



THE TUBE



Read the following article on London's underground system.



The London Underground is the world's first underground line and an iconic part of the city of London. The "Tube" is a slang name for the London Underground, because the tunnels for some of the lines are round tubes running through the ground. It's history dates back to 1863, when the Metropolitan line opened for the first time. The newest line of the system opened in 1963 and is called "the Jubilee line", in honour of the Queen's silver Jubilee. The total network is made up of over 402 kilometres of **track** and serves the areas of Greater London and some parts of Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Essex. Even though it is called the Underground, only 45 per cent of the track is underground! In total the London Underground network has 270 stations. The busiest station is "Waterloo" with more than 88 million people passing through this station every year.



The Underground is a fantastic way to get around the City of London for all Londoners and tourists because it is quick, convenient and most importantly, safe. Many people **rely on it** for getting to work, visiting the city, or going shopping. In fact, the London Underground is one of the busiest underground railways in the world. There are about 2.7 million passengers who use the tube each day, and over one billion in a year. Only Moscow and Paris' underground systems have more passengers in a year.



The Underground uses zones to collect fares. Zone 1 is the most central, with a boundary just beyond the Circle Line, and Zone 6 is the **outermost** and includes London Heathrow Airport. Stations on the Metropolitan Line outside London are in special Zones A to D. London Underground fares are now the most expensive of any rail system around the world, and they continue to rise at very high levels. Another problem with the London Underground is overcrowding. Since so many people use this system on a daily basis, the trains are often full of people, which can cause stress, delays, and unclean travelling conditions.



True, False or Doesn't Say

After reading the article, decide if the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Doesn't Say (DS).

- 1) The "Tube" is a nickname for the London Underground.
- 2) The London Underground is the busiest railway station in the world.
- 3) More than half of the London Underground is above ground.
- 4) The Tube is an uncomfortable way for getting around the city.
- 5) People often complain about the service.

T	F	DS
T	F	DS
T	F	DS
T	F	DS
T	F	DS



THE OYSTER CARD



In order to ride the Tube you will need to buy a ticket. But if you want to ride the Tube like a true Londoner, you can buy an Oyster Card.

The Oyster Card is the smartest way to travel around London. Instead of using paper tickets, the Oyster Card is a plastic card that uses a “pay as you go” system. This means that you **top up** the card and use it for as long as your credit **lasts**. You can also set up an automatic **top up account**. This makes sure that you never run out of credit when you are out in the city. Whenever your balance falls below £10, the Oyster Card will automatically take money directly from your bank account or credit card to top up your credit. It’s really simple to get your own Oyster Card when you arrive in London. All you have to do is go to a ticket-dispensing machine and follow the instructions for an Oyster Card. You will have to pay a £5 deposit fee. The £5 is returned to you when you return your card. Another cool thing about your Oyster Card is that you can follow all the journeys you’ve made on line. Just log in to the site and you’ll be able to track your movements and see how much you paid.

GLOSSARY

track: percorso.
rely on it: si affidano.
outermost: più esterno.
top up: ricarica.
lasts: dura.
top up account: conto ricaricabile.

ADVANTAGES OF AN OYSTER CARD

- Store credit to pay as you go.
- Set up Auto-top up so you never run out of credit.
- Add Travelcards if they're for longer than a day.
- Add Bus & Tram Passes.
- Add Bus & Tram and Jobcentre Plus Travel Discounts.
- Add National Railcards or Gold Card discounts.
- Get student and child discounts with an Oyster photocard.
- Protect your card from loss or theft.



K E T ← Multiple choice

Circle the correct answer A, B, or C.

- 1) The Oyster Card uses a plastic card instead of...
 - a. Money.
 - b. Paper.
 - c. Document.
- 2) How do you pay for the Oyster Card?
 - a. You must pay a monthly fee of £10.
 - b. You pay for how much you use the Tube.
 - c. You pay £5 at the ticket-dispensing machine.
- 3) What does the automatic top up system do?
 - a. Puts money on your card when your balance is low.
 - b. Puts money on your card every day.
 - c. Puts money on your card when your balance is high.