



Welcome to Eat Sleep Dream English - my name is Tom and today I'm going to show you the difference between England, Britain and the United Kingdom, because this can be super confusing. I can't wait to get going guys, let's do this.

Okay let's start really small, we're gonna start with London. London is the capital city of England. It's also the capital city of the United Kingdom. Don't get it confused with England, with Britain, with the United Kingdom, it's just a city. Seven million people that's all it is.

Okay now we know what London is, let's look at England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Let's start with the four main countries: we have England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Now, they all have their own separate parliament, their own separate culture and identity, an accent and their own capital. So London is the capital of England, Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, Cardiff is the capital of Wales and Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

Each country has its own flag. It has its own national anthem [Music] and it has its own patron saint. And we have a special day each year to celebrate that patron saint. So in England the 23rd of April is Saint George's Day. Wales has Saint David's day which is on the 1st of March. Northern Ireland has Saint Patrick's day which is the 17th of March and Scotland has Saint Andrew which is the 30th of November. So those are the four main countries : England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

So let's move on to Great Britain. Great Britain is not a political institution. It's actually a geographical term and it includes the three main countries on the main island. We've got England, Scotland and Wales and together they make Great Britain or Britain if you prefer. Now you may have noticed that in the Olympics we had Team GB, that was team Great Britain. The full term there would be Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to include Northern Ireland within that group. But as I said it's not a sovereign state as such it's a geographical term that we use. Now it can be quite confusing because some people use Britain when they actually mean the UK and we're going to get to the UK in a moment. For example we have Brexit, Britain exit. Well, it's not just Britain that's trying to exit the EU, it's actually the United Kingdom.

So let's move on to what the United Kingdom is. Because the United Kingdom is England Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland and this is the political entity, this is a sovereign state. Just in the same way that the USA is a sovereign state or China or France or Australia. So the UK is as well. Now

the full term for the United Kingdom is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. And it's been like this, in this form, since 1922. Now whenever I have to fill out a form, they'll often ask me what country am I from, the option will be the United Kingdom, it won't be Great Britain. Equally when I lived abroad and I was sending post back home, I would put the name, the address, England and then at the end I would put the United Kingdom because ultimately that is the sovereign state.

So let's quickly review we have four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The geographical term for England, Scotland and Wales is Great Britain and then the political term for all four countries is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, shortened down to the UK. But hold on, that's not it, we've got more. So we also have another term: the British Isles. The British Isles. Now this again is a geographical term and this describes these islands in the west of Europe. So we include the United Kingdom, with the Republic of Ireland which is a separate sovereign state and also Guernsey, Jersey, ... I think there are about 6,000 islands in and around the UK and the Republic of Ireland. And these are the British Isles. That was important to stress here that the Republic of Ireland is a separate sovereign state, just like France is a separate sovereign state or the United States is a separate state. The Republic of Ireland is also completely separate from the United Kingdom.

All right let's move on to the Commonwealth of Nations. Now this is a political association of 53 countries, most of which were part of the British Empire. So you have countries like India, Pakistan Australia, New Zealand are all part of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Now within the Commonwealth of Nations you have Commonwealth realms, now these are 16 sovereign states that have the Queen as the head of state. So again you have countries like Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Jamaica, Barbados, the Bahamas etc. Now all these countries are completely autonomous, they have independence, they have their own parliamentary systems but as I said they share the head of state which is the Queen.

Then we also have British overseas territories. Now these are 14 non-independent states that have the Queen as the head of state and they also have a British military presence. Countries include Bermuda, the Cayman islands, Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, etc.

And finally we have Crown Dependencies and these are 3 self-governing entities that belong to the United Kingdom. They are Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

Now when we think of identity and the United Kingdom, it gets very complicated. Different people have different ways to identify. So for example one person might say they're from the United Kingdom, someone else might say they're from Scotland or from Wales, someone else might identify with their city as being the most important thing to them. So the United Kingdom an identity is a very complicated issue especially these days with Brexit, with a Scottish referendum on independence, things like that it can be confusing.

I hope this has cleared up any confusion you have about the different terms that we use. Now remember guys I've got a guidebook to British English and British culture coming out really soon. When it's out then we'll put the link in the description below. Thank you for watching guys, until next time. This is Tom, the chief dreamer, saying goodbye.

Quiz on the video

NAME: _____

The capital city of England :

The capital city of Wales :

The capital city of Scotland :

The capital city of Northern Ireland :

These 4 countries constitute the

Each of these 4 countries has its own par _____ , fl _____ , cul _____ , id _____ , acc _____ and capital.

Associate patron saints and countries :

Saint George –

Saint Patrick –

Saint David –

Saint Andrew –

Great Britain is not a p _____ institution, it's just a g _____ term (England+Wales+Scotland)

The United Kingdom is the p _____ entity, this is a sovereign st _____

The full term for the United Kingdom is the United Kingdom of _____ and _____

The Republic of Ireland is a sep _____ sovereign state, it is completely sep _____ from the UK.

The _____ of Nations is a political association of 53 countries most of which were part of the British Empire.

Australia and New Z _____ for example are part of the _____ of Nations.



UNITED KINGDOM - UNION FLAG & NAVAL JACK



ENGLAND - ST. GEORGE'S CROSS



WALES - THE RED DRAGON



SCOTTISH NATIONAL FLAG - ST. ANDREW'S SALTIRE



EIRE - IRISH NATIONAL FLAG



EUROPEAN UNION

The capital city of England : London

The capital city of Wales : Cardiff

The capital city of Scotland : Edinburgh

The capital city of Northern Ireland : Belfast

These 4 countries constitute the UK

Each of these 4 countries has its own parliament, flag, culture, identity, accent and capital.

Associate patron saints and countries :

Saint George – England

Saint David – Wales

Saint Patrick – Ireland

Saint Andrew – Scotland

Great Britain is not a political institution, it's just a geographical term (England+Wales+Scotland)

The United Kingdom is the political entity, this is a sovereign state

The full term for the United Kingdom is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Republic of Ireland is a separate sovereign state, it is completely separate from the United Kingdom.

The Commonwealth of Nations is a political association of 53 countries most of which were part of the British Empire.

Australia and New Zealand are part of the Commonwealth of Nations.