

Difference Between the United Kingdom, Great Britain and England

The Terms United Kingdom, Britain and England are used interchangeably to describe the polity, geography and history of the British Isles.

At a glance, they may look the same but all three terms have fundamental differences among themselves.

The United Kingdom is used to describe the political unit consisting of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Great Britain is the geographical term referring to the island simply known as Britain.

England is one of the countries that make up the British Isles.

This article will further explain the differences between the three within the context of the [Civil Services Examination](#)

Differences Between the United Kingdom, Great Britain and England		
United Kingdom	Great Britain	England
The United Kingdom is a polity that encompasses the entire region of the British Isles with the exception of the Republic of Ireland	The term 'Great Britain' is often used to include England, Scotland Wales and its adjoining islands	England is one of the countries that is located in the southernmost part of the British Isle
The term "United Kingdom" has occasionally been used as a description for the former kingdom of Great Britain from the 17th century onwards	The term 'Britain' is derived from the Roman word 'Britannia'. The word was extensively used by writers of classical antiquity to describe the British Isles following its conquest by the Roman Empire in 87 AD	England is derived from the Old English name ' <i>Englaland</i> ' which means land of the Angles. The Angles were a Germanic tribe who settled in large numbers following the withdrawal of Roman forces in 410 AD
The United Kingdom as a whole is the member of the Commonwealth of Nations, NATO and the United Nations amongst many other	The term 'Great' was added into Britain during the rule of King James I in 1603 as a way to assert his rule over both the Kingdom of Wales	England is the largest country in the British Isles in terms of population and landmass. Its capital London is also the capital of the United Kingdom

international bodies	and Scotland	as a whole
Before the independence of Ireland on 29 December 1937, the term 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' was used. Upon its independence, the new term is 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'	Politically, Great Britain and Northern Ireland together constitute the United Kingdom	Just like Wales and Scotland, England is referred to as a country but is not a sovereign state. Although all the countries of the British Isles have their own parliament, certain matters are still referred to the Parliament of the United Kingdom

Finally, for the sake of clarity, the three terms can be summarised as follows:

The United Kingdom: A sovereign state that includes England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Great Britain: An island situated off the North-West Coast of Europe

England: A country within the United Kingdom

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