

Nessie – The Loch Ness Monster (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What traditional stories about mythical creatures are there in your country?
2. Are any of these creatures monsters?
3. What do you know about the Loch Ness monster?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and complete them.

1. A _____ is called a 'loch' in Scotland.
2. Loch Lomond is _____ than Loch Ness.
3. Some parts of Loch Ness are _____ metres deep.
4. Some say the monster has a round body. Others say it has a long, _____ body and neck.
5. It is said that the first person to see the monster was an _____ monk, St. Columba.
6. In _____, a London couple reported seeing a strange creature crossing the road.
7. Though most people don't believe in the monster, there are around _____ sightings a year.
8. About _____ people visit the loch every year hoping to see the monster.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Which Scottish city is nearest to Loch Ness?
2. Why is Loch Ness an ideal hiding place for an aquatic monster?
3. What measurement of Loch Ness is higher than that of all the other lakes in the UK?
4. Which characteristic is the same in nearly all the descriptions of Nessie?
5. Why did St. Columba banish the monster to the lake?
6. Which picture of the monster was found to be a fake?
7. What's wrong with all the photos and films of the monster?
8. What do most people think is the logical explanation for the sightings?

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 or vice versa.)

1. We _____ about the Maths test when we got to school this morning. It was a total surprise.
2. His real name's Michael but, as he's rather short, his friends gave him the _____ Tiny.
3. Chartreuse is a famous liqueur made by the _____ of a monastery in southeastern France.
4. We saw a man breaking into a shop at night so we rang the police and _____ it to them.
5. The new restaurant is in a park on the south _____ of the river.
6. A dromedary is a type of camel that has one _____, not two.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 5)

Complete the message. Write one word for each space.

Hi, Anne. We're ¹_____ a lovely time here in Scotland. Luckily the ²_____ is good: quite warm and sunny. We ³_____ Edinburgh for Inverness yesterday and today we went on a day trip to Loch Ness ⁴_____ bus. The loch's really beautiful so we ⁵_____ lots of photos, but there was no sign of the monster! We're a bit tired now because it was a long trip and we've just got ⁶_____ to the hotel.
Goodnight. Talk soon.
Mike

F – Check your pronunciation

Are these statements true or false?

1. The *b* in *limb* isn't pronounced.
2. *Hoax* rhymes with *folks*.
3. *Snake* and *snack* have the same pronunciation.
4. *Creature* rhymes with *teacher*.
5. *Bird* rhymes with *word*.
6. *Blurry* rhymes with *hurry*.
7. The *t* in *castle* is pronounced.
8. *Hump* and *couple* have the same vowel sound.

G – Write about it

Write about a monster you've seen in a film or read about in a book. Mention:

- its name
- where it's from;
- what it looks like;
- whether it's good or evil;
- some of the myths or stories about it.

Answers

B – Listen and answer

1. lake 2. larger/bigger 3. 230 4. thin 5. Irish 6. 1933 7. seven 8. one million

C – Read and answer

1. The Scottish city nearest to Loch Ness is Inverness. 2. Because it's very deep. 3. The volume of water in Loch Ness. 4. Its greenish colour. 5. Because it had killed a man. 6. The photo of a dinosaur-like creature taken by a doctor. 7. They are blurry. 8. Most people think they are sightings of a giant bird, otter or large eel.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. learnt/learned 2. nickname 3. monks 4. reported 5. bank 6. hump

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. having 2. weather 3. left 4. by 5. took 6. back

F – Check your pronunciation

1. True. 2. True. 3. False. 4. True. 5. True. 6. False. 7. False. 8. True.