

Daily life in London

Routines

People usually start work in the UK at 9 o'clock. Some people have to start earlier if they work in shops, driving buses and trains, or in hotels. Some people work at home – this is more popular than before. If you have a computer you can work at home and still have a job.

Commuting

In London and other cities most people have to travel a long way to work. Many people travel about 1 hour to get to work. In London most people travel to work by Tube. This is the train that goes under the ground. It is a very big system – 5 million people use the Tube every day. It has more than 240 stations.

Meals

Breakfast is important to start the day. Most people have cereals, fruit, or eggs and sometimes bacon. The famous English breakfast is bacon, eggs and toast. But most people eat healthy breakfasts.

Lunch is usually at 1 o'clock. At work, people usually have a sandwich. At the weekend people eat a big roast dinner with the family and friends.

Dinner is usually at 6 or 7 o'clock, but sometimes at 8. At home people cook many different types of food. Or they pay for food that comes from local restaurants – their food comes by motorbike or car from the local restaurant. It's called a 'takeaway'. In London people eat traditional food from Britain, but also a lot of food from other countries.

The most popular food in UK is Indian food – spicy food like curry. Food from Thailand, China, Spain and Italy is also very popular. Most people have very international dinners.

Schools

Young children start school when they are five years old. They go to a Primary school from age 5 to age 11. They go to secondary school when they are 11 years old. A lot of learners go to university – about 50% of all 18 year olds. University courses are three years long.

Work routines

People start work at 9 and they work until 5 - but sometimes much later. Most people take half an hour or an hour for lunch. But many have a sandwich and eat in the office.

Pubs

After work, people in London often go out with friends before they go home. They visit the pubs in the city for a drink and a snack before they go home. London is a big city – it takes an hour or more to go home. So people don't want to go home first and then come back to the city for a movie or a dinner.

Nightlife

Many people go to the cinema in the evening – there are many cinemas to visit. Some people prefer to go to the theatre – there are a lot of theatres in the city. Some show dramas, some show comedies, some show musicals.

The city has many, many restaurants and a lot of people like to meet their friends for dinner. Dinner at home is usually at 6 o'clock (for families with children) or at 7 o'clock, and dinner in the restaurant is usually at 7 or 8 o'clock.

New words for this article

1	tube	the train that goes under the ground
2	cereal	breakfast food like Cornflakes
3	healthy	not sick or ill
4	roast	meat cooked in the oven
5	takeaway	food delivered to your house

Comprehension Questions

- 1 What is the famous English breakfast?
- 2 Where does 'curry' come from?
- 3 How many 18 year-old students go to university?
- 4 When do people finish work in London?
- 5 Where do people sometimes go after work?

A reporter's guide to West Africa

I have always been interested in the life and history of West Africa. So I decided to take a tour around the three central countries of the region – Senegal, Mali and Cote d'Ivoire.

I contacted a local travel company and they helped me to plan the tour. They booked the flights, booked the hotels, and found a local guide to help me.

Starting in Dakar in Senegal, we planned a trip across the region through Mali and Cote d'Ivoire and back to Dakar – in a few days.

My guide, Moussa, is an expert in the history and culture of these countries. Born in Dakar, he has lived and worked in all 3 countries. Now he helps tourists and travellers.

First I flew to Dakar in Senegal, and arrived at the new international airport. It is very large and impressive.

We met in Dakar on the first day, and I stayed overnight in a 4-star hotel. We had dinner in a restaurant by the sea – we ate 'mafe' with chicken, and it was very good. Here we could watch the sun go down – it was beautiful.

On Day 2 we went out into the city to learn about Dakar. We learned about a terrible history. We took a small boat and visited the historical centre on Ile Goree, where people stayed before going to America as slaves. After this we went to the IFAN Museum of African Art to see the work of artists from Senegal.

On Day 3 we took a flight to Bamako, the capital of Mali, and stayed in a historic hotel. It was very comfortable and in the centre of the city. We went to the market, the Marche de Medina. We visited a nice restaurant and also listened to Malian music in a club.

On Day 4 we took a plane to Timbuktu, to see the ancient history and culture of Mali. There we visited the Djinguereber Mosque - it is very old, built in 1325.

We also visited the Sankore Mosque and the Ethnological Museum, where we could learn more about the history of Mali.

We stayed two nights in a beautiful hotel, made from a traditional house. It is a fascinating city with a very long history.

Back in Bamako, on Day 6 we took a short plane trip to Abidjan where we visited the capital of. The city has beautiful buildings. We visited the big cathedral, Saint-Paul's cathedral, and a large mosque. We also went to see the National Museum and the Cocody Museum of Art, and the Cote d'Ivoire Museum of Civilisations.

