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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/07/13

Red double-decker buses to be considered in Bratislava!

SMS message – ‘I’ve just been for a free ride on a brand new red double-decker bus in Bratislava’.

It’s true I did! The red bus was, to say the least, an unusual sight as it travelled around the historic old town of Bratislava in Slovakia.

Why is it in the city? The new Slovak built and designed red double-decker bus is on loan to the city to see if its citizens would like to have them in the future. Why not?

The city is famous for its trams, trolleybuses and bendy buses. The transport system is mostly historic; apart from its new bendy buses. The city still boasts an army of ‘tank-like buses’ that are real bone shakers and sweat boxes in the summer when you travel around on them. The old trolleybuses are much the same! The city has no underground so any improvement to the city’s transport infrastructure is frankly welcome.

The reaction of people who have seen the demonstration double-decker bus and especially those who have been on it is positive. The new bus is lower than London double-decker buses, as it has to fit under the tram and trolleybus cables. It is thus 4m tall. Consequently, it has low floors and relatively low ceilings. The lower deck has a fresh design. There are 54 seats with 31 standing. The stairs are towards the back of the bus on the driver’s side. You go up them and arrive on the upper deck facing the rear of the bus. There are clear views front and back on both upper and lower decks.

The bus I took was packed. Everyone wanted to travel upstairs, as it is a novelty for them. Will the city order some of these double-decker buses? It is up to the citizens of Bratislava to show they like it. So far, it seems they do!

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about red double-decker buses. 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) How tall is the bus?
- 3) How many seats are on the bus?
- 4) What is a novelty?
- 5) Where is Bratislava?

Student B questions

- 1) Where is the bus designed and built?
- 2) What other types of transport vehicles does the city have?
- 3) Does the city have an Underground system?
- 4) Do the people of the city like the bus?
- 5) Describe the bus!

See the bus on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATC6X6hxHNE>

Category: Transport / Double-decker Buses / Bratislava
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 '**red double-decker buses**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three things you will see on the inside of a red double-decker bus then add three things that are on the outside of it.

Write them below. Talk about them!

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

Add three positive things about red double-decker buses then add three negative things. Discuss together.

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

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

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

In pairs – Student A prefers bendy buses. Student B prefers double-decker buses. *2 mins.*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Where will you find a modern tram network in your country?
- 3) Are modern trolleybuses likely to make a return to your town/city?
- 4) Do you think the city of Bratislava will order some of these red double-decker buses?
- 5) Have you been on a red double-decker bus? If yes, where?
- 6) Are double-decker buses death traps?
- 7) How would you describe the buses in your town/city?
- 8) Will you be watching the video of the demonstration red double-decker bus in Bratislava? (see page 1)
- 9) For what do you use public transport?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio Bratislava* studio. Today's interview is about: *The demonstration red double-decker bus in the city.*

- 1) A tourist in Bratislava.
- 2) Someone from Bratislava.
- 3) A bus driver from Bratislava.
- 4) The Mayor of Bratislava.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a pub in Bratislava with a friend. Start a conversation about the red double-decker bus you have seen driving around the city. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Should more European cities consider having red double-decker buses?

Or

The transport infrastructure in my city/town
Could it be better? How?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you have bendy buses in your city?
- 3) Are double-decker buses a good idea or not?
- 4) What do you think of trolleybuses?
- 5) Would you like to see a modern tram system in your city?
- 6) When was the last time you saw a new bus on a bus route in your city?
- 7) What advice would you offer the people of Bratislava about the double-decker buses?
- 8) Which city has the best mass transit infrastructure in the world?
- 9) Have you enjoyed this lesson?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Red double-decker buses to be considered in Bratislava!

SMS message – ‘I’ve just been for a free ride on a brand new red double-decker bus in Bratislava’. It’s true I did! The red (1)___ was, to say the least, an (2)___ sight as it travelled around the (3)___ old town of Bratislava in Slovakia.

Why is it in the city? The new Slovak built and designed red double-decker bus is on loan to the city to see if its (4)___ would like to have them in the future. Why not?

The city is famous for its trams, (5)___ and bendy buses. The transport system is mostly historic; apart from its new bendy buses. The city still boasts an army of ‘tank-like buses’ that are real (6)___ and sweat boxes in the summer when you travel around on them. The old trolleybuses are much the same! The city has no underground so any improvement to the city’s transport (7)___ is (8)___ welcome.

citizens / historic / frankly / trolleybuses / bone shakers / unusual / infrastructure / bus

The reaction of people who have seen the (1)___ double-decker bus and (2)___ those who have been on it is (3)___ . The new bus is lower than London double-decker buses, as it has to fit under the tram and trolleybus (4)___ . It is thus 4m tall. (5)___ , it has low floors and relatively low ceilings. The lower deck has a fresh design. There are 54 seats with 31 standing. The stairs are towards the back of the bus on the driver’s side. You go up them and arrive on the (6)___ facing the near rear of the bus. There are clear views front and back on both upper and lower decks.

