

### Cable car to span River Thames in London

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London Mayor Boris Johnson: "We are a significant step closer to being able to cruise the east London skyline via an elegant cable car spanning the mighty Thames. It will be an exhilarating way for Londoners and visitors to explore our great city while providing a much-needed river crossing to support the regeneration of this quarter of the capital." The Mayor is confident it will become a major tourist attraction rivalling similar cable car schemes in Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona.

The east London docklands once made up the world's largest port, but by the 1980s had fallen derelict. They are now the focus of regeneration efforts, with the Olympics part of the plan to revamp the East End. The cable car project will cost £50.5 million (€57 million) - double the preliminary estimate. TfL is trying to find investors in return for sponsorship, including naming rights and branding options. The consortium to build and operate it will be led by Mace, whose past projects in the city include the London Eye observation wheel and the Shard, which will be the tallest building in Western Europe.

**Category: London / Cable car / Olympics**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

**1. Cable cars:** Think of three places in the world where you will find cable cars. What are they used for? Go round the room swapping details with others.

**2. Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

**3. Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

**4. Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

**5. The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

**6. River Thames: London:** In pairs think of five ways to cross the River Thames. Then add five things you know about cable cars. Write them below. Discuss together. Do any of these river crossings have a name?

Ways to cross the river Thames	Five things about cable cars
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

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

**7. London: Olympics 2012:** You and your partner are off to London in 2012 to see the Olympic Games. Think of five Olympic sports you might see together then add five top London tourist attractions you both want to visit. Write them below. Discuss together.

Five Olympic sports	Five top London tourist attractions
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

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

Cable car to span River Thames in London – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011

8. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with the '**Cable cars**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

9. **Let's roleplay: Radio London:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* studio in London. Today's interview is about the *Olympics 2012*.

1	A commuter	3	A tourist
2	A taxi driver	4	A sports fan

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

10. **Let's roleplay 2: Radio London:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The other is yourself (*or the people in No 9 above*). You are in the *Radio London* studio in London. Today's interview is about *London's new cable car that is to be built across the River Thames*.

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Name the river.
- 2) What is being held in London in 2012?
- 3) What will be the tallest building in Western Europe?
- 4) Name the sports.
- 5) How much will the scheme cost?

**Student B**

- 1) Name the London mayor.
- 2) What is going to be built across the river?
- 3) How far will it stretch?
- 4) How high will it be?
- 5) How many people an hour will be able to travel on it?

12. **Let's think!** Think of three advantages and then three disadvantages of the new cable car being built across the River Thames. Write them below. Discuss together with your partner.

Advantages	Disadvantages
1	1
2	2
3	3

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

13. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: *The new cable car to be built across the River Thames in London*. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

14. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The cable car \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The River Thames \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) What makes a cable car exciting?
- 2) What do you think about the cable car being built in London?
- 3) Would you like to go to London to see the Olympics in 2012? Explain.
- 4) Would you like to go on the new cable car when it opens?
- 5) Will the new cable car be a hit in London?
- 6) What is the top tourist attraction in your town/city?
- 7) Think of three differences between the cable car in London and the one in Rio de Janeiro.
- 8) What three things do you know about the London Docklands?
- 9) What three things do you know about Greenwich?
- 10) What three things do you know about the River Thames?

### Student B questions

- 1) Have you ever been on a London bus? When?
- 2) Have you ever been on a cable car? If yes, when? Where?
- 3) Does your town/city have a cable car?
- 4) Would you like to be mayor of a town or city? Why? Why not?
- 5) What three things do you know about the Olympics?
- 6) What three things do you know about the O2 Arena?
- 7) What three things do you know about the new cable car across the River Thames?
- 8) What do you know about the London Mayor Boris Johnson?
- 9) What three things do you like about London?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! London

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

<b>20 great places to visit in London</b>
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The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### Cable car to span River Thames in London

