



London, the capital of England and the United Kingdom, is a 21st-century city with history stretching back to Roman times. At its centre stand the imposing Houses of Parliament, the iconic 'Big Ben' clock tower and Westminster Abbey, site of British monarch coronations. Across the Thames River, the London Eye observation wheel provides panoramic views of the South Bank cultural complex, and the entire city.

London is considered to be one of the world's most important global cities. It is one of the largest financial centres. It is the most-visited city as measured by international arrivals and has the busiest city airport system as measured by passenger traffic. It is the leading investment destination, hosting more international retailers and ultra high-net-worth individuals than any other city. London's universities form the largest concentration of higher education institutes in Europe. In 2012, London became the first city to have hosted three modern Summer Olympic Games.

London has a diverse range of people and cultures, and more than 300 languages are spoken in the region. Its estimated mid-2016 municipal population was 8,787,892, the most populous of any city in the European Union and accounting for 13.4% of the UK population. London was the world's most populous city from c. 1831 to 1925.

► Vocabulary

Adam and Eve (believe)

Would you Adam and Eve it?

knees up (good time)

We had a bit of a knees up last night.

butcher's (look)

Give us a butcher's.

quid (pounds)

Can you lend me ten quid 'til Friday?

dog and bone (phone)

He's on the dog and bone.

chuffed (very pleased)

We were chuffed when he got a place at college.

loaf (head)

Use your loaf!

Rosy Lee (tea)

Would you like some Rosy Lee?

► Example Sentences

Make your own sentences about yourself:

1. (History) isn't (my) cup of tea. - _____ isn't _____ cup of tea.
2. (I) haven't (played golf) in donkey's years. - _____ haven't _____ in donkey's years.
3. I was gobsmacked (when Brexit won the referendum). - I was gobsmacked when _____.