Riassunti di inglese del libro Aspects e del quaderno.

**Old English:**

The English language didn't originate in England but came from areas that are now Germany and Denmark. Tribes like the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded Britain in the 5th century, and their language developed into Old English, spoken from 450 to 1100 AD. About half of the words we use today come from Old English.

**Old Norse:**

In the 8th century, Vikings from Denmark arrived, bringing words we use today like "th-", "fog," and "skull."

**Latin:**

The Roman invasion in 43 AD and the spread of Christianity in the 6th and 7th centuries brought many Latin words into English, especially for religious and educational terms.

**Middle English:**

In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded Britain, and French became the language of the ruling classes. This mix of French, Latin, and Old English was called Middle English, spoken until about 1500.

**Early Modern English:**

During the 16th century, people started traveling much more. The British came into contact with people from all around the world, and more and more words filtered into the language. The printing of books brought a standard spelling and grammar to a language that previously had many variations. This language is called Early Modern English. Over the centuries, the language has evolved and developed with thousands of new words coming from many different languages.

**The Spread of the English Language:**

**Why English?**

Despite being a small island, Britain managed to spread its mixed-up language across the world through colonization. British colonization introduced English to places like North America, the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand, parts of Africa, India, and Southeast Asia. By the early 20th century, Britain controlled over a quarter of the globe, establishing English-speaking governments and industries worldwide.

After World War II, the USA emerged as a new superpower in economic, political, and military spheres, further spreading English through international communication, business, and technology. Today, English continues to be the universal business language and the language of technology.

**Esperanto or Globish?**

Esperanto is an artificial language created in 1887 to solve the international language problem. It has an easy grammar structure but is spoken by few people today.

Globish is a simplified version of English, consisting of 1,500 words and basic grammar, designed to help non-native speakers communicate more easily.

**Accents and Dialects:**

**Accents and Dialects in the UK:**

Depending on where you live, you might have a regional accent or dialect. For example, people in the south of England often speak differently from people in the north. Scotland also has its distinct accent and dialect.

**English vs. American:**

In the UK, there are many different accents and dialects. The USA also has regional accents, but British and American English differ in other ways too. For example, in the UK, we use the present perfect tense to talk about a past action that is important now, while Americans often use the past simple tense. Vocabulary differences also exist; for instance, in the UK, "holiday" is "vacation" in American English, and "pants" means "underwear" in the UK but "trousers" in the USA. However, British and American people understand each other most of the time.

**British Colonialism:**

The United States of America: The British established their first permanent settlement in North America in 1607. Over the following centuries, more colonies were founded. The American colonies declared independence in 1776, forming the United States of America.

**Bermuda:**

Bermuda was discovered by the British in 1609 and became a British colony. It served as a strategic naval base for the British.

**Australia:**

Captain James Cook claimed the east coast of Australia for Britain in 1770. In 1788, the British established their first penal colony there, where they sent convicts to live.

**The Downside of Colonization:**

The downside of colonization is also the theme of the film "Australia" (2008). It tells the story of an English aristocrat who inherits a cattle station in northern Australia just before World War II. She meets a local man and they experience the struggles of the Australian Aborigines as they try to save the station.

**The Age of Empire:**

The period between 1815 and 1924 was a time of great expansion and growth for the British Empire. It grew to be the largest empire ever known. However, most countries eventually gained independence but united into a new organization: the Commonwealth (56 independent states). The Commonwealth is an international association of former British Empire members, formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949. The head of the Commonwealth is Charles III, who is the king in 15 member states. All these states cooperate and, to some extent, depend on the UK economically and financially.

**Icons and Institutions:**

**Posh and Becks:**

Victoria Beckham, a model, fashion designer, and ex-Spice Girl, and her husband David Beckham, a former footballer, are famous British icons known as "Posh and Becks." They are worth millions and have humble beginnings. They are also known for their charity work.

**The British Bobby:**

"Bobby" is a nickname for a British policeman, named after Sir Robert 'Bobby' Peel, the founder of the modern police force. Traditionally unarmed, British police carry a short wooden truncheon and are trusted and respected by the public.

**The Queen:**

Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne in 1951 at the age of 25. She is loved and respected for her dignity and seriousness, and she has a sense of fun, as shown by her participation in the 2012 Olympic ceremony with James Bond (Daniel Craig).

**Tea:**

One of the most famous institutions in Britain is the cup of tea. In fact, tea is definitely the national drink. Britain is the only place in the world where you can be certain of being offered tea more than once on a social visit. It’s the first thing a British person will do when you visit them at home. Tea has been a popular drink since the 17th century. Today the average Brit drinks four cups a day. Tea is served between 4 or 5 pm with milk, coffee, sandwiches, and scones. Scones are small cakes of Scottish origin, often served with cream, clotted cream, or jam, and sometimes cranberry jam.

**Magna Carta: Not Just a Document**

**What Is Magna Carta?**

Magna Carta, meaning "the Great Charter," is a medieval document issued by King John of England in 1215. It established that everybody, including the King himself, was subject to the law. It is considered one of the most important documents in the history of democracy and is a guarantee of individual freedom.

**Why Was It Created?**

King John was an unpopular king who was constantly at war with France and imposed heavy taxes on the barons. The situation escalated, leading to the barons rebelling against King John. The two sides met at Runnymede, and on 15 June 1215, Magna Carta was signed.

**What Does It Say?**

Magna Carta is often referred to as the foundation of democracy, though it initially applied to a small proportion of the population. It contained 63 clauses dealing with various issues, including the rights of the King, the ownership of land, taxation, and the justice system. It established that everyone is equal before the law.