London is to get a spectacular (1)\_\_\_\_\_ system across the River Thames, which will ferry spectators between two of the London 2012 Olympic venues, the cities transport authority Transport for London (TfL) said recently. Gondolas will glide 300ft (91.44 meters) above the water suspended from (2)\_\_\_\_\_ anchored to giant towers, giving commuters and tourists (3)\_\_\_\_\_ views of the city. The scheme will connect the Greenwich Peninsula, home of the O2 Arena, to the Royal Victoria Dock on the north bank, where the ExCeL exhibition centre is. During the Olympics, the O2 Arena will host artistic gymnastics, (4)\_\_\_\_\_ and the basketball finals, while the ExCeL will host boxing, fencing, judo, table tennis, weightlifting and (5)\_\_\_\_\_. Up to 2,500 people per hour will be able to make the 1.1km (two thirds of a mile), five-minute (6)\_\_\_\_\_ across the Thames in one of 34 (7)\_\_\_\_\_ cabins that each will hold a maximum of 10 passengers. That is the (8)\_\_\_\_\_ of about 40 London buses.

*gondola*

*journey*

*trampoline*

*equivalent*

*wrestling*

*stunning*

*cables*

*cable car*

London (1)\_\_\_\_\_ Boris Johnson: "We are a significant step closer to being able to cruise the east London skyline via an elegant cable car spanning the (2)\_\_\_\_\_ Thames. It will be an exhilarating way for Londoners and visitors to explore our great city while providing a much-needed river crossing to support the regeneration of this quarter of the capital." The Mayor is confident it will become a (3)\_\_\_\_\_ tourist attraction rivalling similar cable car schemes in Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona.

*preliminary*

*sponsorship*

*investors*

The east London docklands once made up the world's largest port, but by the 1980s had fallen derelict. They are now the focus of regeneration efforts, with the Olympics part of the plan to revamp the East End. The cable car project will cost £50.5 million (€57 million) – (4)\_\_\_\_\_ the (5)\_\_\_\_\_ (6)\_\_\_\_\_. TfL is trying to find (7)\_\_\_\_\_ in return for (8)\_\_\_\_\_, including naming rights and branding options. The consortium to build and operate it will be led by Mace, whose past projects in the city include the London Eye observation wheel and the Shard, which will be the tallest building in Western Europe.

*mayor*

*double*

*estimate*

*major*

*mighty*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### Cable car to span River Thames in London

London is to get a \_\_\_\_\_ system across the River Thames, which will ferry spectators between two of the London 2012 Olympic venues, the cities transport authority \_\_\_\_\_ (TfL) said recently. Gondolas will glide 300ft (91.44 meters) above the water suspended from \_\_\_\_\_ giant towers, giving commuters and tourists stunning views of the city. The scheme will connect the Greenwich Peninsula, home of the O2 Arena, to the Royal Victoria Dock on the north bank, where the ExCeL exhibition centre is. \_\_\_\_\_ During the Olympics, the O2 Arena will host artistic gymnastics, trampoline and the basketball finals, while the ExCeL will host boxing, fencing, judo, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. Up to 2,500 people per hour will be able to make the 1.1km (two thirds of a mile), five-minute journey across the Thames in one of 34 \_\_\_\_\_ each will hold a maximum of 10 passengers. That is the \_\_\_\_\_ 40 London buses.

London Mayor Boris Johnson: "We are a significant step closer to being able to cruise the east London skyline via an elegant cable car spanning \_\_\_\_\_. It will be an exhilarating way for Londoners and visitors to explore our great city while providing a much-needed \_\_\_\_\_ support the regeneration of this quarter of the capital." The Mayor is confident it will become a \_\_\_\_\_ rivalling similar cable car schemes in Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona.

The east \_\_\_\_\_ made up the world's largest port, but by the 1980s had fallen derelict. They are now the focus of regeneration efforts, with the Olympics part of the plan to revamp the East End. The cable car project will cost £50.5 million (€57 million) - double the preliminary estimate. TfL is trying to find investors in return for sponsorship, including naming rights and branding options. The consortium to build and operate it will be led by Mace, whose \_\_\_\_\_ city include the London Eye observation wheel and the Shard, which will be the \_\_\_\_\_ Western Europe.

