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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/03/13

'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground

'Mind the gap' – one of the most iconic phrases once heard on several London Underground tube stations is set to return to one tube station. Passengers standing at the platform at Embankment Underground station on the Northern line will once again be able to hear one of the most famous phrases in London. What's more, it will be the original voice of Peter Lodge, the man who recorded the classic phrase back in the 60s.

"Mind the gap - Mind the gap - Mind the gap. Stand clear of the doors please" is a part of 'old London' that is still fondly remembered by many London commuters. It refers to the gap between the platform and the train. The phrase was introduced after it was deemed impractical for drivers to constantly repeat the same announcement. It is being reinstated so the announcer's widow can continue to hear her late husband's voice when she visits Embankment underground station.

Lodge's recordings were made in a recording studio in Bayswater. He had originally hired an actor to record the phrases but when the man demanded royalties he later re-recorded them himself. Over time they were gradually phased out but for some unknown reason continued to be broadcast at Embankment till last year. Tube bosses recently received a letter from his widow saying that when her husband died she used to come to Embankment just to hear his voice. It was such a heart wrenching letter they decided to bring his voice back for her. Fantastic! Next time you go to London consider a visit to the platform of the Northern line at Embankment on London Underground's tube network – just to hear 'the voice'!

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about London Underground. 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) What is the phrase?
- 2) Name the person who recorded the classic phrase.
- 3) Name the tube station.
- 4) Why was the phrase introduced?

Student B questions

- 1) What made tube bosses reintroduce the phrase?
- 2) Where was the recording originally made?
- 3) Why was the phrase re-recorded?
- 4) Name the tube line.

<https://audioboo.fm/boos/1111085-peter-lodge-mind-the-gap>

Category: London / London Underground / Mind The Gap
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

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

Add three similar ideas of your own about the subject. 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 three different ways of travelling across London from London Liverpool Street to Oxford Street. List five things you might see on your journey with each. Discuss together.

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

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will you be going to visit the Embankment tube station northern line platform?
- 3) Why is this phrase so important for London?
- 4) Why was the phrase 'Mind the gap' originally introduced?
- 5) Do you know any other famous phrases?
- 6) Have you been on London Underground?
- 7) Was it right to reintroduce the recording?
- 8) Have you heard this phrase before?
- 9) How do you travel to work?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC London TV studio*. Today's interview is: *London Underground*.

- 1) A tourist
- 2) The boss of London Underground
- 3) The Mayor of London
- 4) A commuter

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a bar in London. Start a conversation about: '*Mind the gap' returns to London Underground*'. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - GAME

Group - form a circle. *I went on London Underground and I saw...* Go round in a clockwise direction. Repeat the previous words then add one more. Forget any and you are eliminated! *10 mins.* *The teacher will choose some groups to hear their discussions in front of the class.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...
Mass transit/transport in my town/city

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What makes London so special?
- 3) When did you last visit London?
- 4) What three things would you like to see in London?
- 5) Do you have any classic transport announcements in your town/city?
- 6) Do you have an Underground network in your capital city?
- 7) Why is mass transport so important in a city?
- 8) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 9) Out of ten - how would you rate the mass transport system in your town/city?

GAP FILL: READING

'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground

'Mind the gap' – one of the most (1)___ phrases once heard on several London Underground (2)___ stations is set to return to one tube station.

Passengers standing at the platform at Embankment (3)___ station on the Northern line will once again be able to hear one of the most famous phrases in London. What's more, it will be the original voice of Peter Lodge, the man who recorded the classic (4)___ back in the 60s.

"Mind the gap - Mind the gap - Mind the gap. Stand clear of the doors please" is a part of 'old London' that is still (5)___ remembered by many London commuters. It refers to the gap between the platform and the train. The phrase was introduced after it was deemed (6)___ for drivers to (7)___ repeat the same announcement. It is being reinstated so the announcer's (8)___ can continue to hear her late husband's voice when she visits Embankment underground station.

phrase / tube / fondly / impractical / iconic / underground / widow / constantly

Lodge's recordings were made in a recording studio in Bayswater. He had originally hired an (1)___ to record the phrases but when the man demanded (2)___ he later re-recorded them himself. Over time they were gradually phased out but for some (3)___ reason continued to be broadcast at Embankment till last year.

