

Level: A2 Pre Intermediate

Skill: reading

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# Scotland

Scotland is a country in Great Britain, to the north of England. Scotland has nearly 800 islands, but people only live on some of them.

Scotland is a very beautiful country with many mountains, forests, beaches, rivers and lochs (the Scots word for lakes). In the north of Scotland it is light until 11.30 p.m. in summer and in winter you can sometimes see the Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, which are spectacular lights in the sky.

Scotland has its own parliament, which makes laws for Scottish people. The Scottish parliament is in the capital city, Edinburgh. About five million people live in Scotland. Most people live in the south of the country in and around the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Dundee.

## Language

There are three languages in Scotland. Most people speak English and Scots. Scots is spoken by young and old people in cities and rural areas and sometimes people mix Scots and English. Some words in Scots are the same as in English and some are different.

## Music

Dancers usually wear kilts. A kilt is a traditional skirt with a tartan design which is worn by men and women.

## Food

When people think of Scottish food they often think of haggis, a type of sausage made from parts of a sheep. However, Scotland is also known for its variety of seafood such as lobster and oysters, fish such as salmon and trout, and beef.

## Symbols

Blue is a colour which is often associated with Scotland. The Scottish flag is blue with a white X-shaped cross called the St Andrew's cross. St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and his day is celebrated on 30 November. On this day, everywhere you go in Scotland you will see tartan, kilts and bagpipes. Also, look out for the national animal, the unicorn, and the thistle, the purple flower of Scotland.



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Are the sentences TRUE or FALSE?

- All of Scotland's islands are populated.

TRUE

FALSE

- Scotland is a country of great natural beauty.

TRUE

FALSE

- Scotland can make its own laws.

TRUE

FALSE

- Most Scottish people can speak Scottish Gaelic.

TRUE

FALSE

- You can hear bagpipes at public and cultural events.

TRUE

FALSE

- Scotland has a lot of types of fish and seafood to choose from.

TRUE

FALSE

- The Scottish flag is red and white.

TRUE

FALSE

- Scotland's national symbols include a mythical animal and a flower.

TRUE

FALSE

