

London sights (C1)

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: 3rd 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, and if the capital were a country, it would be the eighth largest in Europe. The administrative district of **Greater London** is home to around **8.3 million residents**. However, the **City of London**, which was the original **Roman city**, and is the British **financial and business centre** is **one of the smallest cities** in the UK, with a population of **just over 7,000 residents**. You can still 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 notes 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 5 times 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.*

6. (10 mins) Information sharing:

Students work in pairs to tell each other about the London sights using complete sentences, compare answers, 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://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>1. Trafalgar Square</p> <p>This square is about 170 years old and was built to commemorate Horatio Nelson, an officer in the Royal Navy who died in 1805. In the centre of the square, there is a column with a statue of Nelson on the top, as well as statues of soldiers and four lions.</p>	<p>6. St James's Park</p> <p>This is the oldest royal park in London and is surrounded by three palaces. It was originally bought by King Henry 8th in 1532, and in 1603 King James 1st decided to keep exotic animals and birds in the park. This is why the road to the left of the park is called 'Birdcage walk'.</p>
<p>2. Horse Guards Parade</p> <p>This is the official entrance to both Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace, two royal residences. However, it is most famous for the Changing of the Guard ceremonies when 12 mounted guards in traditional uniform arrive at the Parade Ground and take the place of other guards.</p>	<p>7. Buckingham Palace</p> <p>This building is one of the Queen's royal residences, and when she is at home, the Royal flag is raised. The palace has 775 rooms, a cinema, a post office, and a swimming pool. In the gardens, there is a lake, a helicopter landing pad and over 350 species of flowers.</p>
<p>3. Downing Street</p> <p>The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer live in houses number 10 and 11 respectively, and it has been the home of the Prime Minister since 1732. Larry is the name of the resident cat, and he even has a job and the official title 'Chief Mouser.'</p>	<p>8. The River Thames</p> <p>More than 200 bridges cross the river, including Westminster Bridge which is the best for taking selfies with the Houses of Parliament behind. Approximately 110 different species of fish, as well as other creatures such as otters, eels, and river voles inhabit the river.</p>
<p>4. London Eye</p> <p>3.5 million people go to this 135 metre tall Ferris wheel on the south side of the river Thames to see spectacular views of London. The 32 capsules can carry 25 passengers, which means that 800 passengers can be carried on every 30 minute revolution.</p>	<p>9. Piccadilly Circus</p> <p>This is where 5 busy London streets meet. It was built in 1819 and it is famous for the electric advertisements which have appeared on the buildings since 1910. In the centre, there is also a statue of Eros made of aluminium which was a rare material when the statue was made in 1892.</p>
<p>5. The Palace of Westminster</p> <p>This is the largest palace in the country with more than 1,000 rooms, and it is often called 'The Houses of Parliament'. Big Ben is the name of the bell inside Elizabeth tower, and it chimes in the key of E! People abseil down the clock face to clean the 300 panes of glass.</p>	<p>10. Leicester Square</p> <p>Leicester square is very popular with tourists, possibly due to its proximity to the West End. It hosts the majority of film premiers in the UK, and therefore there are many expensive cinemas surrounding 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)
- Why was Trafalgar Square built? (To commemorate Horatio Nelson)
- 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 like doing in Trafalgar Square before its ban in 2003? (Feeding 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)
- What happens during the Changing of the Guard ceremony? (12 mounted guards in traditional uniform arrive at the Parade Ground and take the place of other guards).

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 resident cat)
- What is Larry's job and title? ('Chief Mouser')
- How is the front of 10 Downing Street different from the back? (It is much bigger than it looks- it is made up of two connected houses and the back overlooks 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 does each capsule on the London Eye carry? (25)
- 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 face on the Palace of Westminster clock tower? (300)
- How is the glass on the clock face of the Palace of Westminster cleaned? (People abseil down the clock face)
- How often is the glass on the clock face of the Palace of Westminster cleaned? (Once every 5 years)

6. St James's Park

- Is St James's Park the oldest or the youngest royal park in London? (The oldest)
- What surrounds St James's Park? (3 palaces)
- Who bought St James's Park? (King Henry 8th)
- What did King James 1st 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')

- **Why is the name of the road to the left of St James's Park linked to King James 1st? ('Birdcage walk' refers to the exotic birds King James 1st kept in the park)**
- What birds can you see on the lake in St James's Park? (Pelicans, rare ducks and geese)

7. Buckingham Palace

- **Who lives in Buckingham Palace? (The Queen)**
- **How do we know if the Queen is at Buckingham Palace? (The Royal flag is flying. If she's not there, it's the Union Jack)**
- **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 over 350 species of flowers)**
- How many people are invited to 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 crossing the river Thames? (More than 200)
- How many species of fish live in the River Thames? (About 110)
- What creatures (not fish) can you find in the River Thames? (Otters, eels, and river voles)
- What was the original spelling of the river Thames? (Tames)
- Why was the spelling of the river Thames changed? (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 was the Eros statue in the centre of Piccadilly Circus so unique when it was built in 1892? (Because it was made of aluminium which was a rare material at that time)
- Where does the word Piccadilly come from? (Lace collars called Piccadills were sold by a famous wealthy tailor in 17th Century London)
- 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 are held here)
- Why is the area near Leicester Square popular in the evening? (Because there are many restaurants cinemas and theatres in this area)