Tube bosses recently received a letter from his widow saying that when her husband died she used to come to Embankment just to hear his voice. It was such a heart wrenching letter they decided to bring his (4)___ back for her. (5)___!

Next time you go to London consider a visit to the (6)___ of the Northern (7)___ at Embankment on London Underground's tube (8)___ – just to hear 'the voice'!

Fantastic / network / actor / royalties / platform / unknown / voice / line

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground

'Mind the gap' – one of the most iconic phrases once heard on several London Underground tube stations is set to return to one tube station.

Passengers standing at the platform at Embankment Underground station on the Northern line will once again be able to hear one of the (1)___ famous phrases in London. (2)___'s (3)___, it will be the original voice of Peter Lodge, the man who recorded the classic phrase back in the 60s.

"Mind the gap - Mind the gap - Mind the gap. Stand clear of the doors please" is a part of 'old London' (4)___ is (5)___ fondly remembered by (6)___ London commuters. It refers to the gap between the platform and the train. The phrase was introduced (7)___ it was deemed impractical for drivers to constantly repeat the same announcement. It is being reinstated so the announcer's widow can continue to hear her late husband's voice (8)___ she visits Embankment underground station.

more / when / still / most / many / after / what / that /

Lodge's recordings were made in a recording studio (1)___ Bayswater. He had originally hired an actor to record the phrases (2)___ when the man demanded royalties he later re-recorded them himself. Over time they were gradually phased out but for some unknown reason continued to be broadcast (3)___ Embankment till last year.

Tube bosses recently received a letter from his widow saying that when her husband died she used to come to Embankment just to hear his voice. It was such a heart wrenching letter they decided to bring (4)___ voice back (5)___ (6)___ . Fantastic!

Next time you go to London consider a visit to the platform (7)___ the Northern line at Embankment (8)___ London Underground's tube network – just to hear 'the voice'!

on / at / of / in / her / but / for / his /

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground

'_____ ' – one of the most iconic phrases once heard on several London Underground tube stations is set to return _____. Passengers standing at the platform at Embankment Underground station _____ will once again be able to hear one of the most famous phrases in London. What's more, it will be the original voice of Peter Lodge, the man who recorded the classic phrase back in the 60s.

"Mind the gap - Mind the gap - Mind the gap. _____ please" is a part of 'old London' that is still fondly remembered by many London commuters. It refers to the gap between the platform and the train. The phrase was introduced after it was deemed impractical for drivers to constantly repeat the same announcement. It is being reinstated so the announcer's widow can continue to hear her late husband's voice when she visits Embankment _____.

Lodge's recordings were made in a recording studio in Bayswater. He had originally _____ record the phrases but when the man demanded royalties he later re-recorded them himself. Over time they were gradually phased out but for some _____ continued to be broadcast at Embankment till last year.

Tube bosses recently received a letter from his widow saying that _____ she used to come to Embankment just to hear his voice. It was such a _____ they decided to bring his voice back for her. Fantastic!

Next time you go to London consider a visit to the platform of the Northern line at Embankment on London Underground's tube network - _____!

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs/small groups - list ten 10 London Underground tube lines. Then add 10 famous London Underground tube stations. Using your lines and stations compile a short dialogue together.

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

- 1) 'Mind the gap' _____
- 2) London Underground _____
- 3) The tube _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **London Underground**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) Iconic
- 2) tube
- 3) Underground
- 4) phrase
- 5) fondly
- 6) impractical
- 7) constantly
- 8) widow

ANSWERS

- 1) actor
- 2) royalties
- 3) unknown
- 4) voice
- 5) fantastic
- 6) platform
- 7) line
- 8) network

SPELLING

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

- 1) phrase
- 2) iconic
- 3) passengers
- 4) Underground
- 5) classic
- 6) original
- 7) voice
- 8) famous
- 9) fondly
- 10) impractical

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) Embankment
- 12) originally
- 13) royalties
- 14) himself
- 15) gradually
- 16) broadcast
- 17) widow
- 18) just
- 19) fantastic
- 20) platform

'Mind the gap' returns to London Underground – *20th March 2013*