

Preparation

Do the task BEFORE you read: match the two parts of the word combinations.

people of London	blew
their houses	moved easily and quickly
the fire	were on fire
a strong wind	usually built wooden houses
the fire	lived in tents in the fields near London
many buildings	were rebuilt in bricks
the Great Fire of London	began in a bakery in Pudding Lane
after the fire the people	were very close together
the burnt buildings	burned down about 80% of the city

Reading

Read the text and put its parts (a — d) in the right order.

The Great Fire of London

A.

Then the building next to the baker's house started burning and then the next and the next... The fire moved very fast because of the wind. Many buildings were on fire. The fire lasted four days and it burnt down a lot of buildings – about 80% of the city: over 13,000 houses, 87 churches and even St. Paul's Cathedral!

B.

On the second of September 1666 there was a strong wind from the River Thames. It was Saturday night. Londoners were sleeping in their beds. The fire began in a bakery in Pudding Lane. The king's baker and his wife were sleeping in their house too. Suddenly the baker's wife woke up in the middle of the night. She understood that their house was on fire.

C.

Around 70,000 people lost their homes in the fire. After the fire many people lived in tents in the fields around London. When houses were rebuilt, a lot of them were made in bricks instead of wood and straw. And the houses weren't built so close together. London became larger. By 1830 there were more than one and a half million people in the capital of Britain.

D.

In the 11th century people of London usually built wooden houses and they were often near each other. Sometimes there were fires in the city, but they were usually fairly small. Then came the year 1666, the year of the Great Fire of London.

E.

There are a lot of reasons why the fire was so large, mostly to do with the way houses were built – a lot of them were made from wood, and were very close together. The fire was so big that it was called the Great Fire of London.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.