**Today we are going to present to you what we’ve learned about the UK throughout the year.**

**Let’s start with some interesting facts about the UK.**

* **The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern   Ireland (the UK) is actually made up of four different countries: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Great Britain includes only England, Scotland and Wales.**

**London is the capital city of the UK but also England. Likewise (λάικγουάιζ), Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their capitals.**

**The capital city of Wales is Cardiff. Edinburgh (Έντινμπρα) is the capital city of Scotland. Northern Ireland’s capital city is Belfast.**

**The flag of the UK is called Union Jack. It is made up of the flags of England, Scotland and Ireland (now Northern Ireland) which all have the crosses of their patron saints (σέιντς):**

**The flag of England has the cross of St (σέιντ) George, the flag of Scotland has the cross of St Andrew and the flag of Northern Ireland has the cross of St Patrick.**

**Wales’ flag isn’t in the Union Jack. They have their flag, just like England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is called “the Red Dragon”.**

**Each country in the UK has its floral emblem.**

**The national flower of England is the rose.**

**The national flower of Scotland is the thistle (θίσελ).**

**The national flower of Wales is the daffodil.**

**The national flower of Northern Ireland is the shamrock.**

**The monarch of the UK is Queen Elizabeth II (the second).  She is the longest-serving British monarch. She became queen in 1952 (nineteen fifty-two) and 2022 (twenty twenty-two) is the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee (τζούμπιλι) celebrating (σελμπρέιτινγκ) 70 (seventy) years of her being the queen. It is the first time a British monarch has celebrated a Platinum Jubilee.**

**The Queen has two birthdays! Her actual (άκτιουαλ) birthday is the 21st (twenty-first) of April but, in the UK, the Queen’s birthday is celebrated on the second Saturday in June each year.**

**The Queen does not govern (γκάβερν) the country but does carry out many important tasks.**

**The Queen was married to Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, before his death in 2021.**

**Queen Elizabeth II haσ four children. The Queen's first child is Prince Charles (Τσάρλς) or Prince of Wales. When the Queen dies, Prince Charles will become king and head of the Royal Family.**

**Queen Elizabeth II has eight grandchildren including two who are well known - Prince William and Prince Harry, Prince Charles’s (Τσάρλσιζ) sons.**

**A picture of The Queen is always seen on British money, both coins and notes.**

**Now, let’s say a few things about the money that British people use.**

**The British currency (κάρενσι) is the pound (πάουντ) sterling. There are 100 (a hundred) pennies, or pence (πενς), to the pound.**

**There are both coins (κόινς) and banknotes (μπανκνοουτς).**

**The coins are 1 penny, 2 pence (πενσ), 5 pence, 10 pence, 20 pence, 50 pence, 1 pound and 2 pounds.**

**The banknotes are the 5-pound note, the 10-pound note, the 20-pound note and the 50-pound note.**

**You will usually hear British people say "pee" (πι) rather than pence, as in 50p (50 pee). In everyday language, £1 (one pound) is known as a "quid" (κουίντ), a £5 (5 pound) note is a "fiver" and a £10 (10 pound) note is a "tenner".**

**As we’ve already said, England is one of the countries that make up Great Britain. Well, when you think of England what images appear in your mind?**

**Red double-decker buses and black taxis are a typical sight on London's busy roads.**

**Actually, London’s red double-decker buses are world-famous. One way of seeing London’s major (μέιτζορ) sights is on an open-top double-decker bus. Tickets are valid (βάλιντ) for 24 (twenty-four) hours and allow (αλάου) unlimited (ανλίμιτιντ) ‘hop-on / hop-off’ travel.**

**London’s distinctive (ντιστίνκτιβ) taxis, black cabs, are as much a feature (φίτσιαρ) of city life as its red double-decker buses. Although (όλδοου) they are being modernized and many are now painted other colours with advertising, they still keep the same shape because they’re classic.**

**However, the quickest way to go around London is no doubt the underground or as it is often called, the Tube (τιουμπ). Opened in 1863 (eighteen sixty-three), the London Underground is the oldest Underground railway (ρέιλγουέϊ) in the world. The tube has 11 lines serving 274 (two hundred and seventy-four) stations. About half (χαφ) of the London Underground is actually above the ground. Around 5 million people take the underground each day.**

