

## Events in London – April to June

Today's English lesson focuses on more happening events in London.

**Spring** - *The London Marathon* is normally held in the spring. It is one of the biggest running events in the world. It is one of the top five marathons. Started in 1981, it raises money for many good charitable causes.

**April** – Enjoy some good old English heritage on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April when it is *St George's Day* in England. London hosts the day with a host of festivities including street parades, theatrical events and many children's activities. The Mayor of London Boris Johnson puts on a family-friendly St George's Day Festival in Trafalgar Square. St George is the patron saint of England. His name is commonly associated with St George and the Dragon. Legend tells of St George saving the princess by slaying the dragon. A story every school child knows in England. It is on this day you will see the English flag flying right across the country.

**May** - London hosts *The English Football Association Challenge Cup*, commonly known as the *F.A. Cup*. The final is held every May at Wembley Stadium. It is the oldest football competition in the world. Also in May is the *Chelsea Flower Show*. This is undoubtedly the world's greatest flower show. The annual event at London's Chelsea Royal Hospital attracts more than 157,000 visitors. Moving on, the *Covent Garden Punch and Judy Festival* takes place on the second Sunday of May at St Paul's church in Covent Garden. Performers have called this location the home of Mr Punch since the show was created in around 1662.

**June** – A must-see in London in June is *Trooping the Colour*. The event celebrates the sovereign's (The Queen's) official birthday. Her actual birthday is on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. It is traditionally held in Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall. An RAF flypast later goes over Buckingham Palace. In June The Queen celebrates her *Diamond Jubilee* when Her Majesty marks 60 years on the throne. Jubilee celebrations will be between 2-4 June. Events in London will include a diamond Jubilee Pageant – including a flotilla of 1,000 boats along the river Thames. Thousands of street parties will be held across the capital on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The UK government is planning a four day national holiday. To mark the event Greenwich will become a Royal London Borough.

**Category: London / Tourism / London events**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

**1. Events in London – April to June:** Briefly, what three events in London do you know that take place between January and March? 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?

**6. Let's think!** Think of five events in London between April and June. Then add five events in your town/city that are happening during this time period. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five events in London (Apr-Jun)	Five events in your town/city (Apr-Jun)
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 **Events in London - April to June**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**8. Let's roleplay 1: Radio London:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* studio. Today's interview is about: *Events in London – April to June*.

1 Diamond Jubilee organiser	3 A tourist
2 Chelsea Flower Show organiser	4 The Mayor of London

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

Events in London – April to June – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012

9. 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) What happens in the spring?
- 2) What date is St George's Day?
- 3) Who does St George kill?
- 4) What is the F.A. Cup also known as?
- 5) What special event is happening in June?

**Student B**

- 1) What will Greenwich become?
- 2) When is The Queen's actual birthday?
- 3) Where is the Chelsea flower show?
- 4) What does the Mayor of London organise?
- 5) What year did the London Marathon start?

10. Let's roleplay 2: *In pairs.* You are in a pub in London. One of you is a tourist. The other is a friend you have met who lives in London. Over a drink you are discussing some of the events you have seen whilst on holiday in London. (Imagine!) *5 minutes.*

11. Let's think! In pairs, think of five things you might see at the following events in London: *The London Marathon, St George's Day, the Chelsea Flower Show and at Trooping the Colour.* Write them below. Discuss the events together. Which is your favourite?

The London Marathon	St George's Day
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
Chelsea Flower Show	Trooping the Colour
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.

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

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

- a) The F.A. Cup \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Trooping the Colour \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The London Marathon \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Who is the patron saint of your country?
- 3) Have you ever been to Covent Garden in London?
- 4) Have you ever seen a Punch & Judy show?
- 5) Have you ever seen a puppet show? If yes, where and whom did you see?
- 6) Have you ever seen a flotilla of 1,000 boats on a river before?
- 7) Have you ever taken part in a street party?
- 8) What is a street party?
- 9) Have you ever been to Greenwich in London?
- 10) When did your country last have a four day holiday?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Have you ever seen the London Marathon?
- 3) Have you taken part in any marathons?
- 4) Had you heard of St George's Day before this lesson?
- 5) Do you watch the F.A. Cup?
- 6) Have you ever watched Trooping the Colour on TV or live?
- 7) Are you going to London to see The Queen's Diamond Jubilee?
- 8) Will you be watching The Queen's Diamond Jubilee on TV?
- 9) Have you ever been to a flower show? If yes, where?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Events in your town/city/country between April and June

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

Consider the following to discuss:

<b>20 events in your city/town/country between April and June.</b>
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The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Events in London – April to June

**Spring** - The London (1)\_\_\_\_\_ is normally held in the (2)\_\_\_\_\_. It is one of the biggest running events in the world. It is one of the top five marathons. Started in 1981, it raises money for many good charitable causes.

**April** – Enjoy some good old English (3)\_\_\_\_\_ on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April when it is *St George's Day* in England. London hosts the day with a host of festivities including street parades, theatrical events and many children's (4)\_\_\_\_\_. The (5)\_\_\_\_\_ of London Boris Johnson puts on a family-friendly St George's Day Festival in Trafalgar Square. St George is the patron saint of England. His name is commonly associated with St George and the (6)\_\_\_\_\_. (7)\_\_\_\_\_ tells of St George saving the princess by slaying the dragon. A story every school child knows in England. It is on this day you will see the English (8)\_\_\_\_\_ flying right across the country.

