

My Family

My name is Polly. I am ten. I am a schoolgirl. I go to school. I like learning English and playing puzzles. I would like to tell you about my family. It is neither big nor small. There are four of us.

I have got a mother. Her name is Jane. She is a teacher. She is very responsible and creative. She likes her work. Her hobbies are singing and shopping. My mother is fond of reading detective stories.

I have got a father. His name is Jack. He is a doctor. He is clever and hardworking. My father likes playing golf. He goes in for sport to be healthy and strong. He is fond of fishing too.

My brother Nick is small. He is only four. He likes playing toys. Usually we get on well with him, but sometimes he is very naughty.

On Saturdays and Sundays we like to be together. Last Sunday we went to the country. We had a good rest.

My Mother's Birthday

My name is Kate. My family is a typical Russian family. There are four of us. I have got a mother. Her name is Ann. She is a teacher. She is very kind. Her hobbies are singing and shopping. My mother is fond of reading detective stories.

My father's name is Peter. He is a driver. He is clever and sporty. My father is fond of fishing. My brother Nick is small. He is only four. He likes playing with his toys.

We are a close and friendly family. We like to spend time and holidays together.

Tomorrow it will be my mother's birthday. My brother and I will go shopping together with our father. We are going to buy our mum a birthday present. It will be a nice scarf. She would like to have a white one. And we shall buy flowers for her, too.

Tomorrow my brother and I will clean the flat. We won't be lazy. Father will help us. Then we'll make our kitchen clean and bright. Tomorrow we will lay the table. We would like our mother to be happy.

The man and the monkeys.

One day a man who made caps went to the market to sell them. It was a long way to go. The man passed by a long river. When he was in the forest, he decided to rest a little, as the day was very hot and he was very tired.

The man saw a large tree. He decided to rest under it.

As the sun was very hot, the man put on one of the caps on his head and put all the

other caps on the ground under the tree. The man had lunch, then lay down and soon was asleep. When he woke up, he could not find the caps.

“Where are my caps?” he cried. He could not find them anywhere.

Suddenly he looked up. And what did he see? He saw many monkeys in the tree, and each monkey had the man’s cap on its head!

“Give me back my caps!” cried the man. But the monkeys could not understand the man. They laughed, jumped and played with the caps.

The man asked and asked the monkeys to give him back his caps, but the monkeys didn’t understand him. They only laughed.

The man got very much angry with the monkeys. He took off his cap, threw it on the ground and cried: “If you want my caps, you may take this one, too!”

And do you know what the monkeys did? They took off the caps and threw them on the ground!

That’s how the man got back all his caps.

Certainly, he was very glad. He quickly took all his caps and went away.

The Bear in School

One day a boy found a brown bear-cub in the forest. He was very little and looked like a puppy. The boy carried him home.

Every day the boy went to school. The bear-cub went with him and waited for the boy in the field.

At first the other boys were afraid of the bear-cub, but soon they became great friends. Many of them brought food to school and gave the bear-cub some bread and butter.

The bear-cub lived with the boy for a long time. But one day he went to the forest and did not come back. Everybody was very sorry for the bear-cub.

Many years passed. New schoolboys came to the old school. One very cold winter day the door opened, and a large brown bear walked into the classroom. The boys were afraid. Some ran to the door, others jumped out of the window.

But the bear did not touch the pupils. He walked up to the fire and warmed himself. He felt quite at home. He was very glad to get into such a warm room. He sat by the fire, and then walked up to the table and ate some bread. Then the bear walked out of the house.

Some young men of the village came with their guns to kill the bear. They soon found him but did not kill him. They saw some marks on his skin and understood that the bear was the old friend of their schooldays. They let him go back into the forest.

A Day in the Life of Simon Carrot

First of all, I must tell you about myself. I am thirteen and I am in the third class at a Grammar school in Manchester

What a terrible day! I woke up late and didn't have time to eat my breakfast. I couldn't find my books or my school cap. At last I found my books in the bathroom; and at last, I found my cap — my dog was playing with it! I was nearly late for school.

The first lesson on Monday morning is maths. What a terrible way to start the week! Mr Green, the maths teacher, took our homework. He saw that my exercise - book was dirty. He was very angry and gave me a bad mark for it.

Then he gave us some tasks to do. I sat next to Jane, who was fat and not very pleasant — but very good at maths. I asked her to tell me the answers, but she didn't want.

The next lesson was French. I like French. It's nice to be able to talk to somebody in another language.

At last, it was eleven o'clock: time for break. Nell gave me a piece of cake to eat with my milk. She also gave me her Latin homework to copy. I think she likes me and she's a nice girl.

After break, we had two lessons of Latin! They are bad: I hate Latin! Mr Williams punished me for talking to Nell.

A Day in the Life of Simon Carrot

At 12: 30 pm was time for lunch. I was very hungry! I sat down at the table feeling very happy because the Latin lessons were over. And then I saw what was for lunch: meat pie, boiled potatoes and cabbage. I hate vegetables! But I ate a little, because I was so hungry.

Then I went into the playground with my friends Pete Sharp and John Ford and we played football.

After lunch we had a history lesson. I don't usually like history, but I liked this lesson very much. We learned about the Battle of Hastings in 1066. We were on holiday in Hastings last summer. I said I would bring some photographs of our holiday to school the next week.

