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London's West End

Teacher's notes

Summary

This DVD programme could be used as an extension to the reading text in Unit 3 of the Student's Book on page 30. Jeremy Sharples guides the students round a day's walking tour of part of central London. He starts in Leicester Square and goes on to Convent Garden market to do some shopping. He then watches the street entertainers in Covent Garden Square and visits some designer shops. After a Chinese meal in Chinatown he spends the evening in Soho, and finally returns to Leicester Square to go clubbing.

Language focus

Vocabulary: *busker, clogged with, glimpse, overwhelming, première, scores of, to spot, trendy*
Optional extension: zero conditionals

Background information

The West End is London's entertainment district containing Leicester Square's cinemas, Covent Garden and the Royal Opera House and Shaftesbury Avenue's theatres.

Soho is the area in central London which is famous for its bars, restaurants, cafés and clubs. Chinatown is the focal point of Britain's Chinese community.

Procedure

Before you watch

- 1 Tell the students that they are going to follow Jeremy Sharples guiding them through a walking tour of part of London's West End.

Put the students in pairs and ask them to discuss the things they like to do in a new city. Ask one or two pairs to report their discussion to the class.

- 2 Tell the students to complete the letter. Explain any new words the students ask about.

- 1 clogged with
- 2 overwhelming
- 3 scores of
- 4 trendy
- 5 spotted
- 6 busker
- 7 première

While you watch

- 3 Refer the students to the maps. Ask if any of the students recognise, or have visited, the area. Tell the students to write the name of the areas Jeremy visits on the map in the order he visits them. Play the DVD.
- 4 Tell the students to look at the pictures and put them in the correct area on the map. Do not play the programme or check answers at this stage.

- 1 Leicester Square – pictures d & h
- 2 Covent Garden – pictures b & g
- 3 Chinatown – pictures a & e
- 4 Soho (then Leicester Square) – pictures c & f

- 5 Ask the students to try to complete the sentences before they watch the programme again for detail, or ask them to read through the sentences first in preparation for watching. Then play the programme and ask them to check their answers or complete the sentences and to check their answers to Exercise 4.

- a) the heart of
- b) catch a glimpse
- c) place to go / overpriced, tacky
- d) craftsmen / you name it
- e) sprung up / people watch / buskers
- f) favourite spot / trendy
- g) scores of / around the clock
- h) clogged with
- i) overwhelming choice
- j) why not try out
- k) late night haunt
- l) Whatever your taste

Optional extension

Draw the students' attention to sentences c), i), j) and k). Ask them which structure is being used and why.

They are 'zero conditional' sentences (the simplest structure in 'real' conditionals) and are used because the conditions expressed are generally true.

After you watch

6 Ask the students to discuss the questions in pairs then get feedback from the class.

- a) When movie mania started in the 1930s the theatres were converted into cinemas.
- b) It was redeveloped as a craftmarket.
- c) January/February because it is Chinese New Year.
- d) You can get a decent coffee there and it's a place to be seen – you might see a celebrity.

7 Ask the students to think which attractions they would like to visit in London, then put the students in pairs again and ask them to discuss the questions. Get feedback from the class at the end of the discussion.

8 Revise things to include from the programme, in particular what happens at Chinese New Year, before asking the students to write a postcard to a friend.

Follow up

The students could be asked to create their own storyboard for a programme about their home town.

A storyboard is a visualisation of how a film will look. The students don't need to be able to draw particularly well to do this. Encourage the students to use some zero conditional structures and some of the phrases from the programme in their notes for the storyboard. If you have access to suitable equipment, and if it is feasible, you could ask the students to make the film of their storyboard.

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London's West End

DVD script (05:15)

Hi, and welcome to *Inside Out's* guide to central London. We're in Leicester Square, the heart of London's West End.

In the 19th and early 20th century Leicester Square was famous for its Turkish baths, oyster rooms and music halls. Then movie mania hit London in the 1930s and the grand old theatres were converted into huge cinemas, which still attract thousands of movie fans every day. If you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of the rich and famous as they attend film premieres at the Empire.

But if you want to go shopping, Leicester Square isn't the place to go. About the only shops you'll find around here are overpriced, tacky souvenir stalls. Your best bet for shopping is Covent Garden – a short walk away. There's been a marketplace here since the 14th century, then in the late 1970s the whole area underwent major redevelopment and nowadays, in place of the traditional fruit and vegetable stalls, you'll find craftsmen selling their handmade ceramics, jewellery, knitwear – you name it.

Around the market numerous bars, cafés and restaurants have sprung up over recent years. It's a great place to relax and people watch or be entertained by the street performers and buskers.

Covent Garden is also a favourite spot for the young and trendy Londoners who frequent the designer shops in the streets off the market.

A few minutes away from Covent Garden and immediately north of Leicester Square is

Chinatown with scores of Chinese restaurants and shops selling oriental produce, some around the clock. The best time to visit Chinatown is at the end of January, early February for the Chinese New Year. Then, the streets are clogged with people throwing firecrackers and watching the traditional lion dances. I'm going for some Chinese; fancy some?

By night Soho is the place to be. If you're looking for something to eat there's an almost overwhelming choice of international cuisines from Indian to Vietnamese, Greek to Japanese. There's also a huge number of pubs and bars to visit. If you want a traditional English pub, why not try out the Coach and Horses in Greek Street?

But one of my favourite places to visit is Bar Italia on Frith Street; a great late night haunt if you prefer not to visit the pub and fancy a decent coffee. There's been a bar here for over 60 years and it hasn't changed much since then. It's the perfect place to sit and be seen and many famous people have been spotted here, including Richard Gere, Johnny Depp and Kate Moss.

If you're not exhausted by now, you can finish the night off clubbing. Whatever your taste in music, you'll find it here. Some of the most famous clubs are the Sound, the Hippodrome, the Wag and the Limelight. I'm off to check out the Sound back in Leicester Square.