

# ENGELSK

## *Commonwealth countries in Europe*

# CYPRUS



### **Velkommen til School To Go og dagens undervisning!**

Dette er et forløb i faget "Engelsk" om "Commonwealth countries in Europe" i tre episoder, med de tre temaer: "United Kingdom", "Malta", og til sidst "Cyprus". Der vil både være lytte-tekster og øvelser i episoderne.

### **Introduction**

Today, we're going to learn about a fascinating place called Cyprus, which is a beautiful island country in the Mediterranean Sea and a proud member of the Commonwealth of Nations. As you continue your adventure in learning English, discovering new countries like Cyprus can make your journey even more exciting and enriching.

Cyprus is known for its stunning beaches, ancient ruins, and rich cultural heritage that spans thousands of years. The island has a unique blend of cultures and histories, reflecting its Greek and Turkish influences, which you can see in its food, music, and traditions. Despite its small size, Cyprus has a big heart, with friendly people who welcome visitors from all over the world.

One of the most interesting things about Cyprus is its role in the Commonwealth, an organization that connects it with countries across the globe, promoting peace, democracy, and development. Cyprus joined the Commonwealth in 1961, and since then, it has played an important part in this international community, sharing its unique culture and learning from others.

Cyprus's landscape is just as varied as its culture, featuring everything from sandy beaches and rugged coastlines to mountains and forests. This diversity makes Cyprus a fantastic place for all sorts of outdoor activities, like hiking, swimming, and exploring ancient sites that tell the story of the island's past.

In Cyprus, people speak Greek, Turkish, and English, so it's a great place for English learners like you to practice speaking and listening. The island is a crossroads of history and modernity, where ancient traditions meet contemporary life, offering a glimpse into both the past and the future.

As we explore more about Cyprus, you'll learn about its traditions, its people, and how it contributes to and benefits from being a part of the Commonwealth. So, let's dive in and discover the wonders of Cyprus together!

### **Learning objectives and goals:**

- I should be able to identify Cyprus on a map and list its main geographical features and cities.
- I should be able to describe Cyprus's climate and how it affects the island's environment and daily life.
- I should be able to compare and contrast the cultures and traditions of Cyprus with those of another Commonwealth country.

### **How has Cyprus's unique geographical location influenced its history and cultural development?**

Cyprus is a fascinating island with a rich tapestry of history that tells the story of many civilizations, battles for control, and its role in modern international communities like the Commonwealth of Nations. Let's delve into this journey and see how Cyprus's position in the Mediterranean Sea has shaped its destiny.

## Historical Journey of Cyprus

Cyprus's history stretches back thousands of years. Its strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa made it a valuable asset for various empires, including the Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Ottomans, and British. Each of these rulers left their mark on the island, contributing to its diverse cultural heritage. For instance, ancient ruins and medieval castles dot the landscape, while the Greek and Turkish languages reflect its more recent past under Byzantine and Ottoman rule.

## Cyprus as a Commonwealth Country

In 1960, Cyprus gained independence from British rule, which had lasted from 1878 until independence. Shortly after gaining independence, Cyprus joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1961. As a Commonwealth country, Cyprus shares historical ties with other member states, including the use of the English language, legal systems, and governance structures influenced by its time as a British colony. Membership in the Commonwealth allows Cyprus to participate in cultural exchanges, sporting events like the Commonwealth Games, and various development programs, enhancing its international profile and cooperation with other nations.

## Influence of Geographical Location

Cyprus's geographical location has significantly influenced its history and cultural development. Being at the crossroads of three continents has made the island a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and religions. This blend is evident in Cypriot cuisine, which features a mix of Greek, Turkish, and Middle Eastern flavors; in the architectural styles of its buildings and monuments; and in the religious practices of its people, where Orthodox Christianity and Islam have coexisted for centuries.

The island's natural resources, particularly its copper mines (Cyprus was so famous for its copper in the ancient world that the metal is named after the island in many languages) and fertile lands, have attracted settlers and conquerors throughout history. Its beautiful beaches and mountainous landscapes have also made it a popular destination for tourists from around the globe, further enriching its cultural tapestry with international influences.

Moreover, Cyprus's strategic military and trading position has often made it a point of contention, but also a meeting place for different cultures, facilitating exchanges of ideas, goods, and knowledge between East and West. This position has helped Cyprus develop a rich tradition of craftsmanship, maritime trade, and cultural exchange, which continues to this day.

## Conclusion

Cyprus's historical journey and its significance as a Commonwealth country are deeply intertwined with its unique geographical location. This strategic position has not only shaped its past, making it a prize for empires and a crossroads for cultures,

but it also continues to influence its present and future, through its role in international relations, its cultural diversity, and its economic activities. Cyprus stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of its people, who have built a vibrant, diverse society on this beautiful Mediterranean island.

## **How do these cultural elements reflect the island's complex history and its connections with other Commonwealth countries?**

Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea, is a place where cultures have mixed for thousands of years. This beautiful island has a complex history that has shaped its traditions, languages, and festivals, making it a fascinating example of cultural diversity.

