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ПРАКТИКА УСТНОЙ И ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ

ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНОСТИ ГОРОДА. ЛОНДОН

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Part I Topical vocabulary

Sights of the city

арка	arch
ворота	gate(s)
движение	traffic
дорога	road
дорожный знак	road sign
затор	traffic jam, congestion
клумба	flower-bed
налево	on/to the left
направо	on/to the right
перекрёсток	crossroads, junction; am. intersection, crossroads
переход	(pedestrian) crossing; am. crosswalk
переходить/перейти (через) улицу	to cross the street/road
пешеход	pedestrian
план города	town plan, street map
парк	park
площадь	(town) square
подземный переход	underpass, subway
рынок	market
светофор	(set of) traffic lights
скамья	bench, seat
стоянка машин	car park; am. parking lot
стоянка такси	taxi-rank
тротуар	pavement; sidewalk
тупик	dead end, cul-de-sac, blind alley
угол	corner
улица	street
фонтан	fountain

впечатляющий	impressive
гулять/погулять	to (go for a) walk/stroll
заблудиться	to get lost, to lose one's way
искать	to look/search for, to seek
находить/найти	to find
узкий	narrow
уставать/устать	to get/grow tired
широкий	wide, broad
достопримечательности	sights
осматривать достопримечательности	go sightseeing, to do the city
идти на экскурсию	go on tour

Part II Reading, conversation

Text I General information about London.

London, the capital of England and the United Kingdom, is in the southeast of the country. It is one of the world's largest cities with a population of 6,700,000, not counting those who come to the capital to work or as tourists. Greater London, i.e. the centre along with the suburbs, divided into the 32 boroughs and the City, covers a vast area in which a large part of Britain's economic activity goes on.

The buildings of Buckingham Palace, Whitehall (especially No. 10 Downing Street), the Houses of Parliament, and the City of London represent respectively the seats of the British monarchy, government, and the financial and business world.

ARCHITECTURE: London contains buildings in all styles of English architecture since the 11th century:

Norman: the White Tower, Tower of London; St Bartholomew-the-Great; the Temple Church;

Gothic: Westminster Abbey; Westminster Hall; Lambeth Palace; Southwark Cathedral;

Tudor: St James's Palace; Staple Inn;

17th century: Banqueting Hall, Whitehall (Inigo Jones); the St Paul's; Kensington Palace; many city churches (Christopher Wren);

18th century: Somerset House (William Chambers); St Martin-in-the-Fields; Buckingham Palace;

19th century: British Museum (neoclassical); Houses of Parliament; Law Courts (neo-Gothic); Westminster Cathedral (Byzantine style);

20th century: Lloyd's of London.

Since mid-century London skyline has changed. It has assumed a new profile, with familiar shapes set in a new perspective of towering blocks of flats and offices. Telecom Tower is one of the city's tallest buildings and a landmark that can be seen from all over London. The architecture of London streets now is a mixture of new and old.

Even London weather has somewhat changed: the result of the enforcement of smokeless zones across the central part of London has been the virtual disappearance of those peasoup (thick yellow) fogs that regularly blanketed the city of Sherlock Holmes's days.

HISTORY: London was established by the Romans shortly after their invasion of Britain in 43 AD.

London is where the invading Romans first crossed the River Thames (it is situated at the lowest point where the Thames could be forded). The Romans built a city a square mile in size, surrounded it with a wall and called it "Londinium". According to the Roman historian Tacitus the city thronged with merchants and their wares within 20 years of its foundation. As Londinium, London was a Roman trading centre. This original site of London is now called the City of London and is only a very small part of London.

London received its first charter in 1066 from William I. In the 11th century, London began to expand beyond the City walls when King Edward the Confessor built a huge abbey at Westminster. Even today, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, as well as the shops, cafes, theatres and cinemas of the West End, are in the City of Westminster and not in the City of London.

Westminster grew up around its abbey, and became the centre of government in the 12th century. London suffered the plague of 1665, and the Great Fire of 1666, after which many new buildings were designed by Wren. During the 18th and 19th centuries London expanded greatly: rail transport encouraged suburbs. London suffered much damage from air raids in the Second World War; new modern buildings have changed the character of many parts of the city.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY: from Saxon times the port of London dominated the Thames from Tower Bridge to Tilbury; its activity is now centred outside the metropolitan area, and downstream. Tilbury has been extended to cope with container traffic. The prime economic importance of modern London is as financial centre.

But London also plays a very important role in the industrial development of Great Britain, the main industrial sites being in the East End. It is the country's main centre of printing (it has half of all the workers of England and Wales engaged in the

printing and book-binding trades) and of the manufacture of clothing, food and many other products. Factories are scattered throughout the older inner city districts, where they are often surrounded by streets of small houses.

