



The London Eye (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you know of any towns or cities near you that have a Ferris wheel?
2. Have you ever been on one?
3. If so, where? Was it very high? What was the view like? Did you enjoy it?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The London Eye is located next to the Houses of Parliament.
2. It was not intended to last for 25 years.
3. One of the sponsors of the design competition was a Sunday newspaper.
4. The London Eye is the largest Ferris wheel in the world.
5. The wheel was open to the paying public the day after its inauguration.
6. Guests ride in capsules shaped like eggs.
7. The ride lasts a quarter of an hour.
8. Every year the London Eye is the centre point of London's New Year celebrations.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why was the London Eye built?
2. Who was it designed by?
3. What information does the article give about the size, weight and capacity of the London Eye?
4. How was it built?
5. Why are there 32 capsules?
6. How far can you see from them?
7. What other tourist attraction has it been compared to?
8. Why is it considered to be a romantic place?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change from singular to plural.)

1. The Statue of Liberty is one of New York City's most famous _____.
2. Robbie wanted to relax on his afternoon off, so he went for a _____ walk along the river.
3. The late take-off of our return flight was _____ bad weather in Paris.
4. Camden is a _____ in North West London.
5. Mr Green is a widower. His _____ wife was a well-know concert pianist.
6. Crowds had gathered on both _____ of the river to watch the boat race.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

The capsules on the London Eye are sealed and air-conditioned. ¹_____ (Every/All/Each/Everyone) can hold up to 25 passengers, who can walk around or sit down. ²_____ (Though/If/Because/Since) there are thirty-two capsules, they are numbered from one to thirty-three. The number thirteen has been left ³_____ (off/out/away/over) because in the United Kingdom it's considered ⁴_____ an (untimely/unlikely/unlucky/odd) number. The wheel turns continuously at 26 cm per second: slow ⁵_____ (almost/quite/enough/even) for passengers to walk on and ⁶_____ (off/out/down/across) at ground level. Only when there are disabled or elderly passengers ⁷_____ (it will/it can/it does/does it) stop moving for a few seconds to ⁸_____ (let/enable/make/get) these to embark and disembark safely.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Why do you think Ferris wheels are such popular tourist attractions?
 2. Have you ever felt afraid or dizzy when looking down from a great height?
 3. If so, where did it happen? When?
 4. Why do you think this happens to some people?
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Answers: The London Eye (B2)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – It's located next to County Hall, opposite the Houses of Parliament. 2. T 3. T 4. F – It was the largest when it was built. 5. F – It did not open to the paying public until March 2000. 6. T 7. F – It lasts half an hour./thirty minutes. 8. T

C – Read and answer

1. It was built to celebrate the new millennium./the inauguration of a new era. 2. It was designed by Julia Barfield and her husband David Marks. 3. It's 135 metres tall and 120 metres in diameter and it can carry 800 people per revolution. 4. It was assembled horizontally over the Thames and then pulled into its vertical position. 5. Because there are 32 London boroughs. 6. You can see as far as forty kilometres on a clear day. 7. It has been compared to the Eiffel Tower.
8. Because more than 5,000 marriage proposals have been made on it.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. landmarks 2. leisurely 3. due to 4. borough 5. late 6. banks

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. each 2. though 3. out 4. unlucky 5. enough 6. off 7. does it 8. enable