



Introduction

London is the capital city of England. In London you can find the clock Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. The Houses of Parliament is where the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown and other members of parliament (MPs) sit and make the laws for the country.

London is always very busy and crowded, even at night. It has a population of about 7 million people. There is also too much traffic in London.

The Weather

London has variable weather. In the winter it can be very cold and, although the sun shines, it rains a lot. This is good for the parks of London.

Parks

When the sun shines many people who live and work in London go into the parks for recreation or simply to eat their lunch. The rain keeps the grass green and provides water for the trees. The trees help to counteract the effects of pollution and provide people with fresh clean air and the trees provide welcome shade from the heat of the sun.

The most famous is called Hyde Park. Hyde Park is a big park in the centre of London. Hyde Park has a wide range of facilities, including a playground where children learn about nature and wildlife.



It also has a boating lake and a wide range of catering outlets, where you can buy anything from ice creams and sandwiches to three course meals.

During the summer many events are held there.

Entertainment, shopping and dining

London is a major centre for entertainment, shopping and dining. There are thousands of shops and many markets in London. The shops in London can be very expensive especially the department stores like Harrods, Harvey Nicholls and Liberty but the products are of good quality and tourists come from all over the world to shop here.

London has some very good markets that are often inexpensive. The markets sell all kinds of things, from fruit and vegetables to antiques, crafts and clothes.

Famous Landmarks

London also has many famous buildings that you can visit. These include St Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge and the Tower of London.

Museums like the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum are fun for all the family and have free entrance whereas a visit to the Tower of London or a ride on the London Eye can be expensive.

Sometimes you can get '2 for 1' offers where two people can visit a famous landmark for the price of one person. Usually you must buy a travel card to get these offers.



London Transport

In London there are a lot of different types of transport.

In the centre of London there is the Underground. It is also called the Tube. Tickets cost from £4 for a single if you do not have an Oyster card.

There are also the National Rail services. These cost from £1.70 upwards for a single ticket. These trains go all over the country. Some trains even go to France.

There are also buses. They travel all over London and there are even buses at night.

If you want to go to many different places in London you can get a daily travel card. This will be cheaper than paying single fares and could save you a lot of money. With a travel card, you can use the Underground, National Rail, and the buses in London. You will also get a discount on the 'Clipper' boats which take passengers along the river Thames.

If you are in a hurry there are lots of black taxis and mini-cabs. The black cabs can be very expensive because you have to pay even when the taxi is stuck in a traffic jam and not moving. The minimum fare for a mini-cab outside the centre of London is about £5.

JOKE: What jam can't you eat on toast? **ANSWER:** A *traffic jam*

Read the passage on London and answer the following sentences:

1. Where does Gordon Brown make laws?
2. How many people live in London?
3. What is the weather in London like?
4. Which is the most famous park in London?
5. Name two of the facilities in Hyde Park?
6. What is meant by the words 'London is a major centre for entertainment, shopping and dining'?
7. Can you name two of London's famous landmarks?
8. What is a '2 for 1' offer?
9. What must you usually do if you want to get a '2 for 1' offer?



Read the following statements and say whether they are true or false:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. With a travel card you can travel in mini-cabs. | True/False |
| 2. There are buses at night. | True/False |
| 3. National Rail trains go all over the country. | True/False |
| 4. The Underground costs 70p. | True/False |
| 5. Some trains go to France. | True/False |
| 6. National Rail journeys start at £1.70 | True/False |

Look up the following words in a dictionary and write the definition of the word beside it:

1. Population
2. Variable
3. Counteract
4. Pollution
5. Facilities
6. Parliament
7. Inexpensive
8. Antiques

Now you have found the definitions for the word rearrange them into alphabetical order. The first one has been done for you.

1. Antiques

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____



JOKE Why are London policeman very strong?

ANSWER Because they *hold up* lots of traffic

Rearrange these words to make proper sentences remembering to include the capital letter at the beginning of the sentence and for any proper nouns. Also remember the full stop at the end.

Example: In lot London of a of there different are transport. types
In London there are a lot of different types of transport.

1. weather. has variable London

2. London in Houses of the Big Parliament. find the can Ben you clock and

3. are you in of hurry, a there If lots mini-cabs. are

4. trains some France go even

5. National can the in underground, Rail, get London. and You the buses

6. London many that has famous can buildings visited be.


7. markets very inexpensive. good London has often are which some

Sending a post card to your friend

Imagine that you have had a wonderful day in London. Write to your friend and give her your news. Remember to tell your friend all about your journey and the places you visited.

Then you can write your friend's address on the postcard before posting it to:

A. Friend, 123 Country Cottages, Primrose Hill. Askshire, AS1 2OP

	
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London Word Search

t o x d r s b i g t d b z j e
t n y y r e x x n o r b f b o
c w e s n t r a m o a x u i k
m p t m t x r t w x c t m c h
b h w j a e t n v u l m a k z
s k r a p i r b i p e m o o k
w h u h o p l c u b v p n i u
l d e h f j c r v s a o q v n
i l f s j o k s a x r q j o k
y d a j r h x t m p t g d t b
t n e m n i a t r e t n e r i
z a u o t w c m v b o s g a g
t w z r e a w e r l t p u i m
m j a l r k o e n h i n p n f
g o r d o n r b l f c v u x f

BEN
BROWN
GORDON
PARKS
TRAIN

BIG
BUS
LONDON
PARLIAMENT
TRAVELCARD

BOAT
ENTERTAINMENT
OYSTER
TAXI
TUBE