

While you listen

The *Britain is Great* series tells you about some of the things that make Britain so great. There's a lot of fun facts – and lots of good language, too. See if you can answer the questions while you watch the video.

Comprehension Task 1 - What aspects of Oxford University does the video talk about?

- a) its age
- b) its famous ex-students
- c) its fees
- d) its research projects
- e) its student accommodation
- f) its student profile
- g) its teaching methods
- h) its composition

Comprehension Task 2 - Listening for detail. Fill the spaces with a word or a number, according to what you heard in the video.

1. _____ of the world's top ten universities can be found in Britain.
2. The Bodleian is Oxford University's famous _____.
3. At the university, an open space surrounded by buildings is called a _____.

4. The university is made up of thirty-eight different _____.
5. There are _____ thousand students studying at the university.
6. Oxford University was founded _____ hundred years ago.
7. Famous students include _____, presidents, writers and even film stars.
8. The American president _____ studied at Oxford.

Language Task 1 - Match the two parts to make phrases from the video.

- a) amounts of money
- b) enquiry
- c) establishment
- d) for knowledge
- e) knowledge
- f) names
- g) of history

1. the search _____
2. huge _____
3. a historic _____
4. a sense _____
5. famous _____
6. critical _____
7. to gain _____

Language Task 2 - Focus on verb forms.

Put the verbs in the right form. They may be present, past or present perfect - and they may be active or passive.

1. Every year, huge amounts _____ in science and research in this country. (invest)
2. Oxford _____ a place of learning for hundreds of years. (be)
3. More world leaders _____ here than any other university. (educate)
4. Oxford University _____ of thirty-eight different colleges. (compose)
5. Oxford University _____ one of the world's leading universities. (be)
6. The university _____ for nine hundred years. (exist)
7. Some of the colleges _____ in the twentieth century. (establish)
8. There _____ a lot of famous people at Oxford over the years. (be)
9. Margaret Thatcher _____ a student at Oxford University. (be)
10. Ever since it was founded, Oxford _____ a rich interest in critical enquiry. (have)

Comprehension Task 1: a; b; f; h
Comprehension Task 2: 1. four/4; 2. library; 3. quad/quadrangle; 4. colleges; 5. twenty/20; 6. nine/9; 7. prime ministers; 8. Bill Clinton
Language Task 1: 1. d; 2. a; 3. c; 4. g; 5. f; 6. b; 7. e
Language Task 2: 6. has existed; 7. were established; 8. have been; 9. was; 10. has had