Sightseeing in London

- Excuse me, where’s Big Ben, please?
- It’s at the end of this road, dear.
  Down there. After the traffic lights.
  You can’t miss it.
- Thank you.

- Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to London Zoo, please?
- Yes, take a number 274 bus from the stop over there.
- Thank you very much.

- Excuse me, how do I get to Madame Tussaud’s, please?
- Go by the Underground.
  Get off at Baker Street.
- Oh, thank you.
London Landmarks

Piccadilly Circus

- What’s that statue over there? It looks like an angel.
- It’s Eros, the god of love. That’s where people say they’ll meet in London.
- Where are all the people going?
- To the theatre, perhaps. Or to a restaurant or a club in Soho, over there. This is the West End, the heart of London, where the action is!
- Look, there’s a double-decker sightseeing bus over there. Can’t we see London on that?
- Well, that’s the lazy way. But OK. Let’s sit on the top deck in the sun and see all the sights.
Trafalgar Square

- Who's that man up there?
- It's Lord Nelson. He was an admiral and he won the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.
- Look at all the pigeons!
- Yes. There's one landing on your head right now. You can buy some food to feed it if you like.
- No thanks! Let's go and have a look at those big lions over there. Perhaps we can sit on one – and look at the fountains.
You get the best view of the Houses of Parliament from the south bank of the river Thames.

The bridge over the Thames here is Westminster Bridge. The famous clock tower is called Big Ben, but that is really the name of the bell inside the tower.

On November 5, 1605 a man called Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament, but the King’s soldiers stopped him just in time.
The London Eye

Right in the centre of London there is a big wheel, the London Eye. Paris has the Eiffel Tower and New York has the Empire State Building. And now London has the Eye on the south bank of the river Thames.

It’s the biggest big wheel in the world and it’s a great tourist attraction. It stands 135 metres high. You have the best view of London from the top of the wheel. A ride takes about 30 minutes. The wheel doesn’t stop to take on passengers. It moves so slowly that people can get on and off at ground level.
St Paul’s Cathedral

St Paul’s Cathedral was built around 1700. It is one of the most famous churches in the world. It has an enormous dome. Only St Peter’s in Rome is bigger.

During the Second World War most buildings around St Paul’s were bombed to the ground – but not St Paul’s. That was a miracle!

If you are feeling strong, climb the 259 steps to the Whispering Gallery in the dome. There you can hear a whisper very clearly 30 metres away.
The Tower of London

The Tower of London has been a fortress, a palace and a prison. Now it is a museum. The oldest part is in the middle, the White Tower. It was built about 900 years ago by William the Conqueror.

Most visitors wait in line for hours to see the Crown Jewels. They are priceless, so they are guarded by “Beefeaters” in their special uniforms. The Beefeaters are also guides. They tell you bloody stories about the history of the Tower. Two young princes were murdered here – “just where you are standing!”