

## London sights (A1-A2)

This lesson should be done before the London excursion, to prepare students for the Westminster walking tour. The quiz questions are also part of the walking guide and are to be used to increase interaction with students during the walk, and to link lessons to excursions.

**Lesson:** 3<sup>rd</sup> lesson (1hr 20 mins)

**Aims:**

- To familiarise learners with London sights
- To develop listening strategies by practising identifying key words and main ideas
- To develop pronunciation and clarity of speech
- To develop reading and speaking skills

**You will need:**

- Picture of London (to project or show)
- Shouting dictation paragraphs (1-7) copied twice, and cut up, so each student has one short description (paragraphs 8-10 for classes of more than 14)
- Lined paper (one sheet per student)
- Quiz questions

**Lesson stages**

**1. (2-3 mins) Warmer:** Project/show one of the London pictures, ask students what they recognise. This task could be done in small groups, but should not take that long. If possible, project the image on the board before the lesson starts, so learners are engaged with the topic when they arrive for class. Try to elicit the following, as they will be discussed during the lesson:

1. *Trafalgar square* 2. *Horse Guards* 3. *Downing Street* 4. *London Eye* 5. *The Palace of Westminster* 6. *St James's Park* 7. *Buckingham Palace*  
(For a class of more than 15: 8. *The River Thames* 9. *Piccadilly Circus* 10. *Leicester Square*)

**2. (2-5 mins) Pronunciation:** Focus on the names of sights which were mispronounced during stage 1, to help with the pronunciation in the next stage. This can be done with fun choral drilling and by choosing

random groups of students e.g. girls/boys, students wearing jeans, hoodies etc. Students should copy words down with syllable stress marked.

**3. (10 mins) Key word dictation:** Project/write the first sentence (below) on board and elicit key words e.g., *ninth largest city*. Explain that you will read a text which begins with this sentence. The first time, they must just listen and decide what the text is about, the second time, they must write the key words. The level of challenge will depend on how fast you read, but make sure you read naturally, paying attention to punctuation, and slightly stressing the key words in bold.

Students then briefly work in pairs to compare answers. Elicit the topic (London and Roman London), and the key information, and explain that students will now repeat the task with one another.

*This is the **ninth largest city** in the world, and **8.3 million people** live here. The original **Roman city** is now the **business area**. You can see parts of the **Roman wall** near the **Tower of London**.*

**4. (5 mins) Task set-up:**

Set up the classroom so that half the class is facing the other half, at least a metre apart. This can be done as an inner and outer circle, or in two opposite rows (shown below).

Explain that this will be a shouting dictation, and that students will have to shout in order to be heard. Give out paragraphs 1-7 to one side, then the same paragraphs to the other row, in the order shown below (for an uneven number, two students can work together, possibly the two weakest students.) The pattern below must be followed to ensure two students with the same information don't speak. Students read their text, and underline the key words to emphasise before doing the dictation.

Row 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Row 2

7	1	2	3	4	5	6
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**5. (21 - 28 mins) Shouting dictation:**

Each pair will have 3/4 minutes to share their information. When one speaks, the other takes note of the key words.

Blow a whistle, clap or stop background music after 1.5/2 minutes, and then after a further two minutes for the second student, so they know to swap roles. Then, students in Row 2 move to the right. This stage is repeated until all students on one side have spoken to all the students on the other.

Monitor closely and note any mispronounced lexis/language chunks.

**Extra challenge:** To increase the level of challenge, ask students to move further away from each other.

**6. (10 mins) Vocabulary and Pronunciation:** Once the shouting dictation has finished, ask pairs of students to check understanding of any new words they encountered in the task. Any words which neither student knows should be discussed as a class, ideally with the definition and correct pronunciation elicited from other students. A maximum of 12 new words should be discussed. At this stage, also focus on chunks of language which were mispronounced during the shouting dictation.

