

UNIT 5

BRITAIN AND BELARUS ROUND THE CALENDAR

Lesson 1. Public or bank holidays?

1a. In her bedroom at Hill Ridge School Alesya found a calendar of holidays and special days. Look at the introductory page of the calendar and answer the questions: What holidays are they? When are they celebrated? Add the missing information.

Model. It's St Valentine's Day. It's celebrated on the fourteenth of February.





Grammar aid: *Dates*

Dates can be written in a different order and in different formats.

British English date format:

day / month / year.

Writing dates in British English	Writing dates in numbers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Jan • 16 January • 16 January 2021 • 16th January 2021 • the 16th of January 2021 • the 16th of January, 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/1/21 • 16.1.21 • 16-1-21 • 16/01/2021 • 16.01.2021 • 16-01-2021

Speaking the date / saying the date:

(It's) the sixteenth of January twenty twenty-one.

American English date format:

month / day / year.

Writing dates in American English	Writing dates in numbers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan. 16 • January 16 • January 16, 2021 <p><i>Less common formats</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 16th, 2021 • January the 16th, 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01/16/21 • 01.16. 21 • 01-16-21 • 01/16/2021 • 01.16.2021 • 01-16-2021

Speaking the date / saying the date:


(It's) January the sixteenth, twenty twenty-one.

1b. Match the names of special days with the pictures.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Christmas | 2. Halloween | 3. Mother's Day |
| 4. New Year | 5. Easter | 6. Queen's Official Birthday |
| 7. April Fool's Day | 8. St Valentine's Day | |

1c. Check what you know about holidays in Britain. On which holidays are

- ✓ friends and relatives invited?
- ✓ cards sent?
- ✓ presents given?
- ✓ special meals or dishes cooked?
- ✓ houses, streets, towns and cities decorated?
- ✓ fireworks displayed / let off?
- ✓ jokes played on people?
- ✓ parades watched?

1d.  Alesya is invited to the school radio to talk about holidays in Belarus. Student A – Alesya; student B – school reporter (use the questions from ex. 1c).

2a.   Read about days off in the UK and explain why there are different names for them.

British fact file: Holidays in the UK

In Britain you can hear different words about the days when most people do not go to work and celebrate different traditions or simply relax. These days off are called common law holidays¹, bank holidays and public holidays. Why? What's the difference?

We can find an explanation in history and law.

Before 1834 about thirty-three saints'² days and *religious* [rɛ'lidʒəs] *festivals* were celebrated as holidays, but in 1834 only four were left: 1 May, 1 November, Good Friday³ and Christmas Day. The name "bank holidays" first appeared

¹ **common law** [lɔ:] **holidays** – традиционные, общепринятые праздничные дни; ² **saint** [seɪnt] – святой; ³ **Good Friday** – Страстная пятница

in 1871 in the Bank Holidays Act, which **was introduced** by a politician [ˌpʊləˈtɪʃ(ə)n] Sir John Lubbock – a Liberal MP¹. A *banker*, scientist and *social reformer*, Sir John Lubbock aimed to *ease* the life of the working class people when he suggested introducing days off, which were not religious holidays. As banks **were closed**, all people had a day off. English people were so thankful that they called the first Bank Holidays “St Lubbock’s Days”.

After that, public holidays were *renamed* or added to the calendar of different UK countries in different years from 1903 to the present time.

Very often the two words – bank holidays and public holidays – are used interchangeably² in everyday life, although legally³ there is a difference. Strictly speaking, bank holidays are holidays when banks and many other businesses are closed for the day. Public holidays are holidays, which have been celebrated for many years through custom (обычай) and tradition. In fact, whether holidays are bank or public, is written in the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971, which replaced *the Bank Holidays Act 1871*.

If a public holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, it is usually celebrated on the next working weekday, called “a substitute⁴ public holiday”. Extra bank holidays are created by Royal proclamation⁵. For example, the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Lady Diana Spencer on 29 July 1981, the Golden Jubilee of Elizabeth II on Monday, 3 June 2002 and the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton on 29 April 2011 were made extra bank holidays.

