

The London building that can fry an egg

London is not famous for its hot weather. But a new building has turned a London street into one of the hottest places on the planet!

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. a storey
2. curved
3. vast
4. to collect
5. a degree
6. to singe
7. current
8. elevation

Definition

- a. to burn a little; to touch something with fire
- b. the height of something
- c. with a rounded shape, not with angles
- d. a level in a building (also known as 'a floor')
- e. a unit for counting temperature
- f. happening at the moment or existing now
- g. extremely big
- h. to get things from different places and bring them together

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answers	
1. The building is in the centre of London.	True	False
2. The building has 47 floors.	True	False
3. The face of the building is a little round.	True	False
4. The problem is caused by just one small part of the building.	True	False
5. The temperature on the street is almost 93 degrees Celsius.	True	False
6. The presenter isn't serious when she says that you can fry an egg.	True	False
7. The problem will continue for all the summer months.	True	False
8. The temperature on the street is hottest in the evening.	True	False

Task 2

Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.

1. an unfortunate effect. / building's / has had / The half-built / curved construction
2. of / and it's collecting / That's a vast area up there / solar energy. / a lot
3. temperature of / 92.6 degrees Celsius. / It managed to record / an astonishing / a
4. can / even / an egg and singe your hair trying. / It's so hot, you / fry
5. elevation / the / The designers say the problem is / current / of the sun.
6. just / one of the busiest times in the day: lunchtime. / two hours / It lasts for / and it's during

Discussion

Can you think of a solution to this problem?

Transcript

Presenter: This is London's latest hot spot. In the middle of the city's bustling heart, a bizarre beam of light radiates onto the street: powerful, dazzling and searingly hot. The cause of this phenomenon? This 37-storey tower. Once known as the Walkie-Talkie, it's been renamed as the Walkie-Scorchie! The half-built building's curved construction has had an unfortunate effect.

Reporter: As we look up, you can see that it's curved. And so, that's a vast area up there and it's collecting a lot of solar energy. Now, if that was to go out in all directions, it wouldn't really matter. But it's focusing down onto a point and it's focusing down here. So all that solar energy is getting pushed down here and the temperatures down here are getting really, really high.

Presenter: So high, it managed to record a temperature of an astonishing 92.6 degrees Celsius.

Presenter: Well, the sun has started to come out and is already hitting the building behind me. And already you can feel quite an intense heat here.

Presenter: Anything in the direct glare of the reflection can literally go up in smoke. It damaged this car parked nearby. It's caused carpets to smoulder, tiles to smash. It's so hot, you can even fry an egg and singe your hair trying.

Child: Ow! It's hot!

Woman 1: Just as you march through, you really feel the heat. It's quite intense.

Man 1: It's worse as you're coming through.

Woman 2: You'd get a good tan!

Woman 3: Yeah, it is quite hot here, yes.

Presenter: The designers say the problem is the current elevation of the sun. Over the next two to three weeks, weather permitting, it will shine directly onto the building. While they say they're working on the problem, the worst of it lasts for just two hours and it's during one of the busiest times in the day: lunchtime. It's certainly too much for Londoners used to murkier climes. Best to keep calm and keep covered.

Answers

Preparation task

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

Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. False
7. False
8. False

Task 2

1. The half-built building's curved construction has had an unfortunate effect.
2. That's a vast area up there and it's collecting a lot of solar energy.
3. It managed to record a temperature of an astonishing 92.6 degrees Celsius.
4. It's so hot, you can even fry an egg and singe your hair trying.
5. The designers say the problem is the current elevation of the sun.
6. It lasts for just two hours and it's during one of the busiest times in the day: lunchtime.