Since mid-century there have been considerable changes in industrial location: a number of factories have been encouraged to move out of London, particularly during the last twenty-five years. There are also industrial estates of factories built fifty-sixty years ago about 16 kilometres from the centre of the city (factory development has often followed new road construction, for example to the west of London, where the factories have good transport facilities). There is most work for Londoners in offices and shops, though the government has encouraged offices (as well as factories) to move out of London. It has set an example itself by moving government departments such as Tax Offices into the regions. Londoners themselves are looking for better housing, better job opportunities and fresher air to breathe, away from the city. There are over 14,000 scientists and technologists employed in research and development in London, either in industry or in universities. London has particular expertise in medical research; in a survey of the top 100 European universities London was voted first for teaching and research in medicine, and nearly all the world's leading pharmaceutical companies have bases in London.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE: London is also the country's cultural capital, with world-famous institutions such as the British Museum, the National and Tate galleries, the BBC (at Broadcasting House) and the Royal Albert Hall.

London University is the largest in Britain, while the Inns of Court have been the training school for lawyers since the 13th century. Altogether there are 13 universities and 13 higher education colleges with a total of 143,000 students in London.

London has been the centre of English drama since the first theatre was built by James Burbage in 1576. Nowadays there are 204 theatres in London, a quarter of which are in Westminster's West End, and well over 1,000 drama companies. London has a large number of museums and art collections. It is a centre for the world's art trade, with many galleries and auction houses situated around Cork Street and Bond Street. London has over 300 museums.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION: administratively London consists of the City and Greater London which was formed in 1965 and has 32 boroughs (the 13 boroughs of Inner London and 19 of Outer London); they include the City of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth and Islington. Greater London, extending for about 20 miles (more than 30 kilometres) in every direction from Charing Cross (the official centre of the metropolis), from Enfield in the north to Croydon in the south, and Uxbridge in the west to Romford in the east, includes the City of London, the county of London, the whole of the former county of Middlesex and parts of the Home Counties (the

surrounding counties of Hertfordshire, Essex, Surrey and Kent). The population of Greater London is over eight million.

Because of the prevalence of buildings of from two to five storeys, London covers a proportionately greater area than many other large European cities. For example, Paris within the boundaries of the ring road, occupies an area of 40 square miles (105 square kilometres) while Greater London covers 610 square miles (1,580 square kilometres).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN LONDON: running a city as large as London is a major task. Until 1986 the metropolis was governed by the Greater London Council (the GLC). Its main function was to deal with problems that affect the whole metropolitan area, such as traffic control, motor road construction and maintenance, big housing developments and research and planning for the entire area. The boroughs are run by locally elected councils. They are responsible for education, health and welfare services.

There are 33 local authorities in the capital, providing a range of local and other services for Londoners. Since 1986 there has been no central authority for Greater London. The City of London has been governed by a corporation from the 12th century. Its structure and the electoral procedures for its common councillors and aldermen are mediievally complex, and it is headed by the Lord Mayor. The City of London's livery companies are the successors to London's medieval guilds of merchants and craftsmen. These livery companies promote their particular trades both nationally and internationally and do much charity work. In recent years ancient guilds, such as Mercers or the Goldsmiths, have been joined by companies covering new fields such as information technology. While keeping alive traditions and links with London's past, the livery companies are very much part of the continuing development and economic success of the modern city.

Text II Read the text, summarize the main issues.

London

London (the largest city in Europe) dominates Britain . It is home for the headquarters of all government departments, Parliament . The major legal institutions and the monarch. It is the country's business and banking centre and the centre of its transport network. It contains the headquarters of the national television networks and of all the national newspapers.

It is about seven times larger than any other city in the country. About a fifth of the total population of the UK lives in the Greater London area. The original walled city of London was quite small. (It is known colloquially today as 'the square mile") It did not contain Parliament or the royal court, since this would have interfered with the autonomy of the merchants and traders who lived and worked there. It was in

Westminster, another 'city' outside London's walls, that these national institutions met. Today, both 'cities' are just two areas of central London.

The square mile is home to the country's main financial organizations, the territory of the stereotypical English 'city gent'. During the daytime, nearly a million people work there, but less than 8,000 people actually live there. Two other well-known areas of London are the West End and the East End. The former is known for its many theatres, cinemas and expensive shops. The latter is known as the poorer residential area of central London. It is the home of the Cockney and in the twentieth century large numbers of immigrants settled there.

There are many other parts of central London which have their own distinctive characters, and central London itself makes up only a very small part of Greater London. In common with many other European cities, the population in the central area has decreased in the second half of the twentieth century. The majority of 'Londoners' live in its suburbs, millions of them travelling into the centre each day to work. These suburbs cover a vast area of land. Like many large cities, London is in some ways untypical of the rest of the country in that it is so cosmopolitan.

Although all of Britain's cities have some degree of cultural and racial variety, the variety is by far the greatest in London. A survey carried out in the 1980s found that 137 different languages were spoken in the homes of just one district.

In recent years it has been claimed that London is in decline. It is losing its place as one of the world's biggest financial centres and, in comparison with many other western European cities, it looks rather dirty and neglected. Nevertheless, its popularity as a tourist destination is still growing. And it is not only tourists who like visiting London - the readers of Business Traveller magazine often vote it their favourite city in the world in which to do business. This popularity is probably the result of its combination of apparently infinite cultural variety and a long history which has left many visible signs of its richness and drama.