**What other things are typically London icons?**

**The post box and telephone box of course!**

**Both of them are red and have a picture of a crown on them. The crown on the post box also has the monarchs’ initials underneath. EIIR (e two r) is Queen Elizabeth the Second. The letter R stands for Regina (ρεγκίνα) (Latin for Queen).**

**Let’s go on with the iconic foot guards (γκαρντς)!**

**The Queen’s Guards are responsible for guarding Buckingham Palace in London. Foot Guards wear a full-dress uniform of red tunics (τχιούνικς) and black bearskins (μπέαρσκινς). The Guard Changing Ceremony (σέρεμονι) takes**

**Another well-known (γοέλ νόουν) guard is the Beefeater (μπίιφιτερ)!**

**Beefeaters or Yeoman Warders (γιόουμαν γουόρντερς) are the guards at the Tower of London. In the past, their role was to look after the prisoners (πρίζονερς) but today they act as tour guides (γκάιντς) and are a tourist attraction.**

**Now look at this Bobby**

**In Britain today all policemen are known as 'Bobbies', after Sir Robert (Bobby) Peel, who founded (φάουντιντ) Britain’s Metropolitan Police Force (φορς) in 1829. The Metropolitan Police force patrol (πατρόλ) London. Policemen wear very dark blue uniforms (γιούνιφορμς) and white shirts, and some wear tall helmets. They sometimes ride horses.**

**Let’s move on with the most famous British habit (χάμπιτ)! It’s tea time!!! Britain is a tea-drinking nation (τιι ντρίνκιν νέισιον). Especially (ισπέσιαλι) afternoon tea is a tradition (τραντίσιον) in England, although (ολδόου) people today do not have time for tea at home. It is a small meal (μιιλ) which consists (κονζίστς) of tea or coffee and scones (σκόουνς) (that is small cakes), sandwiches and pastries (πέιστριζ).**

* **Would you like a cuppa? (γουντ γιου λάικ ε κάπα;)**
* **Yes, please.**
* **Shall I be mother?**
* **Yes, of course, thank you.**

**Now, what’s the traditional (τραντίσιοναλ) national (νάσιοναλ) food of England? Fish and chips of course. It is the most popular (πόπιουλαρ) English takeaway (τέικ εγουέι) food. The fish is fried (φράιντ) and eaten (ίτεν) with potato chips. Traditionally it was eaten using your fingers, but today small wooden (γούντεν) forks are provided (προβάιντιντ).**

**England is also famous for its pubs. The word pub is short for public house. There are over 60,000 (sixty thousand) pubs in the UK. The kind (κάιντ) of music which is played there is very good. People talk, eat, drink, meet their friends and relax there. They can also play games such as (σατς εζ) darts (ντάρτς) or pool (πουλ).**

**Time to join us on a fantastic tour of London!**

**London is home to many amazing (αμέιζινγκ) attractions (ατράκσιονς)! We’ll guide (γκάιντ) you through (θρου) the best tourist places in London.**

**Let’s jump straight (στρέιτ) in with Big Ben and the Palace (πάλας) of Westminster (γουέστμινστα). In fact, Big Ben is one of the most famous landmarks in the world. Big Ben is not the name of the clock tower. It is the name of the 13-ton bell inside (ινσάιντ) the Elizabeth Tower. It was first heard chime (φερστ χερντ τσάιμ)  in 1859 (eighteen fifty-nine). Big Ben is 96 (ninety-six) metres (μίτερς) high (χάι) and took its name from Sir Benjamin Hall (σερ μπεντζαμιν χολ) who was the engineer (έντζινίαρ) of the construction (κονστράκσιον)**

**Right next to Big Ben is the Westminster Palace (γουέστμίνστα πάλας), known also as the Houses of Parliament (χάουζις οβ πάρλιαμεντ). It was once (ουάνς) a royal (ρόιαλ) palace but now houses the UK Parliament. This is where laws (λοουζ) of the UK are debated (ντιμπέιτιντ) and created (κριέτιντ) by the House of Lords and the House of Commons.**