**The Legacy of Magna Carta**

Magna Carta installed the Rule of Law, the idea that all men are equal before the law, in English society. It limited the power of authoritarian rule and cleared the way for trial by jury. Its ideas were central to the American Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and its legacy is seen in the 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights. Where Magna Carta's basic principles are denied, loss of liberty and human rights follows. Democratic societies the world over have been constructed on its principles.

**English holidays:**

**Great Britain and United Kingdom:**

Great Britain is made up of:

* England
* Wales
* Scotland

The U.K. is made up of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Holidays:**

Bank holidays are set by a written statute. Common law holidays are held by convention, practice, or tradition (custom):

* Common law holidays: Good Friday, Christmas Day.
* Bank holidays: Easter Monday, May Day, Spring Bank Holiday.

**Origin of Banking:**

The origins of banking are traced back to Mesopotamia about 2000 years B.C., where the first forms of banking took place in temples. Temples were the heart of the town, so when the temples closed, even the economic life stopped.

**Work and Holidays:**

Today, there isn't an automatic right to time off work, but generally, when the bank is closed, most workers have time off work. If a holiday falls on the weekend, it will be celebrated on the first working day of the week, generally Monday.

**Saints' Days:**

* St. Patrick's Day: Saint of Ireland, celebrated on 17th March.
* St. David's Day: Saint of Wales, celebrated on 1st March.
* St. George's Day: Patron of England, celebrated on 23rd April.
* St. Andrew's Day: Patron of Scotland, celebrated on 30th November.

**Specific Holidays and Celebrations:**

* Battle of the Boyne: Fought in 1690 across the River Boyne between King James II (French origin and Catholic) and King William of Orange, William III (Protestant).
* Summer Bank Holiday: Celebrated in Scotland on the first Monday in August. In England, Wales, and Northern Ireland on the last Monday in August.
* St. Stephen's Day (Boxing Day): There are two reasons why it's also called Boxing Day:
  + During the period of Queen Victoria (1837-1901), servants worked for the rich people even on Christmas Day. The masters prepared a gift for them, which was a box containing extra money, received on the 26th day.
  + Rich people always did charity; this tradition dates back to the first building of churches in 33 A.D. People collected money in a box that was opened on the 26th day for the poor.
* Remembrance Day: This holiday is on the 11th of November. It commemorates the end of the First World War, which ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The British wear white poppies. After the war, white poppies started to grow in the battlefields. In the U.K., at 11 A.M., a 2-minute silence is held everywhere to remember not only the victims of the First World War but the victims of all wars.
* VE Day (Victory in Europe Day): Celebrated on the 8th of May, marking the victory in Europe in 1945.
* Father's Day: Celebrated in the U.K. on the third Sunday of June. There is an exchange of gifts towards fathers, which consist of: shorts, ties, underwear, and tools for household maintenance. Families also plan to go outdoors and be together.
* Holocaust Memorial Day: Celebrated on the 27th of January.
* Mother's Day: Celebrated 3 weeks before Easter. Mothers receive flowers, chocolates, or jewelry as gifts.
* Grandparents' Day: Celebrated on the first Sunday of October. It celebrates the bond between grandparents and grandchildren.
* Bonfire Night (Guy Fawkes Night): Celebrated on the 5th of November in the U.K. This holiday was a bank holiday until 1859. It was brought to North America but was forgotten and replaced with the American Revolution. During this holiday, there are parties, street food, fireworks, entertainment, and events. To celebrate, people light bonfires around London, and it is considered a day of thanksgiving. It refers to a particular event that happened on November 5, 1605: Guy Fawkes was a guard of the explosives that were near the House of Lords. He was part of a faction of plotters (Catholics) who wanted to kill James I and the Parliament. They failed to do so, and he was arrested after this attempted assassination.

**Halloween:**

Halloween is a special holiday for English and American children, celebrated on October 31st, the day before All Saints' Day. The origins of Halloween are very ancient. One of the symbols of this festival is the large orange pumpkin lanterns called Jack o' Lanterns. The lanterns are made from pumpkins carved to look like scary faces, with a candle inside. They are hung on trees or placed by windows to be seen in the dark. Children make the lanterns to frighten witches and ghosts. In the evening, children wear scary costumes and masks and go out. In the streets, you can see ghosts, witches, skeletons, pirates, wizards, and other different costumes. They go from house to house, knock on doors, and say:

"Trick or treat! Smell my feet! Give me something good to eat!"

People usually give them money, sweets, candies, apples, and nuts. But sometimes, children get nothing, so they play a trick.

**The Legend of Jack o' Lantern:**

According to Irish folklore, a man named Jack, known for his drunkenness and quick temper, got very drunk on All Hallows' Eve and met the Devil outside a pub. Jack asked the Devil for one more drink but didn't have the money to pay. The Devil took the shape of a coin, and Jack put it into his wallet, which had a cross-shaped catch. Jack agreed to free the Devil under one condition: the Devil should let him live for another year. The Devil accepted. The following year, the Devil reappeared and asked Jack to accompany him. Jack tricked the Devil again by carving a cross on a tree, trapping the Devil. Jack asked the Devil for ten more years of life in exchange for his freedom. The Devil had to accept. Unfortunately, Jack died almost a year later. He was not accepted into paradise, and the Devil refused him admission to hell. The Devil gave Jack a piece of coal to help him find his way in the dark. Jack put the piece of coal into a turnip, and it became known as Jack O' Lantern. On All Hallows' Eve, you can still see Jack's flame burning as he searches for a home. The Irish used to carve turnips or beets as lanterns and use them on Halloween night as festival lights. When they emigrated to the USA, they brought their traditions with them. They couldn't find turnips in America but found a lot of pumpkins, which were suitable substitutes to make a Jack O' Lantern. Since then, pumpkins have become an essential part of Halloween celebrations.