

## London sights (B1-B2)

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 a picture of London and ask students what they recognise. If possible, project the images on the board before the start of the lesson, so that learners are immediately engaged with the topic when they arrive for class.

#### 2. (10 mins) Key word dictation:

Project or write the first sentence (see following paragraph) on board and elicit key words from students *e.g.*, **ninth largest city**. Explain that you will read them 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 the City of 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. The district of **Greater London**, has around **8.3 million people**, but the **City of London**, is **one of the smallest cities** in the UK, with **just over 7,000 people**. Today, the **City of London** is the British **financial and business centre**, but it was originally a **Roman city**, and you can see parts of the original **Roman wall** near the **Tower of London**.*

#### 3. (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



Row 2



#### 4. (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 chairs further away from each other.

### 5. (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:** *vehicles, annual rainfall, spectacular views, panes of glass, species of fish, film premieres, chief mouser, to abseil, landing pad.*

### 6. (10 mins) Information sharing:

Students work in pairs to share information about the London sights and make changes accordingly. Do an example with the class. The emphasis of the task should be on speaking, so students should not just be reading each other's papers. Make sure you monitor and elicit correct pronunciation from individuals if they mispronounce key words.

### 7. (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.

### 8. (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. You may also decide to appoint a quizmaster.

Pronunciation must also be very good for a team to gain a point. 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 and in the centre, there are statues of soldiers, four lions, and a column with a statue of Nelson. Horatio Nelson was an officer in the Royal Navy and 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. The name of the road to the left of the park is 'Birdcage walk,' because King James 1<sup>st</sup> decided to keep exotic animals and birds in the park in 1603.</p>
<p><b>2. Horse Guards Parade</b></p> <p>This is the entrance to Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace. It is most famous for the Changing of the Guard ceremonies. 12 guards arrive on horses at the Parade Ground and 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, a helicopter landing pad and more than 350 types of flowers.</p>
<p><b>3. Downing Street</b></p> <p>The Prime Minister lives in number 10, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer lives in number 11. It has been the home of the Prime Minister since 1732. Larry the cat has a job, and his official title is 'Chief Mouser.'</p>	<p><b>Further paragraphs if needed:</b></p> <p><b>8. The River Thames</b></p> <p>More than 200 bridges cross the river, including Westminster Bridge, which is the best for taking selfies with the Houses of Parliament. Approximately 110 different types of fish, as well as otters, eels, and river voles live the river.</p>
<p><b>4. London Eye</b></p> <p>3.5 million people visit this tourist sight on the south side of the river Thames. It is 135 metre tall so you can see spectacular views of London during the 30 minute experience. The 32 capsules can carry 800 passengers in total.</p>	<p><b>9. Piccadilly Circus</b></p> <p>This is where 5 busy London streets meet. It was built in 1819 and the famous electric advertisements first appeared on the buildings in 1910. In the centre, there is an aluminium statue of Eros which was made in 1892.</p>
<p><b>5. The Palace of Westminster</b></p> <p>This palace has more than 1,000 rooms, and it is often called '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 300 panes of glass.</p>	<p><b>10. Leicester Square</b></p> <p>Leicester square is very popular with tourists, probably because it is near the West End. The majority of film premiers in the UK take place here, and for this reason there are many expensive cinemas near the square.</p>

## London Quiz questions

Questions in bold were covered during the lesson.  
Other questions are extra.

### 1. Trafalgar Square

- **How old is Trafalgar Square? (170 years old)**
- **Who was Horatio Nelson? (An officer in the Royal Navy)**
- **When did Nelson die? (1805)**
- **What can you see in the centre of Trafalgar Square? (a column with a statue of Nelson on the top, statues of soldiers and four lions)**
- What building do lots of tourists visit in Trafalgar Square? (The National Gallery)
- What did tourists do in Trafalgar Square before its ban in 2003? (Feed the pigeons)

### 2. Horse Guards Parade

- **Which two buildings can you enter from The Horse Guards Parade? (Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace)**
- **Why is Horse Guards Parade famous? (For the Changing of the Guard ceremonies)**
- **How many guards arrive on horses for the Changing of the Guard? (12)**

### 3. Downing Street

- **Who lives in number 10 Downing Street? (The Prime Minister)**
- **Who lives in number 11 Downing Street? (The Chancellor of the Exchequer)**
- **What year did it first become the home of the Prime Minister? (1732)**
- **Who is Larry? (The cat)**
- **What is Larry's job? ('Chief Mouser')**
- How is the front of 10 Downing Street different from the back? (It is much bigger than it looks- two connected houses and the back looks at Horse Guards Parade)

### 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 capsules are there on the London Eye? (32)**
- **How many people in total can the London Eye carry? (800)**
- **How long is each trip on the London Eye? (30 minutes)**
- What can you see from the top of the London Eye? (Windsor Castle and 25 miles away)

### 5. The Palace of Westminster

- **What is the official name of the 'Houses of Parliament'? (The Palace of Westminster)**
- **What exactly is Big Ben? (The bell inside the clock)**
- **What note does Big Ben chime? (E)**
- **What is the name of the tower which is part of the Palace of Westminster? (Elizabeth Tower)**
- **How many panes of glass cover the clock on the Palace of Westminster clock tower? (300)**
- **How do people clean the glass on the clock face of the Palace of Westminster? (People abseil down the clock)**
- How often do people clean the glass on the clock face of the Palace of Westminster? (Every 5 years)

### 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? (King Henry 8<sup>th</sup>)**
- **What did King James 1<sup>st</sup> decide to do with St James's Park in 1603? (He decided to keep exotic animals and birds in the park)**
- **What is the name of the road to the left of St James's Park? (The 'Birdcage walk')**
- What birds can you see on the lake in St James's Park? (Pelicans, rare ducks and geese)

### 7. Buckingham Palace

- **Who sometimes lives in Buckingham Palace? (The Queen)**
- **How do we know if the Queen is at Buckingham 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, a helicopter landing pad and more than 350 types of flowers)**
- How many people have invitations to visit Buckingham Palace every year? (Over 50,000)
- What links Mozart and Ghandi? (They both visited Buckingham Palace)

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

#### **8. The River Thames**

- How many bridges are there on the river Thames? (More than 200)
- Which is the best bridge to stand on to take selfies with the Houses of Parliament behind? (Westminster Bridge)
- How many types of fish live in the River Thames? (About 110)
- What animals live in the River Thames? (Otters, eels, and river voles)
- What was the original spelling of the river Thames? (Tames)
- Why did the spelling of the river Thames change? (Because a Dutch map-maker made a mistake)

#### **9. Piccadilly Circus**

- How many London streets meet in Piccadilly Circus? (5)
- When was Piccadilly Circus built? (1819)
- When did the electric advertisements first appear on the buildings in Piccadilly Circus? (1910)
- What statue is in the centre of Piccadilly Circus? (A statue of Eros)
- What is the Eros statue in the centre of Piccadilly Circus made of? (Aluminium)

- Why did people choose the name Piccadilly? (Because a famous wealthy tailor in 17th Century London sold lace collars called Piccadills)
- What is the English translation of the Latin word Circus? (Circle)

#### **10. Leicester Square**

- Where in London is Leicester Square? (Near the West End)
- Why do you sometimes see famous actors in Leicester Square? (Because the majority of film premiers in the UK take place here)
- Why is it not a good idea to go to the cinema in Leicester Square? (Because it's expensive)
- Why is the area near Leicester Square popular in the evening? (Because there are many restaurants, cinemas and theatres in this area)