

**WAYS OF USING AUTHENTIC MATERIALS
IN THE EFL CLASSROOM**

FĂNICA CHIRU

LAVINIA NĂDRAG

**WAYS OF USING AUTHENTIC MATERIALS
IN THE EFL CLASSROOM**



EDITURA UNIVERSITARĂ
București, 2018

Colecția FILOLOGIE

Redactor: Gheorghe Iovan
Tehnoredactor: Ameluța Vișan
Coperta: Monica Balaban

Editură recunoscută de Consiliul Național al Cercetării Științifice (C.N.C.S.) și inclusă de Consiliul Național de Atestare a Titlurilor, Diplomelor și Certificatelor Universitare (C.N.A.T.D.C.U.) în categoria editurilor de prestigiu recunoscut.

Descrierea CIP a Bibliotecii Naționale a României

CHIRU, FĂNICA

Ways of using authentic materials in the EFL classroom / Chiru
Fănica, Nădrag Lavinia. - București : Editura Universitară, 2018
Conține bibliografie
ISBN 978-606-28-0830-3

I. Nădrag, Lavinia

811.111

DOI: (Digital Object Identifier): 10.5682/9786062808303

© Toate drepturile asupra acestei lucrări sunt rezervate, nicio parte din această lucrare nu poate fi copiată fără acordul Editurii Universitare

Copyright © 2018
Editura Universitară
Editor: Vasile Muscalu
B-dul. N. Bălcescu nr. 27-33, Sector 1, București
Tel.: 021.315.32.47
www.editurauniversitara.ro
e-mail: redactia@editurauniversitara.ro

Distribuție: tel.: 021.315.32.47 / 07217 CARTE / 0745.200.357
comenzi@editurauniversitara.ro
O.P. 15, C.P. 35, București
www.editurauniversitara.ro

Foreword

This book is a tool and incentive both for teachers and students who want to improve their teaching methods and learning styles, respectively. Along with other books which show ways of teaching English as a foreign language, it demonstrates some of the advantages of using authentic teaching materials inside and outside the classroom. Exciting topics related to everyday life, travelling, hobbies, books, fashion have been under the authors' scrutiny and provide the readers with texts from the British and U.S. media, with genuine language, not altered by the teachers' intervention.

The book can be included in the category of supplementary materials that can be successfully used for language skills improvement in general, and preparation for language contests in particular.

The authentic materials included in the present book represent a selection of articles from the well-known English and American newspapers, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *London Evening Standard*, *Express*, *The Observer*, *The Metro*, *World Observer*, *Daily Mirror*, *The Washington Post*, as well as authentic texts having as source the Internet. The texts were grouped according to the main topics existing in the textbook for the 9th class, "English My Love". These are: *London*, *Hobbies*, *Music*, *Food*, *Cinema*, *Fashion*, *Books and Sports*.

The exercises are designed to complete classroom activities and most of them can be done either in pairs or in groups.

The authors

Contents

Foreword	5
Unit 1 “London”	
Lesson 1: Travelling by Plane	9
Lesson 2: London’s Finest Sights	17
Lesson 3: London Night Sightseeing	23
Lesson 4: Travelling Around the World	30
Unit 2 “Hobbies”	
Lesson 1: Escape Routine	36
Lesson 2: Artistic Hobbies	42
Lesson 3: Unusual Hobbies	48
Lesson 4: Collections and collectors	55
Unit 3 “Music”	
Lesson 1: Rock Music	60
Lesson 2: The Origins of Blues	67
Lesson 3: The Young Generation’s Choices for Music	73
Lesson 4: Music Therapy	80
Unit 4 “Food”	
Lesson 1: Addicted to Food	86
Lesson 2: Keeping Fit	93
Lesson 3: Tastes	100
Lesson 4: Healthy Eating	122
Unit 5 “Cinema”	
Lesson 1: Photographs	110
Lesson 2: Digital Photography	113
Lesson 3: Being in the Limelight	117
Lesson 4: Oscar Awards	127
Unit 6 “Fashion”	
Lesson 1: Passion for Fashion	126
Lesson 2: Colours Influence our State of Mood	130
Lesson 3: How to Dress When Going to School?	134
Lesson 4: Would You Like to Be a Fashion Model?	140
Unit 7 “Books”	
Lesson 1: Books – The Great Teachers and Friends	147

