The 14th of December

Topic: Favorite holidays in Great Britain and in Russia.

Vocabulary

1 **Learn the words by heart. Enter the transcription. And say it out loud, paying attention to pronunciation.**

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| to decorate smth with… | украшать что-либо... |
| the Christ's birth | рождение Иисуса Христа |
| a Christmas (X-mas) tree | рождественская ёлка |
| to put stockings near the beds | класть чулки около кроватей |
| to sing carols | петь рождественные гимны |
| Father Christmas (Santa Claus) | Дед Мороз |
| Boxing Day | день подарков |
| the Queen's speech | речь королевы |
| Christmas Eve | рождественный сочельник |
| to climb down the chimney | залезать в дом по трубе |
| to put presents under the tree | класть подарки под елку |
| a bank day | выходной день для всех официальных заведений |

2. **Read and translate the text.**

Christmas in Great Britain.

On December 25, Britain, like the rest of the Catholic world, celebrates one of the most important Christian holidays - Christmas. The custom of giving gifts for Christmas was finally established in Britain only in Victorian times. The custom of putting gifts in a stocking or sock is also associated with Victorian England. There is this explanation for it: the "Christmas Grandfather" traveled through the air and made his way into homes through a chimney. Going down one of the houses, he dropped some gold coins into a sock that was hung to dry over the hearth. Since then, socks and stockings have been hung over the chimney on Christmas Eve in the hope that something would fall in. The British were the first to decorate homes and give gifts of hanging plants such as holly, ivy, and mistletoe. This custom is very old and existed in pagan times. The plants were supposed to cleanse the house from evil spirits and remind us that spring is just around the corner. Royalty in the middle of last century adopted the German custom of decorating a Christmas tree. The first Christmas tree was installed at Windsor Castle in 1841. 3. 3. **Answer the questions.**

1. When is Christmas celebrated in Britain?

2. Why do the British put presents in stockings?

3. What plants are used to decorate the home for Christmas in the UK?

4. Do they decorate the Christmas tree in the UK at Christmas time?

**4. Read and translate the text.**

Russian Traditions.

It is a well-known fact that most Russians are patriots of their country: they are usually homesick when they leave Russia for a long period of time, and are usually keen supporters of traditions. Russian people keep up a lot of *folk traditions*. Many of them are of religious origin and were, actually, banned after the Russian Revolution of 1917 but survived and are now restored. These are all kinds of traditions based on Christianity and the Russian Orthodox Church, like those of Christmas, Lent and Easter. A well-known Easter tradition is, for example, painting eggs bright colours to symbolize springtime and life, and playing an Easter egg game in which each person takes a hard-boiled, coloured egg. Players make pairs and then tap the ends of their eggs together. First the wide ends of the two eggs are tapped together, then the narrow ends, and finally one wide and one narrow end. When a player's egg breaks, he or she leaves the game, which continues until one player is left with an unbroken egg. The one who wins is considered to be likely to have good luck in everything. The second group is formed by folk traditions which date back to the times before Christianity, like fortune-telling, some wedding or funeral rituals. The third group is formed by traditions pertaining to official celebrations, like those of the Victory Day when World War II veterans meet in Moscow in front of the Bolshoi Theatre building, and people of all ages come to congratulate them and give them flowers. My favourite Russian folk tradition is Maslenitsa, or Pancake Week, which is a combination of Christian and pagan traditions and is the last week before the Lent. There are several reasons why I like it so much. Firstly, I am really fond of Russian folk traditions, and Maslenitsa week is full of traditional Russian festival activities: masquerades, snowball fights, sledding and sleigh rides. Secondly, it is a chance to taste traditional Russian food which we don't very often cook nowadays, as we got used to buy ready-made food in supermarkets. The essential element of Maslenitsa celebration is Russian pancakes, made of rich foods like butter, eggs and milk. They are usually eaten with sour cream or caviar. For many Christians, Maslenitsa is the last chance to meet with the worldly delights before the fasting of Lent. (For Russian official holidays, see Public Holidays in Russia.)

**5. Find equivalents in Russian to the underlined words.**

**6. Retell the text.**

**7. Professional holidays in Russia.**

A professional holiday is a day officially established by a legal act (usually a presidential decree) dedicated to an employee of a particular profession or area of activity. At the moment there are officially established professional holidays in Russia. There are 54 of them in total. Here are the main ones:

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| Winter December 3 - Lawyer's Day  January 12 - Prosecutor's Day in the Russian Federation  February 9 - Civil Aviation Worker's Day  February 10 - Diplomatic Worker's Day | In spring 25 March - Culture Worker's Day  May 7 - Radio Day, holiday of workers of all communication branches  May 21 - Polar Explorer's Day  28 May - Border Guards' Day |
| In summer June 8 - Social Worker's Day  3rd Sunday in June - Day of medical worker  1st Sunday in July - Maritime and River Fleet Workers' Day  1st Sunday in August - Railway Workers' Day  2nd Saturday in August - Sportsman's Day | In autumn 8th September - Finance Worker's Day  5th October - Teacher's Day  1 November - Bailiff's Day  5 November - Military Intelligence Officer's Day |

**8. Read the table.**

Holidays. Professional holidays.

