

## Topic 1 BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES – LET’S EXPLORE

1 Complete the text using vocabulary from topic 1.

### Britain and the United States

Despite being relatively small, Great Britain offers a lot of diversity. The major cities are appealing for people looking for some action, and are still a popular break for a weekend away. And although many people still like to visit England, Wales has also grown in popularity in recent years, for a number of reasons. Firstly, there are cities such as Cardiff, the capital, which some say is more sociable than London. Cardiff offers a lot of interesting independent shops as well as some cool venues for concerts and sporting events.

Outside of the cities, tourists in Wales have the chance to enjoy the breathtaking countryside. A lot of effort is put into the national parks to keep them beautiful, and as Wales is a fairly sparsely populated country there are plenty of remote areas where you can forget the stress of everyday life and re-connect with nature. The various valleys offer visitors the chance to encounter the local wildlife and also sample traditional food and culture.

But if the countryside is not for you, and you prefer a more urban surrounding, then there is also plenty to choose from when planning a holiday. The USA is home to some of the world’s most famous cities. Las Vegas, for example, has always been a favourite for people who are attracted to the glamour of the bright lights and millions travel there each year in the hope of winning a fortune in the casinos. In fact, some people become so desperate, they risk everything and end up losing more than they bargained for – just ask those people seeking sanctuary in the city’s sewer system.

Whatever city you visit, whether in Britain or the USA, you will encounter both sides of society. There are the tourists and the people who can afford to enjoy life. As a tourist you often only see the best of the place you go to – the bars, restaurants, shops and cultural sites. But if you look closer you will see there are many people in Britain and the USA who are less fortunate. And although some will work hard to change their situation, others may turn to petty crime, which can make modern cities a dangerous place.

**2 Match the words on the left (1-7) with their synonyms on the right (A-G).**

|   |   |            |   |            |
|---|---|------------|---|------------|
| C | 1 | to split   | A | opponent   |
| F | 2 | astounded  | B | angry      |
| A | 3 | rival      | C | to divide  |
| G | 4 | gorgeous   | D | crime      |
| E | 5 | ultimately | E | in the end |
| D | 6 | offence    | F | surprised  |
| B | 7 | annoyed    | G | beautiful  |

**3 Match the words on the left (1-7) with their definitions on the right (A-G).**

|   |   |              |   |  |
|---|---|--------------|---|--|
| C | 1 | rush hour    | A | a sense of unity with others                     |
| F | 2 | to overlook  | B | a large amount of money                          |
| A | 3 | togetherness | C | time of the day when the traffic is most intense |
| E | 4 | scapegoat    | D | to think back on something                       |
| B | 5 | fortune      | E | a person made to take the blame for others       |
| G | 6 | meanwhile    | F | to not notice something                          |
| D | 7 | to reminisce | G | while something else is/was happening            |

**4 Fill in the gaps (one word per gap).**

- If you are independent, you do not rely on others.
- A venue is the location at which an event takes place.
- Urban is the opposite of rural.
- If you allow someone to do something, you give them permission.
- Another word for crime is an offence.
- The state of wanting more than you need is called greed.
- The money you borrow from the bank is called a loan.
- Your mindset or attitude is the way you think about something.
- A weakness is something that you are not good at.
- London, Manchester and Liverpool are some of the major cities in England.

**5 What is it in German?**

- off limits tabu
- indigenous einheimisch
- organic biologisch
- sustainable nachhaltig
- curious neugierig
- to perceive wahrnehmen
- dignity Würde