Lesson 2: From the Gutenberg Galaxy to the Information Age	155
Lesson 3: School of the Future	160
Lesson 4: Book Review	165
Unit 8 “Sports”	
Lesson 1: Ready, Steady, Go!	170
Lesson 2: Born to Win	178
Lesson 3: Sports and Health	184
Lesson 4: Olympic Games Rio 2016 – The Biggest Sporting Event on the Planet	189
Annex 1: Models of Tests	196
Annex 2: Key Answers	203
Bibliography	235

Unit 1: London

Lesson 1: Travelling by Plane

Lead-in

1. How do people usually travel from one place to another?
2. How do you often travel?
3. What is your favourite means of transport?
4. Have you ever travelled by plane? Where?

Tasks:

1. Read the headline of the following article and make predictions about its content.
2. Skim the article to check if your predictions were true.

“Heathrow boss pushes case for new runway as passengers hit new record in 2014”

73.4 million passengers passed through Heathrow in 2014. Heathrow is officially “full” after its busiest ever year and must be expanded to prevent Britain falling behind its international rivals, its chief executive has warned. John Holland-Kaye said cross-party support was needed for Sir Howard Davies’ Airports Commission, which is expected to publish its final report after the General Election.

Both Heathrow and Gatwick hope to be given the green light to build a new runway and Holland-Kaye believes there should only be one winner; claiming an enlarged Heathrow would boost the UK economy by £211 billion and create 180,000 jobs across the UK. “We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received from business and politicians — and now more than half of local residents support us,” he said.

The airport slipped to a £119 million loss last year after re-opening Terminal 2. Some 73.4 million passengers passed through Heathrow in 2014. “The danger of this going away is that the company could eventually go into a downward spin and who knows going forward what would happen if that was the case”, CRC Secretary Myles Worth said yesterday.

Source: London Evening Standard, 23February 2015

3. Match the following words with their definitions:

- 1) to expand
- 2) to fall behind
- 3) to warn
- 4) to boost
- 5) to overwhelm
- 6) to slip
- 7) loss

- 8) runway
- 9) spin
- 10) downward

- a) to increase; to improve or become more successful
- b) no longer having something; damages; diminishing of the profit/benefit
- c) going towards a lower place or level
- d) to fail to develop at the same rate as something; to fail to achieve a standard reached by other people or companies
- e) to skid; to slide
- f) to make someone conscious of a possible problem or danger
- g) to affect someone's emotions in a very powerful way; to exist in such great amounts that someone or something cannot deal with them
- h) to become larger in size and filling more space; to extend; to broaden
- i) a long road used by planes when they land or take off, usually at an airport
- j) a quick turning movement round and round

4. Find the synonyms of the following words.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. passenger | 6. to boost |
| 2. chief executive | 7. to slip |
| 3. support | 8. to happen |
| 4. rival | 9. to warn |
| 5. case | 10. to believe |

5. Read the article and underline the words, phrases or sentences which answer the following questions. Complete the chart:

What must be expended in order to prevent Britain falling behind its rivals?	
How many passengers were estimated to have passed through Heathrow in 2014?	
Two airports hope to be given green light to build a new runway. Which are these?	
Who is Heathrow's chief executive?	
What does he claim?	
How many jobs would be created across the UK?	
How much did this airport lose in 2014?	
What could happen in that case?	

6. Look at the following phrases and explain what they mean using your own words.

1. "...to prevent Britain falling behind its international rivals..."
2. "...Both Heathrow and Gatwick hope to be given the green light to build a new runway..."
3. "...an enlarged Heathrow would boost the UK economy..."
4. "...The airport slipped to a £119 million loss last year..."
5. "...the danger of this going away is that the company could eventually go into a downward spin..."
6. "...if that was the case..."

7. Group work: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of travelling by plane. The spokesperson of each group will report to the class.

