

## Events in London – January to March

Today's English lesson focuses on more happening events in London.

**January** - The *New Year's Day Parade* in London is the first big event of the New Year. It runs through many of the West End's famous streets. The parade, which started in 1987, features more than 10,000 performers from 20 London Boroughs and countries from across the globe taking part. Each year it gets bigger and bigger! The money raised goes to thousands of local charities. Also happening in January is the *London International Boat Show*. In 2012, it returns to the ExCel Arena. The annual event offers visitors a multitude of things to do with boats! An alternative thing to do in London in January is to go to the annual *Twelfth Night Festival* at *Shakespeare's Globe theatre*. The event marks the end of Christmas and the start of the New Year. Visitors can see a folk play enacted. London is also a good place to be to see *Chinese New Year* celebrated. Next year sees it taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Chinatown in Soho will be the place to be! Watch out for the fireworks, firecrackers and crispy Chinese Duck!

**February** – *Pancake Day* or *Shrove Tuesday*, as it is also known, takes place yearly between 2<sup>nd</sup> February and the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Come and watch traditional pancake races take place throughout London. Participants have to toss their pancakes at least twice during the running race. The event raises money for different charities. If you like Rugby then why not watch some of the Six Nations Championships in London? You can watch the London matches live at Twickenham. Why not celebrate *Valentines Day* in London? February 14<sup>th</sup> is hot for some lovers and with London's restaurants, theatres and cinemas it makes it the perfect place to celebrate.

**March** – The *Boat Race* on the River Thames is one of London's longest sporting traditions. The hugely popular annual race between Cambridge and Oxford University is a major international sporting occasion. First started in 1829 the event now sees more than 250,000 spectators crowding the banks of the river Thames - with millions more watching on TV. Another crowd puller is the *Ideal home Exhibition* in London that takes place for three weeks at Earls Court. Anything to do with homes and houses is here.

**Category: London / Tourism / London events**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

**1. Events in London – January to March:** Briefly, what three events in London do you know that take place between January and March? Go round the room swapping details.

**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. Let's think!** Think of five events in London between January and March. Then add five events in your town/city that are happening during this time period. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

| Five events in London (Jan-Mar) | Five events in your town/city (Jan-Mar) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 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. Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Events in London**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**8. Let's roleplay 1: Radio London:** In pairs/groups. You are in the *Radio London* studio. Today's interview is about: *Events in London – January to March*. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people:

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 International Boat Race organiser | 3 A tourist           |
| 2 Ideal Home Exhibition organiser   | 4 The Mayor of London |

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

Events in London – January to March – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**9. Let's roleplay 2:** *In pairs.* You are in a pub in London. One of you is a tourist. The other is a friend you have met who lives in London. Over a drink you are discussing some of the events you have seen whilst on holiday in London. (Imagine!) *5 minutes.*

**10. Let's think!** *In pairs,* think of five things you might see at the following events in London: *The Boat Race, the London International Boat Show, and the Ideal Home Exhibition. Also what you may see on Pancake Day* in London. Write them below. Discuss the events together. Which is your favourite event?

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| The Boat Race | London International Boat Show |
| 1             | 1                              |
| 2             | 2                              |
| 3             | 3                              |
| 4             | 4                              |
| 5             | 5                              |
| Pancake Day   | The Ideal Home Exhibition      |
| 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.

**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) When is Pancake Day?
- 2) Name the Rugby tournament.
- 3) What date is Valentines Day?
- 4) What is Valentines Day?
- 5) What happens on Shrove Tuesday?

**Student B**

- 1) What is the Boat Race?
- 2) What date is the New Year's Day Parade?
- 3) What is the Ideal Home Exhibition?
- 4) Where is the Twelfth Night Festival?
- 5) What will you see at the New Year's Day Parade?

**12. Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Events in London – January to March.** Your e-mail can be read out in class.

