# **Local knowledge**

## **Landmarks**

## **VOCABULARY**

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

Describing landmarks

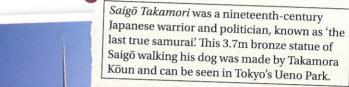
1 where they are?

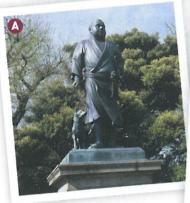
2 how big they are?

C

3 what they're made of?

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.











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.

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.

- Work as a class. Compare your ideas about these questions.
  - 1 Which of the landmarks A-D might be a monument?
  - 2 Which would you describe as a statue?
  - 3 Which would you describe as a sculpture?
  - 4 Which are modern? Which are traditional?
  - 5 Which are abstract? Which are realistic?
  - 6 Which do you think were made:
    - a to commemorate a past event?
- d to signify an idea?
- b to celebrate something?
- e to amuse people?
- c in honour of somebody?
- f to make people think?
- Work in pairs. Cover 2 and describe the landmarks A-D using the highlighted expressions.

## LISTENING

Well, it's a kind of

abstract sculpture, maybe a monument, ...

- 4 Listen to Cian, Beryl and Dominika. Which landmark A–D does each person talk about? How do they feel about it?
- 5 (31.24) Listen again and make notes on these topics for each monument.
  - 1 its location
- 3 its meaning or purpose
- 2 when it was put up
- 4 people's reactions to it
- What do you think about each of these landmarks? Do you like them? Talk together.

## A big impression

### **VOCABULARY**

History of a landmark

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

а

- 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.

)

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 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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 6\_\_\_\_\_ it and it became both 7\_\_\_\_ and 8\_\_\_\_\_. 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 was erected to celebrate 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 /9/ above the words you'd probably say as a weak form.

c (123) 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?
  - 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 Arabicspeaking 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 bestloved writers.

Article Discussion

I on in/create account



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.
  - 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

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

### SPEAKING

- 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 ...

## She's known as ...

## GRAMMAR

Using the passive

Read the information about using the passive, and sentences 1-6. Find an example of:

a present simple passive

c present perfect passive.

b past simple passive

d passive after a modal verb

In English, you usually put the person or thing you want to talk about (the **topic**) at the beginning of a sentence. New information (the **comment**) comes after it:

## topic

## comment

Umm Kulthum

was probably the most famous singer of the Arab world in the 20th century.

Notice how the writer chooses active or passive to keep Umm Kulthum, and things closely related to her, as the topic:

	1 She	is known as 'the Voice of Egypt' and 'the Star of the East'.	PASSIVE
	2 Her music	can often be heard on radio and television.	PASSIVE
	3 She	showed an extraordinary singing talent.	ACTIVE
	4 She	started performing in a small group directed by her father.	ACTIVE
	5 She	was noticed by Zakariyya Ahmad, a famous musician.	PASSIVE
1	6 A million copies of he	r records have been sold every year.	PASSIVE

Grammar reference and practice, p133

2 Find and complete five common passive expressions from the last two paragraphs of the Umm Kulthum article.

1	The duration of her songs was b	on	4	She is r	as
2	It is s that		5	It is e	that
3	Her funeral was a hy				

3 a Read the profile of Jang Nara from a website for people interested in South Korean culture. At the moment, all the sentences are active. Decide which should be active and which passive, and rewrite the profile.

## Profile Jang Nara, entertainer (1981 – present)

- \* Jang Nara was born in Seoul in March 1981. People consider her one of the best entertainers in South Korea.
- \* She started out as an actress in her primary school days, when theatre producers invited her to appear in the play *Les Misérables*. Later, in high school, she modelled in a number of television ads.
- \* Jang had her first real success as a singer in 2001, when a record company released her debut album. They sold 300,000 copies of the album, and the Korean music world awarded her Best New Singer of that year.
- \* At the same time, her acting career continued to develop. Korean TV companies hired her to star in popular sitcoms and dramas, and a Chinese television station also invited her to star in the successful drama *My Bratty Princess*. She is very popular in China, where they know her as 'Zhang Na La'.
- \* In addition, people have recognised her for her charity work in different countries. One Chinese charity appointed her a goodwill ambassador, the first foreigner to receive this honour.

## **b** 127 Listen to check. Did you have the same ideas?

## WRITING AND SPEAKING

4 a Choose a person you think should be included on a website for people who are interested in your country, its history and culture, for example:

an artist a successful business person a scientist a sportsperson a leader

Write a profile of the person for the website. Use passive expressions from 1 and 2.

**b** Read each other's profiles and ask questions to find out more.