

2C anglais : dossier lectures

Bonjour à toutes et à tous.

Apprendre une langue étrangère, ce n'est pas uniquement étudier des règles grammaticales et des listes de vocabulaire. C'est également **découvrir une autre culture**, en apprendre plus sur les traditions et endroits incontournables d'un pays.

C'est pourquoi, je vous transmets ce dossier comportant **3 compréhensions à la lecture** issues d'un magazine pour adolescents intitulé « I love English ». Ces textes sont en rapport avec **le Royaume-Uni et les Etats-Unis**.

Lisez attentivement les consignes et aidez-vous du **vocabulaire traduit** pour comprendre les contenus des textes. Si toutefois vous rencontriez d'**autres nouveaux mots**, n'hésitez pas à **utiliser un (bon) dictionnaire** pour trouver la traduction de ces mots.

Les **réponses** dans les différents exercices doivent être **notées en FRANÇAIS** et être les plus **complètes et précises** possible.

Dans deux semaines environ, les **correctifs** de ces lectures seront **disponibles** sur le site internet de l'école.

Bon travail et bonnes découvertes.

Madame Deneumoustier



Text 1 : London taxis (pages 2-5)

Text 2 : Big Ben (pages 6-9)

Text 3 : Empire State Building (pages 10-13)

LOOK!

Take a Ride in

For a typical London experience, take a ride* on a big, black taxi or "cab".



You can now see advertisements* and film posters on some London taxis. Others are painted in different colours – just for fun.

Taxis

Today there are 19,300 London taxis. The first taxi appeared* in London in 1654. But they didn't have motors, of course!

Taxi drivers

There are 23,300 qualified taxi drivers in London, but only 300 are women.

Intelligence

Scientists are now saying that the part of the brain* responsible for orientation is bigger in London taxi drivers than* in other people.

