

## PRE-READING

**Task 1. Match the English words and expressions with their Russian equivalents.**

1. Best-known	a) автобусный билет
2. Double-decker	b) оснащать
3. To be recognised	c) пассажир
4. To advertise	d) соответствовать цели
5. Bus pass	e) хорошо известный
6. Vehicle	f) садиться/сходить (о транспорте)
7. Equippe	g) маршрут
8. Route	h) подразумеваться (чем-либо)
9. Via (lat.)	i) достопримечательности
10. Passenger	j) двухэтажный
11. To be designed	к) рекламировать
12. To climb on/off	l) быть созданным
13. To serve the purpose	m) грузовик
14.Sights	n) через

**Task 2. Fill in the prepositions. All the prepositions have been removed from this extract from the text. Put them all back into the text.**

*over; at; of; inside; on; onto; for; on; in front; over*

Since 1911 the big red motor bus has been London's "king \_\_\_ the road". The idea of the double-decker is much older than the motor bus. Until the 1930s the double-decker bus has no roof. Some passengers sat \_\_\_\_\_, and the rest travelled \_\_\_ the roof. It was too bad if it was raining! The earliest double-deckers omnibuses in London were horse-drawn vehicles. Like some of today's double-deckers, they had steps \_\_\_\_\_ the back, to let people climb up \_\_\_\_\_ the roof. The main difference was that in those days, there was no protection \_\_\_\_\_ the people travelling \_\_\_\_\_ top. If it rained, they could pull a sort of oil-cloth cover out of the back of the seat \_\_\_\_\_ of them, and pull it \_\_\_\_\_ them; but you still got pretty wet. But then all new buses became equipped with roof \_\_\_\_\_ the upper deck.

## WHILE-READING

### **Big Red London Buses**

*They have changed over the years. They're not the same today as they were thirty years ago. Bot big red double-decker buses are icons of London, and they are found all over the world.*

What is the best-known symbol of London? Big Ben? St Paul's Cathedral? Can it be the big red London double-decker buses?

It certainly can be. Big red buses are recognised all over the world as symbols of London. Visitors climb into London buses to go and see the Niagara Falls. London buses can be seen driving round Europe to advertise big department stores, or British events. They don't need to have the words "London Transport" on the side of them. They are instantly recognised by millions of people!

Every day, thousands of Londoners use the big red buses to move around the town. Every tourist knows that a one-day London bus pass can be used on all sights of Britain's capital city.

It was over 100 years ago, on October 25th 1911, that the London General Omnibus Company ran their last horse-drawn omnibus through the streets of the capital. Since 1911 the big red motor bus has been London's "king of the road". The idea of the double-decker is much older than the motor bus. Until the 1930s the double-decker bus has no roof. Some passengers sat inside, and the rest travelled on the roof. It was too bad if it was raining! The earliest double-deckers omnibuses in London were horse-drawn vehicles. Like some of today's double-deckers, they had steps at the back, to let people climb up onto the roof. The main difference was that in those days, there was no protection for the people travelling on top. If it rained, they could pull a sort of oil-cloth cover out of the back of the seat in front of them, and pull it over them; but you still got pretty wet. But then all new buses became equipped with roof over the upper deck.

Today the only open-topped buses are the special tourist buses.

The most famous London buses, however, are not those that filled the Capital's streets in the 1930's, but The most popular buses are those from the "Routemasters" which date from the 1950s and 60s. These are the buses that have been taken all over the world, the buses that feature in the tourist brochures, and the ones which have been sold, in miniature, to millions of visitors and souvenir hunters. Still, it's not too late to enjoy travelling on one of these historic buses. Some of the old buses have been preserved, and were used for a while on two "heritage routes" through the centre of London, specially for tourists. Route 9 went from the Royal Albert Hall to Aldwych, via Piccadilly circus and Trafalgar Square; but the last Routmasters were used on this route in 2014. As of 2020, the only route left is Route 15, which goes from Trafalgar Square to the Tower of London, via St. Paul's Cathedral. But other old Routmasters are used by the tourist bus companies, which offer trips round the centre of London.

It is popular because it has an open platform at the back end and passengers can climb on and off when they want, even if the bus is moving (though this is not

recommended!). These buses were designed specially for London, by people who knew what London needed. They have served their purpose well!

**Task 4. Read the text and prove whether the given statements are true.**

1. There are buses that go from London to Niagara Falls.
2. People recognise London buses because they have the words “London Transport” on them.
3. Motor buses operated in London before October 1911.
4. A daily bus-pass does not allow people to use special tourist buses.
5. Double-decker trams had roofs over the top deck.
6. “Routemaster” buses have no doors at the back end.
7. London Transport are now building new Routemaster buses, in spite of European Union rules.

**Task 5. Answer the questions according to the text. Your answer should be as full as possible.**

1. What is recognized as one of the most famous symbols of London?
2. How do Londoners use the big red buses?
3. What is the way to see the London’s sights?
4. Can you describe the big red bus?
5. What sights do tourists visit using Route 15?
6. Do people in London use old Routemasters nowadays?

**Task 6. Retell the text. Use key-words for each parts of the text.**

<b>Intruduction</b>	<i>Cliche:</i> The article I’m going to retell is (en)titled ...; The article deals with the question of ... <i>Key-words:</i> best-known symbol; double-decker buses; all over the world.
<b>Body of the text</b>	<i>Cliche:</i> First of all, the author draws our attention to the fact that...; Secondly, ... <i>Key-words:</i> Since 1911; “king of the road”; inside; travelling on top; the special tourist buses; all sights of Britain’s capital city
<b>Conclusion</b>	<i>Cliche:</i> In conclusion I can say that the author is absolutely right saying that ... <i>Key-words:</i> were designed; serve their purpose
<b>Your personal attitude</b>	<i>Cliche:</i> I find this article ... <i>Key-words:</i> “+” interesting; informative; attention-catching; gripping “-” overlong; too wordy; boring; uninteresting

**Task 7. Using the previous task, describe the best-known symbol of London in 8-12 sentences.**