**Just off Parliament square (σκουέα) is the exceptionally (εξέπσιοναλι) beautiful Westminster Abbey (γουέστμινστα άμπεϊ). It is one of the oldest buildings (μπίλντινκς) in London and one of the most important (ιμπόρταντ) churches in the country (κάντρι). Every monarch (μόναρκ) since 1066 (ten sixty-six) has been crowned (κράουντ) here. This abbey (άμπεϊ) is also (όλσο) where the kings and queens of England are buried (μπέριντ), as well as certain (σέρτεν) personalities such as Dickens (ντικενς), Newton (νιούτον) and Darwin (ντάργουιν).**

**Opposite the Houses of Parliament (χάουζις οβ πάρλιαμεντ), on the South Bank of the River Thames (τεμζ), is the Millenium Wheel (μιλένιουμ γουίλ) or London Eye. It is 135 (a hundred and thirty-five) metres high, it has 35 capsules (κάπσιουλς) and each (ιιτς) capsule can carry 25 people. A ride lasts for half an hour.**

**What would (γουντ) England be without its royal (ρόιαλ) family, a true symbol of the country? Buckingham Palace (μπάκινχαμ πάλας), the Queen's official (οφίσιαλ) London home is a must-see (μαστ σι) on your London visit. It was built (μπιλτ) in 1705 (seventeen oh five) and it has 775 (seven hundred and seventy-five) rooms.**

**When the Queen is at home, you can see her royal flag (the Royal Standard) flying on top of Buckingham Palace. When the Queen is not in the palace, you see the Union Jack.**

**The most popular sight (σάιτ) at Buckingham Palace is the Changing of the Guard ceremony (τσέιντζινγκ οβ τηε γκαρντ σέρεμονι) that takes place at 11:00 am (eleven έι εμ) every day in June and July and every second day for the rest of the year.**

**There are three important museums within (γουιδίν) about a 40-minute walk (φορτυ μίνιτ γουοκ) from Buckingham Palace (μπάκινχαμ πάλας), the Natural History Museum (νάτσιουραλ χίστορι μιουζίμ) to the west, the Madame Tussauds (μάνταμ τούσοζ) to the north, and the British Museum to the northeast (νόρθιιστ).**

**The Natural History Museum is a place (πλέις) where you can see 70 (seventy) million specimens, from the microscopic (μάικροσκόπικ) to the mammoth (μάμουθ). Explore (εξπλόορ) the wonders (γουόντας) of nature (νέιτσα) in one of London's finest (φάινεστ) museum buildings (μπίλντινγκς). Come face to face (φέις το φέις) with animals from the past and the present, and watch out for the dinosaurs (ντάινοσορς). There is a 26-metre (μίτα) skeleton (σκέλετον) of a dinosaur and a 30-metre blue whale (γουέιλ).**

**Where can you get up close and personal (κλόουζ εντ πέρσοναλ) with celebrities (σελέμπριτιζ) and royalty (ρόιαλτι)? At Madame Tussauds (μάνταμ τούσοζ) of course! The Madame Tussauds in London is the original (ορίτζιναλ) wax (γουόξ) museum formed (φόμντ)) in 1830 (eighteen thirty). The museum is home to waxworks (γουόξγουέκς) of many famous (φέιμους) and historical figures (φίγκιας) as well as popular (πόπιουλα) film and television characters (κάρακταζ).**

**Now, it's time to travel back in time. It’s an amazing (αμέιζινγκ) destination (ντεστινέισιον) documenting (ντόκιουμέντινγκ) over 2 million years of human history. It is the one and only, British Museum (μιουζίμ). The museum tells the story of human culture (κάλτσια) from its beginnings (μπιγκίνινγκς) to the present day, including (ινκλιούντινγκ) world-famous (γουέρλντ φέιμους) objects such as (σάτς εζ) the Parthenon Sculptures (πάρθενον σκάλπτσιαρς) and the Rosetta stone (ροζέτα στόουν).**

**One km (κιλόμιτα) further down is Piccadilly Circus (πικαντίλι σέρκους), a very touristic place (τουρίστικ πλέις), also popular (πόπιουλαρ) with locals. It is in the heart (χάρτ) of London and is close to important (ιμπόρταντ) leisure (λέζια) and shopping areas (έριαζ). The square (σκουέα) is famous (φέιμους) for its video displays (ντισπλέιζ), neon signs (νίον σάινς) and the Eros (άιρας) fountain (φάουντεν) located (λοκέιτιντ) in the middle.**

