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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/11/14

25 years since the Berlin Wall fell

Today, let's talk about the Berlin Wall. The 9th November 2014 marked the 25th anniversary of one of the most significant moments of the Cold War: The Fall of the Berlin Wall.

Last night Berliners and tourists at the Brandenburg Gate celebrated the moment the Wall came down to the strains of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. A nearby street festival at the Brandenburg Gate also helped the city to celebrate the moment.

A temporary Berlin Wall was built along the Wall's former course using thousands of illuminated balloons. White balloons were released into the night sky from the Brandenburg Gate and at another six locations along the Wall's former path.

Visitors to Berlin can visit an open-air exhibition of '100 Wall Stories', such as: stories of a divided city before the Wall was constructed, the construction of the Wall in 1961, and the protests against the Wall.

Other things to see at the exhibition include: the umpteen escape attempts, the deaths at the Wall, the border installations and inspections, everyday life in the divided city, the stories of the peaceful revolution in 1989, the fall of the Wall, and the opening of the border crossings and souvenir hunters.

The Berlin Wall didn't just go through the heart of the city. It surrounded it. For 28 years the city of West Berlin stood alone. Some 200 people died at the Wall.

25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall the city is still in transition. It is now a trendy world-class metropolis. Nowhere is the change so clearly evident as along the Wall's former path. Berlin has gone from walled city to world city.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Berlin Wall. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the city.
- 2) What happened in 1961?
- 3) How many years is it since the Berlin Wall fell?
- 4) What does 'umpteen' mean?
- 5) What were there umpteen attempts at?

Student B questions

- 1) What colour were the balloons?
- 2) What is the name of the exhibition?
- 3) Berlin has gone from... Finish the sentence.
- 4) Name the gate.
- 5) Who was the composer?

**Category: Berlin / Berlin Wall / End of Communism
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

25 years since the Berlin Wall fell - 10th November 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Berlin Wall**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Write down three things you know about the Berlin Wall. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - write down five famous Berlin landmarks. Google them! Discuss together. *3 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to read out their findings to the class.

SPEAKING – A DAY IN THE LIFE...

In pairs – *Student A* is a West Berliner. *Student B* is an East Berliner. You are in a pub remembering what life was like for you in Berlin before and when the Berlin Wall came down. Discuss together. *3 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to read out their findings to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Would you like to visit Berlin?
- 3) Do you remember watching the Berlin Wall coming down 25 years ago?
- 4) Is Berlin a party city?
- 5) Would you like to visit the '100 Wall Stories' exhibition in Berlin?
- 6) How do you think Berlin has changed in 25 years?
- 7) Do you know of any other Walled cities?
- 8) What do you know about Checkpoint Charlie?
- 9) Do you know of any movies that feature Berlin?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the *DW TV* studio in Berlin. Today's interview is: *25 years since the Berlin Wall fell. 10 mins.*

- 1) A tourist in Berlin.
- 2) A Berliner.
- 3) A West Berliner who was at the Brandenburg Gate 25 years ago.
- 4) An East Berliner who was at the Brandenburg Gate 25 years ago.
- 5) The Mayor of Berlin.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. *Student A* is in Berlin. *Student B* is in another country (Imagine!). *Student A* is discussing via a social network app the party atmosphere in Berlin on the 25th anniversary. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

A visit to new Berlin – talk about the city – its attractions, its nightlife, its industry, its culture and parks, its shopping centres, its people, how it has changed etc...

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What did you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever been to Berlin? If yes, when?
- 3) What is Berlin famous for?
- 4) Why was the Berlin Wall built?
- 5) Did you ever visit Berlin when the Berlin Wall was in place?
- 6) Do you know of any German artists/singers from Berlin or songs about Berlin?
- 7) What is the most famous attraction in Berlin?
- 8) Where might you like to visit in Berlin?
- 9) Was it a good thing the Berlin Wall came down? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

25 years since the Berlin Wall fell - 10th November 2014

GAP FILL: READING

25 years since the Berlin Wall fell

Today, let's talk about the Berlin Wall. The 9th November 2014 marked the 25th (1)___ of one of the most significant moments of the Cold War: The Fall of the Berlin Wall.

Last night Berliners and tourists at the Brandenburg Gate celebrated the moment the Wall came down to the strains of Beethoven's Ninth (2)___ . A nearby street festival at the Brandenburg Gate also helped the city to celebrate the (3)___ .

A temporary Berlin (4)___ was built along the Walls former course using thousands of illuminated balloons. White (5)___ were released into the night sky from the Brandenburg Gate and at another six (6)___ along the Walls former (7)___ .

