**The City**

The City occupies a site which was Norman London. It is a very small part of London (only one square mile). About ten thousand people live in the City but about 500,000 work there.

The City can still show the remains of its defensive wall and some other signs of the Roman time. In other parts of the City almost every stone, every wall, every house is Saxon or Norman or connected with some famous man, book or historical event.

The City of London was described by a Roman historian as a «busy emporium for trade and traders» and this description could have been applied to it at any time since then. The City still remains one of the most important commercial centres in the world.

All the principal streets lead to the heart of the City, which is represented by three buildings: the Mansion House, the Royal Exchange, the Bank of England.

The Mansion House is where the Lord Mayor lives. This is a big house built in 1739s53 which reminds us of a Greek temple. The Lord Mayor also receives the guests of London there.

The Bank of England or as the Londoners call it «The Old Lady» is 250 years old and is a huge building seven storeys high. It is one of the most important banks in the world.

The Royal Exchange has been burnt down three times by fire and three times rebuilt. It is a place of business and public meetings.

There are also a lot of insurance companies, offices and churches in the City.

1. The text is about ...

1. historical and business importance of the City.
2. Lord Mayor’s residence.
3. principal business buildings of the City.
4. the territory and the population of the City.

2. Complete the sentence according to the text

The City is a commercial and business part of London as ...

1. about ten thousand people live there.
2. all the principal streets lead to the heart of the City.
3. it is an area with a long history.
4. many offices, insurance companies, banks are concentrated there.

3. Choose the right sentence.

1. The City is a recently built part of London where one can’t see any signs of ancient time.
2. The Mansion House reminds us of a Greek temple.
3. Many people live in the City but only a few of them work there.
4. Londoners call the Royal Exchange «The Old Lady» because it is a huge building seven storeys high.

4. Find the wrong statement.

1. The Mansion House is a residence of Lord Mayor.
2. The Lord Mayor receives the guests of London in the Mansion House.
3. The Mansion House was built in the eighteenth century.
4. There are a lot of insurance companies and offices in the Mansion House.

5. Arrange the sentences according to the text.

1. The City of London was described by a Roman historian.
2. In the City one can see many signs of the Roman time.
3. The Royal Exchange has been burnt down three times by fire.
4. All the principal streets lead to the heart of the City.

1) 4, 1, 2, 3 2) 2, 1, 4, 3 3) 4, 2, 3, 1 4) 1, 2, 4, 3

6. What word is different?

1. famous 2) well-known 3) notorious 4) popular

Use the verbs in brackets in the correct forms.

7. Over the centuries the City (to guard) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ its Independence which has been recognized by a series of charters.

8. William the Conqueror acknowledged the City’s special privileges as (to do)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_King John in a charter dated 9 May

9. 1215 which (to confirm)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the right to choose a Mayor by annual election.

**St. Paul's Cathedral**

St. Paul’s Cathedral is situated in the City of London. It was designed by Sir Christopher Wren (1632s 1723) who was not only an architect but also one of the best geometers of his day, a mathematician and astronomer.

It took Wren 35 years to build the Cathedral which is the greatest of English Churches. It is considered to be a fine specimen of Renaissance architecture.

The Cathedral is 515 ft long and 180 ft wide. Its famous dome is the largest church dome in the world after St. Peter’s in Rome.

The Cathedral is Gothic in plan but the details are classic Renaissance. In one of the twin baroque towers there is one of the largest bells in the world, Great Paul, weighing about 17,5 tons.

Inside there is a wonderful mixture of architectural work, paintings, mosaics and statues which are monuments to generals and admirals who are buried there and among them Admiral Nelson and the Duke of Wellington (under his command the army of the allies defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815).

When Christopher Wren was 90 he was carried here once a year so that he could see his beautiful work. He himself is buried in the Cathedral. There is no monument to Christopher Wren but on his tomb in the centre of the Cathedral there is an inscription which reads: «If you seek a monument, look around». The inscription is in Latin.

St. Paul’s Cathedral was partly destroyed in 1941 by a direct hit from bombs. After the war it was restored.

**1.** The text is about...

1. the interior of St. Paul’s Cathedral.
2. Sir Christopher Wren.
3. Renaissance architecture.
4. Christopher Wren’s masterpiece.

**2.** Complete the sentence according to the text

In one of the towers of St. Paul’s Cathedral one can see ...

1. one of the largest bells in the world.
2. the monument to Christopher Wren.
3. the tombs of Nelson and Wellington.
4. the largest church dome in the world.

