

## Events in London – October to December

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

**October** – Witness *Halloween* in London! Get spooked on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Watch out for many witches at parties in clubs across the capital. Get haunted at the Tower of London or get spooked at the London Dungeons. October also sees the *Pearly Kings & Queens Harvest Festival* take place in London. The event at St Paul's church near Covent Garden is traditionally on the second Sunday of October.

**November** – *The Lord Mayor's Show* is a magnificent street procession of many different floats and marching bands. The event in November celebrates the new 'Lord Mayor of the City of London' taking office. This event is nothing to do with the other 'Mayor of London' - Boris Johnson. November 5<sup>th</sup> is *Guy Fawkes Night*. Otherwise known as *Bonfire night* or *Fireworks night* this British tradition dates back to the days of the gunpowder plot of 1605. It was then that Guy Fawkes tried unsuccessfully to blow up the Houses of Parliament. London celebrates this event with fabulous fireworks displays. Another date worth mentioning is *Remembrance Day* or *Armistice Day* as it's also known. London remembers those that gave their life in the two world wars and subsequent wars since. Remembrance Day is held on the second Sunday of November. The ceremony being held annually at 11.00 with a two minute silence countrywide. It remembers in particular the end of the Great War when the guns fell silent on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918.

**December** – Why not spend Christmas in London? The capital is full of Christmas cheer. See the giant Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, a gift to London by the people of Norway. Feel the bustle of shoppers in the streets of the West End. Visit the Christmas Markets – the Cologne Christmas Market near the London Eye or at Hyde Park. See the Christmas lights in Oxford Street. London celebrates *New Year's Eve* with celebration fireworks and parties. The event used to be celebrated in Trafalgar Square. Today the venue has shifted down to Embankment along the River Thames. Here thousands of tourists and locals alike watch a stunning fireworks display centred on the London Eye, which itself is like a giant Catherine Wheel.

**Category: London / Tourism / London events**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

**1. Events in London:** Briefly, what three events do you know that take place in 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?

**6. Let's think!** Think of five events in London. Then add five events in your town/city. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five events in London	Five events in your town/city
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. 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*.

1 A tourist	3 A hotel owner
2 The Lord Mayor of the City of London	4 The Mayor of London

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

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**9. 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 things you have seen whilst on holiday in London. (Imagine!) *5 minutes.*

**10. Let's think!** *In pairs,* think of five things you might see at the *Lord Mayor's Show*, at the *Pearly Kings & Queens Harvest Festival* near Covent Garden, when you spend *Christmas in London* and what you may see at *Remembrance Day* in London. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. Discuss the events.

The Lord Mayor's Show	Pearly Kings & Queens Harvest Festival
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
Christmas in London	Remembrance Day
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.

**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) When is Halloween?
- 2) Who are Pearly Kings & Queens?
- 3) What is the Lord Mayor's Show?
- 4) What is Guy Fawkes Night'?
- 5) What is Remembrance Day?

**Student B**

- 1) What happens in London on New Year's Eve?
- 2) Name a Christmas market.
- 3) What happened in 1918?
- 4) Why is Norway mentioned?
- 5) What is near Covent Garden?

**12. Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Events in my town/city October to December.** 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) Events in my \_\_\_\_\_
- b) London \_\_\_\_\_
- c) I like to \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Would you like to see some of the events in the article? Explain.
- 3) What is Halloween?
- 4) Do you celebrate Halloween? Why? Why not?
- 5) In your country what events involve fireworks? Explain.
- 6) Have you ever visited a Christmas market? If yes, where?
- 7) What is a Christmas market?
- 8) What do you do on New Year's Eve?
- 9) Would you like to celebrate New Year's Eve in London? Explain.
- 10) What street processions do you have in your town/city? Explain.

