

# 4

## Local knowledge

### 4.1 goals

- describe landmarks
- talk about landmarks where you live

### Landmarks

#### VOCABULARY

Describing landmarks

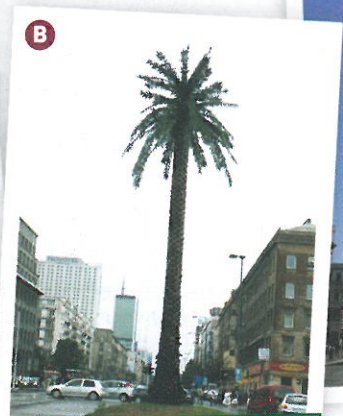
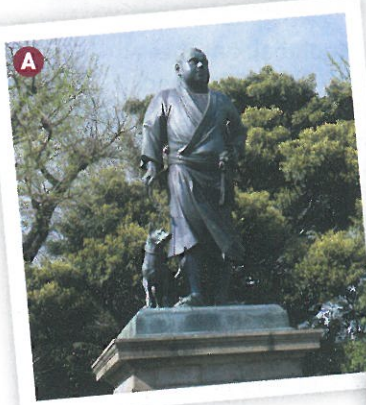
1 a Look at the pictures of well-known landmarks. Can you guess (or do you know):

- where they are?
- how big they are?
- what they're made of?

1 The Millennium Spire in Dublin, Ireland, was designed by Ian Ritchie Architects. Officially known as 'The Monument of Light', this 120m steel spire is 3m wide at the base but just 15cm wide at the top.



3 Saigō Takamori was a nineteenth-century Japanese warrior and politician, known as 'the last true samurai'. This 3.7m bronze statue of Saigō walking his dog was made by Takamora Kōun and can be seen in Tokyo's Ueno Park.



2 The Angel of the North stands on a hill near the town of Gateshead in the north of England. Designed by Antony Gormley, this steel construction is 20m tall and has a wingspan of 54m.

4 Joanna Rajkowska's Greetings from Jerusalem Avenue is an artificial palm tree in the centre of Warsaw, Poland. It's about 15m high and is made of steel, plastic and natural bark.

b Match the landmarks with the descriptions. Find answers to the questions in 1a.

2 Work as a class. Compare your ideas about these questions.

- Which of the landmarks A–D might be a **monument**?
- Which would you describe as a **statue**?
- Which would you describe as a **sculpture**?
- Which are **modern**? Which are **traditional**?
- Which are **abstract**? Which are **realistic**?
- Which do you think were made:
 

a to <b>commemorate</b> a past event?	d to <b>signify</b> an idea?
b to <b>celebrate</b> something?	e to <b>amuse</b> people?
c <b>in honour of</b> somebody?	f to <b>make people think</b> ?

Well, it's a kind of abstract sculpture, maybe a monument, ...

3 Work in pairs. Cover 2 and describe the landmarks A–D using the **highlighted** expressions.

#### LISTENING

4 1.24 Listen to Cian, Beryl and Dominika. Which landmark A–D does each person talk about? How do they feel about it?

5 1.24 Listen again and make notes on these topics for each monument.

- its location
- when it was put up
- its meaning or purpose
- people's reactions to it

6 What do you think about each of these landmarks? Do you like them? Talk together.



# A big impression

## VOCABULARY

History of a landmark

1 Do the **highlighted** expressions in a and b have similar or different meanings? If they differ, explain how.

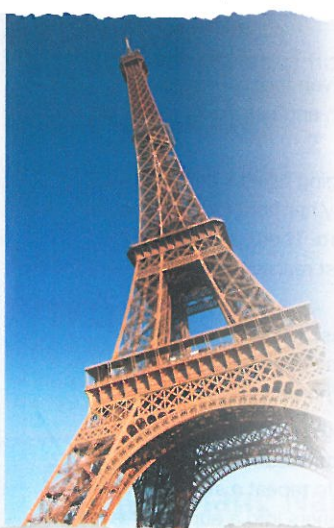
**a**

- 1 It **was erected** to celebrate the Millennium.
- 2 It **was unveiled** at the very end of 1999.
- 3 It **was heavily criticised** at first.
- 4 It **caused a lot of controversy**.
- 5 People **didn't know what to make of it**.
- 6 People **grew to love** it.
- 7 It became **a landmark**.
- 8 People see it as **part of the landscape**.

**b**

- It **was put up** during the 1990s.
- It **was opened to the public** in 2006.
- It **was badly received**.
- It **made a big impression on** people.
- People **were baffled by** it.
- People **warmed to** it after a while.
- It became **a tourist attraction**.
- People regard it as **an eyesore**.

2 **a** Choose expressions from 1 to complete the description of the Eiffel Tower. In some cases, more than one answer is possible.



**AT 324 METRES HIGH, THE EIFFEL TOWER** is the tallest structure in Paris. It <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ between 1887 and 1889 as the entrance arch for the 1889 Exposition Universelle ('World Fair'). Its designer, Gustave Eiffel, had originally planned to build the tower in Barcelona, but it was decided that his idea would not suit the city. Eiffel therefore took his design to Paris instead, and the Tower <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ on 6 May 1889.