On Day 6, we left Abidjan, and we flew back to Dakar where the trip ended. We enjoyed this tour of the heart of West African life.

If you want to have the chance to visit new places, try new food, and meet new people, then come and take a tour of West Africa.

New words for this article

1	to book	to plan and pay for a ticket, hotel
2	impressive	very good, gives a good impression to people
3	terrible	very bad, unhappy
4	slaves	people taken from their families and sold as products
5	historic	very old

Comprehension Questions

- 1 Who planned the tour?
- 2 Who was the local guide?
- 3 What did they visit in Dakar?
- 4 What did they visit in Timbuktu?
- 5 Which museums did they see in Cote d'Ivoire?

Arsenal Football Club

West Africa is football crazy. Britain is football crazy too. Britain started the game many years ago in 1863.

There are 20 Premier League football clubs in Britain and six of them are in London. My favourite London football team is Arsenal. I live near the Arsenal stadium – it is only 200 metres from my house! I can hear the Arsenal game at the weekend. I can see the players come to the stadium in their cars. I can watch the fans go to the stadium on the bus or by the London Tube. I can watch them buy hamburgers and sandwiches outside the stadium. Then they go in to watch the game.

The fans are very happy – they like the Arsenal club. The players are very happy – they get a lot of money when they play football for Arsenal. The Arsenal players get more than £100,000 every week!

Two famous managers of Arsenal are George Graham and Arsene Wenger. Wenger started in 1996 and worked at the club until 2018. He is the first manager to win seven FA (Football Association) Cups – the prize for the best football club in Britain. Wenger retired in 2018. The new manager is Unai Emery from Spain.

Arsenal has many famous footballers. Some are from Africa. Nwankwo Kanu, Emmanuel Adebayor, and Kolo Toure all played for Arsenal. Patrick Vieira (from France), Sol Campbell (from England) and Thierry Henry (from France) also played for Arsenal.

Arsenal is an old club. It started in London in 1886. In 1913 it went to the famous Highbury Stadium. The fans came to Highbury Stadium by Tube to Gillespie Road station. Now it is Arsenal station. The city changed the name of the Tube station from Gillespie Road to Arsenal station. They wanted to help fans find the stadium easily.

In 2006 the club got a new stadium, the Emirates Stadium. The new stadium cost £390 million. It has the name of the Emirates airline. The new stadium has places for 60,000 fans. It is always full, because Arsenal is a very popular club.

The old Highbury Stadium is still here, but now it is a place for people to live, not play football. The old stadium is now apartments. Arsenal fans like to buy the apartments so they can live in the old stadium.

The club has 2 names. The real name is Arsenal Football Club, but the fans' name for the club 'The Gunners'. This is the name you can see on some

T-shirts, and it's also the name of the pub where the fans go after the game.

My favourite Arsenal footballer is Thierry Henry. I have his shirt. It is red and it has his number, 14. Puma make the Arsenal shirts. Henry's shirts are very difficult to buy, but I have one.

Arsenal plays good football. 2004 was a good year. Arsenal won 49 games and won the Premier League – the prize for the best club. It won the FA Cup in 2006, 2014, 2015 and 2017.

New words for this article

Stadium	the place where Arsenal plays football
Fans	the people who like Arsenal
Club	the organisation
Tube	the famous train in London (it is under the city)
Manager	the boss of the club
Premier League	the list of the best clubs in UK

Comprehension Questions

- 1 What is the name of the Arsenal stadium?
- 2 What was the old name?
- 3 When did Arsenal start to play?
- 4 Who is a famous player?

Muhammad Ali – the greatest boxer in the world

Kinshasa is a big town in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. The time is four o'clock in the morning on 30th October 1974. It is night but it is very hot. Many people and their children are not in bed. They are very happy.

Muhammad Ali and George Foreman are in the boxing ring.

Muhammad is looking at George. This is the big one! This is the big fight!

The men are big too. They are big, heavy boxers of 100 kilos each. They are boxing to find out who is the Heavyweight Champion of the World. The champion is the best boxer in the world. Ali looks at George again and Ali is happy. Ali can fight very well.

The men from the television and from the radio are there. Millions of people are going to see the big fight between the two heavy men. Who is going to be the champion? The people are waiting.

The fight starts. The people near the ring are quiet. Ali hits Foreman. He hits him again and again. The fight is for fifteen 'rounds'. A 'round' is three minutes of a fight. A fight for the champion is for fifteen rounds and is about an hour long. Each round the fighters stop for one minute. It is now round eight. Ali hits Foreman very hard. He hits him so hard, Foreman falls. He does not stand up again. Ali knocks out Foreman. The knock-out comes in round eight. Ali wins. He beats Foreman. The people are not quiet now. The winner is Muhammad Ali. He is now the Heavyweight Champion of the World. People see him on television. All the cameras are on Ali, and Foreman is sad.