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) What are the top three events in your diary that you like to see?
- 3) What three events in the article would you like to see? Explain.
- 4) What events in the article wouldn't you like to see? Why?
- 5) What events in the article could be noisy? Explain.
- 6) Have you ever seen a Pearly King or Queen? Discuss further.
- 7) Who is Guy Fawkes? Explain.
- 8) Does your country remember the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month? Explain.
- 9) Would you spend Christmas in London? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Events in my town/city/country between October to December

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

Consider the following points to discuss:

<b>10 events in my town/city/country between October and December.</b>
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The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

**October** – Witness *Halloween* in London! Get spooked on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Watch out for many (1)\_\_\_\_\_ at parties in clubs across the capital. Get (2)\_\_\_\_\_ at the Tower of London or get (3)\_\_\_\_\_ at the London Dungeons. October also sees the *Pearly Kings & Queens Harvest Festival* take place in London. The event at St Paul's church near Covent Garden is traditionally on the second (4)\_\_\_\_\_ of October.

*tradition*

*fabulous*

*event*

*haunted*

**November** – *The Lord Mayor's Show* is a magnificent street procession of many different floats and marching bands. The event in November celebrates the new 'Lord Mayor of the City of London' taking office. This event is nothing to do with the other '(5)\_\_\_\_\_ of London' - Boris Johnson. November 5<sup>th</sup> is *Guy Fawkes Night*. Otherwise known as *Bonfire night* or *Fireworks night* this British (6)\_\_\_\_\_ dates back to the days of the gunpowder plot of 1605. It was then that Guy Fawkes tried unsuccessfully to blow up the Houses of Parliament. London celebrates this (7)\_\_\_\_\_ with (8)\_\_\_\_\_ fireworks displays.

*spooked*

*mayor*

*Sunday*

*witches*

Another date (1)\_\_\_\_\_ mentioning is *Remembrance Day* or *Armistice Day* as it's also known. London remembers those that gave their life in the two world wars and subsequent wars since. Remembrance Day is held on the second Sunday of November. The ceremony being held (2)\_\_\_\_\_ at 11.00 with a two minute silence countrywide. It remembers in particular the end of the Great War when the (3)\_\_\_\_\_ fell silent on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918.

*parties*

*guns*

*capital*

*worth*

**December** – Why not spend Christmas in London? The (4)\_\_\_\_\_ is full of Christmas cheer. See the (5)\_\_\_\_\_ Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, a (6)\_\_\_\_\_ to London by the people of Norway. Feel the bustle of shoppers in the streets of the West End. Visit the Christmas Markets – the Cologne Christmas Market near the London Eye or at Hyde Park. See the Christmas lights in Oxford Street. London celebrates *New Year's Eve* with celebration fireworks and (7)\_\_\_\_\_. The event used to be celebrated in Trafalgar Square. Today the (8)\_\_\_\_\_ has shifted down to Embankment along the River Thames.

*venue*

*gift*

*annually*

*giant*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

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**November** – *The Lord Mayor's Show* is a magnificent street procession of many different floats and marching bands. The event in November celebrates the new '\_\_\_\_\_ City of London' taking office. This event is nothing to do with the other 'Mayor of London' - Boris Johnson. November 5<sup>th</sup> is *Guy Fawkes Night*. Otherwise known as *Bonfire night* or *Fireworks night* this \_\_\_\_\_ dates back to the days of the gunpowder plot of 1605. It was then that Guy Fawkes tried unsuccessfully to blow up the Houses of Parliament. \_\_\_\_\_ this event with fabulous fireworks displays. Another date worth mentioning is *Remembrance Day* or *Armistice Day* as it's also known. London remembers those that gave their life in the two world wars and \_\_\_\_\_. *Remembrance Day* is held on the second \_\_\_\_\_. The ceremony being held annually at 11.00 with a two minute silence countrywide. It remembers in particular the end of the Great War when \_\_\_\_\_ on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918.

