



## Big Ben

BIG BEN is one of London's most famous landmarks.

Big Ben is situated in the Elizabeth Tower in the north end of The Houses of Parliament in Westminster, Central London, next to the river Thames.

Big Ben is actually the name of the huge bell, which weighs more than 13 tons (13,760 kg), but most people use it to refer to the clock and the tower as well. It is the world's largest chiming clock with four faces. Each face is 7 meters in diameter. The bell is just over 213 meters tall and weighs about the same as an elephant. The clock tower was built between 1843 and 1858.

When it was cast in 1858, it took two weeks for the bell to cool down.

In June 2012, the clock tower was renamed into Elizabeth Tower in honor of Queen Elizabeth. Elizabeth Tower is 96 meters high. Although the public is not allowed inside, there are great views from the nearby London Eye.

The clock tower has featured in dozens of films, including "Shanghai Knights " and the 1978 version of "The 39 Steps". Both films feature an exciting climax with the hero hanging from the clock's hands. Big Ben's chimes have been famous for over 150 years. In the past, it was too difficult to remove the bell and repair it. Nowadays specialist teams carry out regular adjustments to the Great Clock in order to ensure that the UK's most famous clock continues to keep time.

[Adapted from: en.islcollective.com](http://en.islcollective.com)

### Part One

A/ Reading Comprehension Read the text then answer the following tasks:

Activity 1 Fill in the form: (2pts)

Name of the landmark	Location	Height	weight
.....	.....	.....	.....

Activity2 Put "true", "false" or " not mentioned" ( 3pts )

- 1- The monument is the biggest clock bell in the world.
- 2- The monument is a bridge.
- 3- The monument is made from iron and stone.

Activity3 Find in the text words, phrases or expressions that are opposites in meaning to: (2pts)

a - up ≠ .....

b - the smallest ≠ .....

**B/ Mastery of Language**

**Activity1** Complete the table: (2.5 pts)

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Long	.....	the longest
famous	more famous than	.....
.....	worse than	the worst
heavy	.....	.....

**Activity2:** Turn the following sentences into the passive form: ( 2.5 pts)

a \_ Thousands of tourists visit this famous landmark every year. →.....

b \_ Yesterday, they bought interesting souvenirs. → .....

**Activity3** Classify these words in the table according to their pronunciation: (2pts)

Desire - enjoyer - player - our

/eɪə /	/aʊə /	/ɔɪə /	/aɪə /
.....	.....	.....	.....

**Part Two Situation of Integration** (6pts)

There are a lot of famous landmarks all over the world. **Taj Mahal** is one of them. Write a **paragraph** about its description using the following notes:

Name: Taj Mahal

Location: Agra, India

Built by: Shah Jahan

Dedicated to : Mumtaz Mahal ( the wife of Shah Jahan )

Monument type: Islamic tomb

Time taken : 22years ( 1631 - 1653 )

Architect : Ustad Ahmad Lahour

Architecture: Mughal style

Number of workers: 20,000

Highlights: One of the 7 wonders /a UNESCO World Heritage Site



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