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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/08/14

London – Notting Hill Carnival

Today, let's talk about the world famous Notting Hill Carnival in London. Traditionally it is held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The annual event attracts more than one million visitors and has over 40,000 volunteers. The huge street carnival has been running since 1964. It allows London's Afro-Caribbean community to celebrate their own cultures and traditions. The carnival is an amazing array of sounds, colourful sights and social solidarity.

The Notting Hill Carnival is the largest celebration of its kind in Europe. Visitors can see the streets of West London come alive, with the sounds and smells of Europe's biggest street carnival. They can also see the many vibrant costumes the dancers will wear.

There is nothing quite like the smell of the Notting Hill Carnival. There is that wonderful aroma of traditional Caribbean food. It is the perfect introduction to jerk chicken, rice and peas and rum punch, as well as the odd taste of other exotic cuisines. Visitors should have a healthy appetite, as there are many different patties, curries, and other exotic foods to try from the many hundreds of different street stalls.

Music is at the heart of the Notting Hill Carnival. Visitors can hear a variety of different music including many steel bands. These bands originated from Trinidad in the early 1930s. There is also Soca & Calypso music as well as static sound systems that play anything from Reggae to R&B, Funk, House, Dub and much more. Live stages also feature local bands, top international artists and sounds from around the world. After the street procession there are many after parties to attend! If you are visiting the Notting Hill Carnival the best way to travel to it is by public transport. Go and enjoy it!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Notting Hill Carnival in London. 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 country.
- 2) Where is Notting Hill?
- 3) How many volunteers are there?
- 4) How long has the carnival been running?
- 5) Name two types of food.

Student B questions

- 1) Name three types of music.
- 2) What is the best way to travel to the carnival?
- 3) What is at the heart of the Notting hill Carnival?
- 4) What is there an amazing array of?
- 5) When is the Notting Hill Carnival?

**Category: London / Notting Hill Carnival / Tourism
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

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WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Using the article write down three things you know about the Notting Hill Carnival. Discuss together.

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

Think of three other carnivals you know of. Write them down. Talk about them. Which is the most famous? Which is the biggest? Which is the more popular? Discuss together.

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

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

SPEAKING / DRAWING / GOOGLING

As a class – **Design a float / carnival costumes!** – Draw your ideas on the board **OR** Google some ideas, print them out and create an effect you can talk about and present to the class. *5-7 mins.*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Would you like to go to the Notting Hill Carnival?
- 3) What was the last carnival you saw?
- 4) Have you ever taken part in a carnival?
- 5) Would you like to play in a steel band?
- 6) Why do people like carnivals?
- 7) Have you ever seen a steel band live?
- 8) Have you ever tried to cook some Caribbean food?
- 9) Have you been to London? If yes, when? How was it?
- 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 BBC World News studio. Today's interview is: **Notting Hill Carnival**. *10 mins.*

- 1) A dancer who will be in this year's carnival.
- 2) Someone who will be in a steel band in this year's carnival.
- 3) Someone who is running a Caribbean food stall.
- 4) An organiser of the Notting Hill Carnival.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. Student A is in Notting Hill. Student B is on a social network. Start a conversation about the Notting Hill Carnival. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – GAME

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Form a circle – then go round in a clockwise direction.

I went to the Notting Hill Carnival and I saw...

Repeat the previous suggestions then add one of your own. If you forget what was previously said you are eliminated!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Have you ever been to the Notting Hill Carnival? If yes, when.
- 2) Do you like Caribbean food?
- 3) Do you like to try different foods from around the world?
- 4) Will there be many people at this year's Notting Hill Carnival?
- 5) Have you ever tried jerk chicken, rice and peas?
- 6) Have you ever seen the movie 'Notting Hill'?
- 7) Have you visited the legendary Notting Hill market?
- 8) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 9) Did you like this discussion?

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GAP FILL: READING

London – Notting Hill Carnival

Today, let's talk about the world famous Notting Hill Carnival in London. Traditionally it is held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The (1)___ event attracts more than one million visitors and has over 40,000 volunteers. The huge street carnival has been running since 1964. It allows London's Afro-Caribbean community to celebrate their own cultures and (2)___ . The (3)___ is an amazing (4)___ of sounds, colourful sights and social solidarity.

The Notting Hill Carnival is the largest (5)___ of its kind in Europe. Visitors can see the streets of West London come alive, with the sounds and smells of Europe's biggest street carnival. They can also see the many (6)___ costumes the dancers will wear.

There is nothing quite like the (7)___ of the Notting Hill Carnival. There is that wonderful (8)___ of traditional Caribbean food.

carnival / aroma / annual / smell / traditions / array / celebration / vibrant

It is the perfect introduction to jerk chicken, rice and peas and rum punch, as well as the odd taste of other (1)___ cuisines. Visitors should have a healthy (2)___, as there are many different patties, curries, and other exotic foods to try from the many hundreds of different (3)___.

