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Options

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BASIC and ENRICHED

Reading texts

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A trip to Cambridge



Hi Sergio,

How are you? My family and I are planning a holiday in England. We are flying to London tomorrow and then taking the train to Cambridge! We plan to be in Cambridge at 8 p.m. Our hotel is near the station.

The next morning, we're going on a boat trip on the river. Do you know those special boats we see in films set in Oxford or Cambridge? They are called 'punts'. After that, we're having a pizza in a restaurant near the market. It's got good online **reviews**. I want to buy T-shirts at the market.

We're visiting some colleges of Cambridge University. The websites say students guide tourists around. Our plan is to see the beautiful university buildings. We also want to hear about famous people who studied at Cambridge, like Charles Darwin. I really want to visit the university library. It's 600 years old! There are ten million (10,000,000!) books, maps and old photos in the library for students to borrow. Amazing!

My guidebook says there are other places to visit in Cambridge, too. There's the university bookshop, a big shopping centre and three museums. Everything looks really nice, but I'm not sure if we can see everything. We're staying for three days only.

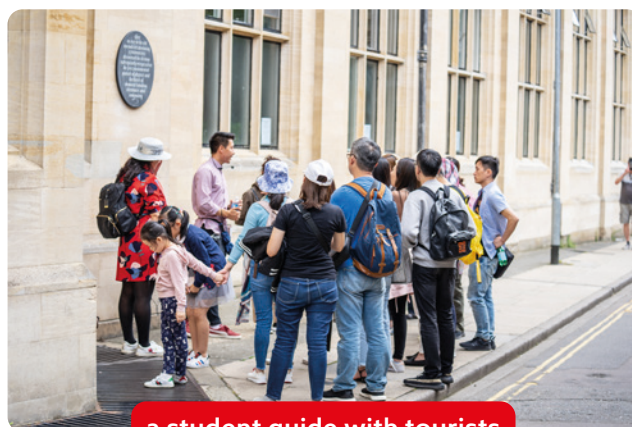
Bye,
Rita

GLOSSARY

reviews recensioni



a punt boat near Cambridge University



a student guide with tourists

A trip to Cambridge



018 E

Hi Sergio,

How are you? Are you flying to Spain tomorrow? I think you and your family are visiting your grandparents. I hope you have a great time!

My family and I are planning a holiday in England. We are flying to London tomorrow, and then we're going to Cambridge by train! We plan to be in Cambridge at 8 p.m., and our hotel is near the station.

The next morning, we're going on a boat trip on the river. Do you know those special boats on rivers we always see in films set in Oxford or Cambridge? Well, they're called 'punts'. We're really excited to try it! After that, we're having a pizza in a small restaurant near the market – it's got really good online **reviews**. I want to go to the market and buy T-shirts and look around.

We're also visiting some colleges of Cambridge University. The websites say you can find students who guide tourists around. Our plan is to see as many of the beautiful university buildings as we can and hear about the different famous people who studied at Cambridge, like Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton. I'm **definitely** visiting the Cambridge University library – it's 600 years old! There are ten million (10,000,000!) books, maps, old photos and other things in the library. And amazingly, all of it is there for students to use for their studies. They're having a festival with lots of famous authors next week, but we're leaving the day before it starts. I'm so sad to miss it because I love reading, and some of my favourite authors are going there.

My guidebook says there are other places to visit in Cambridge, too – the university bookshop, a huge shopping centre and three excellent museums. Everything looks really nice, but I don't know if we can **manage to** see everything, because we're staying for three days only.

Bye for now,

Rita

GLOSSARY

reviews	<i>recensioni</i>
definitely	<i>sicuramente, di sicuro</i>
manage to	<i>riuscire a</i>

London in numbers



London is a world-famous capital city. It's very big. It has a population of around 9 million people. So, getting around London can be tiring! If you're a tourist, walking is often the best way to see the famous sights in the city centre.

People who live and work there often need to travel quickly from one **side** of the city to the other. They know a lot about London transport. What advice can they give us? A quick and easy way to get around the city is by public transport.

The underground train network, known as the Tube, is very popular. Every year, more than a billion passengers travel through the 272 underground stations on the Tube. The Tube is also famous because **strangers** don't talk to each other. People in London are **reserved**.