8. Read the following text about London airports and fill in the gaps with the appropriate prepositions.

London Airports

Located 32 km to the west of Central London, London Heathrow Airport (LHR) is one 1) _____ the busiest and most advanced airports in the world. With 190,000 passengers arriving and departing every day, Heathrow handles more international flights than any other airport 2) _____ the world. The airport is spread across five terminals, each with shops, restaurants, currency exchange facilities, information counters, accommodation desks and left luggage facilities. After you leave the aircraft, you'll pass through passport control, baggage reclaim and Customs. In the arrivals hall, you'll find shops, restaurants, currency exchange, car rental and hotel reservation desks.

There are various trains 3) _____ London from Heathrow Airport. The Heathrow Express is the fastest way to travel into Central London. The Piccadilly line connects Heathrow Airport to Central London and the rest 4) _____ the Tube system. The tube is cheaper than the Heathrow Express but it takes a lot longer.

London Gatwick Airport (LGW) is the most efficient single-runway airport in the world, serving 200 destinations in 90 countries for 35 million customers a year. LGW is located 45 km south of London. Gatwick Airport's terminals, North and South, both have a comprehensive selection of shops, currency exchange and left-luggage facilities. If you are going to be in London 5) _____ more than a day, it's worth booking a Visitor Oyster Card 6) _____ advance. It is one of the easiest ways to get around London.

London Stansted Airport (STN) is the UK's third busiest airport and one of the fastest growing airports 7) _____ Europe. It is located 64 km to the north-east of London. STN is home to many of the UK's low-cost airlines, serving mostly European and Mediterranean destinations. There are frequent trains 8) _____ London from Stansted Airport. Stansted Express is the quickest way into Central London. The Visitor Oyster Card is a good choice if you spend more than a day in London.

London City Airport (LCY) is one of the easiest and most accessible airports in London owing to its location just 9.5 km east 9) _____ Central London. A single runway handles short-haul flights with a strong emphasis on business travel to Europe and specialized flights 10) _____ New York. Airlines that currently fly from LCY include: British Airways, Blie Islands, Lufthansa Sky Work and Swiss International Airlines. Due 11) _____ its size, arrivals and departures through LCY can be much quicker and easier than the larger London airports.

London Luton Airport (LTN) is one of the UK's largest airports, carrying 9.7 million passengers in 2013. The airport is a major base 12) _____ low-cost or "no-frills" air travel and is located just 56km north-west of Central London. Popular with budget travelers, London Luton Airport is within easy reach of Central London by public transport.

9. Choose the correct answer.

Air Travel

1. The plane circled over the airport until the was clear.
 - a) highway
 - b) landing

- c) runway
 - d) terminal
2. If you carry too much luggage, the airline will charge an baggage fee.
- a) additional
 - b) excess
 - c) extra
 - d) over
3. British Airways the departure of Flight 223 to Bucharest.
- a) advertise
 - b) advise
 - c) announce
 - d) notice
4. When you get to the airport, your luggage will have to be
- a) balanced
 - b) estimated
 - c) sealed
 - d) weighed
5. Because of the fog, our flight was from Heathrow to York Airport.
- a) deflected
 - b) diverted
 - c) replaced
 - d) reverted
6. The check time at the airport was 8 o'clock.
- a) by
 - b) in
 - c) out
 - d) up
7. It takes a while to to your surroundings after a long flight.
- a) adjust
 - b) balance
 - c) fit
 - d) settle
8. The air hostess told the passengers to their seat belts.
- a) attach
 - b) fasten
 - c) fix
 - d) tie
9. The from Bucharest to New York takes ten hours.
- a) flying
 - b) journey
 - c) passage
 - d) voyage
10. I'm afraid your luggage is 10 kilos; you will have to pay extra.
- a) above
 - b) excess
 - c) heavy
 - d) overweight
11. Our was delayed because of the bad weather conditions.
- a) airline

- b) airway
- c) flight
- d) runway

12. If you want a cheap air ticket you must well in advance.

- a) book
- b) buy
- c) engage
- d) reserve

10. Read the text below and use the verbs in brackets in the right tense.

“Heathrow boss John Holland-Kaye tells MPs to "get on with" airport expansion”

Heathrow’s chief executive 1) _____ (tell) the British Chamber of Commerce that MPs’ dithering on airport expansion 2) _____ (be) “just the British way of making decisions”. But “it is time to get on with” expanding the London hub airport. At the BCC’s annual conference, John Holland-Kaye told of British exporters struggling to get live langoustines to Singapore and to sell chocolate to Mexicans because Heathrow is full and cannot add routes.

