**English around us**

When you were learning the meaning of the word "around" you were given an example of using it in the sentence "English around the world". Let's think why it is said so. "Do you speak English?" — this question is most frequently heard when people from different countries gather. Although there are about three thousand languages in the world, EngUsh is the most wide­spread. It is the official language in many countries. It is the official language of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the United States of America, of Australia and New Zealand. English is used as one of the official languages in Canada, in the Irish Republic and the Republic of South Africa. It is also spoken as a second language in many parts of India and Africa.

English is the most widely used language in international business, science and foreign affairs. Some people say that English should be the international language because it is the most widespread language in the world. They think that many problems may be solved easier if everyone speaks English. So we can say English concerns everyone.

Let's put ourselves into the real conditions of our life. English is every­where. It is in signs, clothing, soft drinks and households products around the world. The names of pop-group, software and magazines are often presented in English. English words are used as an element magic on T-shirts, sweat shirts, and caps. Sometimes we use English words for effect rather than as a language, for example. "OK!" or "no problem" to the end of our talk.

Learning English is becoming important for everyone because we live in real life and we should know what is going on around us in the world. The world is changing rapidly in many fields, of technology, business, science, education, arts and medicine ['medsin]. These changes will influence us sooner or later.

**At the theatre.**

There are not many theatres in my town but they are all very popular with public. I am a theatre lover, too. As for me, I prefer drama to all other theatres, but I like opera and musical comedy, too.

I'll never forget my first visit to the Opera and Ballet Theatre. My friend and I wanted to see the famous bailey "Swan Lake" by Tchaikovsky. We bought the tickets in advance and came to the theatre half an hour before the show.

At 7 sharp the perfomance began. From the first minute I was deeply impressed by everything I saw on the stage. The costumes were fine. The dancing and music were thrilling. The ballet seemed to me a fairy-tale. I had never seen anything more wonderful. My friend also enjoyed every minute of it. When the curtain fell at the end of the perfomance there came a storm of applause. It seemed that it would never end. The dancers received call after call. They were presented with large bouquets of flowers. We also applauded enthusiastically. The perfomance was a great success.

• Talk to your partner about your visit to the theatre.

2) Television has become one of the most important facts of modern life. It is very much a part of the modern world. Its effects are felt all over the world. It has entered homes, stores, airports and factories.

But TV will never have the impact on civilization that the invention of the written word has had. The book - this little thing, cheap, portable, unbreakable, endlessly reusable has the greatest effect on the world.

— What is your opinion? Work in groups of 3 and 4.

^ П. Widen your vocabulary.

How many words can you make? Consult a dictionary.

Great Britain

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated in the north-west coast of Europe between the Atlantic Ocean on the north and north-west and the north-west and the North Sea on the east.

The United Kingdom (UK) consists of four parts. They are: England, Scotland, Wales and Nothern Ireland. The UK lies on the British Isles. There are some 5 500 islands. The two of them are the main islands. They are: Great Britain and Ireland. They are separated from the continent by the Eng­lish Channel and the Strait of Dover. The West coast of the country is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea.

The UK is one of the smallest countries in the world. It is twice smaller than France or Spain. The area of the UK is some 244 100 square kilometres. The population of Great Britain is over 57 million. The population lives mostly in towns and cities and suburbs.

Great Britain is not rich in natural resources. Coal and oil are the most of them. The UK is one of the most industrialized countries. Agriculture takes also an important sector in the economy of the country. British people grow wheat, fruit, vegetables, oats.

Great Britain is well known in the world as a nature-loving country. Its people care about the flora and fauna of the British Isles.

London Zoo

London Zoo is a place of interest for many visitors. It was opened in 1827 by the Zoological Society. The first enclosures were built to give an idea of the places the animals came from. African animals were kept in grass huts, for instance. Today there are more than 8000 animals in the Zoo. Some are very rare, so they are kept for the purpose of producing young. They are studied and protected by zoo specialists from getting any harm. Many ani­mals were born in London Zoo or in other zoos around the world.

The elephants have the biggest appetite in the Zoo. An elephant's diet consists of hay, grass, linseed cakes, cabbages, carrots, potatoes, dates, salt, vitamins and minerals, washed down with 100 litres of water.

You can take an animal into your family at London Zoo for a year. The cost depends on the animal you choose, and is based on the amount of food it eats in a year. Your name goes on a plaque near the animal's cage.

Every day you can watch animals being fed, for instance snakes, lions and seal. Around London Zoo there are trays of exhibits you can touch, for example, you might be able to handle a crocodile skin or a snake skeleton.

In summer you can have a ride on a pony, donkey, a camel, or a cart pulled by a South American llama.

Sport in Kazakhstan and in My Life

Sport helps people to stay in a good shape, keeps them fit, healthy and makes them more organized, better disciplined in their daily activities and energetic.