Text III Point out the main parts of London.

More information about London

London has been a capital city for nearly a thousand years, and many of its ancient buildings still stand. The most famous of these are the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, but most visitors also want to see the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace (the Queen's London home) and the many magnificent museums.

Once, London was a small Roman town on the north bank of the Thames, but slowly it grew into one of the world's major cities with more than eight million people. Fewer people live in the centre now, but the suburbs are still growing.

The old port area is now called "Docklands". The great ships have gone, and the area is changing very- fast. There are huge new office buildings and thousands of new flats and houses.

Other parts of London are changing, too. Some of the poorer areas have become fashionable, and people with more money are moving into them.

A hundred years ago, the river was crowded with ships, leaving for Java and Japan, New Zealand and New York, but now people travel by air, and London's main airport, Heathrow, is one of the busiest in the world.

Like all big cities, London has streets and concrete buildings, but it also has many big parks, full of trees, flowers and grass. These parks are both in the centre of the city and further out. It is the central parks which are, the most famous.

St James's Park was first opened 450 years ago. It is very close to Buckingham Palace, and to the government offices in Whitehall. St James's Park is one of the royal parks in and around London which are owned by the Crown but are open to the public free of charge. It is very attractive, with a long, narrow lake, which is occupied by ducks and other water birds.

Each park has its own character. Hyde Park, for example, was originally a hunting forest and is still popular with horse riders. Now it's famous for the Serpentine — the lake, and for Speakers' Corner, where you can listen to people giving their views on a variety of topics to anyone who will listen.

Kensington Gardens is next to Hyde Park, and it is very popular with both the old and the young. On warmer days there are always people at the Round Pond, where they come to sail their model boats.

Regent's Park, which was originally a hunting park, is now the home of London Zoo, and an open air theatre which delights summer audiences with performances of Shakespeare's plays.

Many people live outside the centre of London in the suburbs, and they travel to work in the shops and offices by train, bus or underground. The trains are full — and expensive — and the roads are crowded with cars, but every day a million people make the journey. Some people come from far out of London, even from the coast, and spend up to four hours travelling every day.

Most people work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From 8 until 10 every morning, and 4.30 to 6.30 every evening, the trains are crowded with people, and after the morning "rush hour" the shoppers come.

By day the whole of London is busy. At night, the offices are quiet and empty, but the West End stays alive, because this is where Londoners come to enjoy themselves. There are two opera houses here, several concert halls and many theatres, as well as cinemas, and in nearby Soho the pubs, restaurants and nightclubs are busy half the night.

Many people think that London is all grey, but in fact red is London's favourite colour. The buses are red, the letter boxes are red and the mail vans are all bright, bright red. London is at its best when people are celebrating. Then the flags, the soldiers' uniforms, the cheering crowds and the carriages and horses all sparkle in the sunshine — if it's not raining, of course!

London has many large department stores, which sell everything: shoes and shirts, paper and perfume, footballs and frying pans. The most expensive department store is Harrods in Knight-sbridge. You can buy almost anything in Harrods, and you know you're getting the best.

The smartest and most expensive shops are in Knightsbridge, but more people come to Oxford Street, London's most popular shopping centre. Most of the hundreds of shops sell clothes or shoes. The street is more than a mile long. There are several big department stores in Oxford Street. The best known are Selfridges, John Lewis and Marks and Spencer.

Oxford Street has the most shops, but in some ways King's Road in Chelsea is more fun. This is where fashionable young Londoners buy their-clothes in the many small "boutiques"...

You can buy what you like in the big shops, but the small markets have a lot to offer too. There are several big street markets in London, and many small ones. Some markets are open only one day a week. Go to Portobello Road on Saturday, or to Petticoat Lane on Sunday. Covent Garden market is open every day. Come here for antiques, old clothes, hand-made jewellery and many other rather special things.

British restaurants have not always been famous for their good food. Too often, they offered only fried food and chips with everything. But now, healthy food is in fashion and so is international cooking.

The British have taken good ideas from all over the world. You can eat Chinese, Indian, French, Italian and Greek food in any big city, and in London there's a fantastic variety of restaurants.

Most British families only go to restaurants on special occasions, like birthdays, or wedding anniversaries. The restaurants' best customers are business people, who meet in them to talk business in a relaxed atmosphere away from the telephone. They can eat what they like because the company pays the bill! But when a man and a woman want to get to know each other better, they often go out to a restaurant together. After all, it's easier to talk in a quiet atmosphere, with soft music, wine and good food.

For visitors to London, eating out can be fun. Try Rules in the West End. The traditional menu and decor are just like they were in Queen Victoria's day, a hundred years ago. Or take a walk round Soho or Covent Garden where there are dozens of small restaurants.

But if you want that special London feeling, go to the Ritz in Piccadilly for tea any afternoon at about half past four. Too expensive? Then try England's favourite food — fish and chips. Take it away and eat it where you like — in the park, on the bus or while you walk down the street. That's what Londoners do!

