

A night out in Newcastle

Topic

Things to do in a city at night

Learning outcomes

- Develop reading skills for gist and specific information
- Work co-operatively in a group
- Practise deducing meaning from context

Age group and level

Aged 13-17 and Adult B1+

Time

70 minutes

Materials

- Appendix 1 – Paragraphs and headings (cut up) – 1 per group
- Worksheet – This could be replaced by dictation and board work
- Homework (paragraph) template

Introduction

Reading can sometimes be a very solitary experience and many teachers prefer to get students to do it at home, but with the right kind of text and the right tasks, reading can be turned into a fun, collaborative and communicative experience. This lesson exploits an authentic text taken from a British Council project called 'UKinfofocus' and has a range of quite simple tasks that students work through in groups. There are also a range of suggestions for follow up tasks and the complete original text at the end.

Procedure

1. Warmer (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elicit a few activities that people can do in a city in the evening (go to the cinema, a restaurant, etc). Put learners into small groups and give them 3 minutes to brainstorm as many ideas as possible. Check which group has the most ideas at the end of the time limit. Ask each group to share 1 or 2 of their ideas. Tell them they must not repeat an idea that another group has given. Write their ideas on the board (or nominate learners from each group to do this)
2. Lead-in (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask groups to discuss which are their favourite things to do in the evening and what are the best places for people to go to have a good time. Monitor and support with language as needed
3. Paragraph reading (15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put learners into groups of 5 Give each group a set of the cut ups from Appendix 1. Ask each group member to pick up a paragraph and read it. Monitor and help with any new language as needed Ask learners to select the title that matches their paragraph. Allow group members to support each other. <p>Answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nights out by the river (para 3) Party atmosphere (para 2) Safety on the streets (para 5) What is there to do after dark? (para 1) What to wear? (para 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask group members to summarise their paragraphs in their own words, so that all group members know the content of the article. <p>Note: This task adds a collaborative element to a reading task</p> <p>Tip: If there is one smaller group make sure that stronger readers are added to that group. Give the stronger learners 2 paragraphs to read.</p>

4. Post reading comprehension (10 minutes)

- Give out one worksheet to each group and ask them to work together and decide if the statements in Task 1 are true or false. Ask them to correct any false statements.
- Elicit answers from the groups and check how many answers they got correct.

Answers:

1. Newcastle is a very old city. **(true)**
2. People don't wear much at night because Newcastle has very mild weather. **(false. It's very hot in the night clubs, but the weather can be very cool.)**
3. The 'Bigg Market' is in Glasgow. **(false. It's in Newcastle.)**
4. The people of Newcastle speak with accent called 'Geordie'. **(true)**
5. The presence of the police stops people from being loud, high spirited and aggressive. **(false. The police presence prevents aggression but not loudness and high spirits.)**
6. Music and comedy are very popular. **(true)**
7. The river is an important part of the city **(true)**
8. Women go to 'hen parties' the night before they get married. **(true)**
9. You can only get into some clubs if you dress as a policeman. **(false. Some clubs have a dress code which means people have to dress smartly.)**
10. Young people go to Newcastle to go to the 'Theatre Royal'. **(false. They come for the bars and clubs.)**

Note: You could do this exercise as a paper-free quiz. Read out each statement and ask each group to make a T or an F with their hands. This would add a competitive element. If the answer is false you could nominate one group to correct the statement.

5. Vocabulary (10 minutes)

1. Ask groups to look at Task 2 and find the relevant word. Tell them that it will be marked in bold. Allow 5 minutes
2. Elicit answers and write them on the board

Answers:

1. a party for men before a wedding (**stag party para 2**)
2. a party for women before a wedding (**hen party para 2**)
3. clothes (**outfits para 4**)
4. crowded (**packed para 1**)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. fashionable (trendy para 1) 6. people who go out a lot at night (clubbers para 4) 7. place (setting para 5) 8. a place next to water (quayside para 3) 9. entertainment at a nightclub or restaurant (cabaret para 3det) 10. to prevent (deter) <p>Note: Some of these words appear in more than one paragraph</p> <p>Tip: For a paper- free version, read out the definitions and ask groups to find the word.</p>
6. Discussion (15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move learners into pairs. Ask them to discuss the questions in Task 3. • Allow 5-10 minutes before opening it up into a whole class discussion. <p>Note: You could do the tasks as a dictation for a paper-free version.</p>
7. Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask learners to write a 100 word paragraph about their town or city. They should also come up with a title for the paragraph. • The paragraph could be put on to the template in Appendix 2 and made into a poster.
8. References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://newcastlegateshead.com/business-directory/things-to-do/nightlife • https://www.riversidencl.co.uk/about/

Contributed by

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Appendix 1 – Paragraphs and headings ✂

a) Nights out by the river

b) Party atmosphere

c) Safety on the streets

d) What is there to do after dark?

e) What to wear?

Paragraph 1

It's a myth that there's nothing to do in our cities at night. Our cities are **packed** with culture and attractions, and many people go to cities such as Newcastle or Glasgow for the nightlife alone. As night falls on Newcastle the shops and offices close, transforming the city. Newcastle's nightlife has something to offer everyone, from dinner at one of the many restaurants to an evening at the 'Theatre Royal'. Most young people are drawn to the centre of Newcastle for its **trendy** bars and clubs. A area of town that was built in the 19th century, named the 'Big Market', is busy at weekends with people moving from bar to bar. As the night draws on, they then move onto nearby night-clubs.

Paragraph 2

Crowds of friends mix with groups of visitors, from tourists to hen and **stag parties**.

These are traditional parties that happen before weddings, the women have **hen parties** and the men stag parties to celebrate their last night out as single people.

Conversation, laughter and loud music are everywhere; pouring out of hot nightclubs and trendy bars. Amongst the crowds you'll hear the local Geordie accent mixed with others from all over the UK and the world.

Paragraph 3

The pink triangle in Newcastle is an area where you can find lively **cabaret**. The entertainment includes comedy nights and dance routines. The **Quayside** is also an important part of Newcastle nightlife. In the summer you can sit outside and enjoy a view of the River Tyne. One of the best venues is called the Riverside, where you can watch international music acts or dance the night away in an historic building.

Paragraph 4

Dress codes for entry into bars and clubs are common and strictly enforced at the weekends, which means people wear their best clothes and are out to make a good impression. People don't wear much, which may appear strange, as it can get very cold outside at night. There's a very good reason for it though - inside the night-clubs it's very hot, so there is no need for a coat. Some groups of people dress in theme **outfits** for special nights out like birthdays so don't be surprised if you see **clubbers** in school or police uniforms.

Paragraph 5

The police maintain a high profile to **deter** trouble and watch over the clubbers making sure that people enjoy a safe but fun night out. The police presence means people are loud and high spirited but not generally aggressive. It's the combination of the historic **setting**, the wide choice of bars and night-clubs, and Geordie attitude to having a good time that attracts people from all over the country to enjoy the amazing nightlife.

Appendix 2 – Paragraph template ✂

Title:
