

London introduces an ultra low emission zone

Elementary

1 Warmer

These are the capital cities with the worst air pollution (dirty air) in the world. Match the capital cities with the countries.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. New Delhi | a. Uganda |
| 2. Islamabad | b. China |
| 3. Doha | c. Pakistan |
| 4. Kampala | d. India |
| 5. Beijing | e. Indonesia |
| 6. Jakarta | f. Qatar |

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

charge

regulation

vehicles

congestion

emission

extend

1. Cars, lorries and buses are all _____ . (para 1)
2. _____ is a situation where there are so many vehicles that it is difficult to move. (para 1)
3. A _____ is an official rule that controls the way things are done. (para 1)
4. A _____ is an amount of money that you have to pay. (para 1)
5. An _____ is a gas that goes into the air. (para 3)
6. If you _____ something, you increase the size of it. (para 5)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. When did London introduce the congestion charge?
2. How much is the congestion charge?
3. What does ULEZ stand for?
4. How much extra do you now have to pay if you drive a polluting car in the ULEZ?
5. What is the ULEZ charge for lorries and buses?
6. How large will the ULEZ be in 2021?

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9 May, 2019

- 1 The streets of central London are very busy. Thousands of cars, buses, lorries and other vehicles enter the city each day, and they cause congestion. In February, 2003, the city introduced a new regulation called the congestion charge to reduce the number of vehicles. Under this regulation, people driving a vehicle in the centre of London between 07.00 and 18.00, Monday to Friday, have to pay the congestion charge, which is £11.50 per day.
- 2 The area of central London where drivers have to pay covers 21 square kilometres and includes many famous streets and landmarks, such as Piccadilly Circus, Oxford Street, Buckingham Palace and St Pauls Cathedral, as well as the financial district, which is known as the City of London.
- 3 But air pollution in London is still a serious problem, and now the city has introduced a new regulation called the ULEZ (ultra low emission zone). The ULEZ covers the same area as the congestion charge, but drivers will now have to pay an extra charge 24 hours a day, seven days a week if they enter central London in a petrol vehicle that does not meet Euro 4 standard or a diesel vehicle that does not meet Euro 6 standard.
- 4 The extra charge for vehicles that do not meet these standards is £12.50 a day for cars, motorbikes and vans up to 3.5 tonnes and £100 a day for heavier vehicles – lorries over 3.5 tonnes and buses or coaches over 5 tonnes.
- 5 The health problems caused by air pollution can be serious, so the city has decided to extend the ULEZ in 2021. It will not only cover the 21 square kilometres of the central zone but will cover a much bigger area – almost 380 square kilometres. So if you are planning to visit London, don't drive. Take the train!

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. If you drive into central London at the weekend, ... | a. ... you won't have to pay the ULEZ charge. |
| 2. If your petrol car doesn't meet Euro 4 standard, ... | b. ... air pollution will probably become even worse. |
| 3. If you drive into central London at 09.00 on a Monday in a diesel car that doesn't meet Euro 6 standard, ... | c. ... you will have to pay a total of £24. |
| 4. If your car is modern and meets the Euro standard, ... | d. ... you don't have to pay the congestion charge. |
| 5. If you want to visit central London, ... | e. ... you will have to pay the new ULEZ charge. |
| 6. If the city does not extend the ULEZ, ... | f. ... it's a good idea to leave your car at home and take the train. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. a twenty- day four hours
2. week a days seven
3. square three almost and kilometres hundred eighty
4. a fifty pounds day twelve

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6 Find the word

Find the following words in the text.

1. a verb that means the opposite of *extend* (para 1)
2. a noun meaning *famous buildings that you can see and recognize easily* (para 2)
3. a noun meaning *an area of a town or city* (para 2)
4. a noun meaning *long comfortable vehicles for carrying a large number of people, especially on long journeys* (para 4)

7 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. air | a. zone |
| 2. central | b. district |
| 3. financial | c. kilometre |
| 4. square | d. pollution |

8 Discussion

- Is pollution a problem in your town or city? Explain why/why not.
- Do you think all large cities should introduce a ULEZ? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Warmer

1. d
2. c
3. f
4. a
5. b
6. e

2 Key words

1. vehicles
2. congestion
3. regulation
4. charge
5. emission
6. extend

3 Find the information

1. February, 2003
2. £11.50 per day
3. ultra low emission zone
4. £12.50 a day
5. £100
6. almost 380 square kilometres

4 Comprehension check

1. d
2. e
3. c
4. a
5. f
6. b

5 Chunks

1. twenty-four hours a day
2. seven days a week
3. almost three hundred and eighty square kilometres
4. twelve pounds fifty a day

6 Find the word

1. reduce
2. landmarks
3. district
4. coaches

7 Two-word phrases

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c