He 3) _____ (add): “We need to make the right choice to secure the prosperity we 4) _____ (enjoy) for future generations. “This 5) _____ (be) a competition Britain could win — Heathrow is the best-located hub in the world, with 95% of the global economy within range of a direct flight — [but] the UK is starting to fall behind. “Dubai 6) _____ (overtake) Heathrow in the number of international passengers carried and Paris with more long-haul destinations.”

Holland-Kaye 7) _____ (conclude) that British politicians “put off difficult decisions” as long as they could but expanding Heathrow “is now urgent. It 8) _____ (be) time to get on with it”.

Source: London Evening Standard, 10 February 2015

11. Read the text below and fill in each gap 1 – 10 with a word formed from the words in capitals.

I am writing to apologize for the 1) _____ of your Happy Holiday Coach Tour to Dover. 2) _____ our luxury coach was involved in a 3) _____ in France a week ago, and our driver has been 4) _____ obliged to remain there for the moment. The coach was travelling on a road 5) _____ for heavy traffic, and the accident was 6) _____. Luckily none of the passengers suffered any 7) _____, and we have complained to the authorities that the road needs 8) _____. Our new coach will be fitted with 9) _____ seat belts for the safety and comfort of passengers. We will, of course, return the 10) _____ you have made for your holiday as soon as possible.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1) CANCEL | 6) AVOID |
| 2) FORTUNE | 7) INJURE |
| 3) COLLIDE | 8) WIDE |
| 4) EXPECT | 9) ADJUST |
| 5) SUIT | 10) PAY |

12. Use the word in capitals at the end of each line to form a new word that fits in the gaps.
1. He enjoysvery much. TRAVEL
 2. This armchair is quite for my old bones. COMFORT
 3. I've forgotten to buy the evening PAPER
 4. We celebrate our nationalevery year. It's a tradition in our family. HOLY
 5. This little town is just what I need to settle in. PICTURE
 6. Every time we travel we our mind. BROAD
 7. On weekends, the children visit one special MUSE
 8. Where is the coffee -? I really need it. MAKE
 9. The of this area are very strict regarding the owning of pets. RESIDE
 10. There's no one who would in this filthy swimming pool. BATH

13. Use these words to complete the text:

calling delay change running arrival standing

“Station announcements”

A) We apologise for the late 1) _____ of the 8:10 from Cambridge. This train will now arrive at platform 2 in approximately 15 minutes' time.

B) The 4:45 to Portsmouth is 2) _____ approximately 20 minutes late. We apologise to passengers for the 3) _____ and any inconvenience this may cause.

C) The train now 4) _____ at platform 4 is the 7:45 for London Victoria, 5) _____ at Gatwick Airport and East Croydon. Passengers for London Bridge should 6) _____ at East Croydon.

14. Read the next article and use the verbs in brackets in the right tense. The text-based task is difficult and it requires the students to read for comprehension.

“New Terminal 2 Ready for Take-off”

This is the world's first look at Heathrow's new 2.5 billion pounds Terminal 2 – the result of five years' building work on Europe's biggest site.

When the terminal originally 1) _____ (open) in 1955, with the red tape cut by a 29-year-old Queen, check-in 2) _____ (take) place inside large tents with wooden floors. Now the new 40,000 square metre Terminal 2 – Queen's Terminal 3) _____ (be) almost four times the size of Buckingham Palace, with a steel-framed roof made up of waves, 45 shops and 17 restaurants.

Max Vialou-Clark, Heathrow's retail director, 4) _____ (say) that the new terminal is “more British than any other”. When the terminal opens to passengers on June [2014], with a United Airlines flight from Chicago scheduled to land in the early morning, it 5) _____ (host/also) carries including Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa, US Airways, Aer Lingus, and Virgin Atlantic Little Red. It 6) _____ (be) to be staffed by 24,000 people from 160 companies, including 600 security officers stationed along the air-side boundary.

The original Terminal 2 was built to handle 1.2 million passengers. By the time it

7) _____ (be demolished) in 2009, 8 million a year were travelling through its arrival and departure halls. Now the foreign owners of Heathrow, a consortium led by Spain's Ferrovial expect 20 million annual passengers to use Terminal 2. It 8) _____ (have) 178 flights a day once it is fully operated.

