



The Vikings in Britain (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about the Vikings?
2. Did they ever raid your country? Where? When?
3. Were there any Viking settlements? Where?

B – Listen and answer

Listen to the introductory article (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false) beside these statements.

1. When Vikings raided the Lindisfarne monastery in 793, the monks managed to escape unharmed.
2. The Vikings ruled Britain for over a thousand years.
3. The people who raided Lindisfarne did not call themselves "Vikings".
4. The Vikings had never raided the British Isles before the attack on Lindisfarne.
5. Present-day York became the Viking capital in northern England.
6. Archaeologists have found very few objects dating back to the Viking Age.
7. Viking rule in Britain declined after 1066.
8. In Britain, there are still some place names of Viking origin.

C – Read and answer

Read the introductory article and answer the questions.

1. Where was the monastery of Lindisfarne situated?
2. What gradually happened to the Vikings after their early raids on the British Isles?
3. What did the word viking mean in Old Norse?
4. What happened to Scandinavia as a result of the widespread movement of people?
5. What was Danelaw?
6. Who was Cnut?
7. How have archaeologists been able to gain an insight into the mentality of the Vikings?
8. When were the earliest sources on the Vikings written?

D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

N.B. This interview is graded as C1, so don't be discouraged if you find it difficult. Try to understand the main points.

Read these statements. Then listen to the interview with Neil Price, without reading, and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Neil Price is an English professor of archaeology who teaches at a Norwegian university.
2. Price says that most reports about the Vikings came from their victims, so they are unreliable.
3. Ash and Elm were two important Viking gods.
4. Britain was one of the first places the Vikings migrated to in large numbers.

5. In an age of great exploration, the Vikings were the people who travelled the furthest.
6. Price is very critical of Marvel films about Norse gods or other fantasy films about Vikings.
7. He says that Viking society was warlike and violent because their gods were too.
8. In his book, he shows how the Vikings treated their children differently from other societies.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

Listen to the interview while reading the text. (If you did Exercise D, check your answers while reading.)

F – Write about it

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense or change from plural to singular.)

1. The word _____ means "sailor". It's a literary term, not usually used in everyday English.
2. I got a flat near my office because I was tired of travelling _____ and _____ by train.
3. Amy and Tim's son doesn't go to nursery school yet. He's still a _____.
4. I would say a phone like that one costs _____ 250 euros if you buy it online.
5. _____ are better than gloves for skiing because they keep your hands warmer.
6. We invited them to our barbecue but they _____ _____ when it was nearly over.

G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

During ¹_____ (*which/that/what/this*) we refer to as the Viking Age, it is calculated that about 200,000 people left Scandinavia (*modern Denmark, Sweden and Norway*). Travelling by boat, they crossed oceans, sailed ²_____ (*up/through/over/to*) rivers and reached places as far ³_____ (*distant/gone/along/away*) as North America and the Middle East. Many settled in Iceland, the British Isles and Russia. In France and Sicily they became ⁴_____ (*called/known/named/described*) as Normans.

They were explorers, craftsmen and traders, as well as ⁵_____ (*be/to be/being/ been*) fierce warriors and even mercenaries, but they left ⁶_____ (*no/some/many/any*) written accounts of their own deeds. ⁷_____ (*Also/However/Anyway/Therefore*), most of the information we have about them is obtained from the writings of the many different peoples they ⁸_____ (*were/came/became/went*) into contact with on their travels.

H – Write about it

Write about an important historic battle that took place in your country. Mention:

- when/where it took place;
- who it was fought by;
- why it was fought;
- who won it;
- what the consequences were.

Answers: The Vikings in Britain (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – The monks were murdered. 2. F – They ruled Britain for almost a thousand years. 3. T 4. F – The raid on Lindisfarne was not the first raid on the British Isles. 5. T 6. F – They have plenty of evidence of the Viking Age: objects obtained from battlefields and Viking settlements. 7. T 8. T

C – Read and answer

1. It was in Northumbria, on a tidal island off the northeast coast of Britain. 2. They became part of British civilisation. 3. It meant "pirate". 4. It was opened up to new peoples and cultures. 5. It was a large region of England ruled by Viking laws and customs. 6. He was a king who ruled both the English and Danish kingdoms. 7. By studying the monuments and objects found in their burial sites. 8. They were written a few centuries after the events.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

1. F – He teaches at a Swedish university. 2. T 3. F – They were the first human couple, according to the Vikings' religion. 4. T 5. T 6. F – He says that Viking movies are entertainment, not documentaries, and he's pleased that other people (besides academics) are interested in the Vikings. 7. T 8. F – He shows how the lives of Viking children were similar to those of children all over the world.

F – Learn it! Use it!

1. seafarer 2. back – forth 3. toddler 4. roughly 5. Mittens 6. turned up

G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English?

1. what 2. up 3. away 4. known 5. being 6. no 7. Therefore 8. came