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| - National holidays are celebrations established to commemorate events of special historical significance that have had a significant impact on the development of statehood. The celebration of national holidays is accompanied by official events at the central and local public authorities.  - Public holidays are celebrations that commemorate events of social and political significance. The celebration of public holidays may be accompanied by official events.    - Professional and other holidays are holidays that do not have the status of national and public holidays and are celebrated by certain categories of citizens. The list of holidays is established by the President.  - Festive days - Days on which national and public holidays are celebrated are recognised as public holidays in accordance with labour legislation.  - Festive days are non-working days. When a weekend and a holiday coincide, the next working day after the holiday is a weekend. | - Национальные праздники — праздники, устанавливаются в ознаменование событий, имеющих особое историческое значение, оказавших существенное влияние на развитие государственности. Празднование национальных праздников сопровождается проведением официальных мероприятий в центральных и местных государственных органах.  -Государственные праздники — праздники, посвящённые событиям, имеющим общественно-политическое значение. Празднование государственных праздников может сопровождаться проведением официальных мероприятий.  - Профессиональные и иные праздники - это праздники, не наделённые статусом национальных и государственных праздников, отмечаемые отдельными категориями граждан. Перечень праздничных дат устанавливается Президентом.  - Праздничные дни- Дни, в которые отмечаются национальные и государственные праздники, признаются праздничными днями в соответствии с трудовым законодательством.  - Праздничные дни являются нерабочими днями. При совпадении выходного и праздничного дней выходным днем является следующий после праздничного рабочий день. |

**9. Compose a dialogue on the topic: Professional holidays in Russia**. (3-5 фраз с каждой стороны)

**10. Read and translate the text.**

Day of the railwayman.

Day of the railwayman is a very important holiday. Since railways are one of the main transport arteries of any country. Through them, between each other, cities and villages connect, which divide distances into many thousands of kilometers. And even to the smallest and most remote settlements can easily be reached by an electric train, while staying in comfortable conditions. There is no specific date for this holiday. Nevertheless, the Railway Workers' Day is celebrated annually in August, namely on the first Sunday of this month. The history of the holiday itself takes its roots deep enough, even at a time when tsars ruled in Russia. It was founded in 1896. Connected and timed the feast was on the birthday of Emperor Nicholas I. Mainly, because it was under Nicholas I that the construction of the first railways in Russia began. It was at his command was builtroad to Tsarskoe Selo. A little later the railway connected Moscow and St. Petersburg. And at that time this holiday had a certain date - June 25. But after the October Revolution, the Day of the Railwayman, however, like all the "royal" holidays, was canceled. In the twentieth century, the Soviet government in 1936 another date was set on July 30. And after some time, and this date it waspostponed. Since then, nothing has changed. On the same day, this holiday is celebrated in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan. But in Ukraine, the date of celebration is set by the government on November 4. Whatever the date, all employees railway transport should be given credit on their professional holiday. Such an important and necessary work for us is carried out by all who have to do with it: both guides, and machinists, and tram drivers. Day of the railwayman is a holiday, when we should thank everyone who works in this field for our benefit, who tries to make our trip or travel the most comfortable, safe and fast. On this day, it is necessary to recall the rich history of the formation and development of the entire industry and the holiday itself, to note the professional achievements and achievements in this field. In addition, it is worth noting that not only those people who work on the railway at the moment are worthy of congratulations. On the Day of the Railwayman, congratulations should also be received by veterans, those who are already retired at the moment, but at one time gave up this important work and hard work for many years. This holiday concerns also those who teach railway educational institutions, and all those who, in the general activities and development of this industry, have contributed a part of themselves, their lives. Therefore, congratulations are heard everywhere: on the radio, on television, and in newspapers, which, of course, are worthy of all railway workers. Special attention and respect deserve the railway troops, who have served and continue to serve the Fatherland with dedication and devotion. Today they take an active part in the liquidation of the consequences of various accidents directly on the railways, as well as during emergencies and very serious disasters anywhere in the country. Day of the railway troops has its own clearly the fixed date for the holiday is 6 August. The holiday was founded in 1996, in the summer. And in 2004, in the spring, these troops were included (by presidential decree VV Putin) into the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. But this day is notcelebrated with special celebrations. This holiday was established, mainly for In order to emphasize how much strength and courage military trainmen showed during the war and in peacetime, passenger and freight trains ran smoothly throughout the country.

**11. Answer the questions:**

1. When is Railwayman's Day celebrated?

2. When was it founded?

3. Why was the decision to create a holiday made?

4. Who gets congratulations on Railroad Day?

5. How is the holiday covered in the mass media?