**Examples of possible problematic chunks:**

*Statue, column, officer, wheel, guard, to abseil, to chime, exotic, pelican, duck, film premiere, changing of the guard.*

**7. (5-7 mins) Information sharing:** Students work in pairs to share information about the London sights and make changes accordingly. Do an example with the class.

**8. (10 mins) Class feedback-** elicit information about each numbered sight, and ask concept checking questions to ensure understanding. Ensure learners attempt to pronounce the key words well.

**9. (10-15 mins) London Quiz:** Students put all information away and are separated into two teams for the final quiz. You may not have time to ask all the questions. However, make sure you ask the

questions randomly so that students are questioned on all London sights. Pronunciation must also be very good to gain a point for the team. Include some extra pronunciation practice during the quiz if words cause problems.

**Extension/Follow up lesson:**

Students write a paragraph based on the notes and are encouraged to use their 'best' English so differentiation is determined by outcome.

This task can be done in a following lesson, so students can then also add additional information learnt during the excursion.

**London information taken from:**

<http://www.londonforfree.net/walks/bridges-walk/>  
<http://londontopia.net/site-news/featured/10-random-facts-figures-river-thames-probably-didnt-know/> <http://www.ilovejourneys.com/top-10-facts-about-the-london-eye/>  
<http://primaryfacts.com/1425/buckingham-palace-facts-about-the-home-of-the-british-monarch/>  
<http://www.esolcourses.com/content/lifeintheuk/london.html>  
<http://www.visitlondon.com/discover-london/london-virtual-tour>  
<https://app.box.com/s/l69yofmiriqj1fg2k8we>  
<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london-40-fascinating-facts-7296777.html>  
<http://www.kickassfacts.com/30-kickass-and-interesting-facts-about-london/>  
<http://www.inlondonguide.co.uk/london-sight-guide/interesting-facts-about-london.html>  
<https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/arts-culture/promoting-arts-culture/20-facts-about-london-s-culture>  
<http://www.buzzfeed.com/patricksmith/54-amazing-facts-about-london-that-will-blow-your-0>  
[http://www.totalesl.com/lesson\\_detail.php?postingtype=lesson&id=35771](http://www.totalesl.com/lesson_detail.php?postingtype=lesson&id=35771)  
<http://metro.co.uk/2014/09/24/routemaster-bus-10-fantastic-facts-about-the-london-bus-on-its-60th-anniversary-4879811/>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/9297300/QI-Quite-interesting-facts-about-10-Downing-Street.html>

[All websites accessed October 2015.]

## Shouting dictation paragraphs

<p><b>1. Trafalgar Square</b></p> <p>This square is about 170 years old. In the centre, there are statues of soldiers and four lions. There is also a column with a statue of Nelson. Nelson was an officer in the Royal Navy and he died in 1805.</p>	<p><b>6. St James's Park</b></p> <p>This is the oldest royal park in London, and King Henry 8<sup>th</sup> bought it in 1532. King James 1<sup>st</sup> kept exotic animals and birds in the park. Today, you can see pelicans and ducks on the lake.</p>
<p><b>2. Horse Guards Parade</b></p> <p>This is the entrance to Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace. Lots of tourists watch the 'Changing of the Guard' here. This is when guards on horses arrive to take the place of other guards.</p>	<p><b>7. Buckingham Palace</b></p> <p>The Queen sometimes lives here, and when she is at home, you can see the Royal flag on the roof. There are 775 rooms, a cinema, a post office, and a swimming pool. Outside, there is a lake, and more than 350 types of flowers.</p>
<p><b>3. Downing Street</b></p> <p>The Prime Minister lives in number 10. The first time a Prime Minister lived in number 10 was 1732. Larry the cat also lives here and his job is to catch mice. His title is 'Chief Mouser.'</p>	<p><b>8. The River Thames</b></p> <p>There are more than 200 bridges on the river. Westminster Bridge is the best for selfies! There are eels, otters and 110 different types of fish in the river.</p>
<p><b>4. London Eye</b></p> <p>3.5 million people visit this tourist sight on the river Thames. It is 135 metres tall and you can see good views of London. 800 people can be on the wheel at the same time, and the ride is 30 minutes.</p>	<p><b>9. Piccadilly Circus</b></p> <p>This busy square is famous for electric advertisements. It is also where 5 busy London streets meet. In the centre of the square, there is a statue of Eros.</p>
<p><b>5. The Palace of Westminster</b></p> <p>This palace has more than 1,000 rooms, and people often call it 'The Houses of Parliament'. Big Ben is the bell inside Elizabeth tower, and it chimes in 'E'! People abseil down the clock to clean the glass.</p>	<p><b>10. Leicester Square</b></p> <p>Lots of tourists visit this square, because it is near the West End. There are also lots of expensive cinemas near the square, and you can sometimes see famous actors there are a film premiere.</p>