At three o'clock it was time for my favourite lesson of the week: games. We played a very exciting game of football but it ended in a draw. After school at four o'clock, Pete and I bought some sweets and I went to his house to listen to music.

Mum was angry because I didn't arrive home till half past seven. She

doesn't like when I come home late. My supper was cold.
I did my French homework but I didn't do my history homework.

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is located between Southern Ontario (Canada) and New York State (USA). The first inhabitants who settled in the Niagara Falls region were the Iroquois. They worked as farmers and trades along the banks of the Niagara River. When the first Europeans set foot in the area, they also settled there. The 19th century brought the most important developments to the area. The Village of Manchester (Niagara Falls) became an important centre for manufacturing companies during the early years of the industrial development. Tourists started to arrive in the 1820s and they still visit this after almost two centuries.

The most comfortable way to visit Niagara Falls is a boat trip on the world famous Maid of the Mist. This historical boat tour takes millions of tourists to the Falls from the Canadian to the American side every year. Don't miss two other important attractions: the White Water Walk, an amazing tour through a deep narrow gorge and the Journey Behind the Falls, a self-guided tour which takes you to an observation platform at the base of the Falls in a lift. You can then go on a short journey through some tunnels which lead you behind the Falls.

After a day of exciting adventure, visit Niagara Square with all its shops, cinemas and boutiques. There are lots of restaurants that serve locally grown products and regional cuisine. At night, experience local clubs with live music and entertainment. Don't forget the fireworks over the Falls every Friday and Sunday!

Mexico City

Many people travelling to Mexico pass through Mexico City, but most of them never actually visit Mexico's capital city. If you asked those people why, they would probably say something about the air. Mexico City is very big, and air pollution is always a problem in big cities. But a lot of its inhabitants say that air pollution is less of a problem than in the past.

The historic centre was built on what used to be an island in an ancient lake. It's the oldest part of the city and includes the Zocalo, the largest public square in the Americas. There is an enormous Mexican flag in the centre of the square.

The best way to see the most sights in the shortest time is to take the 'Turibus', a red, two-level bus similar to the double-decker buses in London, except that the

top level has no roof. This means that you see the city better, but it also means that you need to wear lots of sun cream. A daily ticket allows you unlimited rides.

The amazing National Museum of Anthropology is located in the Chapultepec Park. It's perhaps the most famous of the city's museums and also one of the biggest. Other sights in the park include an amusement park, a forest with beautiful old trees and a large zoo with giant pandas.

Plaza Garibaldi always has street musicians playing traditional Mexican music. There's also birria, a spicy goat meat soup sold at selfservice restaurants in a large building just off the square.

Let's go to this exciting, beautiful city.

Pret A Manger

In the 1980s Julian Metcalfe and Sinclair Beecham spent a lot of time walking around London looking for a good, fast lunch. They never found one. So in 1986 they opened their own sandwich shop, Pret a Manger.

Today there are 150 Pret a Mangers in the UK and Hong Kong. Why have they become successful? Firstly, the food. Every night a van delivers fresh ingredients to the Pret a Manger stores. Early in the morning the chefs check the ingredients carefully, and then they make fresh sandwiches for the day. And these days it isn't only sandwiches. Pret a Manger sells many different types of food; it even includes sushi on the menu. Quality and care is important for the company. For people who want to know exactly what they are eating, its website gives information about each dish. For example, if you want to know how many calories are in a ham and cheese sandwich, you can find out.

Pret a Manger also does good things for the community. At the end of the day, charities take any extra unwanted food and give it to homeless people.

McDonald's owns 33% of the company, and this is one reason why people all over the world now know this trade name.

Going to the Theatre

Many big towns in England have professional theatres now. There are about 200 professional theatres in Great Britain but London is the centre of theatrical

activity. There are over thirty important theatres in the West End. The Royal Opera House at Covent Garden is the home of opera and ballet.

Some theatres stage 'classics' and serious drama. A lot of English people are fond of light comedy and musicals. They are very popular in England.

The evening performances begin at 7.30 or 8.00 p.m. There is a rush hour at this time in the West End. A lot of people come out of nearby underground stations, taxis and private cars drop theatre-goers outside the entrance to each theatre. There is another rush hour when the performances are over.

It is certainly not easy to book a seat for a good play in London though the seats are not cheap. That is why some people prefer matinees (they start at 1-3 p.m.), but you will never see famous stars in these performances.

Sport in Britain

The British are a sporting nation. Like everyone else they love football — in fact, they invented it. Most British towns and cities have a football team. Every year each team plays in the Football association competition. The two best teams play in the Cup Final at Wembley Stadium in London. Some fans pay up to £ 200 for a ticket for the Cup Final. It is one of the biggest sporting events of the year.

Cricket is a typically British game. The only other countries that play cricket are Pakistan, India, the West Indies, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Cricket is a summer game, lovely to watch from under old trees on a village 'green'. It looks slow, but it can be exciting if you understand what's going on. Cricket is a very long game. The big international matches go on for five days. But in the real English way, the players always stop for tea.

Tennis is another popular game in Britain. Every summer, in June, the biggest international tennis tournament takes place at Wimbledon, a suburb of London.

Many British people who live near the sea, a lake, or a river enjoy sailing. If you are really enthusiastic and rich enough to buy your own boat, you can take part in one of the annual sailing races or regattas.