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EXERCISES

Listening Questions

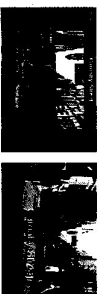
- Put the following London places into the order in which they appear in the article.
 - Hampstead Heath
 - Regent's Canal
 - The Museum of London
 - Green Park
 - St Paul's Cathedral
 - Hyde Park
 - The Thames River

- Choose the best option.
 - With a) I smart phone/ iPad you can download Streetmuseum.
 - The application actually takes photos/ shows a scene of a street.
 - The phone uses (street maps/ geospositioning) to figure out where you are. This way people can get around/learn about London easily.
 - The word 'actual' used in the text means (presently/real).
 - Anthony Robbins thinks it helps you see how (artistic/vibrant) London is.
 - You can find (graveyards/deer) in Richmond Park.
 - Robbins thinks it's vital we preserve London's (architecture/green spaces).

ANSWERS

- c, e, f, d, a, b, g
- a) smart phone, b) shows a scene, c) geospositioning, d) learn about, e) real, f) vibrant, g) deer, h) green spaces

MORE EXERCISES ON CD



GLOSSARY

- SWIM JUMP: trampolín para esqui
- MARSHY: pantanosos
- FARMLAND: tierras de labranza
- WATERWAY: canal
- OUTBREAK: estallido
- TO RESUSE: difrazar, camuflar
- PARCEL: parcela
- WATERLOO: acquerela
- ACTUAL: real
- TO EMBARK: abarzar
- SKYLINE: horizonte
- MANICURED LAWN: césped perfectamente cortado
- DECKCHAIR: tumbona
- FRINGE: margen
- GRAVEYARD: cementerio
- ANCESTOR: antepasado
- TO MAKE SURE: asegurarse
- TO ENCROACH UPON: invadir

sites, such as Temple Gardens and Buckingham Palace, as well as all the Royal Parks, have also been preserved, although they have been affected by the increases in both traffic and population.

WHITE CITY

The Streetmuseum app also reveals some unusual places that no longer exist. These include the ski jump¹ which was built on Hampstead Heath for the first and last London ski jumping competitions in 1950 and 1961. Then there was the 'Great Wheel' at Eads Court. An earlier version of today's London Eye, it was built in 1894 and demolished in 1907. Last but not least, there was 'White City', a massive exhibition complex, which was built on 56.5 hectares of marshy² farmland³ in West London. It consisted of 20 white palaces, 120 exhibition buildings,

waterways⁷, bridges and a sports complex that hosted the 1908 Olympic Games. 'White City' continued to host annual large exhibitions until the outbreak⁸ of the First World War in 1914. The site was then used for manufacturing aeroplanes and parachutes. It later fell into disuse: the last remaining structure, the stadium, was finally demolished in 1985. Today the site is occupied by a television centre: BBC White City.

THE EXHIBITION

Some of the app images will also be displayed in the London Street Photography Exhibition at the Museum of London (150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN). The exhibition runs until 4th September 2011 and is free. The photographers include St Paul's Cathedral, and the candid street photography using a camera disguised⁹ as a parcel¹⁰.

Past and Present

Rapid advances in Smartphone technology are also having an impact on the relatively conservative world of museums. The Museum of London, for example, has made many of its images available on an app, known as Streetmuseum. This enables users to access them as they walk around the English capital. In this way they can compare street scenes today with those of the past. Anthony Robbins, Head of Communications at the Museum of London, explains:

Anthony Robbins (Standard British accent): Streetmuseum, we like to call it the museum in your pocket. It's an iPhone app, so it's an application on your iPhone and Android telephones which unites 200 images from the Museum of London's collections – so these are watercolours¹¹, these are paintings, these are photos – 200 images with actual¹² locations across the capital, using the geotagging facility all of our telephones now enable us to use. So, in other words, you can go up to St Paul's Cathedral, and the geospositioning in the phone will

know where the phone is and will bring up a picture of, say, St Paul's Cathedral, 100 years ago, or 50 years ago. So you can see the site, as it is, as it stands before you this very day, and as it was in the past. And this is fascinating because it's the first time that we've been able to do this. And using technology in this way brings the Museum of London to Londoners and indeed to people across the world. People who, maybe, wouldn't have the time, or wouldn't be able to come to the Museum, so it's fantastic to get people to know more about us, more about our collections, but, most importantly, more about the wonderful and vibrant city that is modern London.

THE SHOCK OF THE NEW

And these images tell us a lot about the changing nature of London:

Anthony Robbins: Part of life in one of the greatest cities in the world, in London, is about embracing¹³ modernity, is about welcoming the new, about being prepared to be shocked by the new, whether that's a modernist mansion next to a Wren church, whether it's the changing skyline¹⁴ of the docklands. This is all part of a bold¹⁵ and confident future.

And, as Londoners, I think we should embrace that, but, at the same time, London, over the last 500 years or so, has done an absolutely fantastic job, preserving its green and, particularly, its wild spaces. Tourists will be very familiar with St James's Park, with Hyde Park, with the manicured lawns¹⁶ and deckchairs¹⁷ of Green Park, but there are some truly wild spaces right on the fringes¹⁸ of the city: Hampstead Heath, for example; Abney Park Cemetery in the heart of Stoke Newington, which has a ruined Gothic chapel right in the middle of a ruined graveyard¹⁹; Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park, home to deer²⁰; the Regent's Canal, which is home to all sorts of rare species and now has quite a fish population as well; the Thames, the River Thames, has been cleaned up and is getting cleaner and cleaner and has become cleaner over the last 100 years. So it's fantastic that we welcome modernity, it's fantastic that we move forward, that we embrace change, but I think the green spaces of the city are the lungs²¹ of the city and it's absolutely vital that we do as our ancestors²² did and continue to fight and fight passionately to preserve those green spaces, to make sure²³ the city doesn't encroach upon²⁴ those special places.