

## Let's get work experience abroad! – Einen Aufenthalt in Großbritannien vorbereiten (S II)

Nach einer Idee von Alexandra Timm, Kassel (Trier)

### M 1 Your work experience abroad – a step-by-step plan

Plan your work experience abroad step-by-step and document your progress in a portfolio

#### A step-by-step plan to doing work experience abroad

##### 1. First research

- Do some Internet research on the possibilities of working abroad and ask friends, family or other people about their experiences.

##### 2. First preparation

- Start improving your (business) communication skills e.g. by revising important vocabulary or reading magazines for language learners.
- Make a list of your expectations and possible benefits of the stay.

##### 3. Collecting information and applying

- Create a curriculum vitae (CV) and a letter of motivation in English.
- Prepare for job interviews in English.
- Gather information about the country you are going to and its cultural habits.

##### 4. Second research

- Organise and book the trip abroad.
- Organise your accommodation for the time when you do your work experience.

##### 5. Second preparation

- Make yourself familiar with the technical terms you will need at the company abroad.

##### 6. During and after your work experience abroad

- Note down your experiences and your progress.

#### Task

1. Read the step-by-step plan above carefully.
2. Create a portfolio in which you document your progress before, during and after your work experience abroad. For example, you can make notes on ...
  - ... information you would still like to research.
  - ... further skills you would like to improve and why.
  - ... aspects you have already successfully planned and organised.
  - ... new vocabulary or grammatical structures you have learned.



## M 2 I can ...! – Rules of the game

### Rules of the game

- Get together in groups of three or four. Put all cards face down on the table and shuffle them.
- Now take turns choosing a card. The player whose turn it is reads out the sentence on the card. Then he/she suggests what one could say in the situation given.
- If the other group members agree that the answer is acceptable, the player wins the card. Otherwise he/she must put back the card on the table. Now it is the next player's turn.



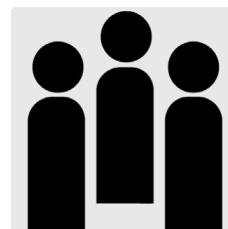
The player with the highest number of cards wins the game.

Example:

1. On my card it says: "I can ask somebody for your."

2. "Could I please have a glass of water?"

3. That sounds good. You win the card.



V

**M 6 What is typical of the UK? – Cultural habits and customs**

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②



③



④



⑤



⑥



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**Task**

1. Describe the cultural habits, customs and national sports shown in the photos.

2. What pictures of typical German habits and customs would you show to foreigners?

### M 10 Daily life in the UK – understatement and national concerns

Group D

In his guide book "Living and working in Britain", the British author David Hampshire explains daily life in the UK to foreigners in a humorous way. Here is an extract.

**Task:** Read the texts and take notes on the most important facts. Be prepared to present your results.

#### Understatements

The British are masters of the understatement [...]. If they're excited about something they sometimes enthuse "that's nice" and, on the rare occasion when they're deliriously happy, they've been known to exclaim "I say, that's rather good".

5 On the other hand, if something disastrous happens (such as their house burnt down) it might be termed "a spot of bother". The end of the work will probably be pronounced "unfortunate" or, if there was something particularly good on TV that evening, it may even be greeted as "a jolly bad show" (the ultimate tragedy). [...]

#### A serious bit!

10 [...] The UK has its fair share of problems and is still failing in many vital areas, including transport, health and manufacturing (apart from those industries we've sold to foreigners). However, we are still world leaders in pageantry, binge drinking and football hooliganism. Major concerns include rising crime (particularly juvenile and violent crime), the uneven quality of state education, a flourishing drugs culture, the failing health service, inequality (the growing gulf between rich and poor), a looming pensions crisis, pollution, awful public transport, homelessness, overcrowded roads, [...], a spiralling cost of living [...]. Apart from that everything is perfect. [...]



A common criticism is that state schools don't have the same quality as public schools.

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25 Perhaps the most serious decline in British life is shown in the combined effects of loss of social cohesion and sense of community, and the breakdown of the family unit. Almost half of marriages end in divorce and one 40 per cent of all births are to unmarried mothers, which has resulted in a high proportion of one-parent families.