**3.** Choose the right sentence.

1. St. Paul’s Cathedral was designed by Sir Christopher Wren who was not only an architect but also one of the best writers of his day.
2. The dome of St. Paul’s Cathedral is the largest church dome in the world after St. Peter’s.
3. The Cathedral is Gothic in plan but the details are baroque and classic Renaissance.
4. Christopher Wren is buried in St. Paul’s Cathedral, where there is a beautiful monument to him with an inscription in Latin.

**4.** What explains the inscription: «If you seek a monument, look around»?

1. Christopher Wren needed no monument but his beautiful work — St. Paul’s Cathedral.
2. Christopher Wren is buried there (there is a grave of his in St. Paul’s Cathedral).
3. There are many remarkable things in the Cathedral to look at.
4. In the Cathedral there are many monuments to famous people.

**5.** Arrange the sentences according to the text.

1. Christopher Wren was carried here once a year.
2. St. Paul’s Cathedral was restored after World War II.
3. It took Wren 35 years to build the Cathedral,
4. Great Paul weighs about 17,5 tons.

1) 4, 3. 2, 1 2) 3, 1, 2, 4 3) 3, 4, 1, 2 4) 1, 4, 3, 2

**6.** What word is different?

1) church 2) cathedral 3) monastery 4) residence

Use the verbs in brackets in the correct forms.

Old St Paul’s Cathedral which stood at the same site,

**7.** (to destroy) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the Great Fire of London.

The present Cathedral was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and

**8.** (to finish) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1710.

There are steps up to the Whispering Gallery, inside the dome, where words

**9.** whispered into the stone walls can (to hear) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the other side of the stone gallery; outside we have a magnificent view of London.

**William Shakespeare (1564sl616)**

William Shakespeare, the greatest English writer of drama, was born in 1564 in Stratford-on-Avon. We do not know everything about Shakespear’s early life. But we know that he studied at the Grammar School in Stratford, and that he became interested in the theatre when he was still a boy.

In 1586 Shakespeare went to London, where he worked in the theatre for some years before he began to write his own plays.

Shakespeare soon became well-known in London literary circles. Every play that he wrote was good news to the people of the capital. Queen Elizabeth liked Shakespeare’s plays, and the actors were often invited to play before the Queen and later before King James — a great honour in those days. By the end of the 16th century, Shakespeare and his friends had enough money to build their own theatre — the famous Globe Theatre.

But we must not think that Shakespeare had no difficulties in his life. Less talented writers, whose plays were worse than his, often quarrelled with Shakespeare and attacked him, the actors in his own theatre sometimes turned against him.

People in our country love and honour Shakespeare. Many say that they love him for his wonderful optimism: in his light comedies and even in his tragedies he seems to promise a better and brighter future for all mankind.

**1.** The text is about ...

1. Shakespeare’s life.
2. the life of English people in Shakespeare’s time.
3. the queen’s and king’s life.
4. the writers who lived in England in the 16th century.

2. Complete the sentence.

Shakespeare was especially good at...

1. novels.
2. detective stories.
3. mystery plays.
4. dramas.

3. Find the wrong statement.

1. In his childhood Shakespeare got interested in the theatre.
2. The King and the Queen of England liked his plays.
3. Shakespeare was widely known only for his Globe Theatre.
4. Shakespeare had difficulties in his life.

4. Answer the question.

What kind of man was Shakespeare?

1. He was a man who liked to quarrel with people.
2. He was a man who was fond of saving money.
3. He was a man who tried to perform only in the king’s palace.
4. He was a man who had wonderful optimism.

5. Why do you think Shakespeare is well-known throughout the world?

1. He was an English writer.
2. His actors disliked him.
3. He built his own theatre.
4. He wrote a lot of brilliant plays.

6. Choose the synonym to the underlined word.

People in our country love and **honour** Shakespeare,

1) envy 2) respect 3) read 4) remember

Fill in the gaps with articles.

Soon after his marriage Shakespeare went to London. William became

**7.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ actor,

**8.** but at first he only helped \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ actors.

**9.** By and by he began to write plays for\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ theatre.

**В. Shaw Wrote a Play**

Once a poor flower-girl, quite by chance, overheard a conversation between two gentlemen. One of the gentlemen was a professor of pho­netics. He was saying to the other that he could teach an uneducated person to speak good English. The girl was very much interested in what they were talking about. She tried to hear every word.

