

Lesson Outline

Topic: Redevelopment of Trafalgar Square – News Article

Skills/Language: Reading for details

Background information

Trafalgar Square is a famous landmark in the centre of London. It's a place where people meet and congregate on occasions such as protests and New Year's Eve. There are sculptures, fountains and Nelson's Column. Plans have now started to pedestrianise the area and this has caused problems for London's traffic.

To read more about this subject, visit the BBC News website:-
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/2230583.stm>

Procedure

For this lesson you will need

- Copies of **Worksheets A, B and C**
- Copies of the **text**

There are four stages

1. Intro and **Worksheet A**
2. Main reading **text** and **Worksheet B**
3. Vocabulary – **Worksheet C**
4. Follow up - speaking

Intro

Aim – To prepare for the topic

All of the tasks on **Worksheet A** can be done in class, only using the board.

Put the students in pairs

Either:

- give out **Worksheet A** to the students. They should do question 1 only
or
- write the names of the famous places and their countries on your board. In pairs students match the places to the countries
- Following feedback and checking answers, students do questions 2 and 3
- Following a brief feedback session, introduce the text using the headline – **Car ban in square goes ahead**
- The students do exercise 4
- Give out / play the **text**. The students read /listen to check their ideas from the headline.

Reading

Aim – Reading for details / detailed understanding

- Give the students **Worksheet B**
- Students try to answer questions 1 and 2 from memory – tell them to turn over the news report so that they can't cheat so easily!
- Students read for the second time to check their ideas.

Check the answers.

1. What is the main aim of the plan?
Answer b. to make the square easy for people on foot to use
2. Which of these things does the plan involve?
Correct answers:
 - c. Opening cafes
 - e. Closing one road
 - f. Adding lifts
 - g. Cleaning the square

Students do question 3

Check the answers

3. Are these sentences true or false?
 - a. You can see water in Trafalgar Square
Answer: TRUE – there are fountains in the square
 - b. Only tourists had problems using the square
Answer: FALSE – People who live in London, Londoners, had problems too
 - c. Everyone thinks the plan is a good idea
Answer: FALSE – Motoring organisations disagree. Some people think it is too expensive
 - d. The regeneration will cost more than £20 million
Answer: TRUE – It will cost £25 million
 - e. Before this change, there were few traffic jams in London
Answer: FALSE – there was heavy congestion already

Vocabulary

Aim – match meanings to words

- Give students **Worksheet C**.
- Using the context of the text to help them, can they match the words to the definitions.

Alternatively, this could be done as a mingle activity.

- Cut up the words and definitions into individual pieces of paper
- Give each student a word or two.
- Distribute the definitions around the class.
- The students then find the definition(s) for their word(s).
- Feed back to the board, be sure to check and drill the pronunciation.

Answers

Fabulous

Wonderful, very good

Incessantly

Continuously, all the time

Roundabout

A road junction shaped like a circle or a wheel

Ambitious

Daring, brave

Grand

Magnificent, impressive

Chaos

Disorder, no control

Traffic congestion

Many cars moving slowly

Pedestrians

People who are walking

Vehicles

Cars, buses, taxis

Regeneration

Changing a place to make it better

Follow up - Planning and speaking

Aim – Presenting ideas and opinions. Describing a place

Before you put the students in pairs you can brainstorm some ideas about local and regional places, putting ideas on the board. This will help the students choose a good place.

Give the students time to prepare their ideas. They should present their idea to another pair, and then listen to their idea.

Perhaps they can try to decide who has had the best idea in the class.