Later this year, Terminal 1 9) _____ (close) for rebuilding work. Eventually it 10) _____ (link) up to the new terminal to create a take-off and landing building the size of Terminal 5 – which is Britain's biggest building.

Source: London Evening Standard, 6 March 2014

15. For questions 1-10, decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

“Heathrow airport overtaken by Dubai as world's busiest”

“Total of 68.9 million passengers passed through Dubai International, compared with 67.8 million at Heathrow”

Heathrow has lost its crown as the busiest airport in the world for 1) _____ passenger traffic. The oil-rich Gulf city of Dubai has knocked London off the top spot, figures from the Airports Council International show. A total of 68.9 million passengers had 2) _____ through Dubai International compared with 67.8 million at Heathrow as of December 2014, despite a late slowdown in traffic with one important 3) _____, trouble-hit Russia.

The rise in passenger numbers at Dubai this year came despite only a single runway being usable for 80 days because of a refurbishment 4) _____, which caused a temporary 5) _____ in flights.

“Given the 6) _____ achieved in the first 11 months, together with some of the busiest days on record in December, we are confident of ending the year above the 70 million mark and confirming our 7) _____ as the world's busiest international airport”, said Paul Griffiths, the British-born chief executive of Dubai Airports. He added: “Looking forward to 2015, the 8) _____ remain exceedingly bright, and we expect to maintain the 9) _____ achieved this year in the 10) _____ 12 months.

Source: The Independent, 31 December 2014

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1) A. national | B. international | C. multinational | D. specialized |
| 2) A. failed | B. taken | C. overcome | D. passed |
| 3) A. destiny | B. place | C. destination | D. location |
| 4) A. design | B. scheme | C. operation | D. play |
| 5) A. deduction | B. decision | C. decline | D. reduction |
| 6) A. traffic | B. travel | C. journey | D. travelling |
| 7) A. location | B. position | C. place | D. situation |
| 8) A. perspectives | B. plans | C. positions | D. prospects |
| 9) A. growth | B. development | C. breeding | D. surplus |
| 10) A. future | B. previous | C. next | D. last |

16. Read the article and fill in the gaps with the necessary prepositions.

“Gatwick runway plan boosted by consultation on Heathrow air quality”

Airports commission has reopened its public consultation 1) _____ air quality after general election returns large number of anti-Heathrow MPs.

Gatwick was given a boost in the battle 2) _____ a new runway on Friday, as the airports commission unexpectedly reopened its public consultation to focus 3) _____ air quality – after an election which returned a strengthened cohort of anti-Heathrow Conservative MPs in government.

4) _____ the commission’s recommendation on whether to expand either Gatwick or Heathrow expected 5) _____ the next eight weeks, the decision to consult further was seized on by Gatwick as a “showstopper” for Heathrow.

The move comes 6) _____ a recent supreme court ruling said Britain needed to do more to tackle air pollution, after it consistently failed to meet EU limits.

Gatwick claimed that the timing 7) _____ the consultation on air quality was highly significant. Stewart Wingate, chief executive of the airport, said: “It shows that the issue has now become fundamental 8) _____ the choice that lies ahead. It is an issue that cannot be ignored.”

“The area around Heathrow currently breaches legal air quality limits and it defies common sense that a third runway – with hundreds of extra car journeys that it would bring – is the solution to the problem. Air quality has been a showstopper 9) _____ Heathrow before and it is now clear that it will be again. 10) _____ contrast, Gatwick has never breached legal air quality limits and its location means it can guarantee that it never will.”

Source: The Guardian, 8 May 2015

Lesson 2: London's Finest Sights

Lead-in

1. Have you ever visited London?
2. Would you like to visit this great city?
3. What would you especially like to visit in London?

Tasks:

1. Read the headline of the following article in order to make predictions about its content.

“London Sightseeing”

London is the cultural, political and economic heart of Britain, famous for world-class museums, galleries, royal palaces, shopping destinations. Its history stretches back thousands of years, and remnants of this fascinating past can still be found across the capital – from the Tower of London, a gruesome site of medieval torture, to the majestic Buckingham Palace.

