



# Historical Traditions of Great Britain



# Royal Traditions

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Many British traditions are connected with the royal family. Monarchy has no real power today, but the British love their Queen. Royal traditions are so attractive for tourists that we may call the British monarchy a tradition.



# The Ceremony of the Keys

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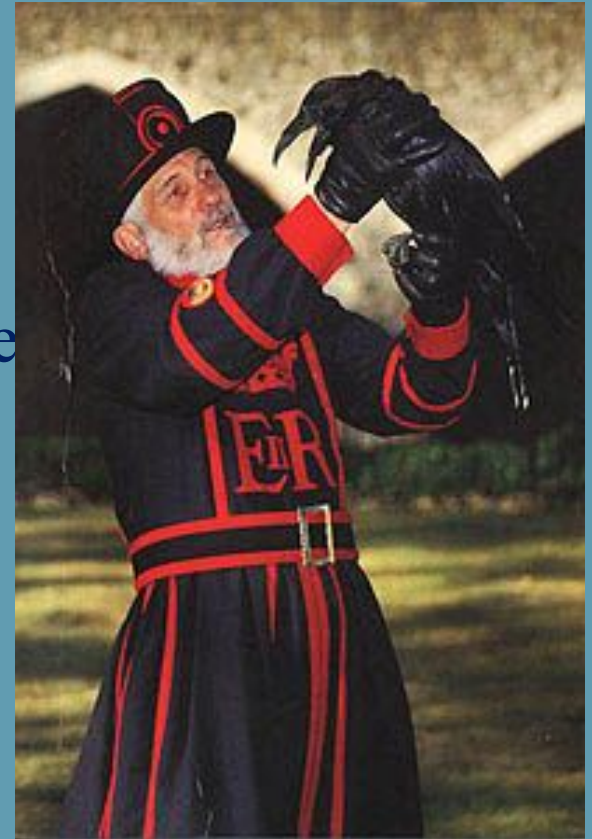
It happens every midnight in the Tower of London. When the guards change, there is a cry: “Halt! Who goes there?” “The keys.” “Whose keys?” “Queen Elisabeth’s keys” “Pass, Queen Elisabeth’s keys.” And the Tower is safely closed for the night.



# The Ravens

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There is an old legend that ravens make London strong and it will stand as long as ravens live in the Tower of London. All the ravens have their own names for example Ronnie, Rex, etc. The Raven Master gives them food which is mainly dead fish. So for over 900 years these birds have been guarding the Tower of London.



# Changing the Guards

It happens every day at 11.30 am at Buckingham Palace. Three regiments take part in it. It is a bright ceremony with orchestras and marching.



# Trooping the Colour

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The official birthday of the Queen is observed on the second Saturday in June. This day is famous for a beautiful parade of the Queen's soldiers.



At the front of the parade they carry the regiment's flag or colour, in other words, they troop the colour.

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# The Queen's Christmas Speech

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The Queen's Christmas speech is a modern custom. The Queen makes a speech on radio or TV. The speech is connected with the events of the past year.



# Swan-upping

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On the river Thames there are hundreds of swans. In July, when the young swans are about two months the Queen's swan-keeper goes up the river Thames in a boat from London Bridge to Henley to mark the royal ones.

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# The State Opening of Parliament

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In the late October or early November the Queen officially opens the British parliament after its summer break and makes the speech from the Throne saying what the government plans to do.

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# The Lord Mayor's Show

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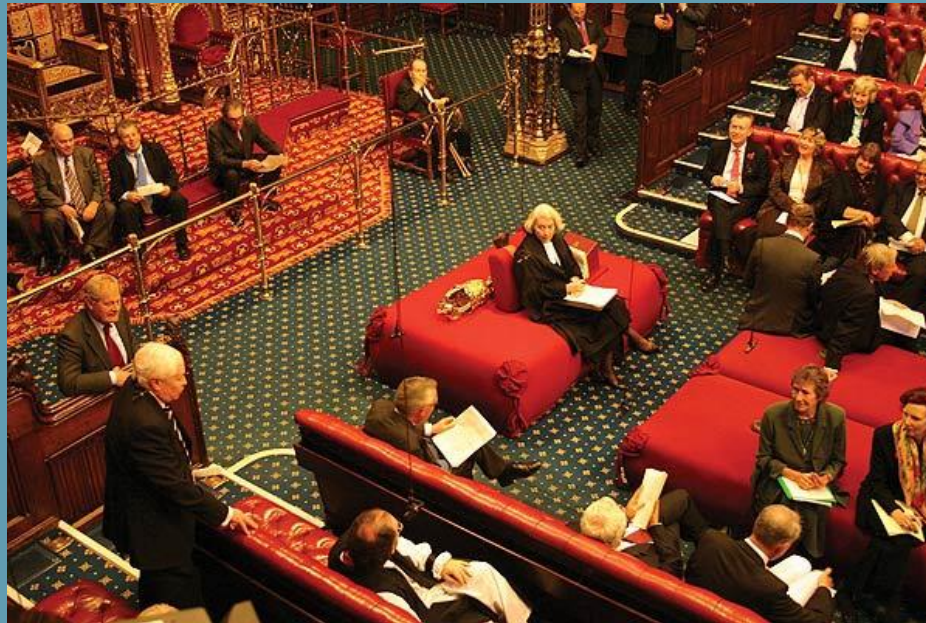
The newly elected Lord Mayor of London travels in the golden carriage through the streets of London.



# A woolsack in the House of Lords

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Lord Chancellor sits on a woolsack – a large bag of wool, which symbolizes the fact that wool made England rich.



# A Red Line in the House of Commons

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In the House of Commons there are two rows of benches: one row is for the government and the other one is for opposition. There is a red line in the carpet in front of each “front bench”.

The person who is speaking is not allowed to step across it.

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# The Garter Ceremony

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In June the Order of the Garter has a traditional ceremony at Windsor Castle. It's the home of the Order. All the knights walk from the castle to St George's Chapel. They wear the traditional clothes or "robes" of the Order.

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# Conclusion

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- One of the most characteristic features of Englishmen is their traditions, which they respect, and which they have kept for centuries. A nation is born from its land, its history, its art, its traditions. The British are proud of their history. The traditions accumulate the experience and wisdom of many generations and bring some stability into the rapidly changing world.
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# Informational Resources

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- Кузовлев В.П. и др. Английский язык. Учебник для 8 класса. Москва, «Просвещение», 2013г.
  - Музланова Е.С. и др. Устные темы, диалоги и упражнения. Москва, «Экзамен», 2010г.
  - [http://www.uk.ru/culture/queen\\_trad.html](http://www.uk.ru/culture/queen_trad.html)
  - <http://www.wikipedia.org/>
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# Thank you for your attention!

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