The bus I took was packed. Everyone wanted to travel (7)___ , as it is a (8)___ for them. Will the city order some of these double-decker buses? It is up to the citizens of Bratislava to show they like it. So far, it seems they do!

upper deck / novelty / consequently / positive / upstairs / demonstration / especially / cables

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Red double-decker buses to be considered in Bratislava!

SMS message – ‘I’ve (1)___ been for a free ride on a brand new red double-decker bus in Bratislava’. It’s true I did! The red bus was, to say the least, an unusual sight as it travelled around the historic old town of Bratislava in Slovakia. Why is it in the city? The new Slovak built and designed red double-decker bus is on loan to the city to see if its citizens (2)___ like to have (3)___ in the future. Why not?

The city is famous for its trams, trolleybuses and bendy buses. The transport system is (4)___ historic; apart (5)___ its new bendy buses. The city still boasts an army of ‘tank-like buses’ (6)___ are real bone shakers and sweat boxes in the summer (7)___ you travel around on them. The old trolleybuses are (8)___ the same! The city has no underground so any improvement to the city’s transport infrastructure is frankly welcome.

when / just / much / mostly / them / would / that / from

The reaction of people (1)___ have seen the demonstration double-decker bus (2)___ especially those who have been on it is positive. The new bus is lower than London double-decker buses, as it has to fit under the tram and trolleybus cables. It is (3)___ 4m tall. Consequently, it has low floors and relatively low ceilings. The lower deck has a fresh design. There are 54 seats with 31 standing. The stairs are towards the back of the bus on the driver’s side. (4)___ go up them and arrive on the upper deck facing the near rear of the bus. There are clear views front and back (5)___ both upper and lower decks.

The bus I took was packed. Everyone wanted to travel upstairs, as it is a novelty (6)___ them. Will the city order some of these double-decker buses? It is up to (7)___ citizens of Bratislava to show they like it. (8)___ far, it seems they do!

for / who / the / thus / on / you / so / and

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

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Why is it in the city? The new Slovak built and designed red double-decker bus is _____ to see if its citizens would like to have them in the future. Why not?

The city is famous for its trams, trolleybuses _____. The transport system is mostly historic; apart from its new bendy buses. The city still boasts an army of '_____' that are real bone shakers and sweat boxes in the summer when you travel around on them. The old trolleybuses are much the same! The city has no underground so any improvement to the city's _____ is frankly welcome.

The reaction of people who have seen the demonstration double-decker bus and especially those who have been on it is positive. The new bus is lower than London double-decker buses, as it has to fit under the tram _____. It is thus 4m tall. Consequently, it has low floors and relatively low ceilings. The lower deck has a fresh design. There are 54 seats with 31 standing. The stairs are towards _____ on the driver's side. You go up them and arrive on the upper deck facing the near rear of the bus. There are clear views front and back on both _____.

The bus I took was packed. Everyone wanted to travel upstairs, as it is _____. Will the city order some of these double-decker buses? It is up to the citizens of Bratislava to show they like it. So far, _____!

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) Types of mass transport - In pairs/As a class -

Discuss the following: Which do you prefer?

- 1) Double-decker buses / Single-decker buses (not bendy) / Bendy buses / Minibuses
- 2) Trolleybuses
- 3) Trams
- 4) Underground / Overground network
- 5) Other (*Your ideas*)

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

- 1) Double-decker buses _____
- 2) The idea _____
- 3) I like _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The transport infrastructure in my city.** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) bus
- 2) unusual
- 3) historic
- 4) citizens
- 5) trolleybuses
- 6) bone shakers
- 7) infrastructure
- 8) frankly

ANSWERS

- 1) demonstration
- 2) especially
- 3) positive
- 4) cables
- 5) consequently
- 6) upper deck
- 7) upstairs
- 8) novelty

SPELLING

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

- 1) double
- 2) Bratislava
- 3) unusual
- 4) loan
- 5) citizens
- 6) trolleybuses
- 7) bendy buses
- 8) transport
- 9) mostly
- 10) bone shakers

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) sweat boxes
- 12) improvement
- 13) frankly
- 14) infrastructure
- 15) reaction
- 16) demonstration
- 17) consequently
- 18) relatively
- 19) novelty
- 20) citizens

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