The Tower <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ when it was first built. The newspapers of the day were filled

with angry letters, with many people calling the Tower <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. Other people <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ it, unsure whether the Tower was intended to be a work of art or a demonstration of engineering.

The city planned to allow the Tower to stand for twenty years and then tear it down, but with time people <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ it and it became both <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. Today, the Tower is widely regarded as a striking piece of structural art. Since its construction, it's been visited by more than 200 million people.

**b** Compare your answers in groups.

## PRONUNCIATION

Weak forms

3 **a** 1.25 Some very common words have weak forms: when they're not stressed, you can say them with a schwa sound /ə/. Listen and notice the **weak forms** in this sentence.

It <sup>ə</sup>was <sup>ə</sup>erected <sup>ə</sup>to celebrate <sup>ə</sup>the Millennium.

Practise saying the sentence.

**b** Words we usually say as weak forms include:

- articles *a, an, the* • forms of *be* • prepositions *as, at, for, from, of, to*

Look at the other sentences in 1. Write /ə/ above the words you'd probably say as a weak form.

**c** 1.26 Listen and look at the script on p146 to check. Practise saying the sentences.

## SPEAKING

4 **a** Work alone. Choose two or three landmarks in your region or country. For each one, think about these questions.

- 1 What does it look like? How would you describe its style?
- 2 Why was it built? What do you think it represents?
- 3 When was it built? Is it popular with local people and tourists?
- 4 Has its reputation changed over time?
- 5 What do you think about it? Why?

**b** Talk in groups. Can you add any more information to each other's descriptions? Which places would you most like to see?



## Two voices

## 4.2 goals

- talk about well-known people where you live
- describe someone's life and work

## READING



Umm Kulthum (1904–1975) was a singer famous in Egypt and throughout the Arabic-speaking world.

- 1 a Look at the photos and read the captions. Which six of these things do you think could be mentioned in an article about: Umm Kulthum? Bohumil Hrabal?

Prague Cairo radio concerts an accident or suicide real events a huge funeral lyrics an Oscar records a single sentence up to six hours banned books

- b Work in two groups.

Group A – read the article about Umm Kulthum below.  
Group B – read the article about Bohumil Hrabal on p119.

Find out which six things are mentioned in your article.



Bohumil Hrabal (1914–1997) was one of the Czech Republic's best-known and best-loved writers.

Article

Discussion

Log in/create account



## Umm Kulthum

Umm Kulthum was probably the most famous singer of the Arab world in the 20th century. Even today, more than three decades after her death, she is known as 'the Voice of Egypt' and 'the Star of the East', and her music can often be heard on radio and television.

She was born in a village in northern Egypt in around 1904 and showed an extraordinary singing talent from an early age. When she was 12 years old, she started performing in a small group directed by her father. Four years later, she was noticed by Zakariyya Ahmad, a famous musician, who invited her to Cairo. There, she was introduced to the poet Ahmad Rami, who went on to write 137 songs for her. She had her first real success when she began performing at the Arabic Theatre Palace.

By 1932, Umm Kulthum had become so popular that she began a long tour of the Middle East, performing in cities such as Damascus, Baghdad, Beirut and Tripoli. Her radio concerts, held on the first Thursday of every month, were famous for emptying the streets of some of the world's busiest cities as people rushed home to listen.

Umm Kulthum's songs are about the universal themes of love and loss. A typical concert would consist of two or three songs performed over a period of up to six hours. The duration of her songs varied from concert to concert and was based on the interaction between singer and audience. One of her techniques was to repeat a single line of a song's lyrics again and again, slightly changing the emphasis each time to bring her listeners into a euphoric state. It is said that she never sang a line the same way twice.

Umm Kulthum gave her last concert in 1973. She died in Cairo on February 3, 1975. Her funeral was attended by one of the largest gatherings in history – over four million people. In Egypt and the Arab world, she is remembered as one of the greatest singers and musicians who ever lived. Since her death, it is estimated that about a million copies of her records have been sold every year.

- 2 a Read again. Note down one or two details about each of the six things in your article.  
b In A/B pairs, tell each other about Umm Kulthum and Bohumil Hrabal. What do you find most interesting about each person?

## VOCABULARY

Talking about well-known people

- 3 Match 1–8 with a–h to make sentences from the articles.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 She <b>was probably the most famous</b>                | a repeat a single line of a song's lyrics.           |
| 2 She <b>had her first real success</b> when             | b Best Foreign Film in 1967.                         |
| 3 <b>One of her techniques was to</b>                    | c a collection of short stories.                     |
| 4 He <b>started out as</b>                               | d singer of the Arab World.                          |
| 5 He <b>had his first breakthrough</b> with              | e 1991.  |
| 6 <b>One of his most famous works</b> is                 | f a story written in a single sentence.              |
| 7 The movie <b>won an Oscar for</b>                      | g she began performing at the Arabic Theatre Palace. |
| 8 The first of his collected writings <b>came out</b> in | h a poet.  |

## SPEAKING

- 4 Think of two or three famous writers or performers in your part of the world. Choose expressions from 3 and talk in groups about:

- what they're famous for.
- how and why they became famous.

Well, Jang Nara is famous in South Korea. She had her first breakthrough with the hit song ...



