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# ENGLISH CONVERSATION TOPICS

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1. **The political system in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and in the USA**
  - *UK: the Queen, the Royal Family, Parliament, the Government, political parties*
  - *USA: the Constitution, the Congress, the President and the executive branch, political parties*
2. **Daily programme**
  - *Daily routines, on my way to school/work, leisure time, hobbies, weekends*
  - *Compare with young people in Britain, USA, other countries*
  - *Problems of young people, why, how to solve them*
3. **Leisure time, lifestyle, hobbies and interests**
  - *Ways people spend their free time – depending on their age, sex, types of hobbies*
  - *Active x passive way of living*
4. **Home and family life, living in the society**
  - *The importance of my family, a nuclear family, relatives*
  - *Family problems: divorce, adultery, abortion, alcohol, drugs, gambling, abuse, growing up, upbringing*
  - *Marriage – yes or no, when, how many, ideal partner (appearance, character, personal features)*
  - *My parent and me*
  - *Children – yes or no, how many, a single child*
  - *Differences between men and women, women's lib, feminism, sexism*
  - *Housekeeping – chores, family budget, my pocket money*
5. **Occupation**
  - *Why do we work?*
  - *Types of jobs*
  - *I'd like to be.....*
  - *Applying for a job – advertisements, application form, resume, cover letter, interview (do, don't), BBB – Better Business Bureau*
  - *Unemployment*
6. **Education and the school system in Great Britain and in the USA in comparison with the Czech Republic**
  - *Compare the Czech, British and American systems of education (school attendance, types of school, evaluation, compulsory/elective subjects)*
  - *Our school*
  - *Problems at school*
  - *Education in general*
7. **Cultural life, entertainment, music, fine art**
  - *Culture facilities in towns/in the country*
  - *Cinema/theatre going*
  - *Kinds of films, plays, literature*
  - *TV watching – are you a couch potato?*
  - *Making a video*
  - *Taking dancing lessons*
  - *Oscar and other awards*
  - *Famous personalities in culture*



**8. Reading experience from English and American literature, the most important representatives and their place in the development of English and American literature**

- *English literature – old, the Middle Ages, famous names – 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> century*
- *W.Shakespeare, Ch.Dickens – life, work, on of his works*
- *American literature - famous authors, E.Hemingway, the Beat Generation*
- *My favourite authors*

**9. Communication between people, the media**

- *Why do we communicate, how, what do we need to communicate, how do we get information?*
- *Newspapers, TV news, broadcasting – BBC*
- *The ways I communicate*
- *Lack of communication – why, consequences*
- *Internet*

**10. Sports and games**

- *Types of sports – indoor/outdoor, summer/winter*
- *Popular sports in GB, USA, other countries*
- *Sports facilities in our town*
- *PE at school*
- *My attitude to sports*
- *Olympic games*
- *My favourite sportsmen*
- *X-treme sports*
- *Describe the rules of your favourite sport*
- *Winners and losers*
- *Drugs in sport*

**11. Nature, environment and its protection**

- *Natural beauties – mountains, lowlands, rivers, lakes...*
- *Countryside - forests, fields, animals*
- *Cities - parks, gardens, animals*
- *National parks*
- *Air and water pollution*
- *Greenhouse effect*
- *Sources of energy – alternative sources*
- *Recycling*
- *What can you personally do to protect the environment?*

**12. Health, health care, the health care in Great Britain and in the USA in comparison with the Czech Republic**

- *Describe medical care in our country, our health insurance system*
- *How does the state look after small children and mothers?*
- *Name parts of human body*
- *Name common children diseases, common infections*
- *Name various kinds of physicians*
- *What is the best prevention of illnesses and diseases?*
- *Name some diseases we cannot cure.*
- *AIDS*
- *Drug addiction*

**13. Holiday, feasts in GB, in the USA and in the Czech Republic**

- *Why people celebrate various kinds of holidays?*
- *Typical British holidays, Celtic origins in some of them*
- *Typical American holidays celebrated only there*
- *Differences between Czech and Britain Easter, X-mas*



#### 14. Food and restaurants

- *Why and what do we eat?*
- *Daily meals (breakfast, lunch, brunch, dinner, supper)*
- *The way of preparing food, ingredients, my favourite recipe*
- *Recipe x Receipt x Prescription*
- *National cuisines*
- *Chemical substances in our food, healthy diet*
- *Eating habits*
- *Table manners*

#### 15. The Czech Republic, Prague, my town

- *Geography*
- *History*
- *Political system*
- *My favourite places in our country and other places of interest*
- *Famous personalities*
- *On the way to Prague*
- *What do you know about your town – geography, history, places of interest, cultural life*

