

Living in London

Live from London podcasts

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Level: Upper intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30-40 minutes approx
Language and skills: Listening for gist, listening for specific details, features of spoken English



Warm up and speaking

1. Distribute the worksheet and get students to do exercise 1 in pairs. Check answers.

Optional extension:
You will notice that the countries are listed in alphabetical order from A to L. You could challenge students to make a similar quiz for the other half of the alphabet (M to Z).

Answers:

Country	Capital
Afghanistan	Kabul
Belgium	Brussels
Canada	Ottawa
Denmark	Copenhagen
Ecuador	Quito
Finland	Helsinki
Greece	Athens
Hungary	Budapest
Indonesia	Jakarta
Japan	Tokyo
Kenya	Nairobi
Lebanon	Beirut

2. Tell students to work in pairs and make a list. They should write this down.

Listening

3. Play the listening all the way through once and ask students to check against the lists they made. Ask students to tell you some of the things that the people were talking about on the listening. What else did they have on their own lists?

4. Play the listening again, pausing after each speaker. Check answers.

- Answers:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Speaker 1: <i>concerts</i> | Speaker 2: <i>pollution</i> |
| Speaker 3: <i>pubs</i> | Speaker 4: <i>transport</i> |
| Speaker 5: <i>the airport</i> | Speaker 6: <i>crime</i> |
| Speaker 7: <i>the airport</i> | Speaker 8: <i>pubs</i> |

5. Distribute copies of the transcript. Explain that spoken English follows its own rules, different from written English. Tell the students that some of the features of spoken English are listed on the worksheet. Ask them to find the examples in the text.

Answers: (the following are sample answers, there may be other possibilities in the text).

- a) Speaker 5: *And the museums and galleries are really good and there are always new exhibitions that are changing so there's never any excuse to be bored in London but it's so big that it takes ages to get home and it'd be really nice not to have to get the tube all the time.*
- b) Speaker 2: *I get pretty tired sort of rushing around.*
- c) Speaker 2: *... really like going to concerts and stuff.*
- d) Speaker 2: *It takes, takes too long.*
- e) Speaker 6: *... so much to do and there are so many diverse activities to get involved in.*
- f) Speaker 4: *I like living in London because there's... err... plenty of history.*



Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to Onestopenglish's Live from London podcast. In Live from London we go to different parts of London to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today, Live from London reports from Kings Cross, in north London. We asked people the question: 'How do you feel about living in London?'

Speaker 1 (female, UK)

I like living in London because there's so much to do, you're never bored, there's always a variety of pubs and clubs and restaurants... um... and there's always good shops.

Speaker 2 (male, UK)

Yeah, well, err I've only moved to London quite recently in the last sort of few months but I'm really enjoying it. There's loads to do – really like going to concerts and stuff. I get pretty tired sort of rushing around going to see people and stuff so that's, that's a disadvantage like getting around in a big city. It takes, takes too long.

Speaker 3 (female, South Africa)

Hi there. I'm from South Africa and I feel really safe living in London. Umm... all the different multicultures, I think it's really great how everyone can get along and anything you can think of is available.

Speaker 4 (male, South Africa)

I like living in London because there's... err... plenty of history, I like the architecture. I like... umm... the cosmopolitan feel, plenty of museums... umm... art galleries, lots of theatre.

Speaker 5 (female, UK)

Um... the best thing about living in London is that it's so big there are always new areas to discover and... um... there are lots of... err... bars and shops opening all the time and... um... different places to go and see. And the museums and galleries are really good and there are always new exhibitions that are changing so there's never any excuse to be bored in London but ... erm... it's so big that it takes ages to get home and it'd be really nice not to have to get the tube all the time.

Speaker 6 (female, UK)

I love the fact that there's so much to do and there are so many diverse activities to get involved in.

Speaker 7 (male, UK)

I like... err... the theatres, the galleries, the restaurants... umm... the different cultures that all merge within London. Umm... I'm not too keen on the fact that London's polluted and at rush hour's the transport system is very overcrowded. However at the weekends it's a lot quieter.

Speaker 8 (female, US)

One of the things I love about London is how cosmopolitan it is. There are people from all over the world and almost every country around. And one of the things I don't like is the weather.



Speaking



1. How good is your geography? Complete the table with countries or capital cities.

Country	Capital
	Kabul
Belgium	
	Ottawa
Denmark	
	Quito
Finland	
	Athens
Hungary	
	Jakarta
Japan	
	Nairobi
Lebanon	

2. What are some advantages and disadvantages of living in a capital city? Work with a partner and make a list in the space below.

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Listening

3. Listen to people talk about what it's like to live in London. Do they mention any of the things on your list from exercise 2?

4. Listen again. Which topic does the speaker not mention?

Speaker 1: *variety / places to eat and drink / concerts*

Speaker 2: *pollution / concerts / transport*

Speaker 3: *safety / different cultures / pubs*

Speaker 4: *architecture / transport / theatre*

Speaker 5: *new shops / the airport / the tube*

Speaker 6: *lots to do / crime / diverse activities*

Speaker 7: *galleries / pollution / the airport*

Speaker 8: *cosmopolitan city / pubs / weather*



Focus on spoken English

5. Read the transcript for the listening. Find examples of the following features of authentic spoken English.

a) Several clauses strung together with words like *and, but, so*.

b) Vague language (*sort of, kind of, stuff...*)

c) Ellipsis, or 'missing words' (e.g. *a clause without a subject*)

d) Repetition of a word or phrase

e) Repetition of an idea, but using different words.

f) A pause filled with a word like *erm, umm*