



UNIT 6

VERY TRADITIONAL BRITAIN

Lesson 1. Traditions on the British roads

1. Cars on the road unite all people. Most people of the world are drivers. Are there any differences in driving in Belarus and the UK?

2. Make questions about driving in Britain. Use the prompts.

1. What / like / drive / Britain? *What is it like to drive in Britain?*
2. petrol¹ / expensive / Britain?
3. motorists / have to wear / front seat belts / the UK?
4. what / minimum driving age?
5. many roads / Britain?
6. roads / good / the UK?
7. what / the National Speed limit / the UK?
8. How / all speed limits / given on signs?
9. How / signs / indicate speed limits?
10. Why / drive on the left / in Britain?

3a.  Listen, read and match the questions (ex. 2) with parts of the text.

The first thing you notice when you come to Britain is that they drive on the left-hand side of the road. Taking the left-hand side on the road is a custom or habit that goes back centuries when people used to carry swords², most often in their right hand, to protect themselves. The custom was encouraged by the General **Highways** Act of the British Government (1773),



¹ petrol ['petrəl] – бензин; ² sword [sɔ:d] – меч

which advised horse riders, coachmen¹ and people taking their vegetables to market to drive on the left. The rule was made a law by the Highway Act of 1835.

So, the second thing you notice is that the **steering wheel** is on the right. However, the pedals are in the same position as in left-handed cars, with the accelerator [æk'seləreɪtə] – gas pedal – on the right.

The **gears** and almost always the **handbrake** are both operated with the left hand. Less and less cars on the roads are with a manual gearbox (с ручной коробкой передач). Most modern cars are with an automatic gearbox.

Petrol ['petrəl] – 117p – and diesel ['di:z(ə)l] – 118p on average (25 October 2015) are among the most expensive in the world.

The wearing of front **seat belts** was made mandatory (обязательное) for motorists in 1983.

The minimum age for driving a car in the UK is 17, and 16 for riding a moped or motorbike with a maximum engine capacity (мощность двигателя) of 50cc (cubic centimetres).

There are some 225,000 miles (362,000 km) of roads in Britain. Many of the roads are built on the old roads laid down by the Romans centuries ago.

Roads in Britain range from wide modern **motorways** to narrow country **lanes** usually bordered by **hedges**, stone walls, grassy banks of rivers or ditches (рвы). Cities and towns tend to have compact streets because they go back to the times well before cars appeared, and were certainly not planned for large lorries².

The National Speed limits

On motorways and **dual carriageways** drivers can drive cars at a speed of 70 mph (112 km/h)

Single carriageway roads: 60 mph (96 km/h)

Built up areas, e.g. towns and villages: 30 mph (48 km/h)

Residential areas: 20 mph (35 km/h)



Grammar focus: *The article “a” in set expression*
at a speed of

See “Grammar reference” on page 258.

¹ **coachman** ['kəʊtʃmən] – кучер; ² **lorry** ['lɒri] = truck – грузовик



All speed limits and distances are given on **signs** in miles or miles per hour. One mile is about 1.6 km. Round signs indicate (указывают) speed limits with the number circled by a red band (полоса). When the speed limit is no longer applied, then there is a black line crossing through the number.

steering wheel ['stiəniŋ ,wi:l] – the wheel in a car, bus, etc. that the driver holds and turns to direct (направлять) the car

highway ['haɪweɪ] (n, c) – a wide road between towns and cities for fast driving

gear [gɪə] (n, c) – a mechanism which helps to change the speed of driving

brake [breɪk] (n, c) – the equipment in a car, bicycle, etc. used for slowing down or stopping

seat belt ['si:t ,belt] (n, c) – a strong belt (ремень) in a car or plane that you fasten ['fɑ:s(ə)n] across yourself to hold you in the seat

motorway ['məʊtə,weɪ] (n, c) – a wide road with several lanes in each direction, built for fast travel over long distances

lane [leɪn] (n, c) – 1) A narrow road in the countryside; 2) one of the parts of a wide road or motorway, separated from the other with white lines

hedge [hedʒ] (n, c) – a line of bushes ['bʊʃɪz] or small trees growing close together around a garden, field or along a road

dual carriageway ['dju:əl 'kæɪɪdʒweɪ] (n, c) – a road with a dividing line between the traffic in opposite directions and with two lanes in each direction (в каждом направлении)

single carriageway ['sɪŋg(ə)l 'kæɪɪdʒweɪ] (n, c) – a road with only one lane in each direction

sign [saɪn] (n, c) – a flat object with words or pictures on it, put in a public place to give information

3b. Act out an interview with British teens about driving. Use the questions in ex. 2 and the text.

4. Compare driving in Britain and in Belarus.

1. In Britain people drive on the left. *In Belarus we drive on the right.*
2. The steering wheel is on the right in British cars.
3. The accelerator (gas pedal) is on the right.
4. The gears and almost always the handbrake (parking brake) are operated with the left hand.
5. Most modern cars in Britain are automatic.
6. All motorists must wear front seat belts in Britain. The minimum age for driving a car in the UK is 17, and 16 for riding a moped or motorbike.



Traditions on the British roads (crossword)

5. Write information for foreign visitors to Belarus about driving on the roads.

Lesson 2. How are traditions broken?

1. Traditions are usually long living, but sometimes they are broken. Why or how are they broken? Brainstorm possible situations with the whole class.

2a. Read the fact file and the tasks (A–E). Listen to the conversations between a BBC spokesperson¹, a programme producer, a show presenter, and Tony Evans, head of the Olney pancake committee, part by part. Pause to do the tasks.

British fact file

Olney, Bucks², is a small market town, which is world-famous for its historic Shrove Tuesday³ pancake race, which started in 1445 and has only been open to women over 18 who have lived in the town for at least three months.

A. Choose what the talk is about.

3 February 2010.

1. The BBC spokesperson suggests organising a children's pancake race.

¹ **spokesperson** ['spəʊks,pɜːs(ə)n] – представитель (организации);

² **Bucks** – краткое название графства Бакингемшир; ³ **Shrove Tuesday** [ˌʃrəʊv 'tʃuːsdeɪ] – вторник на масленой неделе