Visitors to Berlin can visit an open-air exhibition of '100 Wall Stories', such as: stories of a divided city before the Wall was constructed, the (8)___ of the Wall in 1961, and the protests against the Wall.

construction / moment / Wall / path / balloons / symphony / locations / anniversary

Other things to see at the (1)___ include: the (2)___ (3)___ attempts, the deaths at the Wall, the border installations and inspections, everyday life in the divided city, the stories of the peaceful (4)___ in 1989, the (5)___ of the Wall, and the opening of the border crossings and (6)___ hunters.

The Berlin Wall didn't just go through the heart of the city. It surrounded it. For 28 years the city of West Berlin stood (7)___ . Some 200 people died at the Wall.

25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall the city is still in transition. It is now a trendy world-class metropolis. (8)___ is the change so clearly evident as along the Wall's former path.

nowhere / souvenir / alone / fall / umpteen / exhibition / escape / revolution

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

25 years since the Berlin Wall fell

Today, let's talk about the Berlin Wall. (1)___ 9th November 2014 marked the 25th anniversary of one of the most significant moments of the Cold War: The Fall of the Berlin Wall.

Last night Berliners and tourists at the Brandenburg Gate celebrated the moment the Wall came down to the strains of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. (2)___ nearby street festival at the Brandenburg Gate (3)___ helped the city to celebrate the moment.

A temporary Berlin Wall was built along the Walls former course using thousands of illuminated balloons. White balloons were released (4)___ the night sky (5)___ the Brandenburg Gate and (6)___ another six locations along the Walls former path.

Visitors to Berlin (7)___ visit an open-air exhibition of '100 Wall Stories', (8)___: stories of a divided city before the Wall was constructed, the construction of the Wall in 1961, and the protests against the Wall.

also / from / such as / into / the / can / a / at

Other things to see (1)___ the exhibition include: the umpteen escape attempts, the deaths at the Wall, the border installations and inspections, everyday life in the divided city, the stories (2)___ the peaceful revolution in 1989, the fall of the Wall, and the opening of the border crossings and souvenir hunters.

The Berlin Wall didn't just go through the heart of the city. It surrounded it. (3)___ 28 years the city of West Berlin stood alone. (4)___ 200 people died at the Wall.

25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall the city is (5)___ (6)___ transition. (7)___ is now a trendy world-class metropolis. Nowhere is the change (8)___ clearly evident as along the Wall's former path. Berlin has gone from walled city to world city.

it / in / so / still / some / for / at / of

25 years since the Berlin Wall fell - 10th November 2014

GAP FILL: LISTENING

25 years since the Berlin Wall fell

Today, let's talk about _____. The 9th November 2014 marked the 25th anniversary of one of the most significant moments of the Cold War: The _____.

Last night Berliners and tourists at the Brandenburg Gate celebrated the moment the Wall came down to the strains of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. A nearby street festival at the _____ also helped the city to celebrate the moment.

A temporary Berlin Wall was built along the Walls _____ thousands of illuminated balloons. White balloons were released into the night sky from the Brandenburg Gate and at another six locations along the _____.

Visitors to Berlin can visit an open-air exhibition of '100 Wall Stories', such as: stories of a divided city before the Wall was constructed, the construction of the Wall in 1961, and the _____ Wall.

Other things to see at the exhibition include: the umpteen escape attempts, the deaths at the Wall, the _____ and inspections, everyday life in the divided city, the stories of the peaceful revolution in 1989, the fall of the Wall, and the opening of the _____ souvenir hunters.

The Berlin Wall didn't just go through the heart of the city. It surrounded it. For 28 years the city of _____ . Some 200 people died at the Wall.

25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall the city is still in transition. It is now a trendy world-class metropolis. Nowhere is the change so clearly evident as along the Wall's former path. Berlin has gone from _____ city.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down **20 things you might see in Berlin today**. Talk about them all. 5 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) In 1961, _____
- 2) Berlin _____
- 3) The Berlin Wall _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **25 years since the Berlin Wall fell**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) anniversary
- 2) symphony
- 3) moment
- 4) wall
- 5) balloons
- 6) locations
- 7) path
- 8) construction

ANSWERS

- 1) exhibition
- 2) umpteen
- 3) escape
- 4) revolution
- 5) fall
- 6) souvenir
- 7) alone
- 8) nowhere

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) temporary
- 2) former
- 3) course
- 4) illuminated
- 5) balloons
- 6) locations
- 7) visitors
- 8) revolution
- 9) exhibition
- 10) souvenir

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) transition
- 12) trendy
- 13) metropolis
- 14) evident
- 15) anniversary
- 16) significant
- 17) celebrate
- 18) construction
- 19) against
- 20) umpteen

25 years since the Berlin Wall fell - *10th November 2014*