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

- a) The International Boat Show \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Pancake Day \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The Ideal Home Exhibition \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Which parade did you last see? Explain.
- 3) Would you like to visit London over the New Year and see the New Year's Day Parade? Explain.
- 4) Would you like to visit the International boat Show in London? Explain.
- 5) What sports events do you like to watch?
- 6) Would you like to watch one of the games in the Rugby Six Nations Championship live in London? Explain.
- 7) How is Chinese New Year celebrated in your town/city?
- 8) Have you ever visited Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London?
- 9) What is the biggest exhibition centre in your town/city?
- 10) Would you like to visit London to see any of the events in the article? Why? Why not?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Have you ever visited London between January and March? If yes, explain.
- 3) Have you ever watched the Boat Race?
- 4) Would you choose Oxford or Cambridge as your side to cheer in the London Boat Race? Why?
- 5) Do you like to visit exhibitions? Explain.
- 6) Do you like to eat crispy Chinese Duck?
- 7) How do you celebrate Valentines Day?
- 8) Have you ever read any Shakespeare?
- 9) Do you make pancakes on Pancake Day?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Events in your town/city between January and March

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

Consider the following points to discuss:

|   |
|---|
| <b>20 events in your town/city between January and March.</b> |
|---|

The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

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

**January** - The *New Year's Day Parade* in London is the first big event of the New Year. It runs through many of the West End's (1)\_\_\_\_\_ streets. The (2)\_\_\_\_\_, which started in 1987, features more than 10,000 performers from 20 London (3)\_\_\_\_\_ and countries from across the globe taking part. Each year it gets bigger and bigger! The money raised goes to thousands of local (4)\_\_\_\_\_. Also happening in January is the *London International Boat Show*. In 2012, it returns to the ExCel Arena. The annual event offers visitors a (5)\_\_\_\_\_ of things to do with boats! An alternative thing to do in London in January is to go to the annual *Twelfth Night Festival* at Shakespeare's Globe (6)\_\_\_\_\_. The event marks the end of Christmas and the start of the New Year. Visitors can see a folk play enacted. London is also a good place to be to see *Chinese New Year* celebrated. Next year sees it taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Chinatown in Soho will be the place to be! Watch out for the (7)\_\_\_\_\_, firecrackers and crispy Chinese (8)\_\_\_\_\_!

*fireworks*

*boroughs*

*theatre*

*parade*

*multitude*

*charities*

*duck*

*famous*

**February** - *Pancake Day* or *Shrove Tuesday*, as it is also known, takes place yearly between 2<sup>nd</sup> February and the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Come and watch traditional (1)\_\_\_\_\_ races take place throughout London. Participants have to toss their pancakes at least twice during the running race. The event raises money for different charities. If you like Rugby then why not watch some of the Six Nations Championships in London? You can watch the London matches live at Twickenham. Why not celebrate *Valentines Day* in London? February 14<sup>th</sup> is hot for some (2)\_\_\_\_\_ and with London's restaurants, theatres and cinemas it makes it the perfect place to (3)\_\_\_\_\_. **March** - The *Boat Race* on the River Thames is one of London's longest sporting (4)\_\_\_\_\_. The hugely (5)\_\_\_\_\_ annual race between Cambridge and Oxford (6)\_\_\_\_\_ is a major international sporting occasion. First started in 1829 the event now sees more than 250,000 (7)\_\_\_\_\_ crowding the banks of the river Thames - with millions more watching on TV. Another crowd (8)\_\_\_\_\_ is the *Ideal Home Exhibition* in London that takes place for three weeks at Earls Court. Anything to do with homes and houses is here.

*university*

*pancake*

*spectators*

*celebrate*

*lovers*

*traditions*

*puller*

*popular*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

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**February** – *Pancake Day* or *Shrove Tuesday*, as it is also known, takes place yearly between 2<sup>nd</sup> February and the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Come and watch traditional pancake races take place throughout London. Participants have to toss their pancakes at least twice during the running race. The event raises money for different charities. If you like Rugby then why not watch some of the \_\_\_\_\_ in London? You can watch the London matches live at Twickenham. Why not celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ London? February 14<sup>th</sup> is hot for some lovers and with London's restaurants, \_\_\_\_\_ it makes it the perfect place to celebrate.