People say: 'Ali wins! Ali wins! Long live Ali!' Ali is very, very happy. He says: 'I'm good. I'm very good. I'm great. I'm the best. I'm the greatest. I'm the greatest fighter in the world. I'm the champion!'

An hour after the big fight, it rains and rains in Kinshasa, but the people are very happy.

What is the name of the greatest boxer in the world, Cassius Clay or Muhammad Ali? Cassius Clay is the old name of Muhammad Ali. The name of his father is Cassius Clay too. The name of his mother is Odessa Clay. His family live in Louisville, Kentucky, in the USA. The family is poor and does not have much money.

All his life, Cassius Clay fights. He likes to fight and he is good. He fights in the boxing ring, and he fights people with words.

After 1964 he has a new name – Muhammad Ali. He has a Muslim name. But a lot of people call him the 'The Greatest', or 'The Champ'. 'Champ' is a short word for champion and the champion is the best, the greatest.

Muhammad Ali was the greatest boxer in the world.

New words for this article

1	champion	the winner and the best sports person in one sport
2	rounds	the 3 minute long parts of a boxing match
3	ring	the place where boxers go to fight
4	to beat	to win, to be better than someone

Comprehension Questions

- 1 Where did Muhammad Ali fight against George Foreman?
- 2 Who won the fight?
- 3 How many rounds did they fight?
- 4 What is Muhammad Ali's name before?

Museum of Black Civilisations

Senegal is the home of a very famous new museum. President Macky Sall opened the Museum of Black Civilisations in Dakar in December 2018.

The museum tells the story of black people in Africa. It tells the long story of black people, from the beginning of history, to the modern day.

People have planned the museum for a long time, and the city is happy it is now open.

The opening party was at the Grand National Theatre in Dakar.

Many guests came to the opening party.

The guests watched a fantastic show about black history.

The show told stories about black heroes like Martin Luther King and Thomas Sankara.

The Museum of Black Civilisations tells the story of African people, cities, countries, artists and heroes.

The museum tells stories of African people and also people who left Africa and went to other countries. It tells the stories of people living in the Caribbean, and people living in Brazil.

The museum is very big and can hold more than 18,000 things to see.

The museum has many things that show the history of Africa.

The museum has art, pictures, writing, statues of people, and many things made by African people.

Many things from Africa are in museums in other countries. Some museums in France want to give things back to Africa. UNESCO wants other countries to give back their African things to the museum in Dakar.

UNESCO says the museum helps African children understand their history. It helps them remember the important things about their history and culture and art. It helps Africa to have a strong culture and identity.

The idea for the museum came from Senegalese President Senghor in 1966.

The money for the museum came from partners in China. The partners paid more than 30 million euros to build the museum.

The museum is in Dakar and is open every day.

The museum has visits from tourists from every country. It is a good reason to visit Dakar and Senegal.

New words for this article

1	museum	a place to show things from history
2	statue	a model of a person, usually made of stone or metal
3	art	pictures and things created by artists
4	culture	the way of life of a people

Comprehension questions

- 1 Where is the museum?
- 2 Where was the opening party?
- 3 What stories does the museum tell?
- 4 How many things are in the museum?
- 5 Who paid for the museum?

How big is Africa?

They never tell you this at school, but Africa is a huge continent. The largest countries in the world can fit into it quite easily. Take West Africa, for example. The United States fits into West Africa and the Sahel region. It covers Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Niger and Chad. China has the largest population in the world and is a big country, but it fits into South and East Africa and the Congo. India fits into the horn of Africa – Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Kenya. Eastern Europe fits into Egypt and the Sudan.

The western European countries also fit into North Africa quite easily. France is as big as Algeria. Germany fits into Tunisia, and Spain and Portugal fit into Morocco. Italy fits into Libya. But what about the United Kingdom? It's really quite a small country. In fact, it is smaller than Madagascar! Japan is bigger than the UK and it fits into South Africa.

When you look at a map of the world, why isn't Africa bigger? It's because of Mercator. Mercator? What's that? It's not a thing, it's a man. Gerardus Mercator was a geographer. He lived in Belgium and in 1569 he produced the map of the world we all use now. He produced the map to help ships. His map helped sailors to navigate their ships across the sea to America and Asia. The title of the map is the Mercator Projection and we use it everyday. When I want to find Cabo Verde or Mali, for example, I look at the Mercator Projection.

The problem is the Mercator Projection is wrong. Gerardus didn't know Africa. He didn't know the Equator. He didn't know Australia. But he knew Europe. So he made Europe bigger and he made Africa and the countries on the Equator smaller. That is why Greenland and Iceland are big countries and the Congo or Australia, for example, are not. Of course, today we have other maps. Google Maps and Google Earth are good examples. But when you open a book or a newspaper you often see the Mercator Projection. It is easier to print on a page.

