a waterbus gives a chance to see London Little Venice. It contains Regent's College and the London Zoo.

**The Royal Albert Hall** is one of the UK's most treasured and distinctive buildings, recognisable the world over. Since its opening by Queen Victoria in 1871, the world's leading artists from every kind of performance genre have appeared on its stage. Each year it hosts more than 350 performances including classical concerts, rock and pop, ballet and opera, tennis, award ceremonies, school and community events, charity performances and lavish banquets.

**S** — **Speakers' Corner** is an area where open air public speaking, debate and discussion are allowed. The original and most noted is in the north-east corner of Hyde Park. Speakers there may speak on any subject, as long as the police consider their speeches lawful, although this right is not restricted to Speakers' Corner only — the same right to free speech applies everywhere else in the UK.

**St James Park** is a 23 hectare park in Westminster, the oldest of the Royal Parks of London. It is one of the most beautiful places in London. It is one of the most attractive of London's parks. The best sight in the park is the lake; it is famous for its collection of water-birds.

**St Paul's Cathedral** is the greatest of English churches. It was built by the famous English architect Sir Christopher Wren (1632–1723). St Paul's Cathedral with its huge dome and rows of columns is considered to be a fine specimen of Renaissance architecture. In one of its towers hangs one of the largest bells in the world, Great Paul, weighing about 17.5 tons.

**T** — **The Tate Gallery** was founded in 1897, as the National Gallery of British Art. When its role was changed to include the national collection of Modern Art as well as the national collection of British art, it was renamed the Tate Gallery after Henry Tate, who had laid the foundations for the collection.

**Tower Bridge** is a combined bascule and suspension bridge over the River Thames. It is close to the Tower of London, which gives it its name. It has become an iconic symbol of London. The bridge consists of two towers which are tied together at the upper level.

**The Tower of London** is a historic castle on the north bank of the River Thames. It was founded by Julius Caesar and in 1066 rebuilt by William the Conqueror. It was used as a fortress, a royal residence and a prison. Now it is a museum of amour and also the place where Crown Jewels are kept. In present days, just as many centuries ago, the Ceremony of the Keys takes place at its gates.

**Trafalgar Square** is a square in central London. With its position in the heart of London, it is a tourist attraction, and one of the most famous squares in the United Kingdom and the world. At its centre is Nelson's Column, which is guarded by four lion statues at its base. The name commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar (1805), a British naval victory of the Napoleonic Wars.

**V — Victoria and Albert Museum** is the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, housing a permanent collection of over 4.5 million objects. Named after Prince Albert and Queen Victoria, it was founded in 1852. Its collection spans 5,000 years of art, from ancient times to the present day, in virtually every medium, from the cultures of Europe, North America, Asia and North Africa. The holdings of ceramics, glass, textiles, costumes, silver, ironwork, jewellery, furniture, medieval objects, sculpture, prints and printmaking, drawings and photographs are among the largest and most comprehensive in the world.

**W — Westminster Abbey** is a large, mainly Gothic church, in Westminster, located just to the west of the Palace of West-

minster. It is the traditional place of coronation and burial site for English, later British and later still (and currently) monarchs of the Commonwealth Realms. It briefly held the status of a cathedral from 1546–56, and is a Royal Peculiar. Many English sovereigns, outstanding statesmen, painters and poets (Newton, Darwin and Tennyson among them) are buried here.

**Z — Zoo** is the world's oldest scientific zoo. It was opened in London on April 27, 1828 and was originally intended to be used as a collection for scientific study. It was eventually opened to the public in 1847. Today it houses a collection of 755 species of animals, with 15,104 individuals, making it one of the largest collections in the United Kingdom.

## "All about England in the ABC"

### A - Animals

It has been said that the English are a nation of animal lovers. In support of that idea, attention is drawn to the many laws and organisations which exist here to protect animals.



### B - BBC

The British Broadcasting Corporation is the longest established and largest broadcaster in the world.



**A — Albion** (Greek: Ἀλβιών) is the oldest known name of the island of Great Britain. It is thought to derive from the white cliffs of Dover. Today, it is still sometimes used poetically to refer to the island or (incorrectly) England in particular.

**Animals:** It has been said that the English are a nation of animal lovers. In support of that idea, attention is drawn to the many laws and organizations which exist here to protect animals. The most well known and widely respected is the Royal Society for the Pre-

vention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

**B — BBC:** The British Broadcasting Corporation is the longest established and largest broadcaster in the world. The BBC is a publicly owned corporation that

operates under a Royal Charter issued by the British Crown. The BBC's main responsibility is to provide public service radio, television and Internet broadcasting.

**Big Ben:** The Clock Tower called "Big Ben" is known the world over. The name Big Ben actually refers not to the clock-tower itself, but to the thirteen ton bell hung within. The bell was named after the first commissioner of works, Sir Benjamin Hall.

**Buckingham Palace** is the official London residence of the British monarch. Located in the City of Westminster, the palace is a setting for state occasions and royal hospitality.