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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London is to get a spectacular cable car system across the River Thames, (1)\_\_\_ (2)\_\_\_ ferry spectators between two of the London 2012 Olympic venues, the cities transport authority Transport (3)\_\_\_ London (TfL) said recently. Gondolas will glide 300ft (91.44 meters) above the water suspended (4)\_\_\_ cables anchored to giant towers, giving commuters and tourists stunning views of the city. The scheme will connect the Greenwich Peninsula, home of the O2 Arena, to the Royal Victoria Dock on the north bank, (5)\_\_\_ the ExCeL exhibition centre is. During the Olympics, the O2 Arena will host artistic gymnastics, trampoline (6)\_\_\_ the basketball finals, (7)\_\_\_ the ExCeL will host boxing, fencing, judo, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. Up to 2,500 people per hour will be able to make the 1.1km (two thirds of a mile), five-minute journey across the Thames in one of 34 gondola cabins that each will hold a maximum of 10 passengers. (8)\_\_\_ is the equivalent of about 40 London buses.

**for**  
**will**  
**and**  
**from**  
**while**  
**that**  
**which**  
**where**

London Mayor Boris Johnson: "We are a significant step closer to being able to cruise (1)\_\_\_ east London skyline via (2)\_\_\_ elegant cable car spanning the mighty Thames. It will be an exhilarating way for Londoners and visitors to explore (3)\_\_\_ great city while providing a much-needed river crossing to support the regeneration of this quarter of the capital." The Mayor is confident it will become a major tourist attraction rivalling similar cable car schemes in Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona.

**an**  
**by**  
**of**  
**for**

The east London docklands once made up the world's largest port, (4)\_\_\_ by the 1980s had fallen derelict. They are now the focus of regeneration efforts, with the Olympics part (5)\_\_\_ the plan to revamp the East End. The cable car project will cost £50.5 million (€57 million) - double the preliminary estimate. TfL is trying to find investors in return (6)\_\_\_ sponsorship, including naming rights and branding options. The consortium to build (7)\_\_\_ operate it will be led (8)\_\_\_ Mace, whose past projects in the city include the London Eye observation wheel and the Shard, which will be the tallest building in Western Europe.

**but**  
**and**  
**our**  
**the**

## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	weightlifting	11	gondola
2	commuters	12	trampoline
3	connect	13	maximum
4	artistic	14	spectacular
5	system	15	significant
6	cruise	16	exhibition
7	regeneration	17	consortium
8	exhilarating	18	between
9	rivalling	19	wrestling
10	schemes	20	gymnastics

### LINKS

[http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images? adv\\_prop=image&fr=chr-greentree\\_ff&va=london+cable+car](http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images? adv_prop=image&fr=chr-greentree_ff&va=london+cable+car)

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/04/18/london.olympics.cable.car/index.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10501313>

<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23895436-cable-cars-over-thames-a-high-way-to-the-east.do>

### ANSWERS

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London **Mayor** Boris Johnson: "We are a significant step closer to being able to cruise the east London skyline via an elegant cable car spanning the **mighty** Thames. It will be an exhilarating way for Londoners and visitors to explore our great city while providing a much-needed river crossing to support the regeneration of this quarter of the capital." The Mayor is confident it will become a **major** tourist attraction rivalling similar cable car schemes in Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona. The east London docklands once made up the world's largest port, but by the 1980s had fallen derelict. They are now the focus of regeneration efforts, with the Olympics part of the plan to revamp the East End. The cable car project will cost £50.5 million (€57 million) - **double** the **preliminary estimate**. TfL is trying to find **investors** in return for **sponsorship**, including naming rights and branding options. The consortium to build and operate it will be led by Mace, whose past projects in the city include the London Eye observation wheel and the Shard, which will be the tallest building in Western Europe.

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