Above ground, there are about 9,000 buses and 15,000 taxis. And if you are arriving from **abroad**, there are six international airports: Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, London City Airport, Luton and Southend. People use these airports to leave the city, too!

But with around 200 museums, nearly 300 theatres, restaurants, pubs and many other attractions in the city, people are usually happy to spend a long time there.

GLOSSARY

side	parte	above ground	in
strangers	sconosciuti	superficie	
reserved	riservati	abroad	estero



London in numbers



UNDERGROUND

London is a world-famous and very busy capital city. It's also very big, with a population of around 9 million people, so getting around London can be tiring! If you're visiting London as a tourist, then walking is often the best way to see the main sights in the city centre.

But what about the people who live and work in London? They often need to get from one **side** of the city to the other as quickly as possible, so they are experts on London transport. What advice can they give us? A quick and easy way to get around the city is by public transport. The underground train network, which is commonly known as the Tube, is very popular with residents and tourists. However, it is expensive compared to other public transport systems around the world. Every year, more than 1.3 billion passengers travel through the 272 underground stations on the Tube to reach their destinations. The Tube is also famous for the fact that **strangers** don't talk to each other when travelling on it because Londoners are known for being **reserved**.

Above ground, there are a few different public transport options. There are about 9,000 buses and 15,000 taxis which take people around the city, as well as public bikes available for hire all around the city. And, if you are arriving from **abroad**, there are six international airports to choose from: Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, London City Airport, Luton and Southend. Of course, people use these airports to leave the city, too! But with around 200 museums, nearly 300 theatres, restaurants, pubs and so many other attractions in the city, people are usually more than happy to spend a long time there.

GLOSSARY

side	parte	reserved	riservati
strangers	sconosciuti	abroad	estero



Embarrassing stories



My last birthday party

1 Last Saturday was my 13th birthday. My party was in the evening. Mum, Dad and I made the food in the morning. ⁽¹⁾ **d** Then we put all the food, including my birthday cake, on the table.

2 The party started at half past six, but where were all my friends? They all got their invitations. They all said yes. I opened the party invitation. ⁽²⁾ ☐

Oh, no!

3 At half past seven, my friends arrived. Liam arrived first.

Sorry. I forgot your birthday present ... it's at home.

4 Isabel arrived next.

I made cakes for you, ⁽³⁾ ☐

That's kind, but please don't worry.

5 Freddie, Jack and Scarlet arrived, too. Freddie took a bottle of fizzy drink. He shook it, and then he opened it. The drink went everywhere. Scarlet fell on the table ... and my birthday cake went flying. What a mess! ⁽⁴⁾ ☐

6 Don't laugh!

Some of my friends laughed. But Isabel had cake in her hair ... ⁽⁵⁾ ☐

7 I told Mum and Dad.

Let's try again next Saturday.

Thanks, Dad. But I think that's my last birthday party!

GLOSSARY

fizzy drink	<i>bibita gassata</i>
he shook it	<i>l'ha agitata</i>

Embarrassing stories



048 E

My last birthday party



I turned 13 last Saturday and my party was in the evening. I felt excited about it all week, then finally Saturday arrived! Mum, Dad and I prepared the food in the morning. ⁽¹⁾ **d** Then we put all the food, including my birthday cake, on the table. It all looked amazing, and I **was** really **looking forward to** my party.

The party started at half past six, but it got to half past six, and nobody was there. Where were all my friends? They all got their invitations and they all accepted. I opened the party invitation on my computer to check it. ⁽²⁾ ☐ Oh, no! How stupid of me!

So, I sat down and waited for an hour, then at half past seven, my friends finally arrived. The first thing Liam said was, "Sorry. I forgot your birthday present ... I left it at home. You can have it on Monday at school." And Isabel said, "I made some delicious cakes for you, ⁽³⁾ ☐ I smiled and said, "That's kind, but please don't worry about it. We have lots of cake!"

Suddenly, I saw Freddie with a massive bottle of **fizzy drink**. He **shook it** and then he opened it. Of course, the drink went everywhere. My friends **leapt** back, Scarlet fell on the table ... and then my birthday cake went flying ... what a huge mess!