**In 10 minutes’ walk (γουόκ) or in 2 minutes by tube (τιουμπ), you’ll find the Trafalgar Square (σκουέα). It is named after Britain’s victory (βίκτορι) in the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 (eighteen oh five). Admiral Nelson, who died during (ντιουρινγκ) the battle, stands tall in the centre of the square on Nelson’s Column (κάλαμ). Take a selfie with one of the four bronze (μπρονζ) lion statues (στάτσιουζ) that sit at the base (μπέιζ) of Nelson’s Column as guards (γκαρντζ) of the monument (μόνιουμεντ).**

**On the north side (σάιντ) of Trafalgar Square, you will find the National Gallery (νάσιοναλ γκάλερι), an art museum (μιουζιμ) which was founded (φάουντιντ) in 1824 (eighteen twenty-four). It houses (χάουζισ) a collection (κολέξιον) of over 2,300 (two thousand three hundred) paintings (πέιντινγκς) dating (ντέιτινγκ) from the 13th (thirteenth) century (σέντσιουρι). Here you can see some rare (ρέαρ) paintings from Van Gogh (βαν γκογκ) and Michelangelo (μικελάντζελο).**

**~~Here’s Piccadilly Circus (πικαντίλι σέρκους), a very touristic place (τουρίστικ πλέις), also popular (πόπιουλαρ) with locals. It is in the heart (χάρτ) of London and is close to important (ιμπόρταντ) leisure (λέζια) and shopping areas (έριαζ). The square (σκουέα) is famous (φέιμους) for its video displays (ντισπλέιζ), neon signs (νίον σάινς) and the Eros (άιρας) fountain (φάουντεν) located (λοκέιτιντ) in the middle.~~**

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**Our next stop is St Paul’s Cathedral (σέιντ πολς καθίντραλ) which is one of the most famous (φέιμους) and most recognisable (ρικογκνάιζαμπλ) sights (σάιτς) in London. It is one of the largest (λάρτζεστ) churches in the world with a dome (ντόουμ) 111m (one hundred and eleven μίτερς) high (χάι). To reach (ριτς) the dome, you need to get up 528 (five hundred and twenty-five) steps for panoramic views (βιουζ) across (ακρός) London. Make sure (σουα) you stop halfway (χαφγουέι) up for the famous whispering gallery (φέιμους γουίσπερινγκ γκάλερι).**

**In a fifteen-minute walk, you can get to the Gherkin (γκέεκιν), one of London’s most iconic skyscrapers (αικόνικ σκάισκρειπερς). It’s an office building (όφις μπιλντιν) with a restaurant and a bar on its top, from where you can have panoramic views (πανοράνικ βιουζ) of West London. It is 180 (one hundred and eighty) metres tall and it has 41 (forty-one) floors.**

**Another 15-minute walk (φίφτιν μίνιτ γουόκ) and you’ll find the thousand-year-old fortress (φόρτρες) of the Tower (τάουα) of London.  It was built (μπιλτ) in 1066 (ten sixty-six) and different monarchs (μόναρκς) have lived in this castle. The Tower of London is better known (μπέτα νόουν) as a prison (πρίζον) and place of public executions (πλέις οβ πάμπλικ εκζεκιούσιονς). In the infamous (ίνφαμους) White or Bloody Tower (μπλάντι τάουα), you can stand on the spot where Anne Boleyn (αν μπολέιν), one of Henry VIII's (χένρι δι έιτθς) 6 wives (γουάιβζ), lost her head (χεντ).  The Tower is also home to the dazzling Crown Jewels (ντάζλιν κράουν τζιούελς), the Queen’s ravens (ρέιβενς) and the Yeoman Warders (γιόουμαν γουόρντερς) known (νόουν) as the Beefeaters (μπίιφιτερς).**

**Now if you want to cross the Thames (τεμς) and get from the north bank to the south (σάουθ) you have to walk across the most stunning bridge (στάνιν μπριτζ), the Tower Bridge. It’s the most recognisable (ρικογκνάιζαμπλ) Thames bridge and the only one which opens to let boats pass. It is 65 (sixty-five) metres high (μίτεζ χάι) and 250 (two hundred and fifty) metres long and it has two large towers, one on each side (ον ιιτς σάιντ).**