### Traditions

The traditions of Cyprus are a blend of influences from Greece, Turkey, and other cultures that have left their mark over the centuries. One of the most cherished traditions is the preparation and sharing of food, which is central to social life in Cyprus. Meals are often a time for family and friends to gather and enjoy each other's company. For example, the Cypriot meze, a selection of small dishes served together, showcases the variety of flavors that the island's cuisine offers, including both Greek and Turkish influences.

### Languages

Cyprus officially uses two languages: Greek and Turkish. This bilingual nature reflects the island's history and its Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. English is also widely spoken, a remnant of British rule, which makes Cyprus a unique place where these three languages and cultures intersect daily. This linguistic diversity is not just practical for communication; it also enriches the island's cultural tapestry and connects Cyprus with other Commonwealth countries, where English is often a shared language.

### Festivals

Cypriot festivals are vibrant and colorful, celebrating everything from religious events to seasonal changes. Many festivals have roots in Christian Orthodox traditions, such as Easter, which is observed with special church services, feasts, and community gatherings. There are also festivals that celebrate the island's agricultural bounty, like the Festival of Roses in the village of Agros, where rose products are celebrated, and the Grape Festival in Limassol, which honors the wine-making tradition.

### Reflecting Cyprus's Complex History

The cultural elements of Cyprus—its traditions, languages, and festivals—tell the story of an island at the crossroads of civilizations. The blend of Greek and Turkish

influences is a direct result of the island's historical divisions and its strategic geographical location, which made it a meeting point for traders, conquerors, and travelers from around the Mediterranean and beyond.

The use of English and the connection to the Commonwealth bring a modern layer to this mix, linking Cyprus with countries across the world that share a history of British influence. This connection is celebrated in events like Commonwealth Day, which is observed in Cyprus with various activities that highlight the shared values and cultural exchanges between Commonwealth countries.

## Conclusion

The cultural diversity of Cyprus is a living mosaic of its rich history and geographical location. Its traditions, languages, and festivals not only reflect the complex layers of its past but also its ongoing connections with the wider world, including other Commonwealth countries. Cyprus shows us how history and culture can weave together to create a vibrant and diverse society.

## **What contributions does Cyprus make to the Commonwealth, and how does it benefit from being a member?**

Cyprus, a beautiful island nation in the Mediterranean Sea, plays an important role in international affairs, particularly as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. This organization brings together countries from around the world, many of which were once part of the British Empire, to cooperate on various issues like democracy, development, and cultural exchange. Let's explore how Cyprus contributes to the Commonwealth and what it gains from being a member.

### Cyprus's Contributions to the Commonwealth

Cyprus makes several valuable contributions to the Commonwealth, leveraging its unique position and experiences:

**Cultural Exchange:** Cyprus is a place where different cultures have met and mixed for thousands of years. It shares this rich cultural heritage with other Commonwealth countries through various programs and events. This exchange helps to build understanding and appreciation among diverse cultures within the Commonwealth.

**Promoting Peace and Democracy:** Given its history and strategic location, Cyprus has a deep interest in promoting peace and democracy. It actively participates in Commonwealth meetings and discussions focused on these issues, sharing its insights and learning from the experiences of others.

**Environmental Initiatives:** Cyprus is affected by issues like climate change and water scarcity. It contributes to the Commonwealth's environmental initiatives by sharing

its strategies for dealing with these challenges and learning from the practices of other member countries.

**Education and Youth Engagement:** Cyprus benefits from and contributes to the Commonwealth's focus on education and youth engagement. It participates in scholarship programs and youth forums, which provide opportunities for young Cypriots to learn, grow, and connect with their peers in other countries.

#### Benefits to Cyprus

Being a member of the Commonwealth also brings several benefits to Cyprus:

**International Cooperation:** Membership in the Commonwealth provides Cyprus with a platform for international cooperation and dialogue. It can work with other countries on common challenges, from economic development to environmental protection.

**Economic Opportunities:** The Commonwealth is a vast network of economies, and Cyprus benefits from this through trade opportunities, investment, and economic cooperation. This can help boost the Cypriot economy and create jobs.

**Educational Exchanges:** Cypriots have access to educational programs, scholarships, and exchanges offered by the Commonwealth. These opportunities are valuable for students and professionals looking to expand their knowledge and skills.

**Cultural and Social Bonds:** Being part of the Commonwealth helps Cyprus strengthen its cultural and social ties with other member countries. This can lead to increased tourism, cultural exchanges, and a stronger sense of belonging to a global community.

In summary, Cyprus plays a vital role in the Commonwealth by contributing to cultural exchanges, promoting peace and democracy, participating in environmental initiatives, and engaging in education and youth programs. In return, Cyprus benefits from international cooperation, economic opportunities, educational exchanges, and strengthened cultural and social bonds. This relationship enriches both Cyprus and the Commonwealth, showcasing the power of countries working together for mutual benefit.

**How do these geographical characteristics impact the daily life and economy of the Cypriot people, especially in terms of tourism and agriculture?**

Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea, is known for its beautiful landscapes, sunny weather, and clear blue waters. However, like any place, it faces certain environmental challenges that impact the lives of its people and the island's economy, particularly in areas like tourism and agriculture. Let's take a closer look at these features and challenges.

