Vocabulary Ex. > A Famous Eye in London

A. Read the text. Fill in the gaps using the words below. There are THREE (3) WORDS YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE.



once	operation	declared	operated	surpassed
boroughs	entry	cities	rotate	allow
hoisted	installed	wheel	scheduled	work

What is now called the *London Eye* is one of England's most popular tourist attractions. It originated as a(n) (1) _____ to an architecture competition in 1993 for a new **landmark** to commemorate the millennium in London. Although no winner was (2) _____, David Marks and Julia Barfield of *Marks Barfield Architects* **undertook** the development of the project themselves and found the site where the (3) _____ now stands.

At an overall height of 135 metres, the wheel itself has a diameter of 120 metres and is connected to its hub by 64 cables that function much like the spokes of a bicycle wheel. The wheel turns (4) _____ every thirty minutes, which is slow enough to (5) _____ passengers to get on and off the boarding platform without it stopping, except for those with **disabilities**.

The London Eye was built in under sixteen months. The assembled wheel was (6) _____ from **barges** on the river into vertical position in a single (7) _____. Mounted on the wheel are 32 ovoid capsules, as the cabins that carry the passengers are called. Their number corresponds to the 32 (8) _____ that (together with the City of London) constitute Greater London. Each capsule has a capacity of 25 passengers.

The capsules do not hang like the gondolas of the old type of big wheel but (9) _____ in mounting rings outside the wheel **rim** to give passengers the best-unobstructed 360° views. On a clear day the highest point on the **ride** gives views of about 25 miles /40 km in all directions.

Some curious facts of this attraction are: **(1)** It was originally (10) _____ to be **dismantled** after five years, but it was kept in place because of continued popularity; **(2)** In 2006 a decorative LED lighting system was (11) _____ in order to make the wheel more **prominent** after dark; and **(3)** It was the world's tallest Ferris wheel from 1999, when it was built, until 2006, when it was (12) _____ by the Star of Nanchang, in Nanchang, China.

B. Match the words in bold that appear into the text with their closest definition below.

1. *something considered important or famous* > _____
2. *boat(s) for carrying freight on canals and rivers* > _____
3. *edge; border; side* > _____
4. *to accept; manage; take responsibility for* > _____
5. *distinctive feature(s) or monument(s) in a city* > _____
6. *to take apart; pull to pieces; destroy* > _____
7. *physical or mental condition(s) that limit(s) a person's movement* > _____
8. *trip; journey; drive* > _____

Level B1+

Text taken and adapted from https://www.britannica.com/place/London-Eye

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