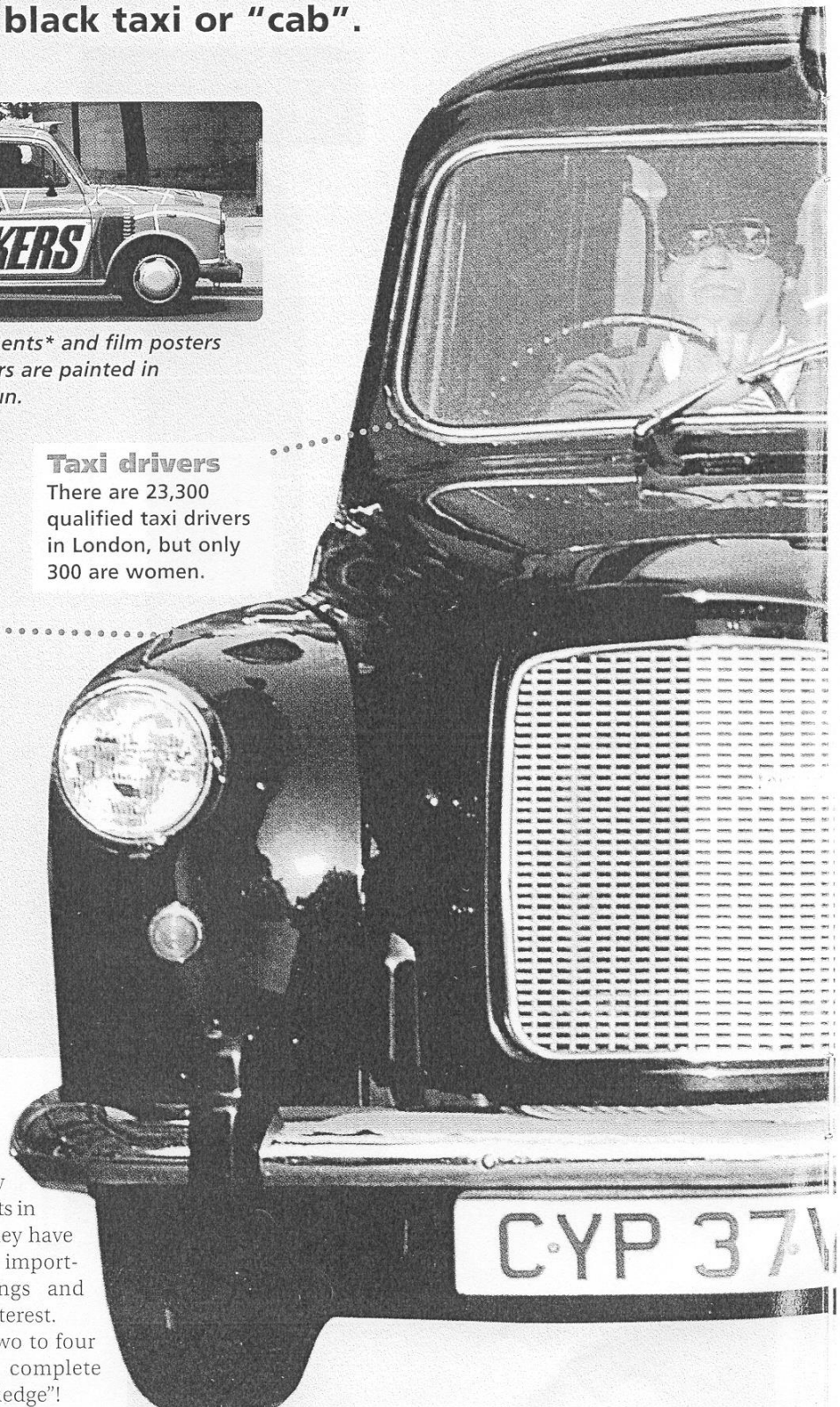
THE TAXI TEST

To be a London taxi driver, you must complete a test called "The Knowledge*".

Candidates must know London well. First they read a taxi guide called "The Blue Book". They must memorize 400 routes, or "runs", then do them

on a bike. They must also know 25,000 streets in London. They have to learn the important buildings and places of interest.

It takes two to four years to complete "The Knowledge"!



a London Taxi



Security
 There is a transparent security screen* between the driver and the passenger compartment. The driver can open the screen, or use the intercom* to speak to the passengers.

Passengers
 London taxis are very big. You can get five people plus their luggage* in a taxi – three on the seats at the back and two in the folding* seats opposite.

Doors
 Taxi doors are wide* and high. Why? Originally, it was so that women in big crinoline dresses and men in top* hats could get into the taxi more easily.

Wheels*
 London taxis are easy to drive because they are very easy to turn. They are so popular that Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Philip, had his own* green taxi.

HELP!

* Le sens des mots est donné d'après le contexte dans lequel ils se trouvent dans le texte.

advertisement:	folding: pliant	screen: vitre
publicité	intercom: interphone	than: que
appear: apparaître	knowledge:	top hat: chapeau
brain: cerveau	connaissances	haut-de-forme
ride (take a ...):	luggage: bagages	wheel: roue
faire un tour	own: propre	wide: large

Photo: DR

Reading comprehension : take a ride in a London taxi

From I love English, p.6-7, December 2000

Read carefully the text about the London taxis and **answer those questions**.
Write your answers in FRENCH. Be precise and complete.

*Un mot suivi de * signifie qu'il est traduit dans l'espace "Help !".*

1. **A quoi** correspondent ces nombres présents dans le document ?

19.300 =

25.000 =

400 =

300 =

1654 =

23.300 =

2. Que peut-on voir / observer sur les taxis londoniens ?

.....
.....

3. Selon l'article, qu'ont les chauffeurs de taxis en plus des autres personnes ?

.....
.....

4. Combien de personnes un taxi peut-il transporter au total ? Comment sont disposés les sièges ?

.....
.....

5. Quels adjectifs utilise-t-on pour décrire les portières ? Pourquoi sont-elles ainsi ?

.....
.....

6. Les passagers ont-ils l'occasion de parler au chauffeur ? Explique, sois précis(e).

.....
.....

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7. Pourquoi parle-t-on de la Reine Elizabeth dans le texte ? Explique.

.....

.....

