

### 1. England

To mark England's national day, St George's Day, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, this week's lesson is based on various facts about the country.

### Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

### How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of England.
  
2. Divide the students into pairs and give each pair a copy of Worksheet A. Give them a few minutes to read the text, looking up any new vocabulary, then ask them to fill the gaps with the correct words from the box. This exercise introduces some of the vocabulary that appears on Worksheet B. Make it clear that there is only one possible word to fill each gap, and that there are fifteen words in the box but only twelve gaps in the text, meaning that three of the words should not be used.
  
3. Check answers in open class.
  
4. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out copies of Worksheet B in which students have to match the numbers in the third column of the table with the items in the middle column. Point out that in some cases the numbers are approximate. Although Worksheet A provides a little help, in some cases students will probably have to take a guess.
  
5. Check answers in open class.
  
6. Keeping students in their pairs, tell them that for the final exercise they are going to look at some statements and decide if they are true or false. They are then going to have to 'bet' anything from 10 to 50 points on their guesses.
  
7. Give each pair a copy of Worksheet C, and ask them to read and discuss the statements. In the first column after the statement they should write T (true) or F (false). In the second column they have to write the number of points they are willing to bet on their answer (10 points if they are forced to guess, going up to 50 if they are very confident about the answer).
  
8. After the pairs have given their answers, it's time to score. Each pair calls out their answer and how many points they have bet. If they have answered correctly, students enter their points in the final column (points won). If they have answered incorrectly, they should enter their points in the third column (points lost). At the end, students subtract the total of the third column from the total of the fourth column to give the total number of points they have won. The pair with the most points wins.

## Answers

### Exercise 1

1. biggest 2. half 3. sea 4. under 5. name 6. day 7. tennis 8. best  
9. snow 10. above 11. kilograms 12. shoulder

Words that should not be used: foot, food, below

### Exercise 2

A: 130,000 B: 51,000,000 C: 2 D: 800 E: 22 F: 18 G: 34 H: 1877 I: 20  
J: 39 K: 0 L: 2

### Exercise 3

- False.** Red deer are herbivores: they don't eat any animals at all.
- True.** The population of England is 51 million, and of Britain, 61 million.
- False.** Hundreds of people have swum across the English Channel.
- False.** There is, however, a train (the Eurotunnel Shuttle service) that carries cars through the tunnel.
- False.** In fact, St George's Day is not a major event in most parts of England. It is celebrated to a lesser extent than, for example, St David's Day in Wales (and to a far lesser extent than St Patrick's Day in Ireland).
- True.** In fact, fewer than 40% of the players in the Premier League are English.
- True.**
- False.** The highest recorded temperature is 38 degrees centigrade, in southern England in August 2003.
- False.** Dublin, Oslo and Lisbon are just three of the European capitals with a higher average annual rainfall than London.
- True.**

## 2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/England>

The England entry in *Simple English Wikipedia*. Challenging for pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.enjoyengland.com/>

The website of the English national tourism organization. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/nationaldays/England.html>

A page on St George's Day from an excellent online project on Britain created by teachers and students at a school in England. There are numerous other pages with information about England. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

[http://www.bds.org.uk/red\\_deer.html](http://www.bds.org.uk/red_deer.html)

A page on the red deer, England's largest wild animal, from the website of the British Deer Society. Intermediate level and above.