Many sports are popular in Kazakhstan. They are: football, tennis, hockey, weight-lifting, track and field, basketball, volleyball, boxing, judo and carate, cross-country skiing, figure skating, climbing mountains, horse-racing.

All these sports have their strong supporters and fans. Thousands of peo­ple go to the stadium to support their favourite team and many thousands more watch the game on TV. For many people sport is the main form of entertainment. The people in the Republic of Kazakhstan are not only sports fans. They take an active part in all sports and sports activities, professional and amateur.

There are different sporting societies and amateur clubs in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Some of them constantly take part in different international tournaments and are well-known all over the world.

Kazakhstan sportsmen have won a great number of world records in gymnastics, judo, wrestling, athletics.

International and national matches attract many fans. Some most impor­tant games and sport events are transmitted over the radio and TV.

My favourite kind of sport is tennis. I have been playing it since I was 11 years old.

My favourite sport

Hi! It's me again. There is plenty to do after school hours, particularly sport which I enjoy most. I love many sports but best of all football. Almost all my friends are in our football team. We train hard and we often play for the school in various regional youth tournaments. Our coach has taught us all rigid rules which must be strictly observed. The last game we played ended in a draw - 3:3. And though we know the famous Olimpic quotation "The most important thing is not to win, but to take part", we all want to win some day.

I do sport every day. After school on Mondays I go running with my friends for about an hour. Then I go to the swimming pool. Swimming is an excellent way to keep fit. It makes your legs and body strong.

Pele, the greatest footballer of all time, is my idol in football.

He became a world star at the age of only 17, when Brazil first won the World Cup in Sweden. He played in four World Cup competitions and scored over 1.200 goals in his career before finally retiring in 1977. In 1994 he be­came Brazilian Special Minister for Sport.

I'm happy that I have taken up sport. It helps me to become fit and I

hope it will help to develop confidence, persistence, resposibility, and courage

which are most important qualities to become a personality. Besides sport

gives you a sense of duty, a sense of collectivism and discipline. •

The Fifty Yard Race

{after William Saroyan)

Once I saw an advertisement in a magazine which said: "Thin? Weak? It's not too late - yet! I can make you into a REAL MAN. Just a few minutes every day with my wonder programme will give you a new body. Write me, and you will receive details of my wonder programme immediately. Act now - before it is too late. My address is: Samuel Strongfort, 119, 54th Street, New York, NY."

I was twelve then, and I decided to become the strongest man in my neighbourhood. I cut out an advertisement from the magazine, I wrote to Mr. Strongfort, put the letter in an envelope and sent it to him. He wrote back quickly. He said I was certainly intelligent — quite different from the ordinary person, and that I would some day become somebody. His opinion about me was very much like my own. But it was nice to hear it from a man in New York — a man with the finest body in the world. In the letter there were several photos of Mr. Strongfort with his big muscles and powerful chest. He was a huge man, though he said he had once been small and weak. It was an honour to have him as a friend.

The only trouble was — I didn't have the money to pay for his programme. And I couldn't explain this to him without seeming a very ordinary person, but soon another letter came, even friendlier than the first. Mr.Strongfort was not angry with me. He had even lowered the price. But it was still more than I could afford. Then a third letter came, and others followed it. In fact, I didn't write at all. Without money I had nothing to say. The letters came all winter. One day I got a beautiful letter about the coming of spring, youth, fresh strength, etc. The end of the letter mentioned the ugly subject of money. The price had gone down six or seven times. And Mr.Strongfort had decided to teach me all his secrets in one lesson. For three dollars he would change me from a nobody into a real man.

I borrowed the three dollars from my uncle and sent them to New York. The letter with Mr.Strongfort's secrets came back. They were strangely simple.

Continents and Countries of the World

We know that the Sun is the centre of solar system. There are seven planets in the solar system. The Earth is one of them. The Earth as other planets is round. If you look at the Earth from the space you will be able to see lands, seas, oceans, continents and different countries.

There are four oceans and six continents. The continents are Europe and Asia, Africa, America, Australia, Antarctic. America consists of North America and South America. The contintents are very large. Oceans and seas wash them and separate them from each other.

If we look at the map of the world we shall see many countries on the continents. There is only one country in Australia. It has got the same name as the continent. Countries of the world are different in their size. There are big and small countries. The largest country in the world is Russia and the smallest one is Vatican. Let us name some countries from each continent. Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Spain are in Europe. China, India, Pa­kistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan are in Asia. Russia is situated on the two continents: Europe and Asia. Egypt and Tunis are in Africa.

The United States and Canada are in the North America. Brazil and Chile are in the South America.

People of different nationalities live in their countries. They speak differ­ent languages. Each country has its national flag, anthem and its own tradi­tions and customs. The countries which we are going to speak about at our English lessons are Great Britain and Kazakhstan.