#### 16. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- *Geography*
- *History*
- *Political system*
- *Places of interest*
- *Famous personalities*
- *Big cities*

#### 17. The Commonwealth – Australia, New Zealand, Canada

- *What is it the Commonwealth? Why does it exist?*
- *Which countries, their political system*
- *Geography, history, places of interest*

#### 18. The United States of America

- *Geography*
- *History*
- *Political system – 50 states*
- *Places of interest*
- *Famous personalities*
- *Big cities*

#### 19. Transport and travelling

- *Reasons of travelling*
- *Means of transport, their advantages, disadvantages*
- *Safe travelling*
- *At a railway station, airport, buying tickets, making reservations*
- *Going abroad, coming through immigration office*
- *Travel agencies*
- *10 most important things you would take with you on your holiday – in winter, summer, on a desert island*
- *To be or not to be an au-pair*

#### 20. Accommodation, housing

- *Types, a typical Czech/British/American way of housing*
- *Our flat/house, my own room*
- *Furniture, the most important pieces of furniture*
- *What makes our flat our home*
- *What single item would you save if your house/flat caught fire?*
- *My dreamed-of place of living*
- *Compare two flats, what makes them different?*
- *Architectural styles. Why is architecture important?*



## 21. Languages, learning languages, English as a world language

- *History of English language*
- *Fields of utilisation*
- *Dialects, styles, differences between British and American English (spelling, meaning, pronunciation, grammar)*
- *Slang*
- *English invasion of other languages (French, Czech...)*
- *Are we able to use "pure" language nowadays?*

## 22. Science and technology, modern life

- *History: muscle power, steam engine, internal-combustion engine, nuclear energy*
- *Materials*
- *Production process*
- *Space flights*
- *Computers, internet*
- *How do science and technology affect your own life?*
- *What invention or discovery is (the most) important for you?*
- *How much have technology and science advanced since your parents were young?*
- *Famous scientists and their inventions/discoveries*
- *How is research done?*

## 23. London, New York, Washington D.C.

- *Geography*
- *History*
- *Famous personalities*
- *Monuments and other places of interest*

## 24. Clothes and fashion

- *Why do people wear clothes?*
- *What is fashion, name relevant jobs*
- *What attitudes do people have to fashion?*
- *What kinds of materials, patterns, colours, styles, cuts, designs can be used?*
- *How do seasons influence clothes?*
- *What kinds of clothes do we wear on various occasions?*
- *Accessories, hairdos, haircuts, make-up*
- *I would like to be a model*

## 25. Shopping

- *Types of shops, goods, window-shopping, malls, second hand, open-air market*
- *Paying for goods*
- *Making a complaint, a letter of complaint*
- *Advertisements, teleshopping*
- *Family budget*
- *Dialogues*

## 26. Weather, time

- *Climate*
- *Weather during the year*
- *Describe four seasons*
- *What season of the year do you prefer and why?*
- *Weather forecast*
- *How does the weather influence our mood, health, travelling?*

## 27. The World and the Universe

- *The Earth and the Solar System*
- *Astronomy*
- *Is there a life on Mars?*
- *Space flights*



#### 28. Famous personalities, biography

- *Who is your favourite personality?*
- *FAMOUS politicians, actors, artists, writers, businessmen, sportsmen, composers, scientists...*

#### 29. Law and politics, international organizations

- *What is your view of the politics in our country?*
- *Are you interested in politics?*
- *Governments around the world*
- *Governments and rulers*
- *Famous politicians*
- *Would you like to be a politician?*
- *Democracy and totalitarian system*
- *The European Union, the World Bank, NATO, the United Nations*

#### 30. Business and economics

- *How important is money to you?*
- *The rich and the poor in the world*
- *How do you save and spend your money?*
- *Business correspondence*
- *Cash or credit cards?*
- *The Czech bank system*
- *The Euro*
- *Taxes*
- *Foreign trade*
- *Office and office activities*
- *Business travelling*

#### 31. Social problems, crime and punishment, terrorism

- *What social problems worry you?*
- *Crime-can it be stopped?*
- *Crime and punishment*
- *Conflict and wars – what is their cause*
- *Police and army*
- *Military service and the ways of war*
- *Racism*

#### 32. History of the world

#### 33. Other countries of the world

#### 34. Religion

- *Christian churches*
- *Bible*
- *Major religions in the USA, Britain and the Czech Republic*
- *Religious holidays*
- *The Commandments*

#### 35. Psychology

- *Addiction*
- *Mental illnesses*
- *Moods and emotions*
- *Stages of human development*
- *Relationships*
- *Human qualities*
- *Dysfunctions, therapy*