**C — Cambridge University:** The University of Cambridge is the second oldest university in the English-speaking world. The university grew out of an association of scholars that was formed in 1209 by scholars leaving Oxford after a dispute with townsfolk there. The two "ancient universities" have many common features and are often jointly referred to as *Oxbridge*.

**Cricket** is a bat-and-ball team sport that is first documented as being played in southern England in the 16th century. By the end of the 18th century, cricket had developed to the point where it had become the national sport of England.

**D — Double-Decker Bus** is a bus that has two levels or "decks". They are in common use throughout the United Kingdom. The red double-decker buses in London have become an icon of Britain.

**E — English Channel:** It is the piece of water between France and England. It is about 560 km (350 mi) long and varies in width from 240 km (150 mi) at its widest,

to only 34 km (21 mi) in the Strait of Dover. At 37.9 kilometers (23.5 mi), the Channel Tunnel has the longest undersea portion of any tunnel in the world.

**F — Fish and Chips** is a popular take-away food that originated in 1858 or 1863. It consists of deep-fried fish (traditionally cod, haddock or flounder) in batter or breadcrumbs with deep-fried chipped (slab-cut) potatoes. The dish became popular in wider circles in London and South East England in the middle of the 19th century.

**G — Guy Fawkes' Night:** November 5th when people light fireworks and burn a guy on a bonfire. This is in memory of the time when Guy Fawkes tried to destroy Parliament in London in 1605.

**H — Halloween:** The night of October 31 when it was formerly believed that the spirits of the dead appeared. Children make jack-o'-lanterns: candles are put inside hollow pumpkins which have holes cut into them in the shape of eyes and a mouth.

**I — Isles:** England is situated on the British Isles. The British Isles are a group of islands off the northwest coast of continental Europe.

**J — Jaguar:** Jaguar Cars Ltd, better known simply as *Jaguar* is a British luxury car manufacturer, headquartered in Coventry, England. Founded as the Swallow Sidecar Company in 1922 by two motorcycle enthusiasts Sir William Lyons and William Walmsley.

**K — Keep Left:** Be careful when you cross the street in England, because the traffic keeps to the left and not to the right as in European countries.

When you want to cross the street, look first to the right and then to the left.

**L — Lion:** The lion, the "King of beasts", has been used as a symbol of national strength and of the British monarchy for many centuries.

**London** is the capital of the UK. It is situated upon both banks of the River Thames. Its population is about 7 million people. The Romans founded it more than 2000 years ago. Now London is really a precious stone of the British Crown.

**M — Manchester United FC:** This football club was formed in 1878. Manchester United are the reigning English champions, having won the 2008–09 Premier League. The club is one of the most successful in the history of English football and has won 22 major honours since Alex Ferguson became manager in November 1986.

**N — Nursery Rhymes:** The term nursery rhyme is used for "traditional" songs for young children in England. In the early nineteenth century printed collections of rhymes began to spread to other countries.

**O — Oxford University:** One of the oldest and most highly regarded English universities. Oxford University is a group of independent colleges, they are 34 now. The University was created in the first years of the 13th century.

**P — Parliament:** Britain is a parliamentary monarchy. Parliament represents the legislative branch. It has existed since 1265. Having been organized in the reign of King Edward I, it is the oldest parliament in the world.

Parliament consists of two chambers or houses: the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

**Pound:** It is a monetary unit circulating in England. In 1971 Britain changed over to decimal currency system — 100 new pence to the pound (£).

**Pubs:** The word pub is short for public house. Pubs are important part of English life. People talk, eat, drink, meet their friends and relax there. Most pubs are open from 11 to 11. They have traditional names which date back over 600 years.

**Q — Queen:** The UK is a constitutional monarchy. The official head of the state is the king or the queen. But the country is actually run by the government, led by the Prime Minister. The present Queen is Elisabeth II. She was born on April 21, 1926. The Queen lives at Buckingham Palace.

**R — Red Rose:** The red rose is the national symbol of England. It is connected with the history of the country. The Wars of the Roses were the wars within the country (the 15th century). The Duke of Lancaster (his emblem was the red rose) won, so the emblem of England became the red rose.

**S — Soccer** is more commonly known as football. The modern game was codified in England following the formation of The Football Association, whose 1863 Laws of the Game created the foundations for the way the sport is played today. The England national football team is the joint oldest in the world.

**Stonehenge** is the most famous prehistoric monument in England. It is located in the middle of Salisbury Plain, to the northwest of Southampton. Even now, nearly 4000 years after it was built, large numbers of tourists come to see it.

**T — Tea:** England is a tea-drinking nation. The most English like their tea strong and dark, but with a lot of milk. Afternoon Tea is a light meal typically eaten between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. High Tea (also known as meat tea) is an early evening meal, typically eaten between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

**Thames:** In comparison with major rivers of the world, the Thames is a very small river. It has a total length of just 346 km (215 miles) and is the longest river wholly in England. The Thames flows through London, the capital city, and has played a central role in British history for some 2000 years.

