

Live from London podcasts

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Level: Elementary and above

Age: Teenagers / adults

Time needed: 30 minutes approx

Language focus: Sights in a city

Homework preparation

If you have time, ask students to prepare for this lesson by doing some research on the Internet. Ask them to report back on the sights they'd most like to visit.

Websites:

<http://www.londontown.com/attractions/>

<http://www.visitlondon.com/>

Vocabulary

Ask students to work on Exercise 1 individually. One way to help them is to write each scrambled word inside a circle (i.e. the letters all in the circle and not in a row). Or you could give hints for each of the words (e.g. *you might walk across this to get over a river...*)

Answers

1. bridge; 2. castle; 3. museum; 4. gallery; 5. park; 6. statue; 7. tower; 8. square

Ask students to list, in pairs, examples of these things in their own home town. Do some whole class feedback, prompting with extra questions, such as: *Which is your favourite sight?, Are there any sights that you think are particularly ugly?*

Listening

Go over the London sights on the map first. You may wish to point out, if your students know nothing at all about London, the following details:

- Big Ben is the name of the famous bell inside the clock tower.
- Notting Hill is a small neighbourhood and shopping district in London, made famous by the film of the same name.



- Harrods is a famous department store.
- Covent Garden is a well known area of London, famous for its market, restaurants, theatres and shops.
- The London Eye is a big Ferris wheel on the bank of the river Thames. It gives great views of the whole city.

Alternatively, ask if anyone in the class has been to London. If somebody has, ask him or her to explain what the sights are.

Answers

Big Ben, Harrods and the Tower of London are not mentioned.

Now play the recording again. You may wish to pause after each speaker to allow time for students to choose their answers.

Answers

Speaker 1: b; Speaker 2: c; Speaker 3: a; Speaker 4: b; Speaker 5: a

Speaking

There is a choice of ranking activities for the speaking part of the lesson. Students choose which activity they would like to do. Circulate and help out with any language problems you hear.

Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to onestopenglish's Live from London podcast. In Live from London we go to different parts of London to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today, Live from London reports from outside the Tate Modern, one of London's most famous art galleries. We asked people the question: What sights have you seen so far in London?

Speaker 1 (male, USA)

Well I've ... really enjoyed the Kensington Gardens and, or the park and seeing all the people ... in the States we don't see as many people out in the parks as we do here.

Speaker 2 (male, Italian)

Hi. Well we're visiting London in these three days. We have been to Westminster ... Abbey, the Buckingham Palace, the London Eye, we have seen Soho, Covent Garden, Notting Hill. Just we walk around all these places.

Speaker 3 (female, German)

What I like most is the parks and the gardens around London, like Windsor. Yesterday I've been to Richmond, I love it very much, Kew Garden. And also the museums. That's what I'm looking for.

Speaker 4 (female, Australia)

We've only been in London for about one day so far, we haven't really seen too much. We've seen the London Eye and London Bridge. ... London Bridge was newer than I expected. I expected it to be really old. I really wanna see Buckingham Palace and I wanna go to Hyde Park. The city's really old but it's really beautiful. It's so busy, there's so much going on and there's so many people. It's really expensive. Really expensive.

Speaker 5 (male, USA)

Hi. Now, I've been running around London here. The thing that, that's very curious to me is how I can get up in this Eye and kind of take a look at all of London and get my bearings. Bridges are easy, walkable, you gotta walk a lot in London, more than you have to do in New York, I can tell you that, and certainly more than you have to do in Miami. Plus everything seems to run on time, the people... lotta order and the people are very, very pleasant.



Vocabulary

1. Unscramble the letters to make words for sights you can see in a city.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. rignedb | 2. sletac | 3. mumuse | 4. legraly |
| 5. karp | 6. tuset | 7. rowet | 8. quasre |



2. Which of the things in 1 do you have in your home town? Tell a partner.

Listening

3. Look at the map and tick the London sights you hear.



4. Listen again and answer the questions.

Speaker 1: What is different about parks in the States to parks in London?

- a) there are more people out in the parks in the States
- b) there are more people out in the parks in London
- c) there aren't any parks in the States

Speaker 2: How did this person visit the sights in London?

- a) by taxi
- b) by bus
- c) on foot

Sights

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Speaker 3: What was this speaker mainly looking for London?

- a) museums
- b) galleries
- c) Buckingham Palace

Speaker 4: What did the woman think of London Bridge?

- a) it was really old
- b) it was newer than she expected
- c) it was very expensive

Speaker 5: What is different about London from New York and Miami, according to this man?

- a) you have to walk more
- b) the people are more pleasant
- c) everything is on time



Speaking

5. Choose one of the following tasks and discuss in pairs.

Imagine you are going to London for a day trip. What five sights would you like to see? Choose from the list in 3, or add your own ideas if you like.

Imagine three friends from another country are coming to visit your hometown. They have a free day to visit the sights. Where would you take them? How would you travel around?

The local government of your town would like to create a new sight for tourists. Which of the following do you think would attract the most visitors? Rank the possible sights below from best idea (1) to worst idea (5).

- a new gallery of modern art
- a tower, with a restaurant at the top
- a new park with a small lake
- a modern casino like in Las Vegas
- a museum of the history of your town