Text IV Look through the facts about London. Which are known to you?

Fun & Interesting Facts About London

- London stands on the southeast of England and is the capital city of United Kingdom.
- London is the most densely populated area in Britain and is the ninth largest city in the world.
- London is formed by two ancient cities - City of London and City of Westminster, both cities forming the region of Greater London.
- During the time of the Roman Invasion, London was known as Londinium. In Saxon times, it was known as Lundenwic and during the kingdom of Alfred the Great, its name was changed to Lundenburg.
- Contrary to what many people believe, 'Big Ben' in London is not the name of the clock or the tower, but a 13-ton bell inside the clock. The tower is known as St. Stephen's Tower.
- The city of London is home to four World Heritage Sites - the Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament), the Tower of London, Maritime Greenwich and Kew Botanical Gardens.
- Thames River in London is the longest river in England. It begins life as a trickle in a Gloucestershire meadow and flows for more than 135 miles, before reaching London.
- The London Eye or Millennium Wheel of the city is the tallest Ferris wheel in Europe.
- There are five international airports in London, with the Heathrow airport being the busiest airport in the world.
- The London Underground, built in 1863, and popularly called 'Tube', is the first metro of the world.
- The Canary Wharf Tower is the tallest building in London.
- London is one of the three command centers for the world economy, and has the sixth largest city economy in the world after Tokyo, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Paris.
- Buckingham Palace, The Queen's official residence built in 1702, was earlier the site of an infamous brothel.
- The Great Fire of London in 1666 created widespread devastation, causing major reconstruction work all across the city.

- London is a multi-ethnic city and domiciles people speaking over 300 languages.
- Windsor Castle of London is the largest and oldest castle of the world that is still in use.
- According to rumors, ghosts of King Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I, Mad King George, and Charles I still haunt the Windsor Castle.
- There are more than 100 theaters in London. Moreover, about sixteen percent of the country's restaurants and food joints are located in London.

Text V What myths and stereotypes have you heard about London? Do you think everything that is said true to life? What is London for you? Read the opinion of people who's visited London and shares his/her ideas.



A) London Myths Exposed

London is certainly one of the most popular travel destinations in the world, attracting over 26 million visitors a year.

Yet, certain myths continue to persist about this timeless city that are either no longer true, or never were in the first place.

Here are 6 of the top myths about London and the truth behind the hype.

1) London is too expensive for the average person to visit

Yes, London is pricey. But just like New York, San Francisco, Berlin, and every other major city in the world, there is the 'normal' way to go, or the 'cheap' way to go. Certainly, you'll have to do your homework and search out specials before you go and whilst you are there.

Booking online can help you find a flight to London with accommodation for much, much cheaper than you would get separately.

Don't forget that London buses go everywhere, so you won't need to take the pricier Tube all the time.

And as with many major cities, there are certain days that museums are free or reduced.

2) *It's always cold, rainy and damp*

Yes, the weather in London can be a bit dreary.

But the constant clouds, rain and snow is not the whole truth about London weather.

The reality is that London can and does have decent – though not extremely warm – weather.

I've been there at different points in the year; three weeks in June, a week in August and during Thanksgiving. Yes, I kept a jacket on me for the nights, even in the summer months. But I'd say I saw more sunny days sitting in Hyde Park than during the same time of year in San Francisco. Walking around the last week of November was comfortable in a moderately thick coat.

Don't let the false idea that it's constantly raining keep you away.

3) *The people are standoffish and very "British"*

Yes, British people are British. But I've found them to be super funny and often very open.

I wouldn't go so far as to say they'll run up to you with arms outstretched, but I find it's generally untrue that the Brits, or Londoners, are standoffish.

The important thing to remember about travel in general is that we're all a lot more alike than we think. Most people are going to be open and helpful to visitors.

Getting into conversations with people in pubs, who either grew up in London or have lived there for a long time, is a great way to see their animated discussions and sparkling wit.

You'll more than likely end up doubled over laughing at some point.

4) *Londoners only drink tea*

You will have absolutely no problem finding coffee in London.

Actually, you may have more of an issue finding the traditional British black tea with cream outside of High Tea in Kensington Gardens and other top-end places throughout the city.

Try and take two steps without spotting a Costa, Caffe Nero, or everyone's favorite worldwide chain, Starbucks.

Though the green logo was a welcome sight in 2002 when Starbucks was the only place I could get my soy latte, when I visited again in 2007 every coffee place provided all the accoutrements Americans are used to.

5) *The British have bad teeth*

We may blame Austin Powers for making this notion popular, but the jokes about British teeth preceded the movie.

Contrary to the rumors, British teeth are fine, with people in London probably more concerned about their teeth than outside the city.

The Guardian asked the question, “Is there actual evidence that British teeth are worse than anyone else’s?” It’s interesting to read the answers from people both in the UK and the US.

As for this American, the teeth in London have never made me not want to smile.

6) *British food is awful*

Although this myth is on its death bed after a long, slow battle, some people still think British food is awful.

