



Behind the scenes: Cleaning the UK's favourite tourist attractions

Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and Legoland are three of the most popular tourist attractions in the UK. In today's 'behind the scenes' article, we look at the people who have to keep these famous places clean and tidy.

Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the official London home of the Queen of England. It employs more than 800 members of staff, from cleaners to gardeners, secretaries and chefs. The cleaners have to clean 775 rooms in the palace, including seventy-eight bathrooms, and they have to clean 760 windows every six weeks. There are also 77,000 m² of floor to clean and vacuum!

Big Ben

The Big Ben clock tower has got four glass clock faces. Each face has got 312 pieces of glass and is 7 m in diameter. Every five years, specialist cleaners clean the clock faces. The clock faces are 66 m above the ground and they use ropes. Paul Harrison and Dave King don't have to clean any floors but they have to climb 334 steps to reach the top of the tower, and then they have to abseil down to the clock face. 'You should always use special safety equipment,' says Harrison. 'And you shouldn't look down!'

Legoland

Every year at Legoland, Windsor, the staff have to clean Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and many other famous tourist attractions. But they don't have to use ropes because the buildings are all models, one-twentieth of the size of the real tourist attractions. In total there are 80 million Lego bricks at Legoland. The whole job takes two days and staff have to use toothbrushes for the smallest models.

3 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 How many people work at Buckingham Palace?
- 2 How many windows are there in Buckingham Palace?
- 3 How many pieces of glass are there in the Big Ben clock?
- 4 How often do specialist cleaners clean the Big Ben clock?
- 5 How many Lego bricks are there in Legoland?
- 6 How long does it take to clean the models at Legoland?

have to and should

4 Complete the sentences from the article.

- 1 The cleaners clean 775 rooms in the palace.
- 2 Paul Harrison and Dave King clean any floors.
- 3 They climb up 334 steps.
- 4 You always use special safety equipment.
- 5 You look down!
- 6 They use ropes.

5 Study the sentences in exercise 4 and complete the rules with the correct form of *have to* and *should*.

- a We use to say that we think something is a good idea.
- b We use to say that we think something is a bad idea.
- c We use to say that it's important or necessary to do something.
- d We use to say that it's not important or necessary to do something.