The fact was that she had for a long time been thinking of learning to speak correctly, and now she saw an excellent chance for herself. If she improved her manner of speaking the owners of the big flower shop would give her a job. She asked the two gentlemen to buy a few flowers from her and tried to speak to them but they didn’t listen to her and soon went away.

The next day the girl came to the professor’s house and asked him to give her lessons. The professor was very much surprised. At first he refused1 to teach her, saying that it was no use even trying, but then he agreed.

The results of the first lesson were poor. She couldn’t produce proper English sounds and was tired of endless exercises. But soon the professor discovered that she was a clever girl. She took a great interest in her lessons and never missed a chance of practising the sounds. As a result, her English became so good that the people who met her thought that she was a real lady.

The story of the girl can be found in one of Bernard Shaw’s most popular plays.

1. The text is about...
   1. a poor girl who worked hard at her English.
   2. the work of the professor of phonetics.
   3. the life of the rich gentleman.
   4. the work of the flower-girl.
2. Complete the sentence according to the text.

The flower-girl wanted to ...

* 1. get money from the two gentlemen.
  2. learn where the two gentlemen lived.
  3. take phonetics lessons,
  4. give phonetics lessons.

1. Find the wrong statement.
   1. The professor of phonetics gave lessons.
   2. The flower-girl wanted to get a good job.
   3. The professor could teach anyone to speak good English.
   4. The professor wanted to get money from the girl.
2. Answer the question.

What kind of man was the professor?

* 1. He was a man of his word.
  2. He was a famous man.
  3. He was a lazy man.
  4. He was a poor man.

1. How can you explain why the girl started visiting the professor’s house?
   1. She wanted to find a rich husband.
   2. She wanted to get a job in his house.
   3. She wanted to improve her phonetics.
   4. She wanted to spend time with a nice man.

**6.** Choose the synonym to the underlined word.

She never missed a **chance** of practising the sounds

* 1. an occasion 2) an opportunity 3) an event 4) a case

Fill in the gaps with articles.

George Bernard Shaw was bom in Dublin and was always proud of being

**7.** Irishman.

**8.** He came from\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_middle class family. After

some unsuccessful attempts at writing novels, Shaw turned to plays.

**9.** His first play appeared in 1892. Later on he wrote\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_large number of plays, all of which are

known for their brilliant dialogue and sharp political satire.

Although modem football began in nineteenth-century England, the English didn’t invent football: they simply gave it rules. Human beings have always liked kicking round objects. Two and a half thousand years ago the Chinese played a game called Tsu-Chu, which means ‘to kick a ball made of leather with the feet’.

A Roman stone carving from Yugoslavia, from around the year 200 AD, shows a man holding a type of football and the Greeks are known to j have played a game called episkyros. Although the details are unknown, it’s certain that these games were all played by two teams.

There are records of football being played in the twelfth century on the streets of London. King Edward II banned (stopped) it in 1314, saying, 'There is a great noise in the city caused by hustling (fighting) over large balls’. Later kings also banned the game without much success. By the sixteenth century it had become very rough (dangerous). Most games were played in villages with as many as 500 people in each team. They played from midday until sunset.

By the nineteenth century only the rich private schools were playing football. Each had its own set of rules which made games between schools impossible. In 1862 a set of ten rules were written down - five of these are in use today. The first competition cup, the Football Association Cup, was started in 1872. League football began in 1888 and teams formed all over England, involving everyone, not just the rich. By 1900 English sailors had taken the game to other countries. In 1930 the first World Cup match was played: it was won by Uruguay. (England didn’t enter until 1950). Now the World Cup is the focus of football. The final match is watched on TV by almost half the world’s population. Football is certainly the world’s most popular sport.

(From «Catch»)

1. Choose the title to the text.
   1. The invention of football game.
   2. The most popular sport.
   3. The history of football.
   4. The first World Cup match.
2. Choose the right sentence.
   1. Tsu Chu is a Chinese handball.
   2. King Edward II was fond of playing football.
   3. Episkyros was played by two teams.
   4. Football game was unknown in England in the 12th century.
3. Complete the sentence according to the text.

King Edward 11 banned (stopped) the game in 1314 because of...

* 1. a great noise in the city.
  2. bad weather.
  3. his illness.
  4. its unpopularity.

1. Find the wrong answer to the question.

Why did football games become very dangerous by the 16th century?