So next time you look at a map, remember, many of the biggest and most important countries in the world, with the biggest and most successful economies, are smaller in size than the African continent.

New words for this article

Huge	Very, very big
To fit into	To be part of
Horn of Africa	The region that includes Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia
Really	In reality
In fact	The facts are these
Sailor	A person who travels on the water in a boat

Comprehension Questions

- 1 Which country fits in to Madagascar?
- 2 Which is bigger, Japan or the UK?
- 3 Which country do Senegal and Mali fit into?
- 4 Which country does the Congo fit into?

New musicians

In Dakar young people enjoy making music. Some African artists want to move to Europe or America. They think it is easier to make music there. Perhaps they will make more money. Other artists decide to stay in Africa. Some live abroad for some years and come back.

Jah Moko was a music producer in France for 10 years. He left and came back to live in Senegal. His band, the Jah Moko Family, is based in Dakar.

Jah's music mixes West African Reggae and Afro-Beat. He likes the sound of traditional music too. The band comes from all over Africa. Some came to start a new life in Senegal because the situation was bad at home. There are nine members from Mali, Benin, Senegal, Central African Republic and France. The band is really international and they sing in many languages, including French and English.

But it is not easy for a young musician. It is difficult to earn money from making music. It costs a lot of money to have a show in a popular venue. Most young musicians don't have that kind of money. In the past, artists worked for a record company and the record company paid. Now people use the internet and local radio to contact fans directly. Many have other jobs to pay for their music. For example, the guitar player in The Jah Moko Family is an architect during the day and a musician in the evening.

People know the situation is difficult, but some see a good future in African music. They want to help young people with the same dreams and have started small businesses. An example is Mandinko. This started in the Ouakam district in Dakar. The boss is Freeman. He wants to create a cultural space for new African artists.

The stories people tell in the music are also different now. In the past musicians wrote personal stories. Now people write more about problems in society.

New words for this article

- | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | abroad | in another country |
| 2 | mix | to put two or many things together |
| 3 | band | group of musicians |
| 4 | earn money | to make money from a job |

Comprehension Questions –

Indiquez si les expressions suivantes sont vraies (True) ou fausses (False).

1. Artists go abroad to have an easy life.
2. Jah Moko worked in Dakar for 10 years
3. The Jah Moko Family come from 9 different countries
4. Musicians use social media to contact fans
5. People take more than 3 jobs to pay for their music

Oxford and Cambridge

Oxford and Cambridge are two famous British cities. They are the homes of the UK's most famous universities.

The cities are very old but they were not big cities before the universities started.

The city of Oxford is northwest of London of London, about 90km by road. It takes about an hour by train. The city of Cambridge is northeast of London of London, about 100km by road. It takes about an hour by train.

Both cities have a river running through the centre of the city. You can take very small boats called 'punts' on the river. Both cities have very old buildings.

Both cities are good for tourists to visit. There are a lot of things to see and do. It is easy to walk around the cities, because they are quite small. You can visit a lot of colleges and museums in one day. Oxford and Cambridge both have a lot of tourists every year. About 7 million tourists come to Oxford every year, and about 5.5 million tourists come to Cambridge every year.

Both cities have very famous museums. Oxford has the Ashmolean Museum. It has pictures by Michelangelo and Picasso. It has old statues from ancient Greece and gold from ancient Rome.

Cambridge has the Fitzwilliam Museum. It has old things from ancient Egypt, and pictures from many artists, including Renoir and Cezanne, van Gogh and Monet.

Oxford University is very old. It started in 1167. Before then, English students went to study at the University of Paris. Then the English king told them to come home, and they started to study in Oxford. It is the second-oldest university in the world. The oldest is the University of Bologna, in Italy.

Oxford has 38 colleges and 23,000 students. Students live in the colleges, but they go to the University for their classes.

Many famous people were students in Oxford - including politicians like Margaret Thatcher and Seretse Khama of Botswana, scientists like Stephen Hawking and Tim-Berners Lee (who invented the world wide web), writers like Oscar Wilde and VS Naipaul, and actors like Hugh Grant and Rowan Atkinson.

Cambridge University is also very old. It started in

1209, so it is a little bit younger than Oxford. It started because some of the teachers and students at Oxford did not like the university and wanted to start a new one.

Cambridge has 31 colleges and 19,000 students. Students live in the colleges, but they go to the University for their classes.

Many famous people were students in Cambridge - including politicians like Oliver Cromwell and Lee Kuan Yew from Singapore, scientists like Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin, Francis Crick and James Watson (who discovered DNA), writers like Salman Rushdie and Lord Byron, and actors like Ian McKellen and Stephen Fry.

