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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/03/13

## 'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground

'Mind the gap' – one of the most iconic phrases once heard on several London Underground tube stations is set to return to one tube station. Passengers standing at the platform at Embankment Underground station on the Northern line will once again be able to hear one of the most famous phrases in London. What's more, it will be the original voice of Peter Lodge, the man who recorded the classic phrase back in the 60s.

"Mind the gap - Mind the gap - Mind the gap. Stand clear of the doors please" is a part of 'old London' that is still fondly remembered by many London commuters. It refers to the gap between the platform and the train. The phrase was introduced after it was deemed impractical for drivers to constantly repeat the same announcement. It is being reinstated so the announcer's widow can continue to hear her late husband's voice when she visits Embankment underground station.

Lodge's recordings were made in a recording studio in Bayswater. He had originally hired an actor to record the phrases but when the man demanded royalties he later re-recorded them himself. Over time they were gradually phased out but for some unknown reason continued to be broadcast at Embankment till last year. Tube bosses recently received a letter from his widow saying that when her husband died she used to come to Embankment just to hear his voice. It was such a heart wrenching letter they decided to bring his voice back for her. Fantastic! Next time you go to London consider a visit to the platform of the Northern line at Embankment on London Underground's tube network – just to hear 'the voice'!

### SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about London Underground. 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) What is the phrase?
- 2) Name the person who recorded the classic phrase.
- 3) Name the tube station.
- 4) Why was the phrase introduced?

#### Student B questions

- 1) What made tube bosses reintroduce the phrase?
- 2) Where was the recording originally made?
- 3) Why was the phrase re-recorded?
- 4) Name the tube line.

<https://audioboo.fm/boos/1111085-peter-lodge-mind-the-gap>

**Category: London / London Underground / Mind The Gap**  
**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 '**London Underground**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground** - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* - Write down three different ways of travelling across London from London Liverpool Street to Oxford Street. List five things you might see on your journey with each. Discuss together.

*The teacher* will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will you be going to visit the Embankment tube station northern line platform?
- 3) Why is this phrase so important for London?
- 4) Why was the phrase 'Mind the gap' originally introduced?
- 5) Do you know any other famous phrases?
- 6) Have you been on London Underground?
- 7) Was it right to reintroduce the recording?
- 8) Have you heard this phrase before?
- 9) How do you travel to work?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC London* TV studio. Today's interview is: *London Underground*.

- 1) A tourist
- 2) The boss of London Underground
- 3) The Mayor of London
- 4) A commuter

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

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* You are in a bar in London. Start a conversation about: '*Mind the gap' returns to London Underground*'. *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING - GAME

*Group* - form a circle. *I went on London Underground and I saw...* Go round in a clockwise direction. Repeat the previous words then add one more. Forget any and you are eliminated! *10 mins.* *The teacher* will choose some groups to hear their discussions in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

*Discuss the following...*

Mass transit/transport in my town/city

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What makes London so special?
- 3) When did you last visit London?
- 4) What three things would you like to see in London?
- 5) Do you have any classic transport announcements in your town/city?
- 6) Do you have an Underground network in your capital city?
- 7) Why is mass transport so important in a city?
- 8) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 9) Out of ten - how would you rate the mass transport system in your town/city?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground**

'Mind the gap' – one of the most (1)\_\_\_ phrases once heard on several London Underground (2)\_\_\_ stations is set to return to one tube station.

Passengers standing at the platform at Embankment (3)\_\_\_ station on the Northern line will once again be able to hear one of the most famous phrases in London. What's more, it will be the original voice of Peter Lodge, the man who recorded the classic (4)\_\_\_ back in the 60s.

"Mind the gap - Mind the gap - Mind the gap. Stand clear of the doors please" is a part of 'old London' that is still (5)\_\_\_ remembered by many London commuters. It refers to the gap between the platform and the train. The phrase was introduced after it was deemed (6)\_\_\_ for drivers to (7)\_\_\_ repeat the same announcement. It is being reinstated so the announcer's (8)\_\_\_ can continue to hear her late husband's voice when she visits Embankment underground station.

**phrase / tube / fondly / impractical / iconic / underground / widow / constantly**

Lodge's recordings were made in a recording studio in Bayswater. He had originally hired an (1)\_\_\_ to record the phrases but when the man demanded (2)\_\_\_ he later re-recorded them himself. Over time they were gradually phased out but for some (3)\_\_\_ reason continued to be broadcast at Embankment till last year.

