

READING AND SPEAKING

Architecture old and new

- 1 What do *you* want from an airport or railway station? Put these features in order for you. (1 = the most important)

- ☐ a beautiful building
- ☐ a convenient situation near the city centre
- ☐ good shops and restaurants
- ☐ modern and efficient service
- ☐ a wide variety of destinations

Compare your answers with a partner, then with the class.

- 2 Look at the photos of St Pancras International Station. Describe what you can see.

- 3 Read the first two parts of the article on this page. Find the answers to these questions.

- 1 When did the new station open?
- 2 Where can you travel to from St Pancras?
- 3 When was the original station built?
- 4 What was special about the glass roof?

- 4 Read the rest of the article carefully. Complete the chart.

Original station	New station
Cost \$436,000	
	Took three years to restore
Basement used for storage	
	Fifteen platforms

Meet me at St Pancras

Technologies old and new come together under one roof. It's the new age of the train. JENNIE HISLOP reports.

London now has a railway station that is the equal of New York's Grand Central and the Paris Gare du Nord. St Pancras International is the UK home of Eurostar. It is a stunning Victorian station in the heart of London, with connections that spread out across the country, linking the UK with the rest of Europe.

The new station opened in 2007, and handles 50 million passengers a year. It provides access to the northern European cities of Paris, Brussels and Lille. From there you can travel to Spain, the French Alps, the south of France, and Germany. Eurostar flashes along the railway line, known as High Speed 1 (HS1), at 300 km per hour (186 mph), just as the TGV has done in France for many years. The whole area around St Pancras and King's Cross has had a major regeneration. It is now a thriving, inner-city district, home to multinational businesses, art galleries, bars, and restaurants.

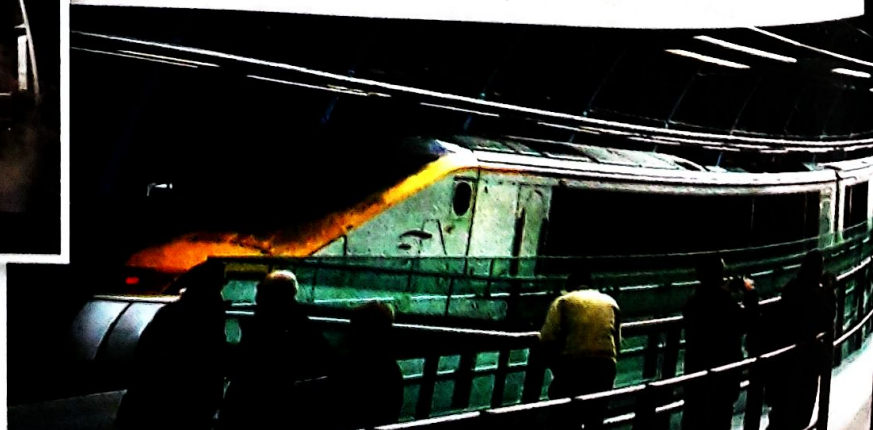


THE ORIGINAL STATION

When St Pancras Station was built in Victorian times, it took 6,000 men and 1,000 horses five years to complete, and cost £436,000. It opened in 1868, a masterpiece in iron and glass, designed by the great engineer W.H. Barlow. He created a cathedral on two floors. Below, there was an enormous basement, used as a storage area for beer coming south from breweries in the Midlands. Above this floor, he built a vast crystal palace, the tallest and widest of its day, and one of the great feats of Victorian engineering. The glass roof, all 240 feet (75 metres) wide, appeared to float unsupported. It crossed the five platforms in a single, undivided span.



St Pancras Station, London, 1958



THE NEW STATION

The 21st century St Pancras International was restored over a three-year period at a cost of £800 million. The basement area is now the check in and departure lounge. Escalators lead to the platforms on the floor above. The glass roof has been carefully restored, and the iron arches painted the original sky blue. An 18-car Eurostar train is about a quarter of a mile long, so the roof was extended. There are now fifteen platforms.

The restoration of this building is a triumph of great tradition, high technology, and style. There is a 300ft (92m) champagne bar. A farmers' market is supplied with fresh produce brought in from Europe daily. There are boutiques, patisseries, delicatessens, chocolatiers, and a whole range of places to eat, from brasseries to organic home-made burger bars.