**U — United Kingdom:** England is a country that is part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy and unitary state consisting of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

**V — Viking Centre:** An archaeological museum in York dealing with the Saxon period (600–1066). The visitors of the museum are carried in “time cars” through a vivid recreation of York as a part and trading centre under the Danish kings.

**W — Weather:** The weather in England changes very quickly. One day may be fine and the next day may be cold or rainy. That is why the English say, “Other countries have a climate, in England we have weather.” People talk about the weather more here than in the most parts of the world.

**Wimbledon:** An important tennis competition which takes place every summer in the part of London called Wimbledon. It is considered to be typically English and rather old-fashioned and is an important social occasion.

**X — Xmas** is *abbrev.* for Christmas, a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is celebrated on December 25. It is very popular in England.

**Y — Yorkshire Pudding** is a dish that originated in Yorkshire, England, and has attained wide popularity. It is made from batter and most often served with roast beef, chicken, or any meal in which there is gravy.

**Z — Zoo:** London Zoo is the world’s oldest scientific zoo. It was opened in London on April 27, 1828. Today it houses a collection of 755 species of animals, with 15,104 individuals, making it one of the largest collections in the United Kingdom.

## "The ABC of English Christmas"



**A — Advent:** The period between Advent Sunday, the Sunday closest to the 30th of November, and Christmas Day;

**Angel** is a traditional Christmas decoration.

**B — Bauble** is one of the most popular Christmas ornament designs.

**Bells:** A traditional Christmas decoration.

**C — Candy Cane** is a treat and a decoration made of sugar. It is traditionally white with red stripes.

**Candle** is a traditional Christmas decoration.

**Card:** Christmas card was first made and posted in 1843. Every family sends and receives them at Christmas.

**Carol:** A Christian religious song that is sung at Christmas.

**Cracker** is an integral part of Christmas celebrations. Crackers are typically pulled at the Christmas dinner table or at parties.

**D — Decorations:** Any of several types of decorations used at Christmastime. The traditional colors of Christmas are green, snow white, and heart red.

**Dinner** is an important part of the holiday's celebration. A standard Christmas meal includes turkey or goose, meat, gravy, potatoes, vegetables, pudding, mince pies and fruit cake.

**E — Elf** is a diminutive creature that lives with Santa Claus in the North Pole and acts as his helper.

**Eve:** The evening or entire day preceding Christmas Day that takes place on December 25.

**F — Family:** Christmas is a family holiday.

**G — Ginger bread:** Children help their mothers to bake cakes and cookies, which they decorate and then hang on their Christmas trees.

**H — Holly:** This plant has fruit in winter. Its berries are red and symbolize drops of blood.

**I — Icing:** Domestically, it is used to make icing or frosting and other cake decorations.

**Jesus:** Christmas is the day on which Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Jingle Bells** is one of the best-known and commonly sung winter songs in the world.

**K — Kings:** Three kings or wise men (named Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar) visited the infant Jesus in the manger.

**L — Lights:** The use of decorative, festive lighting during the Christmas holiday season is a long standing tradition.

**M — Mistletoe** is used as a Christmas decoration, and people often kiss under it.

**N — North Pole:** According to a tradition which can be traced to the 1820s, Santa Claus lives in the North Pole.

**O — Ornaments** are decorations that are used to festoon a Christmas tree.

**P — Pie** is a traditional Christmas dessert made from fruit, nuts and flour.

**Poinsettia:** This plant is red and star shaped. Thus the Poinsettia became associated with the Christmas season.

**Presents:** The British thoroughly choose Christmas presents for their relatives, friends and even their pets.

**Pudding** is traditionally served on Christmas Day.

**Q — Quiet:** The children should be quiet on Christmas Eve waiting for Santa Claus.

**R — Reindeers:** They pull the sleigh of Santa Claus and help him deliver Christmas gifts.

**S — Santa Claus** is a figure with legendary, historical and folkloric aspects who brings presents for children on the night before Christmas Day.

**Star** revealed the birth of Jesus to the magi, or “wise men”, and later led them to Bethlehem.

**Stocking:** This piece of clothes is hung by children on Christmas Eve for Santa Claus to fill it with presents and sweets.

**T — Tree** is traditionally brought into the home and decorated with Christmas lights (originally candles), ornaments and candy canes.

**Turkey:** Christmas turkey is a traditional dish on Christmas Eve.

**U — Under the tree:** A single by The Water Babies released in the UK on 12 December 2005. The song was in the UK Singles Chart Top 75 for three weeks.

**V — Virgin Mary** is a Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee. She is identified in the New Testament as the mother of Jesus.

**W — Wreath** is a Christmas decoration to celebrate the birth of Christ.

**X — Xmas** is a common abbreviation of the word “Christmas”.

**Y — Yule log:** The expression “Yule log” has come to refer to log-shaped Christmas cakes, also known as “chocolate logs”.

**Z — Zzzzzz:** The children must sleep when Santa Claus makes his rounds delivering gifts.

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