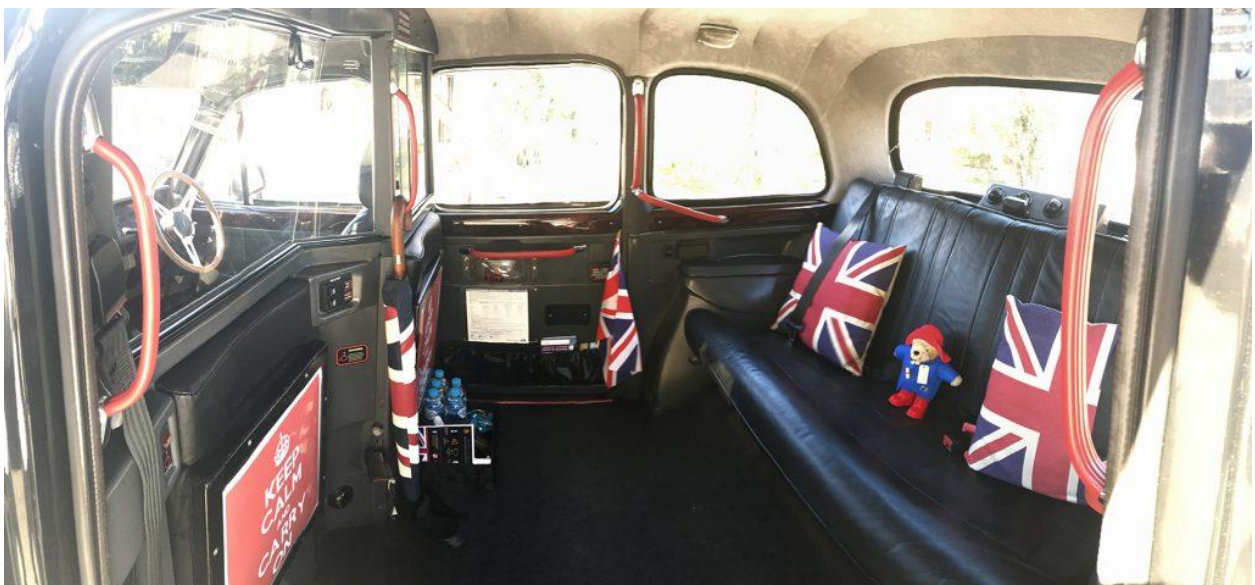
8. Qu'appelle-t-on le « Knowledge » ? Explique en détails.

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.....



Success Story

Text by
Ailsa Paterson

The story of Big Ben

▲ In 1834, a fire* destroyed* many parts of the Palace of Westminster (the Houses of Parliament).

▲ The design for a new building included a prominent clock tower. The clock was completed in 1854.

▲ The first Big Ben hour* bell cracked* in 1857.

▲ A second hour bell was made in 1858. It cracked too.

▲ The bell was repaired* in 1862. It is the same bell that you hear today.

I'm Big

I am a symbol of London, England and the British people. My name is Big Ben. Here is the story of my success!

Ask somebody to give you the name of a famous monument in London and they will probably say Big Ben. Most* people think Big Ben is the clock, the tower, the bell* and the chimes*. In fact, "Big Ben" is the name of the great hour* bell in the clock tower!

The nation's timekeeper*

Big Ben, the hour bell, is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, a very fat* man who was responsible for the reconstruction of the Houses of Parliament after it was destroyed* in a fire* in 1834.

The clock's success story began when it became London's official timekeeper* in 1859 – all English towns were obliged to conform with London time: Big Ben's time became Britain's time.

A symbol of peace

For the British, Big Ben is a success story because it played an important role during the two World* Wars. Big Ben's chimes announced the end of the First World War in 1918. Every year since* then, at 11am on 11 November, it signals the beginning of the two minutes' silence in memory of those who have died* for their country.

During the Second

World War, the chimes marked the start of the 9 o'clock news on BBC Radio. Most of Britain listened to it.