Both universities have many world experts. In the last 100 years, more than 118 Nobel Prizes went to Cambridge students and teachers and 69 Nobel Prizes went to Oxford students and teachers. There are only 904 people in the world who won the Nobel Prize in 100 years, so Oxford and Cambridge won 21% of all Nobel Prizes.

New words for this article -

1	college	part of the university, in Oxford & Cambridge, where students live
2	ancient	very old
3	Nobel prize	prize given by the Swedish organisation for excellent work or study
4	scientist	person who studies science

Comprehension questions

- 1 How far is Cambridge from London?
- 2 What do both cities have in the centre of the city?
- 3 How many tourists visit Oxford each year?
- 4 Where is the Ashmolean Museum?
- 5 Where did Charles Darwin study?

Regions of England

Cornwall

Cornwall is in the south-west of England. Many of the people there have a Celtic history, like the people in Wales. They have their own language, Cornish, which is like Welsh. But not everybody can speak this language – only a small number of people understand Cornish.

Cornwall has the sea on both sides. It has a long coast. It has many beautiful fishing villages on the coast. Many people from everywhere in the UK and Europe go to Cornwall for their summer holidays. It is the best place in England to go surfing.

East Anglia

East Anglia is in the east of England. It is very flat and has many farms. The main cities are Cambridge, Norwich and Colchester. Colchester used to be the capital of England when the Romans lived here, 2000 years ago. You can see the walls of the Roman city in the centre of Colchester.

Cambridge is famous for its very old university and its beautiful old colleges. Norwich has a beautiful cathedral. Norwich is in Norfolk, the region near to the North Sea. Many people from everywhere in the UK go to Norfolk for their holidays.

The Midlands

The Midlands is in the centre of England. The main cities are Birmingham and Nottingham. Birmingham is a big centre for industry, for factories and making cars, with more than a million people. BMW cars come from a factory in Birmingham. It has many canals and famous football teams.

Nottingham is the home of Robin Hood, who was the hero of many old stories. Robin Hood took money from the rich and gave it to the poor.

The North

The North is in the north-west and north of England. The main cities are Manchester, the second city of the UK with 2.8 million people, and Liverpool, a large port city.

Liverpool is famous as the home of the Beatles and many other musicians and artists.

Manchester is famous as the home of the Industrial Revolution, where the first factories and the cotton industry started. The first railway in the world went from Manchester to Liverpool in 1830. North of Manchester is the beautiful landscape of the Lake District with many lakes and mountains where people go for walking holidays.

The North-East

The North-East is on the north-east coast of England, a little south of Scotland. The big cities are Newcastle and Durham. Newcastle is a centre of universities and industry. The famous musician Sting comes from Newcastle. The people of Newcastle are called 'Geordies' and they have a different kind of English. Durham has a very old university and beautiful churches, and the landscape of the North-East is also very beautiful.

The South coast

The South Coast is in the south of England, on the sea. It is opposite the coast of France. Many people from everywhere in the UK and Europe go to the south coast for the weekend, or for their summer holidays. Near Brighton are places like Hove, Shoreham, Eastbourne, Hastings where people go for holidays. On the South Coast you can get boats to go to France it is not far.

New words for this article

1	Welsh	the language of Wales
2	Cornish	the language of Cornwall
3	farm	a place to grow food; an agricultural centre
4	landscape	the countryside
5	opposite	on the other side from something

Comprehension questions

- 1 What sport can you do in Cornwall?
- 2 What was the Roman capital city of England?
- 3 What traditional hero lived in Nottingham?
- 4 Why is Liverpool famous?
- 5 Where can you travel from the South Coast?

From Cocoa To Chocolate

Her parents and grandparents were cocoa farmers. Like all the neighbours in the small village where they lived, not far from Gagnoa.

Mariam grew up playing in the cocoa plantation. But she only tasted chocolate a few years ago, as an adult. She still remembers her first chocolate. The brown bar melted in her mouth. It was the most delicious thing she had ever tasted.

It took a long time for chocolate to be produced in Cote d'Ivoire. It is still only produced in small quantities. But Mariam was proud to be part of the change.

She always knew her country depended on cocoa. Everyone in Cote d'Ivoire knew the importance of cocoa in people's daily life. Cocoa farming put food on the table. The taxes paid by the cocoa farmers helped build schools, hospitals and roads. Cote d'Ivoire is the largest cocoa producer in the world.

Mariam's family was always worried though. Sometimes the price for their cocoa went down. Sometimes they did not have enough money. The cocoa farmers did not get paid much.

The farmers only got about 6% of the final price of the chocolate. Most of the money was in the manufacturing.