Here are the reasons this is wrong: London offers every type of world cuisine you could probably think of, and most ‘traditional’ pubs now serve either Thai or Indian curry rather than bangers and mash or fish in chips.

It’s also easy to get quick, healthy take-away in places such as Pret A Manger, Wagamama, Marks and Spencer, and Whole Foods.

Open air meat, fruit, and vegetable markets abound, and there are plenty of vegetarian and vegan options throughout the city.

B) Stereotypes

London is Small

Many travelers to Britain underestimate the size of the country and also how large London actually is. It’s easy to think that London is a small city compared to cities in China, India or America – but London is HUGE. Spread over 600 square miles with 8 million or so people crammed in between – London is a massive place. One of the hardest things to conceptualize is how large it is.

However, don’t be put off by this. The actual touristy areas of London – in central London – that area is quite small and manageable. That’s the area we think of as London – not the sprawling commuter belt spreading in all directions. That said, it will take longer than you think to take a cab from Notting Hill to Covent Garden. It’s a long way.

You Have to Take the Tube Everywhere

The Tube is by far the easiest way to get around London and it will heavily influence your spatial understanding of London. But you don’t have to take the Tube everywhere. Many of the hot tourists sites in Central London are actually pretty close together and unless you want the high of riding the tube over and over, you can usually walk between most places rather quickly (and much cheaply).

London is Expensive

London CAN BE expensive. However, it depends on how you approach it. Getting around London is pretty cheap – either by Tube or Foot. Hotels can be cheap – but that depends on your standards (see below). Many museums and major sites don't cost anything to see but some have admissions fees. Food will be your most expensive costs after lodging and if you are savvy – you can do it cheaply too. London is geared towards fleecing tourists with expensiveness – but you can be smarter than that.

All London Hotels Are Crap

You will find many tolerable cheap tourist hotels in London. Some more tolerable than others. But even those may not be up to the standard of your local Motel 6. Brits have different standards that we do. However, many hotels have been upgraded in recent years and things are improving. You'll still find some crap hotels in London – but TripAdvisor should be able to steer you away from those. We've stayed in budget London hotels and posh London hotels, really the hotel doesn't matter because you shouldn't be in your room – you should be out in London experiencing every moment you can spare. Your room is for sleeping (and... well depends on how lucky you are at the pub, don't it?).

Londoners are Rude

Londoners, in general, are not a rude lot. What gives people this idea is because there are no many non-Brits in London, people mistake foreignness for rudeness. Look at it this way – how do you feel on your local transportation system when you encounter a clueless tourist on your morning commute? That's how Londoners feel about it too. They have lives to live and rushing around ignoring you is not rudeness – it's an entire city living their life as if you didn't even exist.

It Rains All the Time

This is the biggest myth about London. It does not rain all the time. However, it COULD rain at any time – so be prepared and carry an umbrella if it's in the forecast. I've had many pleasant London days where the sun was shining and then five minutes later it was raining buckets and then five minutes later the sun was shining again. It happens, deal with it. It forces you to stand still under an awning and appreciate London for a few minutes.

And nothing smells better than the air in London after a quick burst of rain. Call it London Fresh.

Everyone has a Cockney accent

The entire London metropolitan area does not speak like the folks from Lock, Stock and Two Smoking barrels. While you may come across a lot of people with a 'cockney' accent – it will not be nearly as many as you think. London is a conglomeration of Brits from all over the UK so you'll find corresponding variety

amongst the accents spoken. It's beautiful. I would not recommend walking around speaking cockney rhyming slang to people. They'll just look at you like you're an idiot.

Harrod's is everyone's Local Shop

When most tourists think of shopping in London, they think of Harrod's. Most Brits don't, however. Harrod's can be kindly described as an expensive tourist trap. While some rich people in the area may use it as their local shop – it's not uncommon for most Londoners to never have been to Harrod's. It's a very expensive place filled with Tourists. That doesn't make it not enjoyable, but may make it unenjoyable for locals.

Londoners Hate All Tourists

No, they just hate rude and clueless tourists. Travel smart, be friendly and don't expect too much and you won't have any troubles at all.

They all Have Lives Like in Love, Actually and Notting Hill or Bridget Jones

I've got news for my fellow Americans who love movies set in London: many Londoners hate them. A few years ago we did a list of our favorite movies in London and the Londoners that commented highly disagreed with our choices and many came up with completely different lists. While we like to curl up and enjoy Bridget Jones or Notting Hill or Love, Actually (to name a few) they aren't representative of life in London at all and are at the bottom of many Londoners favorite London movie lists. In the end, they're movies and don't represent reality much. For example – Notting Hill has turned into an enclave for rich people (thanks to the movie partly) and is overrun with tourists on the weekend.

Text VI What sights of London do you know? Read and find out whether you named all of them.