A symbol of victory

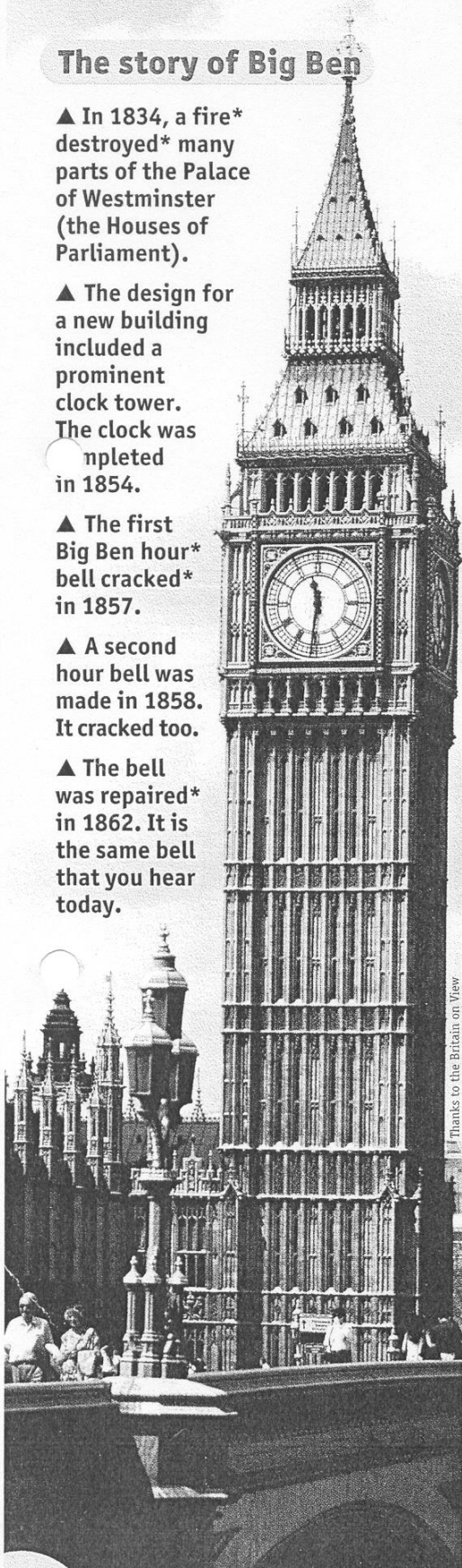
English speakers in occupied Europe and the rest of the world also heard* the chimes on the BBC World Service. The chimes represented Britain's determination and hope*. Often* you could hear the chimes with bombs and sirens in the background*.

In 1939 the lights* behind Big Ben's four clock faces were turned* off. At the end of the war, thousands of people came to Parliament Square to watch the lights go* on again. Big Ben's clock faces shone* out over London, a symbol of victory.

Celebrating the New Year

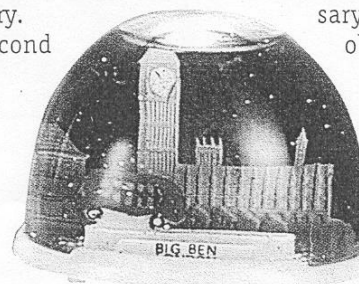
Today, Big Ben is not just a fascinating tourist attraction. You can still* hear the chimes on BBC Radio 4. Traditionally, the chimes ring* in the New Year, on radio and on TV.

Big Ben's greatest success was on 31 December 1999. For the first time, cameras were taken to the top of the tower so that people could see and hear the bells ringing in the new Millennium. In 2004 Big Ben's clock will celebrate its anniversary: it will be 150 years old. Ding dong! ■



Thanks to the Britain on View

The clock tower is 96 metres high*. There are 292 steps* to the Clock Room.



D.R.