* 1. Too many people took part in playing football.
  2. The game was played without rules.
  3. People played football from midday until sunset
  4. Villagers were fond of playing football.

1. Answer the question.

Who won the first World Cup match?

* 1. English sailors took part in the first World Cup match and won if
  2. The first World Cup match was won by China.
  3. British team won the first World Cup match.
  4. The winner of the first World Cup match was Uruguay.

1. What word is different?
   1. game 2) play 3) match 4) competition

**Fill in the missing words, using the text.**

1. Football is considered to be the most popular\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

in England. There is hardly an Englishman who is not interested in it

1. Football\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ always draw crowds of people,
2. as every\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_has a lot of fans who come to support their favourite players.

There is no sporting event in Britain enjoying greater attraction than the boat race.

Rowing has a long history in England. It was first started in the 18th century. At that time the boats took part in processions on the Thames. In the 19th century people started to use the boats for racing not only in London, but also in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The first I boat race between these two famous schools took place at Henley in 1829. Nearly every year since then there has been a boat race between. Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

It takes place on the Thames during the spring vacation at the end of March or the beginning of April.

The crews of the boats, chosen from the members of the college Boat Club, train together for twelve weeks before the race. There are eight oarsmen and a cox in each boat. They are known as Blues because they wear blue jackets called blazers.

The Boat Race is a London festival. On Boat Race Saturday the banks along the Thames and the bridges are crowded with people who come out to watch the race. Those who stay at home watch it on TV. However, even those with no particular interest in rowing like to know the result of the Boat Race.

At Oxford and Cambridge those students who represent their university in some sport are awarded «a blue», that is, the right to wear a blue cap and scarf (dark blue for Oxford, light blue for Cambridge). This gives them great social position.

**1.** I Choose the title to the text

* 1. London festival
  2. The Thames
  3. Sporting event
  4. Boat Races

**2.** Choose the right sentence.

* 1. Rowing a boat has a long tradition in England.
  2. Rowing is a new kind of sport in England.
  3. Boat races between Oxford and Cambridge take place twice a year.
  4. People started to use the boats for racing in Oxford in the 18th century.

**3.** Find the wrong answer to the question.

When do boat races between Oxford and Cambridge take place?

* 1. during the spring holidays
  2. in May
  3. at the beginning of April
  4. at the end of March

**4.** Complete the sentence according to the text

On a day of Boat Race the banks of the Thames are full of people because ...

* 1. rowing has few fans.
  2. Boat Race is an exciting competition.
  3. people want to know what has happened.
  4. many people want to go boating.

**5.** Answer the question.

Who is allowed to wear «a blue»?

* 1. the winners of the Boat Race
  2. the participants of the Boat Race
  3. the members of the Boat Clubs
  4. the students who represent their university in some sport

**6.** What word is different?

1) crew 2) oarsmen 3) cox 4) blazer

Fill in the missing words, using the text.

The students in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge go in for

**7.** many kinds of sport, and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is very popular

there.

**8.** Boat\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on the Thames have been spectacular social events for

**9.** over a hundred of years, and today they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_many people.

With the words «Elementary, my dear Watson...», the most famous detective of all times, Sherlock Holmes, starts to explain something to his friend, Dr. Watson. That phrase has now entered the English language. Sherlock Holmes first appeared in 1882. He became famous in «The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes». After that came the whole series of books about him: «The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes», «The Return of Sherlock Holmes», «The Hound of the Baskervilles» and many others Many thousands of books about Sherlock Holmes are still sold every year.

Who invented Sherlock Holmes? Arthur Conan Doyle was his inventor. He was a doctor. In 1882 he moved from Scotland to England to set up a practice. One of the doctors he worked for, Dr. Joseph Bell, was the model for Sherlock Holmes’s friend, Dr. Watson. Conan Doyle’s medical knowledge was a great help to him in his detective stories.

Conan Doyle started the fashion of the detective story. Today the fashion goes on.

And what sort of man is Sherlock Holmes? We learn a lot about him from the stories in which he appears. He is a quiet man, who only speaks when he has something to say. He smokes a pipe (he has a collection of them). He plays the violin. He carries a large magnifying glass. He lives at 221 В Baker Street in London.

If you go to London, you will not be able to find 221 В Baker Street. But instead, you can go to a pub called the «Sherlock Holmes». In that pub there is a room exactly like Sherlock Holmes’s room at 221 В Вакеr Street as described in Conan Doyle’s stories. On the walls there are drawings from the original editions about Sherlock Holmes.

