

Paddington Station (B2)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. How often do you travel by train?
2. Is there a railway station in your town or village?
3. If so, is it a large station? Where can you get to from it?
4. Which is the most important railway station in your country's capital?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. Paddington Station was opened in _____.
2. It connected London to the city of _____, in the west.
3. The original building was made of iron and _____.
4. Queen Victoria used the station to travel to _____.
5. The station once had stables for _____ horses.
6. The first underground line started at Paddington. It was called the _____ Line.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why did Brunel, the designer of Paddington Station, wear such tall hats?
2. What was used to light the station when it first opened?
3. What comparison is used to show how important railway stations were in the 19th century?
4. What special facility did Queen Victoria have when she travelled from Paddington?
5. What has it been turned into?
6. Why was it necessary to keep hundreds of horses at the station?
7. How many underground lines are connected to Paddington Station at present?
8. What has enabled improvements to be made to the station?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. We _____ at 6 in the morning but we didn't arrive at our destination till midnight.
2. Some people can't eat _____ products because they are allergic to milk proteins.
3. Joe had a coffee in the departure _____ while he was waiting for his flight to be called.
4. The new supermarket in the High Street has a free _____ car park.
5. Our bathroom's very small, so when we have a shower it fills up with _____.
6. The government has started a couple of new _____ to help young people start a business.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. Paddington Station was designed by the _____ (ENGINE) Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
2. Some of Britain's most _____ (STUN) architecture can be found in railway stations.
3. Important _____ (DATE) were made to the station in the 1870s, 1910s and 1960s.
4. Brunel's original design is still _____ (RECOGNISE) to passengers arriving at the station.
5. The Great Western Hotel, built next to the station, was the _____ (GRAND) in London.
6. Multi-storey stables were another important _____ (ADD) to the station.

7. Brunel would have been _____ (DELIGHT) to hear about the regeneration of the area.
8. The station will once again be _____ (WORTH) of being one of the gateways to London.

F – Write about it

Write about a large station in a city in your country. Mention:

- where it's located;
- when it was built;
- what it looks like;
- what facilities it has;
- how well connected it is.

Answers

B – Listen and answer

1. 1854 2. Bristol 3. glass 4. Windsor Castle 5. 600/six hundred 6. Metropolitan

C – Read and answer

1. Because he was tiny and wearing a tall hat was a way to compensate for this. 2. Gas was used to light it. 3. Railway stations in the 19th century are compared to monasteries and cathedrals in the 13th century. 4. She had her own luxurious waiting room. 5. It's been turned into a first-class passenger lounge. 6. They were needed to deliver goods that had arrived at the station, like packages and fresh milk. 7. Five lines are connected to it, including the newly-opened Elizabeth Line. 8. The station has received part of the £10 million budget for the regeneration of the Paddington area.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. set off 2. dairy 3. lounge 4. multi-storey 5. steam 6. schemes

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. engineer 2. stunning 3. updates 4. recognisable 5. grandest 6. addition 7. delighted
8. worthy