One day she heard they were going to make chocolate in a town near them. Chocolate! She had to go and see it. So she did. And she got a job in the new chocolate factory. Mariam knew nothing about how to process the cocoa beans into chocolate. Her job was to wrap the chocolate in nice paper, that she tied with a colourful ribbon. Each piece of chocolate looked very special.

Mariam slowly learned other jobs inside the factory. She now knows how to make chocolate. She dreams that one day she will have her own factory. And one day... she will.

New words for this article

Bar of chocolate	rectangular piece of chocolate
To grow up	to get older
To taste	to get the flavor of food
To wrap	to put paper round something
Taxes	money you pay to the government

Comprehension Questions

Indiquez si les expressions suivantes sont vraies (True) ou fausses (False).

1. Mariam used to eat cocoa on the plantation
2. Mariam loves the taste of chocolate
3. Cocoa is important for everyone
4. Cote d'Ivoire is the largest chocolate producer in the world
5. Mariam learned about the production process in the factory

African giraffes are in danger of extinction

They are tall with long necks, elegant and graceful. When they want to eat, they pick leaves from high in the trees and when they run, it looks like they are running in slow motion. I once saw them walking towards the Kennedy Bridge in Niamey to drink the water from the river and the traffic stopped as they walked past. It was a beautiful sight you I never forgot. Giraffes are some of Africa's strangest and most beautiful animals – and they are in danger of extinction.

Not all of Africa's giraffes are in danger. There are nine recognised species of giraffe and three of them are in danger. Two of them are the Kordofan and Nubian giraffes. You can see the Kordofan giraffes in Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and in South Sudan. You can also see Nubian giraffes in South Sudan.

Who says they are in danger? The International Union of Conservation and Nature (IUCN) issued a 'red list' to say that there are only 3,000 of these giraffes in the world. They are facing extinction.

Why are they facing extinction? War is one reason. Poaching is another. People kill giraffes and take their meat. They also take their tails. They give them as presents at weddings. Another reason is land. As the population gets bigger, farmers want new land for agriculture. So they kill or drive the giraffes off their traditional feeding grounds.

What can governments do to stop the extinction of the giraffe population? The Giraffe Conservation Foundation works with governments to protect giraffes. They have had success with two species of giraffe, the West African giraffe and the Rothschild giraffe and they hope they can save the Kordofan and Nubian giraffes as well.

West and Central Africa are not the only homes for giraffes. Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe also have giraffe populations. These are not in danger.

New words for this article

graceful	with grace
in slow motion	very slowly
face extinction, become extinct	stop existing
species	types of animals
issued a 'red list'	warned
poaching	stealing animals
feeding ground	a place where animals like to look for food
as well	also

Comprehension Questions

- 1 Which species of giraffe are in danger?
- 2 How many species of giraffe live in Africa?
- 3 Why can't giraffes eat in the traditional feeding grounds?
- 4 Why do poachers take giraffe tails?
- 5 The Giraffe Conservation Foundation has helped save two species of giraffe from extinction. What are their names?

African Billionaires

Business in Africa is getting better and better. Many companies are growing and many are very successful.

The owners of the companies are very successful, and now there are a lot of billionaires in Africa, as well as in America and Asia and around the world.

Who are these African billionaires?

A billionaire is a businessperson who has more than \$1 billion, that is 1000 million US dollars. That's a lot of money. But it is not only money in the pocket or money in the bank. A businessperson can own houses, factories, other companies – and this makes the total of more than \$1 billion.

A famous American business magazine, Forbes Magazine, has a list of billionaires in the world. The magazine writes the list every year, and everyone wants to read the list. Everyone wants to know – who are the new billionaires? What happened to the old billionaires?

These are the billionaires in Africa for this year. There are now 20 billionaires in Africa.

This is a smaller number than last year – there were 23 billionaires last year. But some people have lost money in the stock market. Some people have lost money in their companies. The world of business can be difficult as well as successful.

Five of the billionaires are in Egypt.

Nassef Sawiris makes money from construction and chemical industry

Naguib Sawiris works in telecommunications.

Mohamed Al Fayed owns the Harrods store in London.

Mohamed Mansour and Yasseen Mansour have many different businesses.

Five of the billionaires are in South Africa.

Nicky Oppenheimer makes money from diamonds. His grandfather started the diamond company DeBeers many years ago, and it is still very successful today.

Johann Rupert has a business in luxury products

Koos Bekker makes money in the world of media.

Michiel Le Roux makes money from banking and

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Four of the billionaires are in Nigeria.

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All of these people are very successful and they make jobs for many millions of people in Africa. This shows that it is possible to get rich in Africa. It is not always easy, but it is possible in the world of business.

