BRITISH COUNCIL

TeachingEnglish lesson

Born, bread and buttered in London

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Task 1: What do you know about these areas of London?

- Islington
- Regent's Park
- Bloomsbury
- King's Cross
- The West End
- Hampstead Heath
- Tufnell Park

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Task 2: Which of these statements are the opinion of the man?

1. There are too many foreigners here.
2. I've lived in a lot of different parts of London.
3. I think celebrities are great.
4. I'm young and like going out a lot.
5. I've seen a lot of changes in my life.
6. I enjoy being rich.
7. Young people watch too much television.
8. I really enjoyed living in America.

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Task 3: Complete the following sentences that talk about the past using ‘used to’ or ‘didn’t use to.

There is an example at the beginning:

He / live / Kings Cross / then / he /move / Tufnell Park
He used to live in Kings Cross, then he moved to Tufnell Park.

1. You / buy / anything /Tufnell Park.
2. There / be / two dairies.
3. He / have / washing machine.
4. He / take washing home on the bus.
5. It / cost / much money.
6. People / watch / so many American films.

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Task 4: Speaking

- Think about your own life and how it has changed. Write some sentences using ‘used to’ and ‘didn’t use to’. Then talk to your partner about how your life has changed.
- Think about the changes that have happened where you live. Talk in pairs and then share your ideas with the class.

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Transcript: Allen Roome

Interviewer: So, Allen, can you just tell me a bit about the part of the UK that you're from?

Allen Roome: Right, I come from London. I was born in the West End. I don't remember much about that because we moved on to Kings Cross and then we moved up to Tufnell Park where I spent most of my life. I did move back to the West End when I was a bit of a younger man, you know – to see what was going on down there, obviously. And then I moved back to Tufnell Park and now I'm in Islington. I suppose in all those – I had moved within that area - I suppose, you could say that it's a seven-mile square area that I've never moved out of.

Interviewer: Good heavens. And can you tell me about any changes in this area of perhaps Tufnell Park in North London where you were living most of the time?

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Allen Roome: Well, yeah, the Tufnell Park area, where I lived was just off of Tufnell Park. In your eyes what has changed greatly is the shops. There were all different types of shops there. You could literally buy anything that you needed in sort of general. Not furniture, but there was a couple of dairies there, a pub, off-licence, there was a laundrette – Westerns they were called. They was a big company when I was younger and we used to get what we called our bag washed there and I had to pick it up on a Thursday. It was number ninety-seven; it was always wet. I remember that, yes.

Interviewer: You went and collected the wet laundry?

Allen Roome: We took it on Monday and collected it on Thursday and I can't remember how much it was. It was only sort of, in those days, coppers. It wasn't a great deal of money at all. But it was the sort of period of time when people never had washing machines and that was an ideal sort of thing to do.

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Interviewer: Yeah. And would you say your area, perhaps the area you're living in now – Islington - is that famous for anything?

Allen Roome: I don't think it's all that famous for anything. Not the part I live in anyway. The ex-prime minister lived there, Tony Blair. I don't know what you make of that, if that's famous or not. But I did think on it and there are some little areas in there where I think there's a lot of, sort of, actors and actresses live. But I'm not into that sort of thing, so that passes me by.

Interviewer: And just tell me something about how people speak in your area of north London, would you say.

Allen Roome: Well, it's such a diversity there that you couldn't say anybody speaks, it's a general accent or a general theme. What I do notice is the young people now, they have this type of speak where they use a lot of American phrases and things like this. I remember a kid a week or so ago. He was shouting out 'oh that is wickedly evil, man'. Which, that sort of terminology comes from the United States of America. And that's 'cause they watch this rubbish television.

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Interviewer: What does that mean ‘it’s wickedly evil, man’?

Allen Roome: I think it’s supposed to mean it’s good, which it means obviously the opposite. But that’s what they do. They do speak like that, you know.

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Thanks for attending the lesson

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