

A visit to London

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Leicester Square is the centre of the West End nightlife. Here there are some fabulous bars, restaurants, theatres, cinemas and clubs to visit. Top movie premiers also start here. Restaurants are chock a block crammed full of tourists. Clubs cater all night to all tastes. It is said within half a circular mile of Leicester Square there are over 300 nationalities! In between Oxford Street and Leicester Square is Carnaby Street – the famous 60's fashion street. Reinvented, today it remains a draw. Adjoining it is Soho. This place is full of bars, gay bars, restaurants and sex shops. In nearby Regent Street you'll find Hamley's the world famous toy store. London pubs are highly popular. Whilst many new trendy bars have opened around the West End the old Victorian pubs are an absolute must to seek, locate and visit. In Trafalgar Square is Nelson's column that towers over the square. Until recently one could feed the pigeons here. Today feeding them is banned due to pigeon disease! Down by the river practically adjacent to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament – where the British government meets - is the London Eye. Nearby is the Millennium Bridge to walk across.

Top ten places to visit: 1) London Bridge, 2) Tower Bridge, 3) The Tower of London, 4) The West End, 5) Buckingham Palace, 6) 10 Downing Street, 7) Leicester Square, 8) Trafalgar Square, 9) The London Eye, 10) St Paul's Cathedral.

Category: UK / Tourism / London

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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A visit to London – 15th July 2011

Another popular place to visit in London is St Paul's Cathedral. Built by Sir Christopher Wren it survived the Blitz in 1940. Covent Garden is a must to see. Once a famous flower market today visitors will find many wonderful bars and restaurants together with street entertainment. Opera lovers can try Covent Garden Opera House. The most famous shop in London must be Harrods in Knightsbridge. The food hall there is world famous. Treat yourself to something imported from all corners of the world. If you like to visit museums London is a good place to see them. There is the British Museum, the Tate Modern and the National Gallery for starters. Also the London Transport Museum or the Victoria & Albert Museum. Turn detective and visit The Sherlock Holmes Museum at 221b Baker Street.

Greenwich is another popular place to visit for a day out in London. Once a famous Royal Naval establishment, today you can visit the National Maritime Museum and the former Royal Naval College at Greenwich. Tourists can also visit the O2 arena. Greenwich is also the home of the Royal Observatory where you can see the famous meridian line. This is where GMT - Greenwich Mean Time starts.

A good place to take the kids is London Zoo in Regents Park. Other kid's favourites include the London Dungeons, Madame Tussauds and the London Planetarium. Here one can discover more about the planets. Hampton Court Palace on a boat from the centre of London or by car is another good place to take the kids. While the adults go round the palace, the kids can run wild around the famous old maze.

To the South West of London you'll find Kew Gardens and Richmond Park. Wonderful places to go but you'll need a car for the latter. The wild deer are a positive delight to see here. In the East End of London places to visit include Docklands, Canary Wharf and in the summer of 2012 the Olympic venues. To understand some of London's great history, the City of London is worth visiting. Bank Underground is in the heart of the City. London markets include Portobello Road in Notting Hill, the famous Victorian Leadenhall Market in the City of London, and Petticoat Lane. London parks to relax in include St James, Regents, and Hyde Park. Well known London football grounds to go to include Wembley, Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham. Other tourist attractions include Westminster Abbey, the Cabinet War Rooms, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Royal Albert Hall. Go on - enjoy London!

EXERCISES

1. London: Briefly, what three things do you know about London? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Look at a map of London.

6. Let's think! Think of five top places to visit in London. Then add five places you have visited or might like to visit. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five top places to visit in London	Five you have visited or might like to visit
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. Let's think! In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **London**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

8. River journey: Draw a map of the river Thames on the board. Add 10 places of interest along it. Then with your partner prepare a short story about a riverboat trip you took on the river Thames recently. (Imagine!) What did you see?

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their story in front of the class.

9. Let's roleplay 1: In a pub: *In pairs*. You are in an old Victorian pub in London. One of you is the barman/barmaid; the other student is a tourist. After ordering a drink the tourist gets talking to the barman/maid about interesting places to visit in London. (Imagine!) *5 minutes*.

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10. Let's roleplay 2: BBC World Service: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC World Service* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *A visit to London*.