**December** – Why not spend Christmas in London? The capital is full of Christmas cheer. See the \_\_\_\_\_ in Trafalgar Square, a gift to London by the people of Norway. Feel the \_\_\_\_\_ in the streets of the West End. Visit the Christmas Markets – the Cologne Christmas Market near the London Eye or at Hyde Park. See the Christmas lights in Oxford Street. London celebrates *New Year's Eve* with celebration fireworks and parties. \_\_\_\_\_ celebrated in Trafalgar Square.

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

**October** – Witness *Halloween* (1)\_\_\_ London! Get spooked on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Watch out (2)\_\_\_ many witches at parties in clubs across the capital. Get haunted at the Tower of London or get spooked at the London Dungeons. October also sees the *Pearly Kings & Queens Harvest Festival* take place in London. The event at St Paul's church near Covent Garden is traditionally on the second Sunday of October.

**November** – *The Lord Mayor's Show* is (3)\_\_\_ magnificent street procession of many different floats (4)\_\_\_ marching bands. The event in November celebrates (5)\_\_\_ new 'Lord Mayor of the City of London' taking office. This event is nothing to do with the other 'Mayor of London' - Boris Johnson. November 5<sup>th</sup> is *Guy Fawkes Night*. Otherwise known as *Bonfire night* or *Fireworks night* this British tradition dates back to the days of the gunpowder plot (6)\_\_\_ 1605. It was (7)\_\_\_ that Guy Fawkes tried unsuccessfully to blow up the Houses of Parliament. London celebrates (8)\_\_\_ event with fabulous fireworks displays.

Another date worth mentioning is *Remembrance Day* or *Armistice Day* as it's (1)\_\_\_ known. London remembers (2)\_\_\_ that gave (3)\_\_\_ life in the two world wars and subsequent wars (4)\_\_\_ . Remembrance Day is held on the second Sunday of November. The ceremony being held annually at 11.00 with a two minute silence countrywide. It remembers in particular the end of the Great War (5)\_\_\_ the guns fell silent on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918.

**December** – (6)\_\_\_ not spend Christmas in London? The capital is full of Christmas cheer. See the giant Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, a gift to London (7)\_\_\_ the people of Norway. Feel the bustle of shoppers in the streets of the West End. Visit the Christmas Markets – the Cologne Christmas Market near the London Eye or at Hyde Park. See the Christmas lights in Oxford Street. London celebrates *New Year's Eve* (8)\_\_\_ celebration fireworks and parties. The event used to be celebrated in Trafalgar Square. Today the venue has shifted down to Embankment along the River Thames.

**of**  
**the**  
**this**  
**and**  
**in**  
**then**  
**a**  
**for**  
  
**since**  
**with**  
**why**  
**also**  
**when**  
**by**  
**their**  
**those**

## 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	Halloween	11	cheer
2	dungeons	12	countrywide
3	witches	13	Armistice Day
4	mayor	14	mentioning
5	Catherine Wheel	15	tradition
6	Trafalgar Square	16	traditionally
7	particular	17	magnificent
8	bustle	18	procession
9	unsuccessfully	19	celebrates
10	subsequent	20	otherwise

### LINKS

<http://www.timeout.com/london/>  
<http://www.allinlondon.co.uk/whats-on.php>  
<http://www.eventsinlondon.co.uk/>  
<http://www.visitlondon.com/events/>  
<http://www.londononline.co.uk/events/>

### ANSWERS

**GAP FILL:** Events in London – October to December: **October** – Witness *Halloween* in London! Get spooked on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Watch out for many **witches** at parties in clubs across the capital. Get **haunted** at the Tower of London or get **spooked** at the London Dungeons. October also sees the *Pearly Kings & Queens Harvest Festival* take place in London. The event at St Paul's church near Covent Garden is traditionally on the second **Sunday** of October.

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Another date **worth** mentioning is *Remembrance Day* or *Armistice Day* as it's also known. London remembers those that gave their life in the two world wars and subsequent wars since. Remembrance Day is held on the second Sunday of November. The ceremony being held **annually** at 11.00 with a two minute silence countrywide. It remembers in particular the end of the Great War when the **guns** fell silent on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918.

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