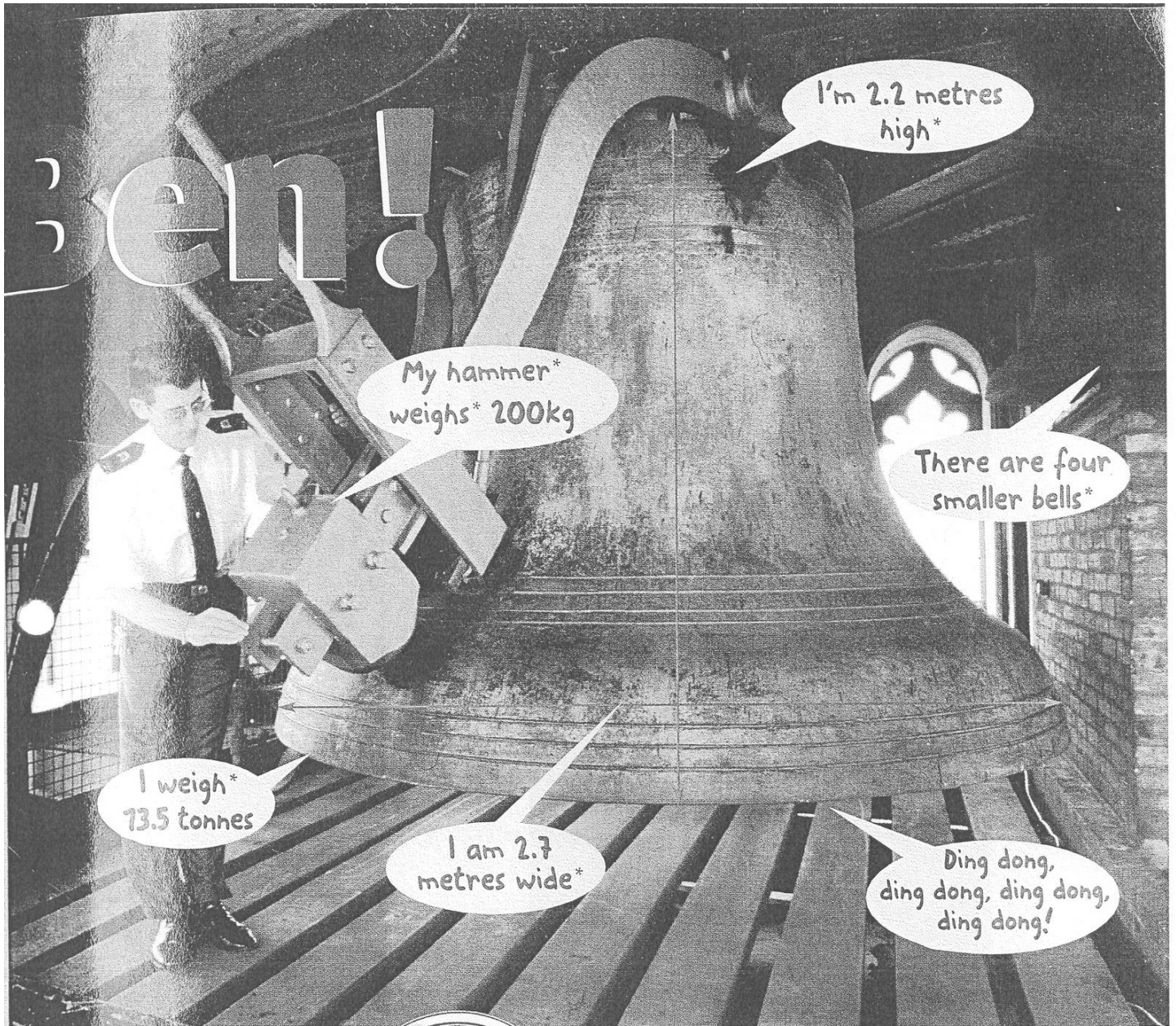


Photo: Jarrold Publishing

Souvenirs of the Big Ben clock tower are popular with tourists.



Help!

Le sens des mots est donné d'après le contexte dans lequel ils se trouvent dans le texte.

background: en bruit de fond	heard (pp) hear (inf): entendre	illuminer
bell: cloche	high: de haut	since (then): depuis
chime: sonnerie	hope: espoir	step: marche
crack: se fêler	hour bell: cloche	still: toujours
destroy: détruire	light: lumière	timekeeper: chronométrateur
died (pp)	most: la plupart de	turn off: éteindre
die (inf): mourir	often: souvent	repair: réparation
fat: gros	ring: sonner	weigh: peser
fire: incendie	shone out (p)	wide: de large
go on: s'allumer	shine out (inf):	World War: guerre mondiale
hammer: marteau		

Reading comprehension : I'm Big Ben !

From I love English, May 2003, p.16-17

Read carefully the text about the story of Big Ben and **solve** the following **exercises**. **Write your answers in FRENCH**. Be precise and complete.

*Un mot suivi de * signifie qu'il est traduit dans l'espace "Help !".*

1. Voici **une liste d'années** présentes dans le document. A quoi correspondent-elles ? **Que s'est-il passé** à ce moment-là ?

1834

1854

1857

1858

1859

1862

1918

1939

1999

2004

2. Que désigne **réellement** le nom Big Ben ?

.....

3. **Pourquoi** avoir choisi ce nom ?

.....

.....

4. Que se passe-t-il chaque **11 novembre** ?

.....

.....

5. À quoi servait Big Ben durant la **Seconde Guerre mondiale** ?

.....

.....

6. Pourquoi Big Ben représente-t-il un **symbole de victoire** ?

.....

.....