1	A tourist in London	3	The Mayor of London
2	A taxi driver	4	A tour guide

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

11. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Where will you find the famous Eros statue?
- 2) Name three parks.
- 3) Where does David Cameron live?
- 4) Where is a good place to go shopping?
- 5) What can you see at the Tower of London?

Student B

- 1) What is in Soho?
- 2) Where is Nelson's column?
- 3) What is banned and where?
- 4) What is in Leicester Square?
- 5) What types of transport should one try?

12. London: In pairs – Imagine you are tour guides in London. Draw a map of London on the board that will show 10 places of interest to visit. Then with your partner prepare a short story about a tour you gave in London recently (Imagine!)

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their story in front of the class.

13. London: In pairs, discuss the following about London etc...

1	The nightlife	6	Working / Jobs in London
2	Major events in London	7	Its economy
3	The West End	8	The tourists!
4	London airports	9	Shopping in London
5	London railway stations	10	Its pubs!

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

14. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **An aspect of London**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

15. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **London**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

16. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

a) London _____

b) Tourists _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you ever visited London? If yes, when? How was it?
- 3) Would you like to visit London (again)?
- 4) What are the three things you like about London?
- 5) What are the three things you dislike about London?
- 6) What is your favourite place in London?
- 7) Where do most tourists like to visit?
- 8) What major event(s) have you seen in London?
- 9) What is the food like in London?
- 10) Have you ever visited a pub in London?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Would you consider having a meal in a traditional London pub?
- 3) What three places in London would you like to visit?
- 4) What three places in London did you like the most? (assuming you have been there)
- 5) What do you think about the West End?
- 6) What do you think about the East End?
- 7) Have you ever visited Greenwich?
- 8) Which museums have you visited in London? Which was your favourite?
- 9) Have you ever been in a London taxi, on the London Underground or on a London bus?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! London

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Consider the following points to discuss:

20 things about London.

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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Leicester Square is the (1)_____ of the West End nightlife. Here there are some fabulous bars, restaurants, theatres, cinemas and clubs to visit. Top movie (2)_____ also start here. Restaurants are chock a block crammed full of tourists. Clubs cater all night to all tastes. It is said within half a circular mile of Leicester Square there are over 300 nationalities! In between Oxford Street and Leicester Square is Carnaby Street – the famous 60's fashion street. Reinvented, today it remains a draw. (3)_____ it is Soho. This place is full of bars, gay bars, restaurants and sex shops. In nearby Regent Street you'll find Hamley's the world famous toy store. London pubs are highly popular. Whilst many new (4)_____ bars have opened around the West End the old Victorian (5)_____ are an absolute must to seek, locate and visit. In Trafalgar Square is Nelson's (6)_____ that towers over the square. Until recently one could feed the (7)_____ here. Today feeding them is banned due to pigeon disease! Down by the river practically (8)_____ to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament – where the British government meets - is the London Eye. Nearby is the Millennium Bridge to walk across.

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probably
pigeons
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column
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pubs

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	Yeomanry of the guard	11	Greenwich
2	popularity	12	attractions
3	probably	13	maze
4	residence	14	favourites
5	restaurants	15	something
6	chock a block	16	establishment
7	Victorian	17	entertainment
8	pigeons	18	observatory
9	ravens	19	wonderful
10	reinvented	20	theatres

LINKS

<http://www.visitlondon.com/>
<http://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?p=a+visit+to+london>
<http://golondon.about.com/od/planningyourtrip/a/oneweekplan.htm>
http://www.thereareplaces.com/newguidebook/pdest/London/London_Travel%20Guide.htm
<http://www.superbreak.com/visit-london>
<http://blog.visitlondon.com/>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: A visit to London: London is **probably** the world's most visited city, such is its popularity. It draws in visitors from all over the globe. It is a huge city. So what should one see in London? **Tourists** should try a ride on a double decker bus; go on a **journey** on the London Underground and a trip in a London cab. Traditional sites to see include London Bridge and Tower Bridge. These are the two most famous bridges that cross the river Thames. HMS Belfast is located in between and is well worth a visit. The **nearby** Tower of London offers visitors the chance to see the crown jewels, the **ravens** and the Yeomanry of the Guard. The West End is for shopping. The area includes Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, Regent Street and Piccadilly. Here you can see the legendary Eros **statue**. If you go to Buckingham Palace in the summer you can go around it. **Maybe** take afternoon tea with the Queen. Maybe not! You could visit 10 Downing Street and see British Prime Minister David Cameron's **residence**.

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