1. The text is about ...
   1. Sherlock Holmes’s work.
   2. the most famous detective and his inventor.
   3. Dr. Watson’s medical practice.
   4. Conan Doyle’s education.
2. Choose the right sentence.
   1. Dr. Watson was Dr. Bell’s assistant.
   2. Dr. Watson was Conan Doyle’s friend.
   3. Dr. Watson was Conan Doyle’s book character.
   4. Dr. Watson was Sherlock Holmes’s relative.
3. Find the wrong statement.
   1. Dr. Watson was Sherlock Holmes’s friend.
   2. Conan Doyle was a doctor.
   3. There is 221 В Baker Street in London.
   4. The fashion of the detective stories goes on.
4. Complete the sentence.

Conan Doyle is known to everybody as ...

* 1. the author of books about Sherlock Holmes.
  2. a talented doctor.
  3. a good friend of Dr. Joseph Bell.
  4. a man who opened a pub in Baker Street.

1. Answer the question.

When did Sherlock Holmes use the phrase «Elementary, my dear Watson»?

* 1. after he gave Watson the explanation of his guess
  2. if he wanted Watson to investigate the crime himself
  3. before he began to explain something to Watson
  4. if Watson asked him how to find the criminal

1. Choose the title to the text.
   1. Doctor Watson and Sherlock Holmes
   2. Conan Doyle and Dr. Joseph Bell
   3. Conan Doyle’s Family
   4. Conan Doyle and His Characters

**Use the verbs in brackets in the correct forms.**

7. Arthur Conan Doyle always thought he (to remember)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for his historical novels.

8. However, he (to become)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_famous for his creation of Sherlock Holmes with whom any detective bears no comparison.

When the author decided to stop writing about Holmes he killed him. But readers began to protest, and Doyle wrote his next story explaining how the detective

9. (to survive) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the death struggle on the edge of a cliff. Stories describing Holmes’s adventures continued to appear almost to the end of Doyle’s life.

On a beautiful afternoon, in a year long gone, a big ship set out first voyage from England to America. It was a new ship called «Titanic».

For two days the «Titanic» went on its way over the sea. Then entered an ice-field and was hit by an iceberg.

Everyone was told to come out of their rooms. The men were putting the lifeboats over the sides of the ship down into the water. Then all the women and children were helped into the lifeboats.

A woman came to the side of the ship. Her two children were in one of the lifeboats, and she was very much afraid.

«My children are in the lifeboat. I must go with them!» the woman called to the people in the lifeboat

«There’s no more room,» someone called out. «If we take one more the lifeboat will sink.»

There was a young woman in the lifeboat called Miss Evans. When she heard the woman calling, she stood up in the lifeboat and touched one of the men on the arm.

«Let me get back on to the ship,» she said. «Let that woman take my place. I have no children.»

«The ship is sinking,» said the man. «You know that?»

There was no time to talk. People helped Miss Evans to get back on to the ship. Very soon after that there was a great noise, and the «Titanic» went down under the water.

1. The text is about ...

* 1. a voyage from England to America.
  2. brave sailors.
  3. a new ship called the «Titanic» .
  4. the courage of Miss Evans.

2. Choose the right sentence.

* 1. The «Titanic» left America.
  2. The «Titanic» went to England.
  3. The «Titanic» left for America.
  4. The «Titanic» sailed in the direction of England.

3. Complete the sentence.

In the lifeboat there was ...

* 1. not a room for a single person.
  2. nobody to take care of the children.
  3. no food and water.
  4. not enough fresh air.

4. Find the wrong statement.

* 1. Miss Evans was a young woman.
  2. Miss Evans knew that the ship was sinking.
  3. Miss Evans had no children.
  4. Miss Evans got into another lifeboat.

5. Answer the question.

Why did Miss Evans get back to the ship?

* 1. She left her documents there.
  2. She wanted to continue her voyage.
  3. She gave her place in the lifeboat to the children’s mother.
  4. She thought that the lifeboat could sink.

6. Choose the title to the text.

* 1. The «Titanic» Voyage
  2. A Courageous Woman
  3. In the Ocean
  4. A Big Iceberg

Use the verbs in brackets in the correct forms.

7. The passengers (to have)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a good time when the ship was hit by an iceberg.

8. The iceberg (to look) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like a high, whitewall.

9. Unfortunately there (to be, not)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_enough lifeboats for all the passengers.