Some glimpses of London

London is the capital of Great Britain. It is situated on both sides of the Thames and stretches for nearly 30 miles from east to west and for nearly 30 miles from north to south. London is one of the largest cities in the world. Its population is more than eight million. London is a very old city. It is more than 20 centuries old. The history of London goes back to Roman times. Traditionally London is divided into several parts: the City, Westminster, the West End and the East End. They are very different from each other.

The heart of London is the City — its commercial and business centre. The Stock Exchange, the Royal Exchange, and the Bank of England are all there. The centre of the country's judicial system — the Old Bailey is also in the City. Few people live in the City, but over a million come to work here.

Two famous historic buildings are located in the City — the Tower of London and St Paul's Cathedral. The Tower of London was built in the 11-th century. It was used as a fortress, a royal residence and a prison. Now it is a museum of armour and also the place where Crown Jewels are kept.

A twenty minutes' walk from the Tower will take you to , another historic building — St Paul's Cathedral, It was built in the 17th century by the famous architect Sir Christopher Wren. Wellington, Nelson and other great men of England are buried in the Cathedral. Westminster is the centre of government and justice. Here we can see the Houses of Parliament with the famous clock "Big Ben" on one of the towers. All government offices are in Whitehall. The official residence of the Queen is Buckingham Palace. The residence of the Prime Minister is at 10 Downing Street.

Opposite the Houses of Parliament stands Westminster Abbey.

In Norman times British monarchs have been crowned here since the 13th century they have been buried here. Many other famous people are also buried in Westminster Abbey including statesmen, musicians and writers.

The West End is the name given to the area of Central London north from The Mall to Oxford Street. It includes Trafalgar Square, the main shopping areas of Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street, and the entertainment centres of Soho, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square and Shaftesbury Avenue. Its name is associated with glamour and bright lights.

Trafalgar Square was built early in the last century to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar. Admiral lord Nelson's statue stands on top of a column in the middle of Trafalgar Square. The square makes a good place for people to meet — coaches pick up parties of visitors, marchers unite for protest meetings, and at Christmas time carol singers gather round a huge Christmas tree which is sent to Britain from Norway every year. Behind Nelson's Column is the National Gallery, an art gallery in which you can find many old masters. Not far from the National Gallery is the British Museum. It contains a priceless collection of different things (ancient manuscripts, coins, sculptures, etc.) The British Museum is famous for its library — one of the richest in the world.

- Most of London's big department stores are in Oxford Street and Regent Street. Piccadilly Circus is the centre of nightlife in the West End. To the north of Piccadilly Circus is Soho, which has been the foreign quarter of London since the 17th century. Now it has restaurants offering food from a variety of different countries, as well as "adult" entertainment.

London is famous for its live theatre, and there are over thirty theatres within a square mile. Naturally there is a great variety of shows to choose from: opera, musicals, drama and so on. If you want to know what is on in London, the best place to look is in a newspaper.

The East End is an industrial district of London. It is especially famous as the centre of the clothing industry. The Port of London is also in the East End.

Part III Questions and tasks

A 1 What is the population of London?

2 What is the City?

3 When was the Tower of London built? What was it used for?

4 When was St Paul's Cathedral built?

5 What famous men are buried in the Cathedral?

6 In what district of London are most of the Government buildings located?

7 What is Big Ben?

8 What famous building stands opposite the Houses of Parliament?

9 In whose memory was the monument in the middle of Trafalgar Square set up?

10 What kind of museum is the British Museum?

11 Where are most of London's big department stores located?

12 In what part of London is the Port located?

B Speak about London, the capital of Great Britain.

C Have you ever been to London? What did you do? Did you like the city?

D Imagine that you are going to London. What would you like to see first?

E Be ready to speak about one of the places of interest.

F First read these rather gloomy comments made by an unhappy town resident.

"Recently they've built a lot of skyscraper blocks here. I think they've made the town look ugly. And they're going to build more. They're going to demolish an area of terraced houses, and build flats, offices, a car park and a shopping area. In fact, when I walked past the area yesterday they were demolishing the first house. They're destroying the town, these council planners. People have sent in hundreds of protests, but it hasn't had any effect. They've taken their decision, and that's that. They're destroying the quality of life in the town."

Now, basing your answers on the passage, finish the sentences below, using the passive.

Example

More skyscraper blocks...

Answer

More skyscraper blocks are going to be built.

1 A lot of skyscraper blocks... 2 The town... 3 An area of terraced houses... 4 A shopping area... 5 When I walked past the area... 6 The town... by these council planners. 7 Hundreds of protests... 8 Their decision... 9 The quality of life in the town...

G What's your opinion on contemporary situation in cities and towns concerning their planning?

Part IV Tasks for translation

1 Translate the dialogue into Russian.

A visit to London

David: This is Whitehall. All these big buildings are Government offices. At the beginning of November every year the Queen goes down Whitehall from Buckingham Palace to open Parliament. Many people come to watch the Queen and the soldiers ride with her.

Margaret: What are those buildings at the end of street?

David: You know the building with the clock; that's the Houses of Parliament. The building beside it with two towers is Westminster Abby. Now we'll go by boat to the Tower-Edward.

Edward: How far is it?

