

Reading & Vocabulary

1 What do you know about Leicester Square? Match the questions (a-d) to the answers (1-4).

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|------------------------------------|---|
| a) Where is it? | 1 Okay, it's spelt funny, but it's pronounced <i>Lester</i> . |
| b) What is it? | 2 A loud, brash, sweaty mass of seething humanity. |
| c) On a bad day? | 3 On a good day, it's a huge meeting place for the world. |
| d) What's with the funny spelling? | 4 Between Piccadilly and Covent Garden, just north of Trafalgar Square. |

2 Read the article and answer these questions.

- What type of entertainment does Leicester Square offer?
- What type of people go to Leicester Square?
- What money-saving tips does the writer mention?

LEICESTER SQUARE

(1) _____ Leicester Square is one of the busiest spots in London. Buskers entertain the crowds with anything from an impromptu song to a political rant, tourists pay good money to have their faces ridiculed by cruel cartoonists and suburban kids queue to dance the night away at the Hippodrome, Equinox or Maximus. (2) _____, the whole pedestrianised area can seem like one big, youthful party. The Square is a popular meeting place for friends (3) _____ and for tourists who seem to enjoy congregating outside the tube station. The cinemas claim to be the biggest and best but (4) _____ tickets are the most expensive in town. It will cost you almost double the price of a normal seat to see a blockbuster at the Empire, for example. For good value movie magic check out the Prince Charles cinema on Leicester Place, (5) _____! People-watching is one of Leicester Square's great attractions as representatives from virtually every country on little old planet Earth walk

past (6) _____. Ordinary people are interesting enough but if you're really lucky you get the chance to eyeball visiting stars who attend the regular movie premières. Despite its movie-made image of constant fog, London does get hot from time to time. Luckily for Leicester Square visitors, there's a handily-placed ice-cream emporium where you can gorge yourself on Triple Choc Brownie until one in the morning. For main-meal feed-ups, (7) _____ avoid the overpriced chain-store eateries that front the Square and head instead for nearby Chinatown. The choice can be overwhelming with little to differentiate one prim Cantonese restaurant from another. Watching out for where the Chinese themselves eat is probably the best indicator of quality. Eternally popular choices include a number of small, family-run places with menus listing up to 40 dim sum dishes and other traditional offerings. (8) _____, Leicester Square is something of a 'must' for tourists and Londoners alike. All you need to enjoy it fully is plenty of time and a bit of patience!



3 Match the sentences (a-h) to the appropriate places (1-8) in the article.

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|--|------------------------|
| a) Especially on Friday and Saturday nights | e) All in all |
| b) and simply gawp at each other | f) your best bet is to |
| c) looking for a drink and chat after a hard day's slog | g) By night |
| d) where tickets for a good selection of cult films start at the same price as a cup of coffee in the Square | h) consequently |

4 Work with a partner. You are going to teach your partner some words from the article. Student A: turn to page 129, Student B: turn to page 130.

5 Work in small groups. Discuss these questions.

- Where is the busiest place in the evening where you live? What do people do there? Are there buskers or eateries? Which places would you recommend?
- Do you like to go out in the evenings? Where do you go? What do you do? When was the last time you went out for the evening? Tell your group where you went and what you did.