Red double-decker buses to be considered in Bratislava!

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Why is it in the city? The new Slovak built and designed red double-decker bus is on loan to the city to see if its citizens would like to have them in the future. Why not?

The city is famous for its trams, trolleybuses and bendy buses. The transport system is mostly historic; apart from its new bendy buses. The city still boasts an army of ‘tank-like buses’ that are real bone shakers and sweat boxes in the summer when you travel around on them. The old trolleybuses are much the same! The city has no underground so any improvement to the city’s transport infrastructure is frankly welcome.

The reaction of people who have seen the demonstration double-decker bus and especially those who have been on it is positive. The new bus is lower than London double-decker buses, as it has to fit under the tram and trolleybus cables. It is thus 4m tall. Consequently, it has low floors and relatively low ceilings. The lower deck has a fresh design. There are 54 seats with 31 standing. The stairs are towards the back of the bus on the driver’s side. You go up them and arrive on the upper deck facing the near rear of the bus. There are clear views front and back on both upper and lower decks.

The bus I took was packed. Everyone wanted to travel upstairs, as it is a novelty for them. Will the city order some of these double-decker buses? It is up to the citizens of Bratislava to show they like it. So far, it seems they do!

SPEAKING
Think of three things you know about red double-decker buses. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION
The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING
Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING
1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article – Students should look through the article with the teacher.
   1) What is the article about?
   2) What do you think about the article?
   3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
   4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
   5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

   Student A questions
   1) Name the city.
   2) How tall is the bus?
   3) How many seats are on the bus?
   4) What is a novelty?
   5) Where is Bratislava?

   Student B questions
   1) Where is the bus designed and built?
   2) What other types of transport vehicles does the city have?
   3) Does the city have an Underground system?
   4) Do the people of the city like the bus?
   5) Describe the bus!

See the bus on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATC6X6hxHNE

Category: Transport / Double-decker Buses / Bratislava
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate
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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with ‘red double-decker buses’. One-two minutes. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three things you will see on the inside of a red double-decker bus then add three things that are on the outside of it. Write them below. Talk about them!

1) __________ (1) __________
2) __________ (2) __________
3) __________ (3) __________

Add three positive things about red double-decker buses then add three negative things. Discuss together.

1) __________ (1) __________
2) __________ (2) __________
3) __________ (3) __________

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

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

In pairs – Student A prefers bendy buses. Student B prefers double-decker buses. 2 mins.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
2) Where will you find a modern tram network in your country?
3) Are modern trolleybuses likely to make a return to your town/city?
4) Do you think the city of Bratislava will order some of these red double-decker buses?
5) Have you been on a red double-decker bus? If yes, where?
6) Are double-decker buses death traps?
7) How would you describe the buses in your town/city?
8) Will you be watching the video of the demonstration red double-decker bus in Bratislava? (see page 1)
9) For what do you use public transport?
10) Have you learnt anything in today’s English lesson?

Student B questions

1) What do you think about what you’ve read?
2) Do you have bendy buses in your city?
3) Are double-decker buses a good idea or not?
4) What do you think of trolleybuses?
5) Would you like to see a modern tram system in your city?
6) When was the last time you saw a new bus on a bus route in your city?
7) What advice would you offer the people of Bratislava about the double-decker buses?
8) Which city has the best mass transit infrastructure in the world?
9) Have you enjoyed this lesson?
10) Did you like this discussion?
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The reaction of people who have seen the demonstration double-decker bus especially those who have been on it is positive. The new bus is lower than London double-decker buses, as it has to fit under the tram and trolleybus cables. It is (3) 4m tall. Consequently, it has low floors and relatively low ceilings. The lower deck has a fresh design. There are 54 seats with 31 standing. The stairs are towards the back of the bus on the driver’s side. You go up them and arrive on the upper deck facing the near rear of the bus. There are clear views front and back (5) both upper and lower decks.

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GAP FILL: READING

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upper deck / novelty / consequently / positive / upstairs / demonstration / especially / cables
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GAP FILL: LISTENING

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The city is famous for its trams, trolleybuses _____________. The transport system is mostly historic; apart from its new bendy buses. The city still boasts an army of ‘__________________’ that are real bone shakers and sweat boxes in the summer when you travel around on them. The old trolleybuses are much the same! The city has no underground so any improvement to the city’s _____________________ is frankly welcome.

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The bus I took was packed. Everyone wanted to travel upstairs, as it is __________________. Will the city order some of these double-decker buses? It is up to the citizens of Bratislava to show they like it. So far, __________________!

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WRITING / SPEAKING

1) Types of mass transport - In pairs/As a class – Discuss the following: Which do you prefer?
   1) Double-decker buses / Single-decker buses (not bendy) / Bendy buses / Minibuses
   2) Trolleybuses
   3) Trams
   4) Underground / Overground network
   5) Other (Your ideas)

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.
   1) Double-decker buses ___________________
   2) The idea _____________________________
   3) I like ________________________________

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: The transport infrastructure in my city. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

ANSWERS

1) bus
2) unusual
3) historic
4) citizens
5) trolleybuses
6) bone shakers
7) infrastructure
8) frankly
9) mostly
10) bone shakers

1) demonstration
2) especially
3) positive
4) cables
5) consequently
6) upper deck
7) upstairs
8) novelty

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

1) double
2) Bratislava
3) unusual
4) loan
5) citizens
6) trolleybuses
7) bendy buses
8) transport
9) mostly
10) bone shakers
11) sweat boxes
12) improvement
13) frankly
14) infrastructure
15) reaction
16) demonstration
17) consequently
18) relatively
19) novelty
20) citizens

Use the following ratings:
Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20
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