**May** - London hosts *The English Football Association Challenge Cup*, commonly known as the *F.A. Cup*. The (1)\_\_\_\_\_ is held every May at Wembley Stadium. It is the oldest football competition in the world. Also in May is the *Chelsea Flower Show*. This is undoubtedly the world's greatest flower show. The (2)\_\_\_\_\_ event at London's Chelsea Royal Hospital attracts more than 157,000 visitors. Moving on, the *Covent Garden Punch and Judy Festival* takes place on the second Sunday of May at St Paul's church in Covent Garden. (3)\_\_\_\_\_ have called this location the home of Mr Punch since the show was created in around 1662. **June** – A must-see in London in June is *Trooping the Colour*. The event celebrates the sovereign's (The Queen's) official birthday. Her (4)\_\_\_\_\_ birthday is on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. It is traditionally held in Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall. An RAF (5)\_\_\_\_\_ later goes over Buckingham Palace. In June The Queen celebrates her *Diamond Jubilee* when Her Majesty marks 60 years on the (6)\_\_\_\_\_. Jubilee celebrations will be between 2-4 June. Events in London will include a diamond Jubilee (7)\_\_\_\_\_ – including a (8)\_\_\_\_\_ of 1,000 boats along the river Thames.

mayor

spring

activities

legend

heritage

dragon

flag

marathon

pageant

flypast

actual

annual

throne

flotilla

final

performers

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

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**June** – A must-see in London in June is *Trooping the Colour*. The event celebrates the sovereign's (The Queen's) official birthday. Her actual birthday is on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. It is traditionally held in Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall. An RAF flypast later goes over \_\_\_\_\_. In June The Queen celebrates her *Diamond Jubilee* when Her Majesty marks 60 years on the throne. Jubilee celebrations will be between 2-4 June. Events in London will include a diamond Jubilee Pageant – \_\_\_\_\_ of 1,000 boats along the river Thames. Thousands of street parties will be held \_\_\_\_\_ the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The UK government is planning a four day national holiday. To mark the event Greenwich will become a \_\_\_\_\_.

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Events in London – April to June

**Spring** - *The London Marathon* is normally held in the Spring. It is one of the biggest running events in the world. It is one of the top five marathons. Started in 1981, it raises money (1)\_\_\_ many good charitable causes.

**April** – Enjoy some good old English heritage (2)\_\_\_ the 23<sup>rd</sup> April when it is *St George's Day* in England. London hosts the day with a host of festivities including street parades, theatrical events and many children's activities. The Mayor (3)\_\_\_ London Boris Johnson puts on a family-friendly *St George's Day Festival* in Trafalgar Square. *St George* is the patron saint of England. (4)\_\_\_ name is commonly associated with *St George* (5)\_\_\_ the Dragon. Legend tells of *St George* saving the princess by slaying the dragon. (6)\_\_\_ story every school child knows in England. It is on this day (7)\_\_\_ will see the English flag flying right across (8)\_\_\_ country.

**May** - London hosts *The English Football Association Challenge Cup*, commonly known as the *F.A. Cup*. The final is held (1)\_\_\_ May at Wembley Stadium. It is the oldest football competition in the world. (2)\_\_\_ in May is the *Chelsea Flower Show*. This is undoubtedly the world's greatest flower show. The annual event at London's *Chelsea Royal Hospital* attracts (3)\_\_\_ (4)\_\_\_ 157,000 visitors. Moving on, the *Covent Garden Punch and Judy Festival* takes place on the second Sunday of May at *St Paul's church* in *Covent Garden*. Performers have called (5)\_\_\_ location the home of *Mr Punch* (6)\_\_\_ the show was created in around 1662.

**June** – A (7)\_\_\_-see in London in June is *Trooping the Colour*. The event celebrates the sovereign's (The Queen's) official birthday. Her actual birthday is on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. It is traditionally held in *Horse Guards Parade* in *Whitehall*. An RAF flypast later goes over *Buckingham Palace*. In June The Queen celebrates her *Diamond Jubilee* (8)\_\_\_ Her Majesty marks 60 years on the throne. Jubilee celebrations will be between 2-4 June. Events in London will include a *diamond Jubilee Pageant* – including a flotilla of 1,000 boats along the river *Thames*.

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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	parades	11	celebrations
2	mayor	12	stadium
3	competition	13	marathon
4	undoubtedly	14	charitable
5	performers	15	enjoy
6	creation	16	Trafalgar Square
7	actual	17	commonly
8	heritage	18	associated
9	theatrical events	19	association
10	festivities	20	challenge

### LINKS

<http://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?p=trooping+the+colour>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trooping\\_the\\_Colour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trooping_the_Colour)

[http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?adv\\_prop=image&fr=chreentree\\_ff&va=chelsea+flower+show](http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?adv_prop=image&fr=chreentree_ff&va=chelsea+flower+show)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\\_George%27s\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_George%27s_Day)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA\\_Cup](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FA_Cup)

### ANSWERS

**GAP FILL:** Events in London – April to June: **Spring** - *The London Marathon* is normally held in the **spring**. It is one of the biggest running events in the world. It is one of the top five marathons. Started in 1981, it raises money for many good charitable causes.

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