### Environmental Features

Cyprus has a varied landscape, including beaches, mountains, and forests. The climate is typically Mediterranean, with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. This climate is perfect for spending time outdoors and is a big reason why so many tourists visit Cyprus every year. The island is also home to unique plants and animals, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.

### Challenges

**Water Scarcity:** Cyprus faces a significant challenge with water scarcity. The hot, dry summers and a growing population mean that there's not always enough water for everyone's needs. This issue is particularly tough for agriculture, which relies on water to grow crops. Farmers have to be very careful with their water use, and the government has built desalination plants to turn sea water into fresh water.

**Deforestation:** Like many places, Cyprus has lost some of its forested areas over the years due to development, wildfires, and other factors. This loss impacts the natural habitat of wildlife and affects the natural beauty of the island, which can have repercussions for tourism.

**Climate Change:** The effects of climate change, including higher temperatures and less predictable rainfall, pose a threat to Cyprus. These changes can lead to more extreme weather events, like droughts and heatwaves, affecting both agriculture and tourism.

### Impact on Daily Life and Economy

**Tourism:** Tourism is a significant part of Cyprus's economy, with visitors drawn to its archaeological sites, beautiful beaches, and cultural festivals. However, environmental challenges like water scarcity and the impacts of climate change could threaten the tourism industry. For example, if Cyprus becomes too hot or if there are not enough water resources to support the needs of tourists, it could discourage visitors.

**Agriculture:** Agriculture is another crucial sector of the Cypriot economy. The island produces citrus fruits, vegetables, and olives, among other crops. However, farming in Cyprus is heavily impacted by water scarcity and climate change. Farmers have to adapt to these challenges by using water more efficiently, choosing crops that require less water, and sometimes facing lower yields because of the harsh conditions.

### Conclusion

The environmental features and challenges of Cyprus significantly impact the daily lives of its people and the island's economy. While the beautiful natural environment attracts tourists and supports agriculture, challenges like water scarcity, deforestation, and climate change require careful management and adaptation. By addressing these issues, Cyprus can protect its environment and ensure a sustainable future for tourism, agriculture, and the well-being of its people.

### **Let us hear 5 to 10 new words about the topic to expand vocabulary**

- **Desalination:** The process of removing salt from seawater to make it suitable for drinking and irrigation.
- **Deforestation:** The act of clearing a wide area of trees, leading to changes in habitat and biodiversity.
- **Biodiversity:** The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, important for ecological balance.
- **Sustainable:** Practices that meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **Drought:** A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.
- **Yield:** The amount of a crop produced in a given area.
- **Erosion:** The process by which soil and rock are removed from the Earth's surface by natural processes such as wind or water flow, and then transported and deposited in other locations.
- **Habitat:** The natural home or environment of a plant, animal, or other organism.
- **Irrigation:** The artificial application of water to land to assist in the growing of crops and vegetation.
- **Climate Change:** A change in global or regional climate patterns, often caused by human activities such as pollution and deforestation.

Let's try using these new words in sentences to see how they help us talk about the topic.

Now it's time to do a few tasks and think about what we just learned.

### **Tasks:**



1. **Writing Task:** Write a short essay on how Cyprus's unique geography and climate influence its agriculture and tourism industries. Include how the people of Cyprus have adapted to their environmental conditions.
2. **Listening Task:** Listen to a recorded interview or watch a documentary featuring stories from local Cypriots about traditional festivals and how they celebrate them. Take notes and prepare to share interesting facts you learned about Cypriot culture.
3. **Speaking Task:** In pairs, prepare and conduct a mock interview where one student plays the role of a tourist visiting Cyprus and the other is a local expert. The tourist should ask questions about what to see, do, and eat in Cyprus, and the expert should provide informative answers.
4. **Reading Task:** Read an article about the history of Cyprus and its membership in the Commonwealth. Summarize the article, highlighting key points about Cyprus's historical journey and its contributions to the Commonwealth.

Once you have answered the tasks, this episode ends.

Here start the ideas for the teachers:

### **Ideas for the teacher**

- **Interactive Lecture:** Start with a presentation on Cyprus, covering its geography, history, and role in the Commonwealth. Use visuals like maps and photos to engage students.
- **Cultural Exchange Project:** Assign students to research and present on the cultural similarities and differences between Cyprus and another Commonwealth country. Focus on aspects such as food, festivals, and languages.
- **Environmental Workshop:** Organize a workshop on water conservation techniques used in Cyprus, highlighting the importance of sustainable living. Include a hands-on activity, like building a simple model of a rainwater harvesting system.
- **Debate Activity:** Host a classroom debate on the topic of climate change in Cyprus. Divide students into two groups, with one arguing the importance of immediate action to combat climate change and the other discussing the challenges and economic implications of such actions.
- **Creative Writing Assignment:** Encourage students to write a creative story or poem inspired by Cypriot myths, legends, or natural landscapes. This task allows students to explore Cyprus's rich cultural heritage and express their understanding creatively.