David: About three miles. It's near Tower Bridge.

Edward: Is that the bridge that opens in the middle to let boats go through?

David: Yes. Now we're going under London Bridge. This bridge isn't old, but there was a bridge here many years ago with houses and shops on it.

Margaret: Is that the Tower of London? But there are lots of towers there,

David: Yes, but the one in the middle - the White Tower - is the Tower.

Margaret: How old is it?

David: About nine hundred years old. Years ago kings and queens lived and died here.

Susan: I don't like the Tower. It's cold and grey, and it frightens me. We'll go and have lunch. I'm hungry.

David: All right. There is an old restaurant near here which you'll like. The food's very good.

Margaret: Can we get to the National Gallery from here?

David: Yes. We'll go by bus. Then you can see all the interesting buildings on the way. That's the Bank of England. This is Fleet Street, with all the newspaper offices. Now we're in the Strand. Charing Cross Station is on the left, and now we are coming to Trafalgar Square. The National Gallery is on the right.

Margaret: How many pictures are there in the Gallery?

David: About six hundred, I think.

Edward: Don't ask hard questions, Margaret. David doesn't know everything.

Margaret: All right. I'll ask an easy question. Where can I wash my hands?

Edward: Come on! I'll show you.

Using all possible information about London sights, make up a similar dialogue.

2 Translate into English.

1 Лондон — город в Англии, столица Соединённого Королевства Великобритании и Северной Ирландии. Административно образует регион Большой Лондон, состоящий из церемониальных графств Большой Лондон и Сити.

Население — 8,2 млн человек (2011 год), крупнейший город Евросоюза. Образует агломерацию «Большой Лондон», в пределах метрополитенского пояса проживает свыше 12 млн человек. Расположен на юго-востоке острова Великобритания, на берегах реки Темзы, в 80 км от Северного моря.

Один из глобальных городов, конкурирующий с Нью-Йорком за звание ведущего мирового финансового центра, речной и морской порт; шесть аэропортов; старейший в мире метрополитен. Действует свыше 40 вузов. Местонахождение Британского музея и крупнейшей в мире Британской библиотеки.

Исторический центр образуют район Вестминстер и деловой район Сити, к которому примыкает средневековая крепость Тауэр. В пожаре 1666 года город был сильно разрушен.

Основан под названием Лондиниум римлянами вскоре после их вторжения в Британию в 43 году. В XI—XII веках превратился в столицу Англии. В начале XVIII века стал столицей Великобритании и крупнейшим городом Европы. С 1825 по 1925 годы был крупнейшим городом мира. С XVI по XX века являлся столицей Британской империи.

2 Big Ben. Биг Бен – это наиболее узнаваемая достопримечательность Лондона. Вообще Биг Бен является названием самого большого колокола на часах, расположенных в северной части Вестминстерского дворца в Лондоне, хотя название также часто употребляется для обозначения часов или часовой башни в целом. Это часть архитектурного комплекса Вестминстерского дворца. Официальное наименование — «Часовая башня Вестминстерского дворца», также её называют «Башней Св. Стефана». «Биг-Бен» — это само здание и часы вместе с колоколом. Название башни возникло от названия 13-тонного колокола, установленного внутри нее. Биг Бен — это самые большие

четырёхсторонние часы с колоколами и третья по высоте часовая башня в мире. В мае 2009 года часы отметили свой 150-ый юбилей (часы впервые завели 31 мая) многочисленными торжественными мероприятиями. Большой колокол

Главный колокол, самый большой колокол в башне, официально именуемый Большой колокол, - это есть Биг Бен.

Оригинальный колокол весил 16 тонн и был отлит 6 августа 1856 года в городке Стоктон-он-Тис (Stockton-on-Tees) компанией «Джон Уорнер и сыновья».

Пока башня не была закончена, колокол установили в Нью Пэлас Ярд. Отлитый в 1856 году первый колокол был перевезен к башне на телеге, запряженной 16-ю лошадьми, которая постоянно была окружена толпой по мере следования. К сожалению, во время пробного испытания колокол треснул и потребовался его ремонт. Он был переделан на литейном заводе Уайтчепел и стал весить 13,76 тонн. Чтобы поднять его на башню, потребовалось 18 часов. Колокол имеет 2,2 м в высоту и 2,9 м в ширину. Этот новый колокол впервые зазвенел в июле 1859 года. Однако в сентябре он тоже треснул под молотом, спустя два месяца после того, как был введен в постоянную эксплуатацию. По словам менеджера литейного завода Джорджа Мерса, Денисон использовал молот более чем в два раза превышающий максимально допустимый вес. В течение трех лет Биг Бен не использовался, а часы звонили самые низкие четвертные колокола, пока главный колокол не был вновь установлен. Для ремонта часть металла на оправе вокруг трещины была разрублена, а сам колокол повернут, так, чтобы молот приходился на другое место. Биг Бен звенел надломленным протяжным звоном и продолжает использоваться сегодня с трещиной. На момент своей отливки Биг Бен был самым большим колоколом на Британских островах до тех пор, пока в 1881 году не был отлит «Большой Пол» — 17-тонный колокол, в настоящее время находящийся в соборе Святого Пола.