## London Quiz questions

### 1. Trafalgar Square

- How old is Trafalgar Square? (170 years old)
- When did Nelson die? (1805)
- What statues can you see in the centre of Trafalgar Square? (Nelson, soldiers and 4 lions)

### 2. Horse Guards Parade

- Why do lots of tourists visit Horse Guards Parade? (To watch the 'Changing of the Guard')
- How many guards arrive for the 'Changing of the Guard'? (12)
- Do the guards walk to Horse Guards Parade? (No, they ride horses)

### 3. Downing Street

- Who lives in number 10 Downing Street? (The Prime Minister)
- What year did it first become the home of the Prime Minister? (1732)
- Who is Larry? (The cat)
- What is Larry's job? (To catch mice)

### 4. London Eye

- Where is the London Eye? (On the south side of the river Thames)
- How tall is the London Eye? (135 metres)
- How many people go on the London Eye every year? (3.5 million)
- How many people in total can be on the London Eye at the same time? (800)
- How long is a ride on the London Eye? (30 minutes)

### 5. The Palace of Westminster

- How many rooms are there in the Palace of Westminster? (1,000)
- What is the official name of the 'Houses of Parliament'? (The Palace of Westminster)
- What is Big Ben? (The bell inside the clock)
- What note does Big Ben chime? (E)
- What is the name of the tower in the Palace of Westminster? (Elizabeth Tower)
- How do people clean the glass on the clock face of the Palace of Westminster? (People abseil down the clock)

### 6. St James's Park

- Is St James's Park the oldest or the youngest royal park in London? (The oldest)
- Who bought St James's Park? (Henry 8<sup>th</sup>)
- What did King James 1<sup>st</sup> keep in St James's Park? (Exotic animals and birds)
- What birds can you see on the lake in St James's Park? (Pelicans and ducks)

### 7. Buckingham Palace

- Who sometimes lives in Buckingham Palace? (The Queen)
- How do we know if the Queen is at the palace? (The Royal Flag is on the roof)
- How many rooms are there in Buckingham Palace? (775)
- What is there inside Buckingham Palace? (A cinema, a post office, a swimming pool?)
- What is there in the garden of Buckingham Palace? (A lake, and 350+ types of flowers)

**8-10: Additional information that may not have been covered in the lessons, but could include as general knowledge bonus points!**

### 8. The River Thames

- How many bridges are there on the river Thames? (More than 200)
- How many types of fish live in the River Thames? (110)
- What animals live in the River Thames? (Otters, eels, and river voles)

### 9. Piccadilly Circus

- How many London streets meet in Piccadilly Circus? (5)
- Why is Piccadilly Circus famous? (For the electric advertisements)
- What statue is in the centre of Piccadilly Circus? (A statue of Eros)

### 10. Leicester Square

- Why do lots of tourists visit Leicester Square? (Because it's near the West End)
- Why do you sometimes see famous actors in Leicester Square? (Because there are lots of film premieres)
- Why is it not a good idea to go to the cinema in Leicester Square? (Because it's expensive)