

## World 12: Big Ben (United Kingdom)



*Credit: Iakov Kalinin @ shutterstock*

### Exercise 1 | Vocabulary and Expressions (Vocabulary and Expressions)

**Directions:** Listen and repeat.

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Vocabulary and Expressions	Example
<b>exact</b> (exact)	Please come here at <b>exactly</b> ten o'clock. We can't be late.
<b>misconception</b> (misconception)	It is a common <b>misconception</b> that cats are evil.
<b>the most likely</b> (the most likely)	<b>The most likely</b> outcome of this match is that we will lose.
<b>overseeing</b> (overseeing)	Can I put you in charge of <b>overseeing</b> the construction site?
<b>in the heart of</b> (in the heart of)	We are in the capital, <b>in the heart of</b> the country.
<b>eventually</b> (eventually)	I will graduate <b>eventually</b> . Until then, I want to have fun.
<b>refurbish</b> (refurbish)	We took it on ourselves to <b>refurbish</b> the car and we did a great job.
<b>arduous</b> (arduous)	Chores are so <b>arduous</b> , I really don't feel like doing anything today.
<b>occasion</b> (occasion)	This is the perfect <b>occasion</b> to tell you exactly what I think of you.
<b>unique</b> (unique)	She is such a <b>unique</b> person, I have never met anyone like her.

## Exercise 2 | Dialogue (Dialogue)

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**Directions:** Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

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*Caren has just come to London as a foreign exchange student.  
She is walking down the streets of the city with her host-mother.*

**Caren** : Oh my, I forgot my cell phone at the house. Can you please tell me what time it is, Mrs. Hill?

**Mrs. Hill** : I'm really sorry child, I don't carry my cellphone with me. But we have good old Ben here in London to tell us the **exact** time.

**Caren** : *(a bit baffled)* Ben? Oh, you mean Big Ben, the clock?

**Mrs. Hill** : No, no, no! Big Ben is not the name of the clock, it is the name of the bell. But don't worry, it is a common **misconception**.

**Caren** : Why is the bell called Big Ben, Mrs. Hill?

**Mrs. Hill** : That information is not known for sure, but **the most likely** explanation is that it got the name after Sir Benjamin Hall, the man who was **overseeing** its installation and construction of the new Palace of Westminster.

**Caren** : The new Palace of Westminster? I thought the Palace was there for centuries. Oh my, I came to United Kingdom not knowing anything.

**Mrs. Hill** : *(smiling)* Don't worry, Caren, you'll learn, now that you are **in the heart of** it. Anyway, the Palace burned down in a huge fire in 1834. The story was that there were so many people watching, that the firefighters couldn't get through easily. When they got there **eventually**, there was nothing much left to save.

**Caren** : What happened with the bell?

**Mrs. Hill** : Big Ben was created later. When the Palace was being **refurbished**, they asked the architect to include the Clock Tower as well. It was a very **arduous** task since there were four clocks that needed to work at the same time, so the mechanism was very complicated. And there were problems with the bell as well.

**Caren** : Oh, oh, I know that the bell cracked two times and that the current Big Ben is cracked, right?

**Mrs. Hill** : That is correct, Caren. But you know, that crack makes Ben unique. Come on, let's grab a bite to eat, and I can tell you more about the rich history of London.

### Exercise 3 | Filling in the Blanks (Filling in the Blanks)

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**Directions:** Fill in the blanks below to complete the sentences.

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1. I really don't feel like going grocery shopping. It's so \_\_\_\_\_ and I'd rather sleep.
2. We messed up the bike really bad. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ it before dad comes back home.
3. I don't remember the \_\_\_\_\_ time he arrived, but he was here the whole night.
4. We were \_\_\_\_\_ the crystal cave and it was beautiful.
5. People who work a lot not being social is a \_\_\_\_\_, because I work and I am friendly.
6. Her getting angry because he cheated is \_\_\_\_\_ situation after all.
7. She makes only \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of jewelry. There are no two alike.
8. Flowing on the Danube River on a boat will be the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ to ask her to marry me.

<b>misconception</b>	<b>exact</b>	<b>in the heart of</b>	<b>refurbish</b>
<b>arduous</b>	<b>occasion</b>	<b>unique</b>	<b>the most likely</b>

## Exercise 4 | Conversation Questions (Conversation Questions)

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**Directions:** Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions.

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1. Have you ever visited London and if not would you like to? Why, why not?
2. What are, next to Big Ben, the most famous things related to United Kingdom?
3. Do you know some stereotypes related to British people?
4. Do you have any similar clock tower in your country and if you do, how important it is?
5. What is your opinion of the United Kingdom?