2b. Read the “Grammar focus” and answer the questions.

1. What’s the difference between sentences (1) and (2)?
2. What do the sentences mean?
3. Why is sentence (2) used?
4. What are the grammar forms in bold called?
5. How are Past Simple Passive Voice forms formed?

¹MP = member of parliament – член парламента; ²interchangeably [ˌɪntəˈtʃeɪndʒəbli] – взаимозаменяемо; ³although [ɔ:lˈðəʊ] **legally** [ˈliːgəli] – хотя юридически; ⁴substitute [ˈsʌbstɪˌtju:t] – заменяющий; ⁵by Royal [ˈrɔɪəl] **proclamation** [ˌprɒkləˈmeɪʃ(ə)n] – по королевскому объявлению



Grammar focus: *Past Simple Passive Voice*

1) The Bank Holidays Act **introduced** bank holidays in Britain in 1871.

2) Bank holidays **were introduced** (by the Bank Holidays Act) in Britain in 1871.

S

was / were

V3

See “Grammar reference” on page 257.

2c. Look through the text and find all the sentences in the Passive Voice. What do they mean? What forms are they?

2d. Guess the meaning of the words in italics.

3a. Look through the text again and explain what each word combination means: *a day off, a common law holiday, a bank holiday, a public holiday, a substitute public holiday, an extra bank holiday.*

3b. Which of the special days mentioned in ex. 1 are not public holidays?

4a. Discover the holidays of the UK countries. Look at the table and speak about the changes in the holidays in the UK countries. Use the verbs *replace, rename, introduce, make, add* in the Passive Voice.

Holidays in the UK: from past to present

England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Date	Name	Notes
1 January	New Year's Day	Bank holiday from 1974
17 March	St Patrick's Day	Bank holiday in Northern Ireland only (1903)
<i>variable</i> [ˈveəriəb(ə)l]	Good Friday	Traditional common law holiday (1871)
<i>variable</i>	Easter Monday	Bank holiday (1871)


Date	Name	Notes
First Monday in May	Early May bank holiday	From 1978
Last Monday in May	Spring bank holiday	From 1971. Replaced Whit Monday which used to be a public holiday (1871)
12 July	Battle of the Boyne (Orangemen's Day)	A bank holiday in Northern Ireland only from 2010
Last Monday in August	Summer bank holiday	A bank holiday from 1971. Replaced the first Monday in August (1871) (August bank holiday)
25 December	Christmas Day	A common law holiday (1871)
26 December	Boxing Day	A bank holiday (1871)

4b. Look at the two tables and compare the holidays in the countries. What are the common law holidays in all the UK countries?

Scotland

Date	Name
1 January	New Year's Day (1871)
2 January	2 nd January (1973)
<i>variable</i>	Good Friday (1871)
1 st Monday in May	Early May bank holiday (1871)
Last Monday in May	Spring bank holiday (1978)
1 st Monday in August	Summer bank holiday (1871)
30 November	St Andrew's Day (2007)
25 December	Christmas Day (1871)
26 December	Boxing Day (1974)




4c. Which holidays are celebrated in all the UK countries? Which is the most attractive holiday? Explain why.

5.  Write 8–10 sentences about public holidays in the UK. Use ex. 3a, 4a and 4b.

Lesson 2. Christmas fun

1. Answer the questions about holidays and special days in Belarus.

1. How many holidays are celebrated in your country?
2. Which are days off?
3. What's your favourite holiday? Why? How do you usually celebrate it?

2.    Play one of the most popular British board games “Snakes and ladders”. Consult the word box for the words in bold if you need.

Rules

1. The game is played by two or three players (teams).
2. You need a dice and two or three counters.
3. You throw the dice and move your counter to the corresponding number.
4. For an odd number (1, 3, ...) read the question in the question box and find the answer to this question in the answer box. Move your counter to the number of the answer.
5. For an even number (2, 4, ...) read the answer in the answer box and then find the corresponding (соответствующий) question in the question box. Move your counter to the number of the question.
6. If you get on a ladder, go up. If you get on a snake, go down.
7. The first player to go from 1 to 26 is the winner.