

administration. Her career as a doctor was spent treating old people, and she developed a great respect for the British character shown by her patients. Among their virtues (*достоинства*) were politeness, lack of self-importance, emotional self-control. No matter to what social class they belonged, they had dignity (*достоинство*) and self-respect. Their virtues far outweighed their vices.

My medical experience happens to prove it as well. I remember at the beginning of my career as a doctor in a rural area, where one day an old man called me out to his home. He had been very weak for some weeks that he had difficulty in getting up from the sofa on which he was lying.

"I tried for as long as I could not to bother you, doctor", getting said, "but I can't manage it any longer."

"Doctors are supposed to be called out when the person is very weak," I said. But I was really impressed with his behaviour.

**b) Compare both texts and say why they are so different.**

**6. Go back to ex. 1 and answer the questions again.**

**7.**  **Describe a typical British person as you see them.**

## LESSON 4. A certain conception of a nation

**Communicative area:** inferring meaning from context

**Active grammar:** types of pronouns

**Active vocabulary:** aspiration, devotion, obsessive

**1. Answer the questions.**

1. What influences your opinion? (books, newspapers, films, TV, first-hand experience, other people)
2. Which information do you find most relevant?
3. Do you ever change your opinion when you get more information?

2. a) Look at the following characteristics and complete the mind map.



**Aspiration** [ˌæspɪˈreɪʃ(ə)n] strong desire to achieve something, such as success.


**Brash** [bræʃ] tastelessly or offensively loud, showy, or bold.

**Insular** [ɪnsjʊlə(r)] not interested in meeting anyone outside your own group or country, or not interested in learning new ideas or ways of doing things.

**Obsessive** [əbˈsesɪv] motivated by a persistent idea or impulse, continually preoccupied with a particular activity, person, or thing.

**Heavy-handed** [ˌheviˈhændɪd] using too much force, or not considering people's feelings enough when dealing with a situation.

**Nobility** [nəʊˈbɪləti] an honest and brave way of behaving that people admire.

**Devotion** [dɪˈvəʊʃ(ə)n] great love, admiration, or loyalty. 

b) Guess what nationality this mind map might describe.

3. a) Read the excerpt from Tony Blair's book and check your predictions.

During my time as Prime Minister I came to love America – loved **its sense of aspiration**, the notion of coming from nothing and making something of yourself. I didn't start **that** way;

I didn't know many Americans at school or university, and I was 32 before I visited the U.S. My view of America had been formed from movies and TV shows. But in 1985, I was part of a delegation of Members of Parliament.

What I learnt that day is **that** Americans can be really, really clever. It was a useful lesson for my time in office.

### A certain conception of a nation

Clinton, Bush, Obama: of course, they are different from **one another**. But **they** share a great similarity too. They meet, I think, at a certain conception about the character of America itself. ...

Americans can be all that the rest of the world sometimes accuses them of: **brash, loud, insular, obsessive and heavy-handed**. But America is great for a reason. It is looked up to, despite all the criticism, for a reason. There is a **nobility** in the American character that has been developed over the centuries, derived in part, from the waves of migration that form the stock, from the circumstances of independence, from the Civil War, from historical facts and coincidences. But it is there.

That nobility isn't about being nicer, better or more successful than anyone else. It is a feeling about the country. It is a **devotion** to the American ideal that at a certain point goes beyond class, race, religion or upbringing. That ideal is about values: freedom, the rule of law, democracy. It is also about the way you achieve: on merit, by your own efforts and hard work. But it is most of all that you as an individual take second place to the interests of the nation as a whole. It is what makes the country determined to overcome **its** challenges.

*Adapted from Tony Blair's*

*A Journey: My Political Life, published by Alfred A. Knopf*

**b) Read the text again and say what influenced his first ideas about the Americans and what he came to understand later?**

**4. a)  Read the information on pronouns in the English language on page 325 and find in the excerpt above:**

1. four personal pronouns: three subject pronouns and one object pronoun;

2. three possessive pronouns (one of them followed by the adjective “own” for emphasis);
3. two indefinite pronouns;
4. one example of each of the following pronouns: emphatic / reflexive, relative / conjunctive, reciprocal, demonstrative, negative, defining.

**b) What type of pronoun cannot be found in the text?**

**c) Some of the pronouns in the text are highlighted. Explain what they stand for.**

*Example: ... loved its sense of aspiration... its = America's*

**5. a) Complete the sentence: *Americans are...* . Write as many character traits as possible. Think how they greet each other, how they behave with friends and in public, what they wear, what they find important.**

**b) Compare what you've written with your partner. Explain why you think your characteristics are appropriate.**

## LESSON 5. American character

**Communicative area:** discussing and writing about British or American national character

**Active vocabulary:** diverse, multicultural

**1. Answer the questions.**

1. Do you think that people speaking the same language are similar?
2. What makes Americans different from the British (Australians, Canadians)?
3. Do they greet each other in the same way?
4. What do people wear?
5. How do they plan their time?