Hello! How are you? Ready to speak English?
Good, I'm going to show you the title of today's topic.

We're going to be talking about some British Icons today. Which ones can you think of?

Describe the building in this photo.

What can you do here?
You can eat and drink.

What drink do you think of when you imagine an English pub?
Beer

OK, here's a picture. Can you remember how to order one?
A pint of beer, please.

Good. Here are some photos of activities which are traditionally found in pubs. So describe what you can do in pubs.
You can play billiards, skittles and darts.

Click to show the next slide
Click to show the photos and labels spire and lawn but not the title or the labels Oxford and Cambridge

T Describe photo 1
S answer(s)

T Now describe photo 2
S answer(s)

T Describe photo 3
S answer(s)

T Do you have any idea about what these buildings are and where they are?
S answer(s)

T In fact the buildings are all part of the two most prestigious Universities in Britain. Does that help? Now do you know where they are?
S answer(s)

Click to show the title of the slide and the labels Oxford and Cambridge

T That’s right. The photos on the left are of University buildings in Oxford and on the left they are of Cambridge University. In the bottom right hand photo the students are ‘punting’ on the River Cam. The boats are punts and you use a long pole to help push the boat forward.
Would you like to be a student at one of these Universities? Explain why /why not.
S answer(s)

Click to next slide
Here’s one of the most famous English dishes. Describe the food.

Have you ever eaten English breakfast? If so, what did you think? If not, does it look appetising in your opinion?

What do you usually eat for breakfast?

In England people are always talking about the weather which is very changeable. One minute it’s sunny, the next it’s cloudy. What do you think of when you think of the English weather?

Describe photo number 1.

What are the men doing?

Use this word box to describe the weather.

What object is the man holding to keep off the rain?

Now describe photo number 2

Now describe the weather using the words in the word box.
Now describe photo 3

It’s a photo of two trees in a field. It’s foggy.

Now look at these expressions about the weather. Read the first one.

What do you think it means?

Right, it means it’s raining hard. The expression comes from Norse mythology, in which the cat symbolises heavy rain and the dog, an attendant of Odin, the storm god, represents heavy wind. Cats and dogs do not usually get along so they represent the conflict of the elements in a storm.

Now read the second expression.

What do you think it means?

It means that even bad things have a hopeful aspect.

Right, so it expresses optimism. The proverb was originally written by a famous English poet, Milton, in one of his poems and became a sort of proverb.

Now listen to this well-known children’s verse about the rain and then

Practice saying it yourself (yourselves).

‘Rain, rain go away, come again another day, this is mother’s washing day’.

Click to show the next slide
Describe the picture on the left.

Now describe the one on the right.

Do you know when the Police Force was created in Britain?

Well, it was introduced by Robert Peel in 1829. Policemen became known as ‘Bobbies’ after the name ‘Robert’ and in Ireland they are still called ‘Peelers’.

The helmet was introduced in 1863 but it could be replaced before long as it does not comply with health and safety regulations and it’s impractical in patrol cars. Officers tend to wear black flat caps more often.

Policemen do not usually carry firearms on a daily basis in Britain. Instead they have batons, also called truncheons.

How would you describe British policemen and their uniforms compared to those in your country?

You have probably seen this site before. Do you know what it’s called?

Right and do you know any more about Stonehenge?

Describe the site.

OK, well there have been many theories about Stonehenge and that is part of their attraction.
We know that construction at the site began in around 3000BC. Stones weighing four tons each were transported 150 miles from South West Wales between 2600BC and 2200BC and more stones, weighing around 25 tons each were brought to the site between 2200BC and 2000BC.

The site seems to have been used as a funeral site and was also used for various rituals.

The stones are aligned with the rising sun during the summer solstice and the setting sun in the winter solstice.

When is the summer solstice?

$S$ answer (s)
Around June 21

And the winter solstice?

$S$ answer (s)
Around December 22

Today you can visit the site in Wiltshire in South Southern England. Would you be interested in visiting the site. Why or why not?

$S$ answer (s)

Click to show the word box at the bottom

What do you think about the site? Use the word box to help you. What questions do you ask yourself about the site? And why do you think it was built?

$S$ answer (s)

Click to next slide
Describe picture 1

S answer(s)
It’s a photo of the sea, which is calm. There is a long platform stretching out to sea with huts on top.