⁽⁴⁾ ☐ Some of my friends found it **hilarious**, but Isabel had cake stuck in her hair. "Don't laugh!" she said, ⁽⁵⁾ ☐

I went to tell Mum and Dad upstairs. "What do we do now?", I asked.

Dad suggested, "Let's try again next Saturday, OK?" "Thanks, Dad," I replied, "but after this disaster, I think that might be my last birthday party!"

GLOSSARY

I turned 13 *ho compiuto 13 anni*
 was (...) looking forward to *(...) non vedevo l'ora di*
 fizzy drink *bibita gassata*
 he shook it *l'ha agitato*
 leapt *balzato*
 hilarious *esilarante*

Places and spaces

15

LIFE
ON LAND

Going green in the city

Everyone agrees that cities need green spaces. Most cities have trees at the side of their streets, and a few parks. But how can we add more green spaces to our cities?

Here are some cities that have some great ideas.

1 The High Line

NEW YORK, USA

The High Line is a green space in New York. Until 1980, it was a **railway**! When the railway closed, local residents wanted to create a beautiful space in the city. In 2009, they made it into a park with trees and flowers. It's high up. When you walk along it, you can get a great view of the city. There are also **outdoor art exhibitions** there.



2 The Oasis of Aboukir

PARIS, FRANCE

The Oasis of Aboukir is a 'green wall' on the side of a big **building** in Paris. The designer, Patrick Blanc, created it in 2013. He **planted** 7,600 plants. Green walls like this just need water. They clean the air. They also help to keep the building cool in the summer and warm in the winter.



3 The Orchard Project

DIFFERENT CITIES, UK

The Orchard Project helps local communities to plant fruit trees in cities. It can use any green space – sometimes very small ones. The project has 540 community orchards in different cities, including London, Manchester and Edinburgh. It teaches people how to plant trees and look after them. Local people can then collect and eat the fruit. So, they're making the city green and also growing healthy food.



GLOSSARY

railway *ferrovia, binari*
outdoor *all'aperto*
exhibitions *mostre*

building *edificio*
planted *ha piantato*
orchard *frutteto*

Places and spaces



Going green in the city

Everyone agrees that cities need green spaces, and most cities have streets with trees at the side and a few parks. But what can we do to add more green spaces, trees and gardens to our cities? We can't take people's homes away! We need to think of some clever solutions to the problem. Here are some cities that have already got some great ideas.



GLOSSARY

railway	<i>ferrovia,</i>	exhibitions	<i>mostre</i>
	<i>binari</i>	planted	<i>ha piantato</i>
outdoor	<i>all'aperto</i>	building	<i>edificio</i>



A

1 The High Line

NEW YORK, USA The High Line is a very unusual green space in New York. Until 1980, it was a **railway**! When the railway closed, the line was going to be demolished. But local residents stopped this from happening because they wanted to create a beautiful space in the city. It took many years to complete, but finally, in 2009, they made it into a park with trees and flowers. It's high up, so when you walk along it, you can get a great view of the city. There are also regular **outdoor** art **exhibitions** there. The High Line also becomes an open-air theatre with music, plays and dance shows that take place throughout the year.

2 The Oasis of Aboukir

PARIS, FRANCE The Oasis of Aboukir is a stunning 25-metre high 'green wall', or a 'vertical garden'. The designer, Patrick Blanc, created it in 2013, when he **planted** 7,600 plants from 237 different species on the side of a large **building** in Paris. The result is a real work of art. Green walls like this just need water. They are very good for the environment, as they purify the air and help keep the surrounding area cool in the summer. And during the winter months, a green wall on a building can help keep the building and the people inside it warm.

3 The Orchard Project

DIFFERENT CITIES, UK The Orchard Project is a charity in the UK. It helps local communities to plant orchards, or areas of fruit trees, in green spaces in cities. The project has 540 community orchards in different cities, including London, Manchester and Edinburgh. It can use any green space – sometimes very small ones. It teaches people how to plant trees and look after them. Local people can then collect and eat the fruit that grows on the trees, so they're making the city green and also growing healthy food. People can also use the orchards for community events, like 'apple days', when they collect apples and make apple juice together.



B



C