

Textbeispiel 1

If you visit London, you will see people of many different races. Some of them are tourists, of course, but most of them are British.

Many Londoners have parents or grandparents who came to Britain from other parts of the world. Many immigrants arrived in the 1950s and the 1960s. At that time Britain needed workers. There were a lot of jobs in Britain, but most English people didn't want to do these jobs. A lot of the new workers were from the West Indies, India and Pakistan.

Others came from Africa, China and countries in Europe such as Turkey and Italy. All these groups have their own way of life and their own special traditions: Asian clothes and dishes, rap and reggae music, Chinese New Year celebrations, Turkish fast food, mosques for the Muslims, newspapers in exotic languages - these are just a few of the sights, sounds and smells of Britain's capital today.

Textbeispiel 2

Australia is also called the land 'down under'. Most Australians – or 'Aussies' - live in cities near the coast. Sydney is the biggest city. It is famous for the 2000 Olympic Games and for its fantastic Opera House.

With all the water and sun it is no surprise that surfing is so popular! But Aussies are crazy about all kinds of sports. And they have great athletes, too.

Lots of things are different down under. It is hotter in the north than in the south of the country. Christmas is celebrated on the beach because in December it is summer.

The biggest part of Australia is called the 'outback'. That is all the land that is not near the coast. The outback is very hot and dry, so much of it is empty.

In some areas where there is enough rain there are huge sheep and cattle farms - or 'stations' Aussies call the loneliest parts of the outback the 'never-never land'.

Uluru is one of the great sights of Australia. In 2006 it was visited by more than 500,000 tourists! It is in the middle of the outback. Aborigines believe it is a place of magic. White people called it 'Ayers Rock'.

Textbeispiel 3

In 1770 the English explorer James Cook reached the continent of Australia, and England made the continent a colony. The government wanted British people to live there. But not many people wanted to go. At that time in England people were sent to prison for very small crimes. Perhaps they had stolen some bread, had not paid their taxes or they were against the government.

There were too many people in the English prisons, so in 1787 the English government decided to send prisoners to Australia. During the long, hard journey to Australia, many of the convicts died. This is what one of the sailors, Matt, on a convict ship wrote in his diary:

July 18- While I was talking to Jim, we heard a loud splash - the second one in one day. 17 people have already died since we left England. And the captain said it will take us another four months to get to Australia.

While we were cleaning the deck this afternoon, a small child started to cry. It was so terrible to hear so I walked away. I am sure the child was thirsty. Will there be enough water on the ship for all of us?

Textbeispiel 4

Until 1993 South Africa had a system which was called apartheid: The white government kept Whites, Blacks and Indians separate from each other. This meant that these groups had different schools, buses, banks, restaurants and towns. They hardly saw each other. There were also different laws and rights for these groups. Many people wanted to change the system. One of these people was Nelson Mandela.

The man that the world knows as Nelson Mandela was named 'Rolihlahla' at his birth in 1918. This means troublemaker in the Xhosa language. He was the first person in his family who went to school, and his first teacher called him Nelson.

When he was 16, Mandela went to a boarding school where he had a British education. Here he also began to learn about apartheid. He soon knew, for example, that Blacks could not sit in a restaurant where white people ate.

After boarding school Mandela studied at university and then became a lawyer. Later he opened the first black law firm in South Africa.

Textbeispiel 5

Mike Sears talks about his day:

I have been working all day. Four customers needed a plumber this morning. In some houses I just had to do small things like repair a tap, but some jobs were harder. In one house I had to replace an old toilet. And I also collected more money for my charity WaterAid. One woman gave me £20! I have been collecting money for WaterAid for three years now.

WaterAid helps people in Africa and Asia to construct pipelines and water tanks so that they can have clean water, too. They do great work. That's why I collect money for them from customers. Perhaps WaterAid could even use my skills as a plumber one day. I'd like to work in another country. I never thought of that when I originally did my apprenticeship. But there you go - you never know what will happen in life.

Textbeispiel 6

Donna Adams talks about her job:

I haven't stopped all day! Well, that is no surprise when you're looking after a lot of four-year-olds. Today one little boy was sick. I had to clean the floor. Have you ever cleaned up anything like that?

But don't get me wrong, there are good and bad things about my job. I have always wanted to work with children and I really love being a kindergarten assistant here in Liverpool. Most of the time it is very rewarding working with children. You should see their faces when they learn to do something new - they're so happy!

I also feel very responsible for all the children. Last year there was a fire in the kindergarten. We thought that we had all the children safely out of the building. Then I noticed that four-year-old Liam White was not there.

I ran back into the smoke and flames and I saved him. There was no time to be scared. I was just happy that Liam was OK.

Textbeispiel 7

Skate Night Berlin

Have you heard of the Skate Night Berlin? It's on ten Sundays from May to September, if the weather is fine. Skate Night fans aren't interested in the fastest or the best skaters. It's all about having fun together.

And if you want to skate wildly, this isn't the place for you. There are too many people on the streets. Skate Night lasts about three hours, and you can skate 17 kilometres through Berlin.