Прозвище Биг Бен все ещё является предметом многочисленных дебатов. Название сначала применяли для Большого колокола. Существует легенда, согласно которой колокол получил название Биг Бен в честь главного уполномоченного по проведению работ — сэра Бенжамин Холла. По другой теории, происхождение названия может быть связано с именем боксера-тяжеловеса Бенжамин Каунта. Есть также версия, что изначально колокол нужно было назвать Викторией или королевской Викторией в честь королевы, подобное предложение было высказано одним из членов парламента, однако комментарии по этому вопросу не зафиксированы в официальных отчетах о заседании парламента. Сейчас Биг Бен используется для общего обозначения часов, башни и колоколов, хотя прозвище не везде соотносят с часами и башней.

Некоторые авторы работ о башне, часах и колоколе избегают этого названия в заголовках, хотя в дальнейшем поясняют, что предметом книги являются как часы и башня, так и колокол.

3 Общественный транспорт Лондона.

Общественный транспорт Лондона включает в себя всемирно-известные лондонские двухэтажные автобусы, старейшее в мире метро Tube и современные линии трамваев и легкой железной дороги DLR. Пассажирские перевозки внутри Лондона также осуществляют Национальные железные дороги, несколько судоходных компаний на Темзе и, конечно же, черное лондонское такси. В большом Лондоне протяженность улиц и дорог составляет 13 600 км, автобусных маршрутов - 3730 км, линий метро - 329 км.

Двухэтажные красные автобусы можно назвать визитной карточкой Лондона. Это один из самых быстрых и удобных способов перемещения по городу, во время которого вы можете еще и полюбоваться достопримечательностями. Стоимость проезда одинакова для всех автобусов. Билет надо приобретать перед поездкой - либо проездной, либо разовый, так как кондукторов в автобусах нет, и водители больше не продают билеты при посадке. Учтите, что автоматы по продаже билетов на автобусных остановках не дают сдачи.

В Лондоне работают 12 линий метро. Город разделен на 10 концентрических зон: центр – 1-ая, окраины – 6-ая и 4 самые дальние зоны А, В, С и D. Стоимость поездки зависит от того, по каким зонам она проходит, поэтому билеты и смарт-карты надо предъявлять автоматам и на входе, и на выходе.

Как составную часть лондонского метро можно рассматривать линии легкой железной дороги DLR (Docklands Light Railway). Их линии указаны на схеме лондонского метро, на них действительны те же билеты и правила тарификации поездок, что и в метро. Отличительная особенность DLR - в поездах нет машинистов, управляет ими компьютер.

Первые современные линии трамваев Tramlink в Лондоне были открыты в 2000 году. Сейчас работают 3 маршрута и есть большие планы по расширению сети. Оплата проезда в трамваях такая же, как и в лондонских автобусах.

Для того, чтобы поймать такси в Лондоне, достаточно, как и у нас, просто поднять руку. Включенный желтый знак обозначает свободное такси. Стоимость поездки определяется по счетчику, включающей в себя плату за посадку. Стоимость поездки увеличивается, если едут несколько пассажиров, если багаж ставится на переднее сиденье и за поездки в ночное время. Чаевые составляют до 10%, но обычно сумму просто округляют до фута.

Система оплаты проезда в Лондоне претерпела существенные изменения с появлением смарт-карт Oyster. На них можно записать несколько различных проездных документов, например Travelcard на 7 дней и более, а также положить наличные деньги, которыми можно расплачиваться за разовые поездки. Оплачивать поездки со смарт-карты дешевле, чем наличными, а если вы за день совершаете несколько поездок, с вас будет снято денег не больше, чем стоит Travelcard на 1 день. Туристам, приезжающим в Лондон на несколько дней, выгодно покупать билеты Travelcard на 1, 3 или 7 дней. Главное при этом не ошибиться в выборе зон, по которым вы будете ездить: если вы выедете за пределы зоны, в которой действует ваш билет, вас могут оштрафовать на £20. Покупать билеты за наличные деньги, конечно же, возможно. Но следует помнить, что билет в лондонский автобус надо покупать перед посадкой, так как в них теперь нет кондукторов, и водитель не продает билеты.

Общественный транспорт в Лондоне работает круглосуточно. Существуют около 50 круглосуточных автобусных маршрутов, есть специальные ночные маршруты, которые дублируют линии метро и начинают работу перед окончанием работы метро. Метро и DLR работают с 5:30 по будням и субботам и с 7 по воскресеньям до 23:30-0:30 в зависимости от станции и дня недели.

Part V Reports

- 1 Make a report about any sight of London that interests you.
- 2 Choose the city you like and tell the class about it. Explain your choice.

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ПРАКТИКА УСТНОЙ И ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ

ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНОСТИ ГОРОДА. ЛОНДОН

Методические рекомендации к проведению занятий
для студентов 2 курса направления 032700.62 «Филология»

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