

how [hɑ:w] – *mouth* [maʊθ].

Because of vowel lengthening before voiced consonants and in open syllable, the unraised vowels are allophonically longer than the raised ones.

Another recently identified feature found among many Canadians is a chain shift known as a *Canadian Shift*. For people with this shift *cot-caught* are merged as /ɑ/.

The glide /j/ is lost after consonants / t d n /. For example, the words *new*, *tune* and *dune* are pronounced as [nu], [tun] and [dun]. This loss is common in GA, but almost universal in Canadian English.

In this report we confine ourselves to the description of general Canadian English though it should be mentioned that the island of Newfoundland has its own distinctive dialect of English known as Newfoundland English.

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The Judicial System of Great Britain

Great Britain has three main branches of power: legislative, executive and judicial. They are interrelated but at the same time each has its own responsibilities and rights and can be seen as an autonomous unit.

The court system in Great Britain has special features, because of Great Britain's political system – constitutional monarchy. The process of policy-making and the judicial process are closely connected but do not depend on each other.

This complex interaction derives from two features that are considered to be essential characteristics of the judiciary in Britain.

Firstly, in the trinity of the executive, legislature and judiciary, the judiciary is a subordinate institution. Public policy is made and ratified elsewhere. The

courts exist to interpret (within defined limits) and apply that policy once enacted by the legislature; they have no intrinsic power to strike it down.

Secondly, it is autonomous. The independence of the judiciary is a much vaunted and essential feature of the rule of law, described by the great nineteenth-century constitutional lawyer A.V. Dicey as one of the twin pillars of the British constitution. The other pillar – parliamentary sovereignty – accounts for the first characteristic, the subordination of the judiciary to Parliament. Allied with autonomy has been the notion of political neutrality. Judges seek to interpret the law according to judicial norms that operate independently of partisan or personal preferences.

In brief the judicial system of Great Britain represents the following hierarchical structure:

- The House of Lords. Most cases which reach the House of Lords do in fact involve a point of law of public importance.
- The Court of Appeal. It consists of civil and criminal divisions which engage civil and criminal appeals.
- The High Court. It consists of the Chancery Division, the Queen's Bench Division and the Family Division. They try administration of estates, the execution of trusts, the redemption and foreclosure of mortgages, the rectification and cancellation of deeds, specific performance of contracts for the sale or lease of interests in land, partnership actions, civil, criminal and family cases.
- The Crown Court. The jurisdiction of the court includes the hearing of the appeals by persons convicted summarily in magistrate's courts, the sentencing of persons committed for sentence following summary conviction and a limited civil jurisdiction, principally concerned with licensing of appeals.

- County courts. The jurisdiction of county courts is local in nature. They try minor civil claims such as small debts.
- Magistrate's courts. Their jurisdiction is entirely criminal.

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Britain in the 19th Century: Social and Economic Progress

Learning Britain history, we can divide XIX century into two periods. The beginning of the century can be named *Victorian's epoch*. This period throws light upon the society and the development of industry.

In the XIX century Britain was at its most powerful and self-confident. After the industrial revolution, nineteenth century Britain was the "workshop" of the world. Britain's empire was political rather than merely commercial. Britain used this empire to control large areas of the world. Outside Europe, Britain wished its trading position to be stronger than anyone else's.

The Napoleonic War had turned the nation from thoughts of revolution to the need to defeat the French. Britain had sold clothes, guns, and other necessary war supplies to it's allies' armies. Now unemployment men from Britain's army and navy were looking for work. Farmers suffered from cheap imported corn.

There had been a "middle class" in Britain for hundreds of years. It was a small class of merchants, traders and small farmers. In the second half of the XVIII century it had increased with the rise of industrialists and factory owners. The rapid growth of the middle class, which included great differences of wealth, social position and kinds of work, was part of the enormous rise in the population. Britain changed from being a nation of rural people to a nation mainly of urban people. In the political sphere there was fighting between the Whigs and the Tories.