THE STATION HOTEL

The large Gothic building in front of St Pancras is not, in fact, the station but the Midland Grand Hotel. When it opened its doors in 1873, it was one of the most advanced hotels in the world. It was the first building in London to have a 'rising room', or lift, and the first to have revolving doors. It had a Ladies' Smoking Room, which was quite shocking in its day. There were laundry lifts, coal lifts, and speaking tubes to send instructions to the staff. The Victorian decoration was rich and expensive, but the hotel was built with old-fashioned plumbing. There were 300 bedrooms but only nine bathrooms. People took a bath in a tub in their bedroom. The hotel closed in 1935. Its facilities were outdated, and it was too expensive to run.

It is now known as St Pancras Chambers. There is a 245-bedroom, five-star luxury hotel, with every comfort and modern amenity, and 68 private apartments and penthouses on the upper floors.

THE PLACE TO MEET

When someone says 'Meet me at St Pancras', everyone knows what they mean. There is a 9-metre tall, 20-ton bronze statue called 'The Meeting', which depicts a couple caught in a deep embrace. It is THE place to meet, under the great glass roof, where Eurostars glide to a halt, beneath the famous station clock. See you there!



- 5 Work with a partner. Are these statements about the station and the hotel true (✓) or false (✗)? Correct the false ones.
- The escalators lead up to the departure lounge.
 - The glass roof has been replaced.
 - The iron arches have been painted the same colour as the original.
 - Farmers bring in fresh produce from all over England.
 - The building in front of St Pancras International is a hotel.
 - The hotel was advanced for its time because it had so many bathrooms.
 - The hotel has now been restored with over 300 bedrooms and apartments.
 - The best place to meet at St Pancras is the Champagne Bar.
- 6 Here are some numbers from the article. What do they refer to? Practise saying them.

1 50m	6 ¼ mile
2 300kph	7 300ft
3 6,000	8 1873
4 240ft	9 1935
5 21st	10 9/20

T10.5 Listen and check.

What do you think?

- How does St Pancras International rate according to the features in exercise 1?
- What buildings is your town or capital city famous for? When were they built? Why are they famous?
- What's your favourite building? What building would you like to knock down?

VOCABULARY AND SPEAKING

Compound nouns

- 1 Nouns can be combined to make a new word.
Here are some examples from the text on p82–83.

railway station art gallery masterpiece departure lounge

Where is the stress on these compound nouns?

- 2 Look at the dictionary entries. Practise saying the words.
- 3 Answer the questions.
- Why do people take aspirin?
 - Where do you find the words *Here lies James Barlow – RIP*?
 - What can you do if you want to listen to music without disturbing other people?
 - What are the different lights on a car?
 - What's the first thing you read in a newspaper?
 - Where are the headquarters of the United Nations?
 - Are you making headway in English?
- 4 In these lists, one compound noun doesn't exist. Which one is it?

sun	sunglasses	sunpool	suncream	sunset
card	credit card	parking card	birthday card	business card
tea	tea bag	teacup	teatime	tea table
case	money case	briefcase	suitcase	bookcase

T10.6 Listen and repeat.

- 5 Put one word in each box to form three compound nouns.

dining

1 waiting
changing

lights

2 warden
jam

antique

3 second-hand
shoe

Spider-

4 post
chair

brush

5 dresser
cut

news

6 travel
estate

way

7 bike
racing

wrapping

8 toilet
wall

headache /'hedərk/ **noun** [C] 1 a pain in your head: I've got a splitting (= very bad) headache. 2 note at **ache** 2 a person or thing that causes worry or difficulty: Paying the bills is a constant headache.

headlight /'hedlaɪt/ (also **headlamp**) **noun** [C] one of the two large bright lights at the front of a vehicle 2 picture on **page P9**

headline /'hedlaɪn/ **noun** 1 [C] the title of a newspaper article printed in large letters above the story 2 **the headlines** [pl] the main items of news read on TV or radio

headphones /'hedfəʊnz/ **noun** [pl] a piece of equipment worn over or in the ears that makes it possible to listen to music, the radio, etc. without other people hearing it 2 note at **listen**

headquarters /'hed'kwɔ:təz/ **noun** [pl, with sing or pl verb] (**abbr HQ**) the place from where an organization is controlled; the people who work there: Where is/are the firm's headquarters?

headstone /'hedstəʊn/ **noun** [C] a large stone with writing on, used to mark where a dead person is buried 2 look at **gravestone, tombstone**

headway /'hedweɪ/ **noun**
IDM make headway to go forward or make progress in a difficult situation

Oxford Wordpower Dictionary (third edition) © Oxford University Press 2006



- 6 Work with a partner. Use your dictionary to find some compound nouns made with one of these words.

hand foot finger fire air water

Describe them for the other students to guess.

They are used by the police. They put them round the wrists of prisoners.

Yes!

Handcuffs!