7. Observe la deuxième page du document et traduis les 5 infos concernant la cloche.

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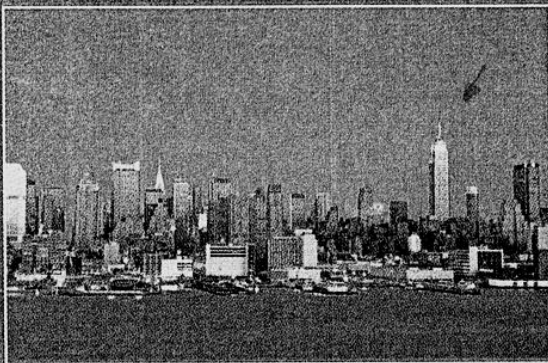
← Big Ben in the evening

↓ The river Thames, Big Ben and the Palace of Westminster (seen from London Eye)



The Empire State Building

When the Empire State Building was completed in 1931, it was the world's tallest building. Today, it is like* a small city, with restaurants, shops, banks and offices. The building is 70 years old this year!



Every year, 3.5 million people visit the Empire State Building to see the spectacular views of Manhattan.

The television antenna

The antenna is 62 metres high. It transmits programmes for six TV stations, 17 FM radio stations and a traffic information service.

The observatories

The building has two observatories. The first is on the 86th floor* (you have to climb 1575 steps* to get there). The second is on the 102nd floor (you climb 1860 steps to get there). You can visit them 365 days of the year to see the best views of the city.

A chemical reaction

If you kiss somebody on the 102nd floor* observatory, you will see sparks*! This is because of the static electricity at that height*!

Lights

The top 30 floors* are lit* at night. On holidays like* Christmas, coloured lights are used. The lights are turned* off on foggy* nights. Why? Because birds get confused* by the lights, and fly into the building!

Elevators*
The building has 73 elevators. The elevators go from the ground* floor to the 80th floor* in just 45 seconds!

The 13th floor*
Many Americans are superstitious. They don't want to live or work on the 13th floor. The Empire State Building goes from the 12th to the 14th floor. So the 14th floor is really the ... 13th floor!

Under ground
The building's foundations are 1.7km under ground*. The basement* has 80km of radiator pipes*, 179km of water pipes, 762km of electrical wire* and 170km of telephone cables.

A giant building
Four thousand people worked seven days a* week to build the tower. They finished it in 14 months. They used 60,000 tons of steel* and 10 million bricks. Its 6,500 windows are washed every two weeks, and 150 people clean the building every day.

A fun competition
Every year, there is a fun race* in the building. People have to run* up the 1575 steps* to the 86th floor* observatory. Last year's winner* got to the 86th floor in just 9 minutes and 53 seconds!

HELP!

* Le sens des mots est donné d'après le contexte dans lequel ils se trouvent dans le texte.

a week: par semaine
basement: sous-sol
confused: désorienté
elevator: ascenseur
floor: étage
foggy: brumeux
ground: sol, terre
ground floor: rez-de-chaussée
height: hauteur
like: comme
lit (p) light (inf): allumer
pipe: tuyau
race: course
run up: gravir
spark: étincelle
steel: acier
step: marche
turn off: éteindre
winner: gagnant
wire: câble

Main photo: J. Kasei/Cosmos; inset: B. Varvin/Sputnik

The Empire State Building : reading comprehension

From I love English, February 2001, p.6-7

Read carefully the text about the Empire State Building and **solve** the following **exercises**. **Write your answers in FRENCH**. Be precise and complete.

*Un mot suivi de * signifie qu'il est traduit dans l'espace "Help !".*

1. Complète ces infos générales sur le bâtiment.

Se situe à

Bâtiment terminé en

Nombre de travailleurs pour le construire ?

Durée des travaux ?

Son âge en 2001 ?

Son âge aujourd'hui ?

Nombre d'ascenseurs dans le bâtiment ?

Nombre de personnes à la maintenance (nettoyage ...) ?

2. Relis le texte et complète le tableau. Donne un maximum d'infos pour chaque question.

Particularité du bâtiment en 1931 ?	
Pourquoi est-il comparé à une petite ville ?	
Fonction(s) de l'antenne ?	
Info(s) sur les observatoires	
Pourquoi parle-t-on d'une réaction chimique ?	
Info(s) sur l'éclairage du bâtiment	
Particularités du 13 ^e étage ?	

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Que trouve-t-on au sous-sol du bâtiment ?	
En quoi consiste la compétition organisée chaque année ?	

3. À quoi correspondent les nombres suivants ?

62 metres ?

45 seconds ?

3.5 million ?

365 days ?

10 million ?

1,575 ?

1,860 ?

60,000 tons ?