Tube bosses recently received a letter from his widow saying that when her husband died she used to come to Embankment just to hear his voice. It was such a heart wrenching letter they decided to bring his (4)\_\_\_ back for her. (5)\_\_\_!

Next time you go to London consider a visit to the (6)\_\_\_ of the Northern (7)\_\_\_ at Embankment on London Underground's tube (8)\_\_\_ – just to hear 'the voice'!

**Fantastic / network / actor / royalties / platform / unknown / voice / line**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground**

'Mind the gap' – one of the most iconic phrases once heard on several London Underground tube stations is set to return to one tube station.

Passengers standing at the platform at Embankment Underground station on the Northern line will once again be able to hear one of the (1)\_\_\_ famous phrases in London. (2)\_\_\_'s (3)\_\_\_, it will be the original voice of Peter Lodge, the man who recorded the classic phrase back in the 60s.

"Mind the gap - Mind the gap - Mind the gap. Stand clear of the doors please" is a part of 'old London' (4)\_\_\_ is (5)\_\_\_ fondly remembered by (6)\_\_\_ London commuters. It refers to the gap between the platform and the train. The phrase was introduced (7)\_\_\_ it was deemed impractical for drivers to constantly repeat the same announcement. It is being reinstated so the announcer's widow can continue to hear her late husband's voice (8)\_\_\_ she visits Embankment underground station.

**more / when / still / most / many / after / what / that /**

Lodge's recordings were made in a recording studio (1)\_\_\_ Bayswater. He had originally hired an actor to record the phrases (2)\_\_\_ when the man demanded royalties he later re-recorded them himself. Over time they were gradually phased out but for some unknown reason continued to be broadcast (3)\_\_\_ Embankment till last year.

Tube bosses recently received a letter from his widow saying that when her husband died she used to come to Embankment just to hear his voice. It was such a heart wrenching letter they decided to bring (4)\_\_\_ voice back (5)\_\_\_ (6)\_\_\_ . Fantastic!

Next time you go to London consider a visit to the platform (7)\_\_\_ the Northern line at Embankment (8)\_\_\_ London Underground's tube network – just to hear 'the voice'!

**on / at / of / in / her / but / for / his /**

'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### 'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground

'\_\_\_\_\_ ' – one of the most iconic phrases once heard on several London Underground tube stations is set to return \_\_\_\_\_. Passengers standing at the platform at Embankment Underground station \_\_\_\_\_ will once again be able to hear one of the most famous phrases in London. What's more, it will be the original voice of Peter Lodge, the man who recorded the classic phrase back in the 60s.

"Mind the gap - Mind the gap - Mind the gap. \_\_\_\_\_ please" is a part of 'old London' that is still fondly remembered by many London commuters. It refers to the gap between the platform and the train. The phrase was introduced after it was deemed impractical for drivers to constantly repeat the same announcement. It is being reinstated so the announcer's widow can continue to hear her late husband's voice when she visits Embankment \_\_\_\_\_.

Lodge's recordings were made in a recording studio in Bayswater. He had originally \_\_\_\_\_ record the phrases but when the man demanded royalties he later re-recorded them himself. Over time they were gradually phased out but for some \_\_\_\_\_ continued to be broadcast at Embankment till last year.

Tube bosses recently received a letter from his widow saying that \_\_\_\_\_ she used to come to Embankment just to hear his voice. It was such a \_\_\_\_\_ they decided to bring his voice back for her. Fantastic!

Next time you go to London consider a visit to the platform of the Northern line at Embankment on London Underground's tube network - \_\_\_\_\_!

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - In pairs/small groups - list ten 10 London Underground tube lines. Then add 10 famous London Underground tube stations. Using your lines and stations compile a short dialogue together.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) 'Mind the gap' \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) London Underground \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The tube \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **London Underground**. Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) Iconic
- 2) tube
- 3) Underground
- 4) phrase
- 5) fondly
- 6) impractical
- 7) constantly
- 8) widow

### ANSWERS

- 1) actor
- 2) royalties
- 3) unknown
- 4) voice
- 5) fantastic
- 6) platform
- 7) line
- 8) network

### SPELLING

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

- 1) phrase
- 2) iconic
- 3) passengers
- 4) Underground
- 5) classic
- 6) original
- 7) voice
- 8) famous
- 9) fondly
- 10) impractical

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) Embankment
- 12) originally
- 13) royalties
- 14) himself
- 15) gradually
- 16) broadcast
- 17) widow
- 18) just
- 19) fantastic
- 20) platform

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