T The platform is called a pier. Seaside resorts date from the 17th century and originally piers were built because visitors to bathing resorts arrived by boat and needed a place to land. Today they often have amusement arcades, cinemas, theatres or cafeterias.

Click to show the word ‘pier’

Now describe picture 2

S answer(s)
The photo shows two red and white stripey deckchairs. Beyond the chairs there is a small harbour with boats and a stone wall. It’s low tide because some of the boats and lying on the wet sand.

Pictures 3 and 4 show things you might eat at the seaside. Describe the food in picture 3. Is it sweet or sour food?

S answer(s)
It’s candy floss which is pink and fluffy.

What about picture 4, is this food sweet or sour? Describe it and don’t forget the colours.

S answer(s)
It’s sweet food. It’s long sticks and it’s pink, yellow and green.

T Right. You can see writing on the end of each stick of rock. This is the name of the seaside resort where it was bought and the writing goes right through to the other end.

Of course the sea is quite important in Britain because you are never far from it, so here’s another British icon linked to the sea.

Click to next slide
Can you explain where Dover is?

Dover is in South East England, on the coast.

Here is a photo of the white cliffs of Dover. Before tourism who would have travelled to England?

Invaders

Right, and before air travel how did tourists travel to and from England?

By boat

Right, so what would have been the first landscape they saw?

The White Cliffs of Dover

OK. So now can you give two reasons why the cliffs have become symbolic?

They were symbolic of defence against invasion and they were the first and last glimpse of England for tourists.

Right. During the Middle Ages hidden tunnels were built and the cliffs played an important defensive role during the Napoleonic Wars.

What is the name of the water you can see in the photo?

The English Channel

Have you ever travelled to Dover by sea? If so do you remember seeing the White Cliffs of Dover and do you remember how you felt?
T On that crossing or on any other ferry crossing you have been on, or on a boat trip was the sea rough or calm?

S Answer(s)

T The land falls abruptly into the sea in this photo, so we call the white part cliffs. What about the land along the sea edge?

S Answer(s)
The shore

T And when it’s sandy or pebbly and quite wide to sit on or walk along?

S Answer(s)
That’s the beach

T Right and what about when the sea rises and covers up the beach and then leaves the beach exposed? What is that called?

S Answer(s)
That’s the tide

Click to show the information about songs

T OK. Look at this information. Vera Lynn was a famous singer during the Second World War and she sang the song ‘There will be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover’, which was an optimistic message for the end of the War. You probably know the other title of a song mentioning the White Cliffs, ‘Many Rivers to Cross’, which Jimmy Cliff first sang in 1969.

Right, well let’s move on to the next icon, this time it’s a person but you have to guess who.

Click to next slide

Slide 10  Icon 9: The most Famous British Detective  3’

Click to show the title, picture and labels

T Describe and say who the character is.

S answer(s)

Click to show the top word box
Now use this information to say a short paragraph about the character.

Now match the authors with the detectives from their books.

Agatha Christie wrote about Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple

Colin Dexter wrote about Inspector Morse

Georges Simenon wrote about Commissaire Maigret

Ruth Rendell wrote about Inspector Reg Wexford

Right. Do you like reading detective stories and if so which ones?

What about comedy? Do you have any favourite comedians? And do you know of any famous British comedians?

Pantomimes are popular at Christmas. The stories are often well known tales and always have certain elements in common. For example the main male character is always played by a woman while the ‘Dame’ is played by a man dressed up as a woman. Look, here’s an example.

Which characters do you think these are?

Right, they are the ugly sisters from the story of Cinderella. There is also always a good fairy and a villain. The audience has to participate during the show, singing, clapping and booing the villain.
Another character is the pantomime horse or cow which is two people wearing a costume, one for the head and front legs and one for the back legs.

Click to show the list of stories (Aladdin, etc.)

Now look at this list of stories often used for pantomime. Choose one and tell the basic story in a few sentences.

Now let’s see how much you remember.

Click to next slide

Do you remember what these three activities, which are often played in pubs are?

Click to show everything else

What is the weather like in photo 2?

It’s dreary / wet / gloomy / damp

Do you remember another expression?

What about in photo 3?

It’s foggy

What is this construction called?

It’s a pier

What are these called?

They are cliffs

Right, well we have run out of time for today so goodbye and I’ll speak to you again soon.

Goodbye