



London is a city with many faces. It is one of the world's great **cosmopolitan cities**. The city has more than 50 ethnic communities of 10,000 or more people. Its population is more than 8 millions.

London has a lot of important buildings, including world-famous museums, theatres, concert halls, airports, railway stations and palaces. There are places that you must see when you are in the city, like the **Big Ben**, the **London Eye**, the Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. **The Tower Bridge** on the river Thames is a drawbridge. It means that it can be opened. Near the Tower Bridge, you can see **The Tower of London**. In the past, it was a prison, palace of execution and now it's a showcase for the **Crown Jewels**.

You can't forget about **Buckingham Palace**, where the Queen and the Royal Family live. **Changing the Guard** is a formal ceremony in which the group of guards protecting Buckingham Palace are replaced by a new group of soldiers. The ceremony is free to watch and many people from around the world meet outside the palace to see it.



Buckingham Palace and their guards



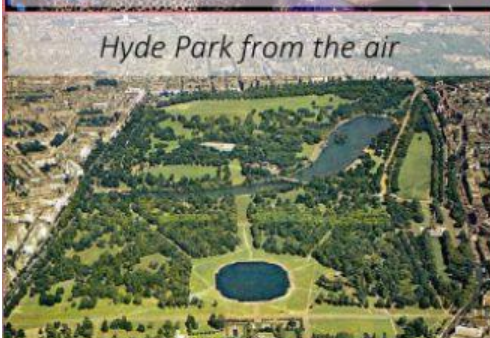
The Tower of London



The London Eye (left) and the Big Ben (Right)



Madame Tussaud's Museum



Hyde Park from the air



A cricket player

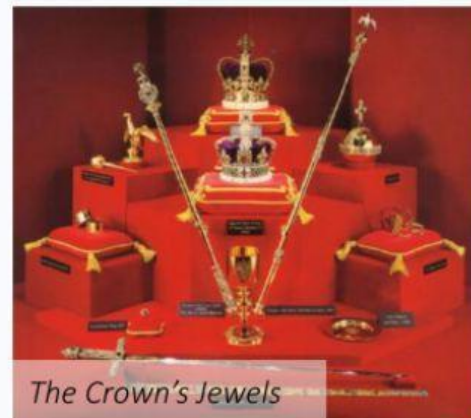
Another iconic place is **Piccadilly Circus**, it is the most famous road intersections in the world. It's iconic for different reasons: the unique architecture, the iconic advertisements that adorn the buildings, the statue of Eros in the middle and the variety of shops you can see there.

Do you want to have some fun? Visit the **Madame Tussaud's wax museum**, where you can find wax figures of many popular artists and famous people. You can also visit the room of **Sherlock Holmes** at 21 Baker Street.

London's weather is associated with rains and fogs, but it doesn't always rain in Britain. When the weather is fine what can Londoners do outside? The city has more than 1700 parks. About 30 % of the city is parks and green areas. The biggest park in the centre of the city is **Hyde Park**. You can walk round it in about 90 minutes. You can also take a boat out on the water.

You can watch sports in London, too. **Cricket** is London's national sport. It is played by two teams of eleven players, they hold a bat with which they hit a ball. But Cricket is not as popular as **Football**, Arsenal, Chelsea and other teams play in London.

Life in London is not always easy, but it is never boring. Dr. Johnson was right: "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life."



A. Read the questions and choose the correct option.

1. Why is London a cosmopolitan city?
2. What type of Bridge is the Tower Bridge?
3. What can you see at the Tower of London?
4. Where does the Royal Family live?
5. What is the ceremony you can watch at the Palace?
6. Where can you find a big variety of shops?
7. What can you find at Baker Street?
8. Can you find famous paintings at the Madame Tussaud's museum?
Yes, you can No, you can't
9. How much time does it take to walk around Hyde Park?
10. Is football London's National Sport?
Yes, it is No, it isn't.