New words for this article

1	factory	a place where a business makes things
2	owner	the person who owns the company; they possess it
3	telecommunications	phone, mobile phone, internet, communications
4	luxury	very expensive products with famous names (eg Gucci)
5	cement	the product that makes roads and holds buildings together

Comprehension Questions

- 1 What country does Nicky Oppenheimer live in?
- 2 Which country does Nathan Kirsh come from?
- 3 Who owns the Harrods store in London?
- 4 How does Koos Bekker make money?
- 5 What kind of business does Othman Benjelloun have?

The English Language

People speak English in many different countries.

The English language started in England, which is now a part of the UK.

The English-speaking people came from Europe, from places in modern Germany.

English started in England about 500 AD – about 1500 years ago. It's an old language.

English has many words - perhaps more words than other languages.

It is difficult to count the number of words. But some experts say that English has about 250,000 words, but German has about 135,000 and French has about 100,000 words. So English is not always easy to learn! There are so many new words to learn.

English is the cousin of other languages in Europe. Dutch and German are cousins of English, and some words are the same. In the old days, more than 1000 years ago, the cousins were more similar and it was possible to understand each other.

English likes to use new words from other languages and other countries.

English has many words from other languages – from French, German, Arabic, Chinese and other languages.

From French, English uses words like façade, matinee, encore, hors d'oeuvre

From Arabic, English uses words like algorithm, algebra, admiral

From Italian, English uses words like pasta, opera, propaganda

From Hindi, English uses words like bungalow, pyjamas, veranda

English has words from African languages too. Words like 'banana' from Wolof, 'safari' from Swahili, 'jazz' from Mandinka and 'cola' from the Temne language.

English also likes to make new words, like the word 'app' for the programme on your phone.

These words are new, and started in the 21st century:

smartphone - a phone that can use the internet

To google - to search for information on the Google website

troll - a person who writes insulting words on Facebook and Twitter and the internet

Selfie - a photo of yourself

Blog - personal notes you write on the Internet

Hashtag - this symbol # which people use to make a label or name for something like #myfavoriteword

lol - a short way of writing 'laughing out loud'

geek - a technology expert

People speak English in many different countries. And English has a long history in many countries outside the UK, where it was born.

English in the USA - English started in North America in 1620, when English people arrived in Virginia.

Now English is the main language of the USA and its neighbour, Canada, and almost everybody can speak English. IN Canada many people speak French too.

English in Australia - English started in Australia in 1770, when Captain Cook and English people arrived in ships. Now English is the main language of the country and almost everybody can speak English here in and in New Zealand nearby.

English in South Africa - English started in South Africa in 1820, when English people arrived in ships in Cape Town. Now English is one of the official languages and most people speak English.

English in India - English started in India in 1612, when English people arrived in ships to do business. They stayed a long time and controlled the country. Now English is one of the 11 official languages and many millions of people speak English – but not everybody.

New words for this article

- | | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| 1 | difficult | not easy |
| 2 | cousins | children of my uncle or aunt |
| 3 | selfie | a photo of yourself |
| 4 | blog | personal notes you write on the Internet |
| 5 | website | pages of information on the internet |

Comprehension Questions

- When did the English language start?
- Which language has the biggest number of words?
- What languages does English take words from?
- When did English start in Australia?
- How many official language are there in India?

Free School Meals for Nine Million Nigerian children

Nigeria is the biggest country in Africa. Its population is 198,000,000, says the UN. It has the biggest population but 42% of its children don't have enough to eat, says UNICEF. However, nine million primary schoolchildren get a free school meal every day. This is thanks to President Buhari's Home Grown School Feeding Programme. The programme started in 2016 and gives hot meals to nine million children in 26 of Nigeria's 36 states. Children get hot meals every day in 56,000 schools. This is the largest programme in Africa.

Nigeria wants a country of healthy young people. Its population is growing very fast. By 2050 Nigeria's population will be bigger than the US (400 million people). So free food in schools will help children be healthy.

In Nigeria many children drop out of school. They stop going because they are poor and hungry. The dropout is very bad. About 30% of children drop out of primary school. Teachers hope that because of the school meals children will want to be at school. They also hope more children will want to go.

They also hope there will be more jobs. Now, 95,000 cooks make the meals for the children. Each meal costs 25 cents. About 150,000 farmers grow food for the school meals programme. In 2019 the programme will grow from nine million to 15 million and there will be 300,000 jobs for farmers and cooks.

But it is difficult. Is there enough money to pay for all the school meals? There are 24 million children in primary school in Nigeria and 10 states do not have any schools with free meals for children.

