

■ 8. Transport

Unit 3 Step 5

Before watching

1 Try this simple quiz about transport in London to get you started. Then, compare your answers with a partner and check the keys.

- Trains from London to Paris now leave from
 - a. Waterloo station
 - b. King's Cross station
 - c. St Pancras station
 - d. Euston station.
- On a London Underground map, which colour is used for the Central line?
 - a. black
 - b. red
 - c. green
 - d. yellow
- Oxford Street is one of London's most famous shopping streets but the Underground station set in the heart of it has a different name from the street. What is it?
 - a. Oxford Central
 - b. Oxford University
 - c. Oxford Cross
 - d. Oxford Circus
- What does the announcer famously say when the train arrives in the Underground station?
 - a. Hurry up and get off
 - b. Be careful
 - c. Mind the gap
 - d. Be careful of the doors

2 Say whether the statements are True (T) or False (F).

- | | T | F |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. There is no driver on Docklands Light Railway trains. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. A One Day Travelcard can be used on various types of London Transport, including black taxi cabs. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Young people under 16 don't pay for buses in London. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. You can travel on a rickshaw (a private taxi pulled by a bicycle) in London. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. You have to stand in the middle of the escalators in the Underground. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Platforms in London Underground stations are curved. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Imagine you are visiting a big city. What's the best or worst way of getting around in your opinion? Choose some reasons from the list and compare your ideas with a partner.

Mode of transport	Advantages / Disadvantages
bike	slow
car	comfortable
taxi	safe
tram	enjoyable
bus	cheap
underground	fast
	reliable
	expensive
	dangerous

Which form of transport is best for your own town / city?

Which do you use most often and why?

4 Video vocabulary. Match the words and the definitions.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. helmet | <input type="checkbox"/> a. taking an old building back to its original state |
| 2. cycle lane | <input type="checkbox"/> b. a monument to an important person, usually made of stone |
| 3. statue | <input type="checkbox"/> c. consisting of two separate levels |
| 4. double decker | <input type="checkbox"/> d. the complete system of train lines in an area |
| 5. restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> e. a hard object worn on the head to protect against injury |
| 6. rail network | <input type="checkbox"/> f. a special part of the road reserved for bicycles |

While watching

5 Watch the video and number the following things in the order you see them.

- a. an Underground train
- b. rickshaws in London
- c. London taxis
- d. an Underground sign
- e. red London buses

- f. escalators
- g. cyclists in London
- h. St Pancras station

6 Listen again and correct the information in these sentences if necessary (some are correct).

1. St Pancras is a newly built station.
.....
2. Buying a train ticket is simple in Britain.
.....
3. The statue in St Pancras station represents a famous actor.
.....
4. Young people don't need to buy a bus ticket if they have a Young Person's Oyster Card.
.....
5. Taxis are always black in London.
.....
6. The taxi is called a "cabbie".
.....
7. Cycling in London can be dangerous.
.....
8. Rickshaws are mainly used by working Londoners.
.....
9. The Underground is also called the Tube.
.....
10. Travelling is cheaper with the Oyster Card.
.....
11. Children pay £2 per day on the Underground with their Oyster Card.
.....
12. People walk down the escalators on the right.
.....
13. It's difficult to get a seat at 8.00 a.m. on a working day.
.....

7 Listen again and match what these numbers refer to:

1. 30 a. the number of rickshaws in London
2. 2007 b. the time it takes to become a taxi driver
3. £800 c. the year work finished on St Pancras station

4. 18 d. the number of red bus routes in London
5. 1,000 e. the number of different train tickets available
6. 20 f. the percentage of people spending less than 15 minutes to get to work
7. 500 g. the cost in Euros of hiring a rickshaw per kilometre
8. 3 years h. the total cost of work on St Pancras station

After watching

8 Try some online quizzes about transport in London.

- <http://golondon.about.com/library/Quiz/bl-undergroundquizpage.htm>
- <http://www.quizmoz.com/quizzes/Building-and-Roads-Quizzes/1/London-Underground-Quiz.asp>

9 Go to <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tickets/14836.aspx> and find out the following information.

1. What is an Oyster Card?
.....
2. What benefits are there for young people?
.....
3. How can you get an Oyster Card?
.....

10 Go to <http://www.urban75.org/london/st-pancras-station-2008.html>. Look carefully at the photos and write a few paragraphs describing St Pancras station. Then write another about your own local station and finally write a few lines comparing the two stations and saying which one you prefer.

11 Have a look at the taxi Driver's blog page at <http://www.becomeataxidriver.org.uk/search/label/Taxi%20Driving%20Basics>. Write a short blog to add to the existing blog page with the title: "Thinking of becoming a taxi driver?"

In your blog article, discuss (what you imagine to be) the good and bad aspects of being a taxi driver and offer some advice to young people on becoming one.