„I took part in the Skate Night for the first time last summer. What an amazing atmosphere! They decorated the streets beautifully and thousands of people were skating excitedly through the streets. A real party on wheels! I enjoyed myself immensely.“ - Tim Jones

„I go regularly to the Skate Night Berlin, and I love it. My first time was two years ago, and now I wait nervously for every Skate Night. Skating in the dark is great, but the best thing are the people. They don't need alcohol or drugs to have fun.“ - Kerry French

Textbeispiel 8

The Ironman in Hawaii

Athletes from all over the world dream of taking part in this famous triathlon. They go to the limit and get a real high. It is quite a challenge to swim 3.8 kilometres, to ride your bike for 180 kilometres and to run for 42 kilometres. And the weather does not make it any easier - winds can reach 70 kph and temperatures are often over 30° C. The men's record is just over eight hours, but everyone who finishes the Ironman is a hero. One reporter commented excitedly, "The Ironman is just the ultimate challenge in sport. If you come and watch it, you'll understand why".

Iron man facts

- More than 50 million people all over the world watch it on TV
- People between 18—80 years old from 50 countries take part in it.
- The male and female winners receive \$ 110,000 each.
- In 2006 the German Norman Stadler won for the second time.

Textbeispiel 9

They think it's fun

If you looked for Ron Dawson on a Saturday morning, you wouldn't find him at home and you wouldn't find him at work. He's out having fun.

From Monday to Friday Ron works at the post office in Oakland, California. Then, on Friday night, he gets in his car, picks up his friends and drives to Yosemite National Park. When the sun comes up, Ron climbs up the side of a mountain. He only uses his hands and feet. He's a free climber. Why does he do it?

"I've got a good job and friendly colleagues," he says, "but it's not very exciting. And I sit at a desk in an office all day. If you saw the tiny room I work in, you'd understand why I do it. Free climbing is exciting. And it's not very expensive. You meet all kinds of interesting people - from street musicians to doctors." Isn't it dangerous?

"Well, I train four days a week to stay in good shape, and naturally I took a course," he says.

"They taught us the rules - like, never climb on an injured finger - and they told us to be very careful when we do our safety checks. If you were careless, it would be dangerous."

Textbeispiel 10

Living in two worlds

The first Aborigines arrived in Australia about 50,000 years ago. They came from the islands between Asia and Australia. The Aborigines consisted of many different tribes and spoke about 250 different languages. They could not write so they had to pass on their knowledge via songs, dances and pictures. The Aborigines were hunters, fishermen and food gatherers.

The first Europeans arrived in 1788. As more and more Europeans came the trouble began because these new settlers needed land for themselves and their cattle. This led to armed fights between the two groups. In some areas the Whites even hunted the Aborigines like animals. Today there are about 450,000 Aborigines. Most of them live in big cities and they are often poor. Drugs and alcohol are also big problems for them.

Over the past years the Australian government has given land back to the Aborigines. The Kakadu National Park was given back first. Some Aborigines moved there and they tried to live a traditional life. But most Aborigines live in two worlds. They live in the city with fridges, TVs and supermarkets, but they sometimes spend some time in the outback and live their traditional way of life.

Textbeispiel 11

Signals from space

Maybe little green men will never come down from space. But lots of things which we cannot see are happening in space.

Every day signals from space come down to earth and they are making our lives safer and easier. For example, the US, Russia and Europe have a big project in space called the International Space Station or ISS. There is an antenna on the ISS which can stop somebody from stealing your car. This system is called GTS (Global Transmission Service). This is how it works:

You have a receiver chip in your car which has all the information about your car on it. If your car is stolen, you call the GTS hotline and tell them. They send the information into space to the GTS computer on the ISS. Then the GTS antenna sends signals through space with the information. In just one day, the signals are sent over almost the whole earth. When the chip in your car receives these signals, important parts of the car's electronic system stop working. This means the person who stole your car cannot drive it! Then the GTS system tells you where your car is.

The receiver chips can also be put in other expensive and important things. You can put a chip in your cell phone, your credit card or even in your keys. These are all things that are often stolen, but with GTS you do not have to worry about them. We cannot always see technology in our lives, but it is there helping us.

Textbeispiel 12

An American success story

Harley-Davidson started at the Davidson's home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1903 William Harley and the Davidson brothers William, Walter and Arthur built three motorcycles and the company was born.

In the early years of the 20th century there were 150 other motorcycle companies in the United States. But Harley-Davidson grew more quickly than the others. Their motorcycles with their big engines were the fastest. They were used by the police and later by the army in World War I. In 1921 a Harley-Davidson won a race with a speed of over 100 miles an hour - a record at that time. The 1930s were difficult for everyone in the United States. Harley-Davidson was one of the only two motorcycle companies that survived. Then World War II started, and from 1941 on Harley-Davidson built motorcycles for the army again. More than 90,000 were made.

Textbeispiel 13

An American success story – part 2

The years after the war were good for the company. Movies such as 'The Wild One' helped to make motorcycles popular in the 1950s and 1960s. Young people who saw the movie wanted to wear black leather jackets and to roar around on big motorcycles, too. From 1953 on Harley-Davidson was the only motorcycle company in the United States. It had problems in the 1970s when huge numbers of cheap motorcycles were brought into the country from Japan. But it fought hard and at the end of the century it was strong again.

Harley-Davidson has come a long way in the past 100 years. Today 5,500 people work at the company. There are Harley-Davidson Cafes in New York City and Las Vegas. To its fans a Harley-Davidson is much more than a motorcycle. It means adventure and freedom. There are 400,000 H.O.G. (Harley Owners Group) members in countries all around the world. For them Harley-Davidson is 'King of the road'!