However, it is not only schools. It is not only Nigeria. Children in Burkina Faso and the Sahel also need food. Because of political difficulty 150,000 children can't go to school. They have left their villages. 130,000 don't have much food. They are very hungry. They need food, water, health care and protection and they need a home. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (Organisation Des Nations Unies pour la Coordination de L'Action Humanitaire) is making a plan to offer \$100,000 to look after 900,000 people in the region.

New words for this article

Population	the people in a country
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
home grown	made in Nigeria
drop out	leave school and stop education
population	the number of people in a country

Comprehension Questions

- 1 How many people live in Nigeria?
- 2 How many children don't have enough to eat?
- 3 When did the school food programme start?
- 4 How many schools are in the programme?

African Billionaires

Business in Africa is getting better and better. Many companies are growing and many are very successful.

The owners of the companies are very successful, and now there are a lot of billionaires in Africa, as well as in America and Asia and around the world.

Who are these African billionaires?

A billionaire is a businessperson who has more than \$1 billion, that is 1000 million US dollars. That's a lot of money. But it is not only money in the pocket or money in the bank. A businessperson can own houses, factories, other companies – and this makes the total of more than \$1 billion.

A famous American business magazine, Forbes Magazine, has a list of billionaires in the world. The magazine writes the list every year, and everyone wants to read the list. Everyone wants to know – who are the new billionaires? What happened to the old billionaires?

These are the billionaires in Africa for this year. There are now 20 billionaires in Africa.

This is a smaller number than last year – there were 23 billionaires last year. But some people have lost money in the stock market. Some people have lost money in their companies. The world of business can be difficult as well as successful.

Five of the billionaires are in Egypt.

Nassef Sawiris makes money from construction and chemical industry

Naguib Sawiris works in telecommunications.

Mohamed Al Fayed owns the Harrods store in London.

Mohamed Mansour and Yasseen Mansour have many different businesses.

Five of the billionaires are in South Africa.

Nicky Oppenheimer makes money from diamonds. His grandfather started the diamond company DeBeers many years ago, and it is still very successful today.

Johann Rupert has a business in luxury products

Koos Bekker makes money in the world of media.

Michiel Le Roux makes money from banking and

Patrice Motsepe has a mining business, taking products like gold from the ground.

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The French-speaking countries

There are more than 7000 languages in the world.

The biggest number of people speak English, or Chinese or Hindi or Arabic

English is a world language, but French is also a world language.

Some people are native speakers – they were born with a language, they learned it from their parents, they spoke it all their lives.

Some people are second-language speakers; they learned a new language when they were children or adults.

Many millions of people speak French in many countries of the world. There are about 450 – 500 million French speakers – some native speakers, some second-language speakers...

In the whole world, a total of 29 independent countries speak French.

In these countries, French is the official language, but some people speak other languages too.

We call these 'Francophone' countries – countries where people speak French. Sometimes French is the language of native speakers. Sometimes French is the official language of the government and the country, but many people are not native speakers of French. Their native language is a local language, but they can speak French as well.

Outside France and Africa, the Francophone countries in the world include many other independent countries, such as:

Canada - People speak French in the province of Quebec, and in the city of Montreal. But all Canadians learn French in school, and it is an official language of the whole country. Most Canadians are proud to be multilingual.

Belgium - People speak French in the province of Wallonia, and in the city of Brussels. But all Belgians learn French in school, and it is an official language of the whole country.

Switzerland - People speak French in the west of the country, and in the city of Geneva. But all Swiss learn French in school, and it is an official language of the whole country.

Monaco - Everybody in this very small country of 40,000 people can speak French. French is the only official language of the country. Some people can also speak a local language, Monegasque, which is like Italian.

Luxembourg - Everybody can speak French but not everybody is a native speaker

Haiti – everybody can speak French but not everybody is a native speaker. Many people speak Creole instead.

Vanuatu – some people can speak French, but not everyone

Some Francophone countries like French Guyana, Martinique and Guadeloupe are not independent countries, they are part of France. They are departments or regions of France, and here French is also the official language.

In Africa, 21 countries are called 'Francophone' countries. In these countries French is the official language or it is one of many official languages. Most of the people speak French, and there are strong connections to France.

The biggest Francophone country in Africa is the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with 84 million people – it is bigger than France.

And the smallest Francophone country in Africa is Seychelles, with 100,000 people.

In all these African countries, there are other local languages too. In the whole of Africa there are about 2000 languages – about 80 just in Senegal.

French is a very important language in these Francophone countries.

New words for this article

1	native speaker	person who speaks a language as a mother language
2	official language	language of the government
3	Francophone	French-speaking
4	Creole	language which is a mixture of 2 languages

Comprehension Questions

- 1 What is a Francophone country?
- 2 What is a native speaker?
- 3 In what province is Montreal?
- 4 Where is Wallonia?
- 5 Which Francophone country is bigger than France itself?