

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Attention!

Instruction for the teacher: have the students go through the statements before the first reading. Read the text twice.

Ban Buses From Oxford Street

It's London's most famous shopping street, but London mayor Ken Livingstone calls it 'horrendous' because it is too crowded to walk along. The traffic is often gridlocked with 40 % of the city's buses travelling down it.

The mayor plans to ban traffic from Oxford Street and offer a tram service instead, but the project will take up to seven years to complete. Shoppers got a taste of this paradise in December 2006 on West End VIP Day (VIP standing for Very Important Pedestrians) when all traffic was banned.

What is a day in the life of Oxford Street like?

More than 350 buses go up and down Oxford Street every hour.

About 30 thefts a day occur on Oxford Street. Table surfing is the latest pick pocketing craze, with thieves stealing mobile phones and wallets off café tables.

Over 55 million people get on or off a bus in Oxford Street in a year – that's equivalent to the entire population of the UK.