

## Big Ben Teacher's Notes **A2**

Far from solving the debate around its nickname, this A2-level article presents the famous monument, that most of your pupils are sure to recognise, from another angle.

### Language and Structures:

- Descriptive narration: simple present and preterite tenses
- Numbers: saying dates
- Modals and use of the future
- Specific vocabulary around clocks and monument maintenance
- Vocabulary: compound words

### Reading + writing

- **Activities A and B** help the pupils with the main ideas of the article. Part of **Activity B** also enables pupils to review spelling numbers. A focus can be suggested on saying dates, writing numbers separating thousands with commas and using dots for decimals as well as saying "point" when saying these decimal numbers.
- **Activity C** is lexical and encourages pupils to diversify their vocabulary range using compound words. Another goal for this activity is to build their confidence on understanding words from context and creation of compound words but also to warn them about different meanings.

### To go further (listening)

- Go to the link below with your pupils to find out how the Houses of Parliament clockmakers change the time for British Summer Time and back again in the autumn. We suggest either listening first without the video or watching the video without sound and have the pupils make hypotheses about what they grasp. Then have them watch

with sound and the possibility to take notes in order to collectively make sense of the document.

<http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/building/palace/big-ben/inside-clock-tower/timechangeweekend/>

### Solutions

#### A. Multiple Choice Quiz

1. a 2. b/c 3. b 4. c 5. b 6. a/c 7. b 8. b 9. c  
10. a 11. a 12. b

#### B. Numbers

- 12,000:** number of people that visit Big Ben every year  
**3:** number of weights  
**150:** number of years without repairs  
**2.2 m:** height of the Big Ben bell  
**2020:** year when the repairs will end  
**1856:** year the clock was built  
**2.7 m:** diameter of the Big Ben bell  
**2017:** year when the repairs on the faces of the clock started  
**13.7 tonnes:** weight of the Big Ben bell  
**2,000:** the number of clocks in Parliament

#### C. Compound words

1. d 2. j 3. f 4. g 5. e 6. c 7. a 8. b 9. h 10. i