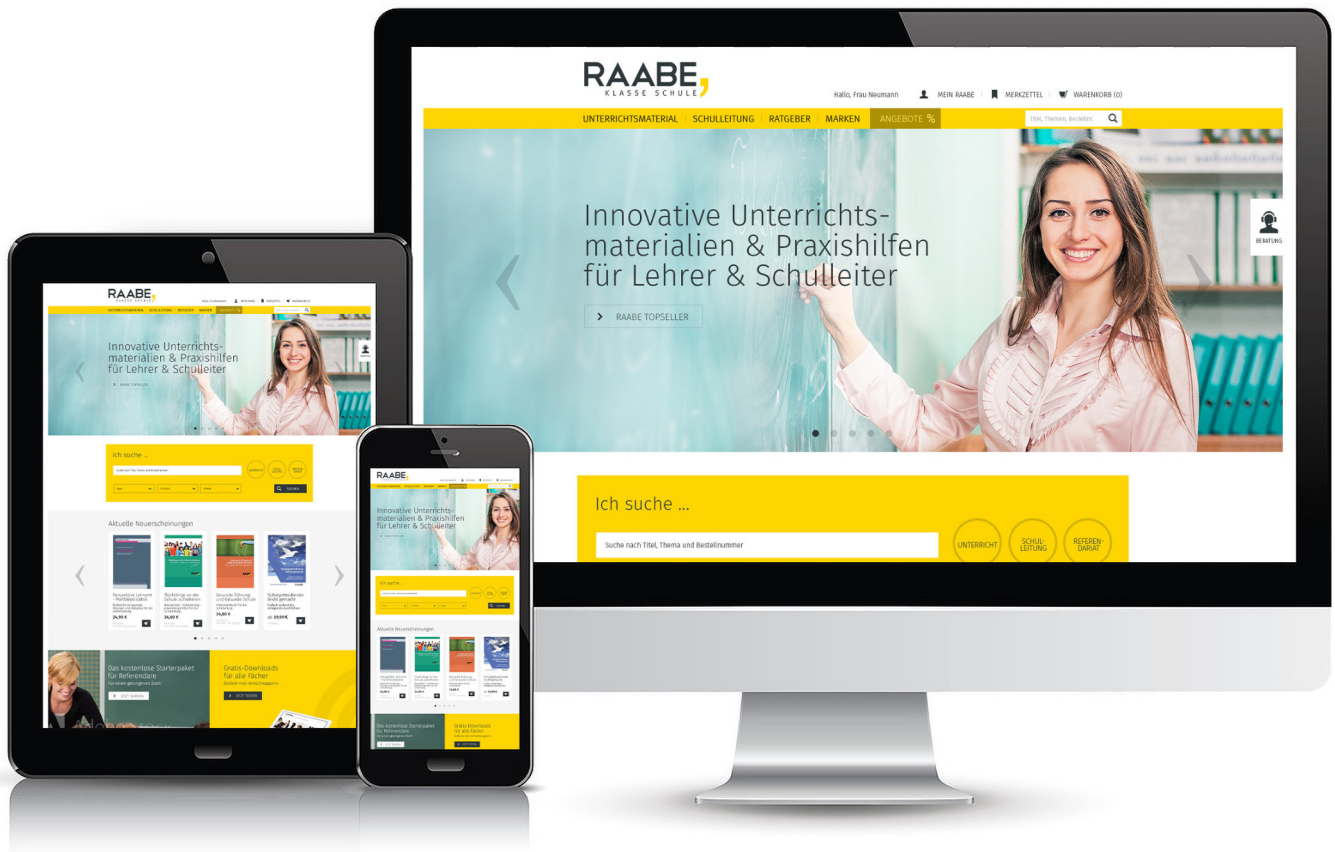
30 However, not everything is depressing in Britain and the quality of life is considered by many foreigners to be excellent and among the best in the world. In the last two decades, the UK has become a more entrepreneurial society, in which people are increasingly ready to take risks and are less dependent on the state. [...]

35 Most Britons are better off today than they've ever been and optimism about the future has characterised the last decade. The conscious branding of the country as 'cool Britannia' now looks a little dated, but nonetheless the underlying reality remains the same. Good restaurants flourish and fashion, music, nightlife and style are all fields in which the UK can now hold its own with the world's best. [...]

Source: <https://www.justlanded.com/english/United-Kingdom/Articles/Culture/British-Culture> / [www.survivalbooks.net](http://www.survivalbooks.net)

- 1 **understatement:** the act of reacting in a restrained way – 6 **a spot of bother:** a slight problem –
- 11 **to fail:** to fall short of success – 14 **pageantry:** spectacular display – 17 **uneven:** not uniform –
- 20 **pollution:** the introduction of harmful substances into the environment – 21 **overcrowded:** packed –
- 24 **decline:** a downward movement – 27 **proportion:** comparative relation between things or magnitudes as to size, quantity, number, etc. – 30 **entrepreneurial:** describes so. who makes money by starting his/her own business – 34 **dated:** out of date

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