

READING AND SPEAKING

- 1 Look at the map and complete the text.



Great Britain is an island with three different nations: 1 _____, Scotland and 2 _____. Many learners of English say *England* or *English* when they mean *Britain* or *British*. This is a mistake! The United Kingdom (UK) is a political name for England, 3 _____, Wales and Northern 4 _____ together. When people say *Britain* or *British*, they are talking about the UK too.

- 2 Read the article on page 9 quickly and decide what the main idea of the article is. Don't worry about new words.

- 1 Languages in Britain ☐
2 Multicultural Britain ☐
3 Britain's crisis ☐

- 3 **scan** Quickly read the article again. Circle the words in each paragraph that show the main ideas.

- 4 Use your circled words to help you match the headings with the paragraphs. There are two headings you don't need.

- 1 Religion and language ☐
2 Different generations ☐
3 Statistics ☐
4 Geography and population ☐
5 Entertainment and food ☐

- 5 Look back at Exercises 2–4 and circle the correct words in **Train Your Brain**.

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN | Reading skills

Understanding the main ideas

When you want to understand the main ideas in a text:

- a Don't worry about / Check any words you don't know.
b As you read, decide what the main ideas of each sentence / paragraph are.
c Memorise / Circle a few words or phrases to help you remember the main ideas.

- 6 In pairs, decide which sentence is the best summary of the article.

- 1 A typical British person doesn't know what his/her nationality is.
2 Many people don't want to call themselves British.
3 Britain's identity is changing and this makes life in Britain more exciting.

- 7 Look at the underlined words in the text and match them with the definitions.

- 1 a belief in a god or gods
2 to be able to speak two languages
3 people who live in the same area or town
4 the number of people living in a country
5 having many types of people or things at the same time
6 having people from many different cultures

- 8 **1.5** Listen to people talking about their identity. Match speakers 1–5 with opinions a–e.

- 1 Ian ☐
2 Steve ☐
3 Adil ☐
4 Megan ☐
5 Robert ☐

- a My home town is very important but I also feel European.
b My nationality is very important – I always support the national team.
c The language that I speak at home is very important to me.
d My religion is very important to me.
e I'm British but I usually say I'm a citizen of the world.

- 9 Look at the ideas below. Which three are the most important to your identity?

citizen of the world
club/sports team
family and friends
European, Asian, American
community and home town
nationality school
religion language

- 10 Talk about your choices in Exercise 9 with the rest of the class.

- A For me, nationality is very important because I love my country.
B I don't agree – nationality isn't important – family and friends are really important.

Has Britain got an identity crisis?

Now that the United Kingdom's latest population statistics are available, Terry Bleater asks, 'Do the British know who they are?'

Vietnamese, Indian or Somali. Some people, about 16 percent, even say that they have two nationalities: they are British, but also Scottish or Chinese. There are hundreds of possibilities! Are we confused? Is it a problem?

B No, it doesn't seem to be. Britain is changing all the time and we are not just tolerant of differences – we are proud of them. We enjoy the diversity that **multiculturalism** gives us. The ethnic groups that exist in the UK bring with them at least six major **religions**, including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Judaism. Each **community** contributes its own culture and language. Britain still has two official languages; English and Welsh, but we speak many more – approximately 150 in fact – from

Mandarin Chinese to Urdu. Many of us are even **bilingual**.

C And then there's the fun stuff that **cultural diversity** brings, in music, food and the arts. The days of fish and chips are behind us, as a walk around the capital shows. Almost every district has Lebanese, Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese restaurants. Thousands of Londoners visit the Notting Hill Carnival every year to dance to steel bands, reggae, soca, calypso and jazz. Our cinemas show films from India and South America and thousands of people fill our pubs and clubs to listen to everything from Irish dance bands to African hip-hop. Welcome to New Britain: a confident, tolerant country which is proud of its many cultures.

