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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/10/13

Crystal Palace to be rebuilt

Crystal Palace in London is to be rebuilt. Plans and images have been unveiled that show how Crystal Palace will look when it is rebuilt as a modern day cultural attraction.

The original Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire in 1936. The massive iron and glass structure was originally erected in Hyde Park, London, to house the Great Exhibition of 1851. More than 14,000 exhibitors from around the world gathered to see the latest technology.

Crystal Palace was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton. It was 1,851ft long, with an interior height of 128ft. In 1854 Crystal Palace was rebuilt in an enlarged form on Penge Common, next to Sydenham Hill, which was an affluent south-east London suburb full of large villas.

In 1866 a fire caused damage to the north transept. In 1871 the world's first cat show was held at Crystal Palace. By the 1890s the popularity of Crystal Palace began to wane and the building was beginning to deteriorate.

Fast forward to the 30th November 1936 and the building was destroyed by fire. The flames could be seen in eight counties. 100,000 people came to Sydenham Hill to watch the blaze including Winston Churchill.

Recently in 2013 a Chinese developer unveiled plans to rebuild the iconic Crystal Palace. Chinese billionaire Ni Zhaoxing is bankrolling the £500million project. It will be rebuilt to 'the same size and scale' as the original.

The surrounding public park is also to be restored 'to its former glory through landscaping, planting and new and improved facilities for the public' a spokesperson said. Work is scheduled to start in 2015.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three famous buildings that no longer exist. 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 billionaire.
- 2) What is a billionaire?
- 3) What is a transept?
- 4) Who designed Crystal Palace?
- 5) How much will the new Crystal Palace cost?

Student B questions

- 1) Name the famous people.
- 2) What happened in 1851?
- 3) What happened in 1936?
- 4) What happened in the 1890s?
- 5) Where will the new Crystal Palace be built?

Note: Many people associate the name 'Crystal Palace' with the football club! You need to be more than 80 to remember the actual Palace!

Category: Crystal Palace / History / Great Buildings

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 '**Crystal Palace**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - think of three historical buildings made from glass. Write them below.

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

Add three buildings you know that no longer exist then add three famous buildings that do exist! Talk about them.

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

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, write down three advantages of glass buildings and three disadvantages. Discuss together. *One-two mins.*

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

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Would you like to go to the new Crystal Palace?
- 3) What could you do with £500million?
- 4) Why does a Chinese man want to rebuild Crystal Palace?
- 5) Would you like to have visited the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London?
- 6) What is the largest fire you have ever seen?
- 7) What is the most famous building in your town/city?
- 8) What is the most famous building in your country?
- 9) Do you have or did you have any famous glasshouses in your country?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the *Radio London* studio. Today's interview is: *The new Crystal Palace. 10 mins.*

- 1) The Mayor of London.
- 2) Ni Zhaoxing.
- 3) A Londoner.
- 4) A tourist.

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. Each of you chooses a different famous building you have each visited. Discuss together. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

In pairs. One of you is in your country. The other is in another country. Start an imaginary conversation on Skype about whether classical or modern designed buildings are best? *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

The new Crystal Palace

(Google it first!)

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What do you know about Crystal Palace football club?
- 3) Do you think the rebuilding of Crystal Palace is a good idea? Explain.
- 4) The Mayor of London Boris Johnson is positively for this idea of rebuilding Crystal Palace. Are you?
- 5) What great buildings did you last visit?
- 6) Can you name one building you know of that is suffering from deterioration?
- 7) How do you think the new Crystal Palace will look when completed?
- 8) Will you be going to visit the new Crystal Palace one day?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Crystal Palace to be rebuilt

Crystal Palace in London is to be rebuilt. Plans and images have been unveiled that show how Crystal Palace will look when it is rebuilt as a modern day cultural (1)___.

The original Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire in 1936. The massive iron and glass structure was (2)___ erected in Hyde Park, London, to house the Great Exhibition of 1851. More than 14,000 (3)___ from around the world gathered to see the latest technology.

Crystal Palace was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton. It was 1,851ft long, with an (4)___ height of 128ft. In 1854 Crystal Palace was (5)___ in an enlarged form on Penge Common, next to Sydenham Hill, which was an (6)___ south-east London (7)___ full of large villas. In 1866 a fire caused damage to the north (8)___. In 1871 the world's first cat show was held at Crystal Palace.

exhibitors / transept / suburb / attraction / interior / affluent / originally / rebuilt

By the 1890s the (1)___ of Crystal Palace began to wane and the building was beginning to (2)___. Fast forward to the 30th November 1936 and the building was destroyed by fire. The (3)___ could be seen in eight counties. 100,000 people came to Sydenham Hill to watch the (4)___ including Winston Churchill.