A captivating mix of old and new, London is also renowned for its creativity innovation and originality in art, theatre, music, countless art galleries and museums, including Tate Modern, National Gallery and British Museum, which possesses some of the world's finest treasures. And best of all, entry to most of these museums and galleries is free!

To catch all the “big-hitters” in one go, you can't beat a walk along the River Thames. Strolling from Tower Bridge to the Houses of Parliament, you'll pass the Tower of London, Shakespeare's Globe, Tate Modern, the Southbank Centre, the National Theatre, the London Eye, the Sea Life London Aquarium and London Dungeon. In addition to these world famous attractions, there are many more to discover during your stay.

In the West End you will also find some of London's top shopping destinations, from Oxford Street to Seven Dials. Different neighbourhoods are known for other unique opportunities for shopping: Notting Hill is famous for its antiques and Portobello Market, Greenwich has an excellent arts and crafts market, while Westfield London City and Westfield Stratford are the city's most famous malls.

If you would rather save money than spend it, the eight Royal Parks are well worth a visit and a great spot for a picnic. Visit Greenwich Park to drop in on the Royal Observatory, walk through Kensington Gardens to see Kensington Palace, take a paddle on the Hyde Park boating lake, see Buckingham Palace from scenic St James's Park, spot deer at Richmond Park and Bushy Park, and meet the animals at London Zoo, which lies within Regent's Park.

Along the way indulge your taste buds with delicious food at one of London's many restaurants, gastro pubs and pop-up eateries. You can eat food prepared by a celebrity chef, discover modern British cuisine, or eat food from anywhere in the world – be it Indian, Chinese, Persian, Greek, Italian or Lebanese. Top off your perfect day with a fancy cocktail, excellent wine or locally brewed beer at a top London pub or bar – and maybe a boogie at one of the capital's buzzing nightspots and clubs.

Source: VisitLondon.com/Official Visitor Guide

2. Match the following words selected from the article with their definitions:
 - 1) to beat a walk
 - 2) to drop in on

- 3) to take a paddle
- 4) to indulge
- 5) to top off
- 6) to brew
- 7) remnant
- 8) hitter
- 9) bud
- 10) eatery
- 11) boogie
- 12) gruesome

- a) something successful and popular
- b) (usually pl) a small remaining part of something
- c) to make beer; to make a tea or coffee; to make it and to leave it to develop a stronger flavour
- d) to have long walks
- e) to finish something with a final activity or detail
- f) a small part of a living that grows from it before separating and becoming a new organism
- g) to move a small boat through the water using a paddle
- h) (mainly journalism) restaurant
- i) horrible; frightful;
- j) to make a short visit to someone; to pay someone's a visit
- k) a dance to fast popular music; a type of disco music that was popular in the late 1970s
- l) to allow yourself to have or to do something that you enjoy; to eat something that you enjoy

3. Find the synonyms of the following words.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. heart | 6. spot |
| 2. famous | 7. to beat a walk |
| 3. remnants | 8. to indulge |
| 4. gruesome | 9. to buzz |
| 5. opportunity | 10. to boogie |

4. Find the opposites of the following words.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. famous | 5. to possess |
| 2. fascinating | 6. to spend |
| 3. more | 7. to indulge |
| 4. anywhere | 8. to top off |

5. Group work: Read the article and underline the words, phrases or sentences which answer the following questions. Complete the chart below:

Which is the "heart" of Britain?	
Where can be seen the remnants of its fascinating past?	
What does London represent?	

Which are some of the most famous theatres in London?	
Which are the “big-hitters” in London?	
How can they be admired?	
Where can you discover the top shopping destinations?	
Which are London’s most famous malls?	
London is also famous for its parks and gardens. Which ones are mentioned in the article?	
How can tourists top off a perfect day in London?	

6. Look at the following phrases and explain what they mean using your own words.

1. “...London is the cultural, political and economic heart of Britain...”
2. “...remnants of this fascinating past can still be found across the capital...”
3. “...A captivating mix of old and new, London is...”
4. “...take a paddle on the Hyde Park boating lake...”
5. “...Along the way indulge your taste buds with delicious food at one of pop-up eateries...”
6. “...Top off your perfect day with a fancy cocktail...”
7. “...locally brewed beer...”
8. “...and maybe a boogie at one of the capital’s buzzing nightspots...”