**Just a short walk away (γουόκ εγουέι), you can see the tallest building (μπίλντινγκ) in London. It is the Shard (Σάαντ). It has 72 (seventy-two) floors (φλόοζ) and it houses (χάουζις) offices (όφισιζ), restaurants, flats, a hotel and London’s best view (βιου) stretching (στρέτσιν) forty miles (μάιλς) at the top of it.**

**Walking along the Thames (τεμς) to the west you will pop into The Globe (γκλόουμπ), a recreation (ρικριέσιον) of Shakespeare’s Theatre (Σέκσπίαζ θίατα). It opened in 1997 (nineteen ninety-seven) but the original (ορίτζιναλ) Shakespeare's Globe Theatre was built (μπιλτ) in 1559 (fifteen fifty-nine) and burned (μπερντ) down in 1613 (sixteen thirteen). In the Globe Theatre, you can experience (εξπίριενς) what the theatre (θίατα) was like in Shakespeare’s time (τάιμ). As you can see, it was a round structure (ράουντ στράκτσια), made mainly (μέιντ μέινλι) out of wood (γουντ) and it had 3 rows (ρόουζ) of balconies (μπάλκονιζ) and a central courtyard (σέντραλ κόρτγιαντ) where the stage (στέιτζ) was. The richer (ρίτσα) people had seats (σίιτς) on the balconies. The poorer (πούρα) people instead (ινστέντ), did not have seats but stood (στουντ) in the central (σέντραλ) courtyard. The stage (στέιτζ) was about one and a half metres (χαφ μίταζ) above the ground (αμπάβ δε γκράουντ) to stop the people in the courtyard from jumping onto it. (τζάμπιν όντου ιτ)**

**The current theatre (κάρεντ θίατα) puts (πουτς) on plays and just like the original (δι ορίτζιναλ), the cheap seats (τσιπ σιιτς) are standing room (στάντιν ρουμ) only.**

**Fancy (φάνσι) a classical music concert (κόνσερτ)? The Royal Albert Hall (ρόιαλ άλμπερτ χολ) is the right (ράιτ) place for you.  It is one of the most famous music and concert venues (βένιουζ) in the world. The Royal Albert Hall is in South Kensington (κένσινγκτον), in the southwest (σάουθγουέστ) of London and it is a domed (ντόουμντ) building (μπίλντινγκ) opened in 1871 (eighteen seventy-one) by Queen Victoria. It hosts events (ιβέντς) such as (σατς εζ) ballets (μπάλειζ), concerts and film premieres (πρέμιεζ).**

**Are you a football fan? Then Wembley Stadium (γουέμπλεϊ στέντιουμ) is a must-visit place (μαστ βίζιτ πλέις) for you!  Wembley Stadium is located (λοκέιτιντ) in northwest London. It is the national (νάσιοναλ) stadium of England and the home of English Football. With 90,000 (ninety thousand) seats (σίιτς), it is the largest (λάρτζεστ) stadium in the UK and the second-largest stadium in Europe.**

**Near Wembley Stadium is Wembley Arena (αρίνα), one of the most iconic live (αϊκόνικ λάιβ) music venues (βένιουζ) and a destination (ντεστινέισιον) for comedy (κόμεντι), family entertainment (έντετέινμεντ) and sport. It has 12.500 (twelve thousand five hundred) seats and it is London's second-largest indoor arena (ίντοο αρίνα) after the O2 (oh two) Arena, located diagonally opposite (λοκέιτιντ νταϊάγκοναλι όποζιτ), in Greenwich (γκρίνουιτς) in South East London.**

**The O2 or the Millennium Dome (μιλένιουμ ντόουμ) opened in 2000 (the year two thousand) to celebrate (σέλεμπρέιτ) the 3rd (third) Millennium and it is now an indoor entertainment arena with 20.000 (twenty thousand) seats.**

**Thank you for travelling with us.**

**Have a nice day!**

**And remember, London is one of the most exciting cities in the world!**

**FLY TO LONDON SONG**