Recently in 2013 a Chinese developer unveiled plans to rebuild the iconic Crystal Palace. Chinese billionaire Ni Zhaoxing is bankrolling the £500million project. It will be rebuilt to 'the same size and scale' as the original. The (5)___ public park is also to be restored 'to its former (6)___ through (7)___, planting and new and improved (8)___ for the public' a spokesperson said. Work is scheduled to start in 2015.

blaze / surrounding / landscaping / facilities / glory / deteriorate / popularity / flames

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Crystal Palace to be rebuilt

Crystal Palace in London is to be rebuilt. Plans and images have been unveiled (1)___ show (2)___ Crystal Palace will look (3)___ it is rebuilt as a modern day cultural attraction.

The original Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire in 1936. The massive iron and glass structure was originally erected in Hyde Park, London, to house the Great Exhibition of 1851. (4)___ (5)___ 14,000 exhibitors (6)___ around the world gathered to see the latest technology.

Crystal Palace was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton. It was 1,851ft long, (7)___ an interior height of 128ft. In 1854 Crystal Palace was rebuilt in an enlarged form on Penge Common, next to Sydenham Hill, (8)___ was an affluent south-east London suburb full of large villas. In 1866 a fire caused damage to the north transept. In 1871 the world's first cat show was held at Crystal Palace.

than / when / more / with / that / which / from / how /

By the 1890s the popularity of Crystal Palace began to wane (1)___ the building was beginning to deteriorate.

Fast forward to the 30th November 1936 and the building was destroyed (2)___ fire. The flames could be seen in eight counties. 100,000 people came to Sydenham Hill to watch the blaze including Winston Churchill.

Recently in 2013 (3)___ Chinese developer unveiled plans to rebuild the iconic Crystal Palace. Chinese billionaire Ni Zhaoxing is bankrolling the £500million project. (4)___ will be rebuilt to 'the same size and scale' (5)___ the original.

The surrounding public park is also to be restored 'to (6)___ former glory through landscaping, planting and new and improved facilities (7)___ the public' a spokesperson said. Work is scheduled to start (8)___ 2015.

by / in / it / for / its / and / a / as

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Crystal Palace to be rebuilt

_____ London is to be rebuilt. Plans and images have been unveiled that show how Crystal Palace will look when it is rebuilt as a modern day cultural attraction.

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Crystal Palace was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton. It was 1,851ft long, with _____ 128ft. In 1854 Crystal Palace was rebuilt in an enlarged form on Penge Common, next to Sydenham Hill, _____ south-east London suburb full of large villas. In 1866 a fire caused damage to the north transept. In 1871 the world's first cat show was held at Crystal Palace.

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Fast forward to the 30th November 1936 and the building was destroyed by fire. The flames could be seen in eight counties. 100,000 people came to Sydenham Hill to watch the blaze including Winston Churchill.

Recently in 2013 _____ unveiled plans to rebuild the iconic Crystal Palace. Chinese billionaire Ni Zhaoxing is bankrolling the £500million project. It will be rebuilt to ' _____ ' as the original.

The _____ is also to be restored 'to its former glory through landscaping, planting and new and _____ for the public' a spokesperson said. Work is scheduled to start in 2015.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs - One of you is a tour guide, the other a tourist. It is 2018! You are at the newly rebuilt Crystal Palace in London. The tourist is interested in taking a tour around the new Crystal Palace with the tour guide. Start a conversation together and continue it....5 mins.

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

- 1) Crystal Palace _____
- 2) Glass buildings _____
- 3) The Great Exhibition _____

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

GAP FILL READING

- 1) attraction
- 2) originally
- 3) exhibitors
- 4) interior
- 5) rebuilt
- 6) affluent
- 7) suburb
- 8) transept

ANSWERS

- 1) popularity
- 2) wane
- 3) flames
- 4) blaze
- 5) surrounding
- 6) glory
- 7) landscaping
- 8) facilities

SPELLING

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

- 1) originally
- 2) interior
- 3) height
- 4) rebuilt
- 5) enlarged
- 6) which
- 7) affluent
- 8) suburb
- 9) transept
- 10) wane

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) deteriorate
- 12) flames
- 13) blaze
- 14) destroyed
- 15) developer
- 16) unveiled
- 17) bankrolling
- 18) facilities
- 19) landscaping
- 20) facilities

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