7. Group work: Discuss the way you would like to spend a day or more in London. Try to convince your classmates to spend their summer holidays in this European capital.

8. The following is an article from “London Evening Standard” newspaper. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate prepositions.

“TK Maxx could open Piccadilly superstore”

On the top: Trocadero will be home to flats, a hotel and a rooftop bar as well as the new TK Maxx.

TK Maxx is set to open a superstore 1) _____ Piccadilly, five years after the Crown Estate blocked it 2) _____ the West End because it was “not posh enough”. The owner 3) _____ the Trocadero wants the discount designer store to occupy one of two huge new units 4) _____ the building, which it is making available for lease through Savills.

TK Maxx sells “last season’s styles” at discounts 5) _____ up to 60 per cent. If it does open on Piccadilly Circus, it will mark a major reversal of fortunes. But the Crown Estate, which manages a huge property portfolio 6) _____ behalf of the Queen, said the discount chain did not fit 7) _____ its policy of letting to “high class” retailers on its properties on Regent Street and St James’s.

This time, however, Criterion Capital owns the freehold, so it believes the Crown Estate can do nothing to block the move. One source said: “The gentrification 8) _____ Regent Street cannot go on in perpetuity through the entire West End. At some point it has to give way to something a bit more high street. “If you look 9) _____ Oxford Street

you have this huge great Primark just a few hundreds yards from Selfridge's so these things can live hand 10) _____ hand.”

Source: London Evening Standard, 10 March 2014

9. Use the verbs in brackets in the right tense.

For centuries, Britain's longest river 1) _____ (witness) the rise and decay of epochs, kings and queens. Joseph Conrad considered that "... it has known and served all the men of whom the nation is proud....”

As it 2) _____ (turn) and 3) _____ (twist) for 20 miles through the vastness of London, its waters lap against the buildings, docks and bridges that 4) _____ (tell) the capital's story.

While in old times the Romans 5) _____ (use) it for navigation and trade, building a fortress which they 6) _____ (name) Londinium, by AD 70, the Thames had its first London Bridge. In 1066, William the Conqueror established himself at Westminster, which 7) _____ (become) the seat of royal and state power, while downstream in the City, the merchants 8) _____ (hold) sway. In the following centuries, the Thames would witness the spectacular rise of both the Royal City of Westminster and the merchants' City of London, which combined to form the London we 9) _____ (know) today.

From earliest times, before any roads were built, the Thames 10) _____ (be) the main highway. For most Londoners, the fastest way to move across the city was to take a boat. As London 11) _____ (grow), the waters of the Thames became increasingly unhygienic and sluggish. In summer, the water 12) _____ (give off) such a terrible stench, that Parliament could barely sit. Due to more than 300 sewers emptying into the Thames, the drinking water was contaminated and between the 1840s and the 1860s there were regular epidemics. In 1848, a cholera epidemic claimed 13,000 lives.

After the Parliament 13) _____ (pass) a Bill for the Purification of the Thames in 1858, the river's revival 14) _____ (go on) and now Londoners 15) _____ (return) to living beside the Thames, whether in very old or very new buildings.

10. For questions 1 – 12, decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

“Westminster Abbey wins permission to add first new tower in 300 years”

Westminster Abbey has won planning 1) _____ to add its first new tower in almost 300 years, which will create 2) _____ access to a museum of treasures and curiosities housed in the triforium, the church's attic gallery.

At present, the public can get only a 3) _____ glimpse of the spectacular and shadowy space through the stone arches 70 ft up at the top of the walls above the high altar.

The 4) _____ will house a new staircase and a lift to take visitors to the museum, and will give 5) _____ views of the Palace of Westminster across the road. The dean, Dr John Hall, described the news as the most exciting development in the building for over 250 years. “We are 6) _____ that our proposals for the new tower and for opening the eastern triforium to the public have the support of Westminster city council, reflecting that of our local community and of other bodies concerned for the 7) _____ of the local and national heritage.

The new space will be 8) _____ the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries and should be complete by 2018. The triforium already houses a charming but eccentric museum,