Music is at the heart of the Notting Hill Carnival. Visitors can hear a (4)___ of different music including many (5)___ . These bands originated from Trinidad in the early 1930s. There is also Soca & Calypso music as well as static sound systems that play anything from Reggae to R&B, (6)___, House, Dub and much more. Live stages also feature local bands, top international artists and sounds from around the world. After the street (7)___ there are many after parties to attend! If you are visiting the Notting Hill Carnival the best way to (8)___ to it is by public transport. Go and enjoy it!

procession / steel bands / exotic / travel / street stalls / funk / variety / appetite

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

London – Notting Hill Carnival

Today, let's talk about the world famous Notting Hill Carnival (1)___ London. Traditionally it is held over (2)___ August Bank Holiday weekend. The annual event attracts more than one million visitors (3)___ has over 40,000 volunteers. The huge street carnival has been running since 1964. (4)___ allows London's Afro-Caribbean community to celebrate their own cultures and traditions. The carnival is (5)___ amazing array of sounds, colourful sights and social solidarity.

The Notting Hill Carnival is the largest celebration of (6)___ kind in Europe. Visitors (7)___ see the streets (8)___ West London come alive, with the sounds and smells of Europe's biggest street carnival. They can also see the many vibrant costumes the dancers will wear.

There is nothing quite like the smell of the Notting Hill Carnival. There is that wonderful aroma of traditional Caribbean food.

of / in / it / an / can / its / and / the

It is the perfect introduction to jerk chicken, rice and peas and rum punch, (1)___ the odd taste of (2)___ exotic cuisines. Visitors (3)___ have a healthy appetite, as there are many different patties, curries, and other exotic foods to try from the many hundreds of different street stalls.

Music is at the heart of the Notting Hill Carnival. Visitors can hear a variety of different music including many steel bands. (4)___ bands originated from Trinidad in the early 1930s. There is also Soca & Calypso music as well as static sound systems (5)___ play anything from Reggae to R&B, Funk, House, Dub and (6)___ more. Live stages (7)___ feature local bands, top international artists and sounds from around the world. After the street procession there are (8)___ after parties to attend! If you are visiting the Notting Hill Carnival the best way to travel to it is by public transport. Go and enjoy it!

that / as well as / also / many / other / these / should / much /

GAP FILL: LISTENING

London – Notting Hill Carnival

Today, let's talk about the world famous Notting Hill Carnival in London. _____ held over the _____ weekend. The annual event attracts more than one million visitors and has over 40,000 volunteers. The huge street carnival has been running since 1964. It allows London's Afro-Caribbean community to celebrate their own cultures and traditions. The carnival is an _____, colourful sights and social solidarity.

The _____ is the largest celebration of its kind in Europe. Visitors can see the streets of West London come alive, with the sounds and smells of Europe's biggest street carnival. They can also see the many vibrant costumes the dancers will wear.

There is nothing quite like the smell of the Notting Hill Carnival. There is that wonderful aroma of _____ food.

It is the perfect introduction to jerk chicken, rice and peas and rum punch, as well as the odd taste of other exotic cuisines. Visitors should have a healthy appetite, as there are _____, curries, and other exotic foods to try from the many hundreds of different street stalls. Music is at the heart of the Notting Hill Carnival. Visitors can hear a variety of different music including _____. These bands originated from Trinidad in the early 1930s. There is also Soca & Calypso music as well as static sound systems that play anything from Reggae to R&B, Funk, House, _____. Live stages also feature local bands, top international artists and sounds from around the world. After _____ there are many after parties to attend! If you are visiting the Notting Hill Carnival the best way to travel to it is by public transport. _____!

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs, as a class* - write down 10 other events you might see in London during the summer. Talk about them! 5 mins.

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

- 1) The Notting Hill Carnival _____
- 2) The food _____
- 3) Music _____

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

GAP FILL READING

- 1) annual
- 2) traditions
- 3) carnival
- 4) array
- 5) celebration
- 6) vibrant
- 7) smell
- 8) aroma

SPELLING

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

- 1) traditionally
- 2) annual
- 3) volunteers
- 4) carnival
- 5) since
- 6) community
- 7) celebrate
- 8) own
- 9) colourful
- 10) solidarity

ANSWERS

- 1) exotic
- 2) appetite
- 3) street stalls
- 4) variety
- 5) steel bands
- 6) funk
- 7) procession
- 8) travel

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) wonderful
- 12) aroma
- 13) introduction
- 14) Caribbean
- 15) exotic
- 16) curries
- 17) Trinidad
- 18) international
- 19) public
- 20) procession

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