**March** – The *Boat Race* \_\_\_\_\_ is one of London's longest sporting traditions. The hugely \_\_\_\_\_ between Cambridge and Oxford University is a major international sporting occasion. First started in 1829 the event now sees more than 250,000 spectators crowding the banks of the river Thames - with \_\_\_\_\_ on TV. Another crowd puller is the *Ideal Home Exhibition* in London that takes place for three weeks at Earls Court. Anything to do with \_\_\_\_\_ here.

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

**January** - The *New Year's Day Parade* in London is the first big event of the New Year. It runs through (1)\_\_\_ of the West End's famous streets. The parade, (2)\_\_\_ started in 1987, features (3)\_\_\_ (4)\_\_\_ 10,000 performers (5)\_\_\_ 20 London Boroughs and countries from across the globe taking part. (6)\_\_\_ year it gets bigger and bigger! The money raised goes to thousands of local charities. (7)\_\_\_ happening in January is the *London International Boat Show*. In 2012, it returns to the ExCel Arena. The annual event offers visitors a multitude of things to do (8)\_\_\_ boats! An alternative thing to do in London in January is to go to the annual *Twelfth Night Festival* at Shakespeare's Globe theatre. The event marks the end of Christmas and the start of the New Year. Visitors can see a folk play enacted. London is also a good place to be to see *Chinese New Year* celebrated. Next year sees it taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Chinatown in Soho will be the place to be! Watch out for the fireworks, firecrackers and crispy Chinese Duck!

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**than**  
**many**  
**with**  
**also**  
**from**  
**more**  
**which**  
**each**  
  
**you**  
**the**  
**for**  
**of**  
**at**  
**on**  
**and**  
**in**

## 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  | annual        | 11 | traditional  |
| 2  | performers    | 12 | pancake      |
| 3  | major         | 13 | alternative  |
| 4  | exhibition    | 14 | university   |
| 5  | popular       | 15 | fireworks    |
| 6  | themselves    | 16 | crispy       |
| 7  | celebrate     | 17 | throughout   |
| 8  | championships | 18 | participants |
| 9  | firecrackers  | 19 | toss         |
| 10 | charities     | 20 | twice        |

### LINKS

<http://www.timeout.com/london/>  
<http://www.allinlondon.co.uk/whats-on.php>  
<http://www.eventsinlondon.co.uk/>  
<http://www.visitlondon.com/events/>  
<http://www.londononline.co.uk/events/>

### ANSWERS

**GAP FILL:** Events in London – January to March: **January** - The *New Year's Day Parade* in London is the first big event of the New Year. It runs through many of the West End's **famous** streets. The **parade**, which started in 1987, features more than 10,000 performers from 20 London **Boroughs** and countries from across the globe taking part. Each year it gets bigger and bigger! The money raised goes to thousands of local **charities**. Also happening in January is the *London International Boat Show*. In 2012, it returns to the ExCel Arena. The annual event offers visitors a **multitude** of things to do with boats! An alternative thing to do in London in January is to go to the annual *Twelfth Night Festival* at Shakespeare's Globe **theatre**. The event marks the end of Christmas and the start of the New Year. Visitors can see a folk play enacted. London is also a good place to be to see *Chinese New Year* celebrated. Next year sees it taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Chinatown in Soho will be the place to be! Watch out for the **fireworks**, firecrackers and crispy Chinese **Duck**!

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**March** – The *Boat Race* on the River Thames is one of London's longest sporting **traditions**. The hugely **popular** annual race between Cambridge and Oxford **University** is a major international sporting occasion. First started in 1829 the event now sees more than 250,000 **spectators** crowding the banks of the river Thames - with millions more watching on TV. Another crowd **puller** is the *Ideal home Exhibition* in London that takes place for three weeks at Earls Court. Anything to do with homes and houses is here. (V2)

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