



BLOOMSBURY INTERNATIONAL

Interesting Facts About Nelson's Column

an iconic London landmark



If you've been to London, I'm sure you've been to Trafalgar Square. It is one of my favourite places to go to in London and a must-see for all tourists.

At the centre of Trafalgar Square there is a very iconic London landmark, Nelson's column. It was built between 1840 and 1843 to honour Admiral Horatio Nelson.

Who was Admiral Horatio Nelson?

Admiral Nelson was a British officer who served in the Royal Navy. He was famous for his bravery and excellent leadership skills and he was one of England's most loved heroes. He won many naval battles and was wounded several times – he even lost one arm and one eye in two of his battles! The Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 was Nelson's most famous victory, where he defeated Napoleon and the Spanish and French fleets. However, this was Admiral Nelson's final victory as he was shot and killed during the battle.

10 things you probably didn't know about Nelson's Column:

- 1.** Nelson's Column cost £47,000 to make which is equivalent to more than £3 million today.



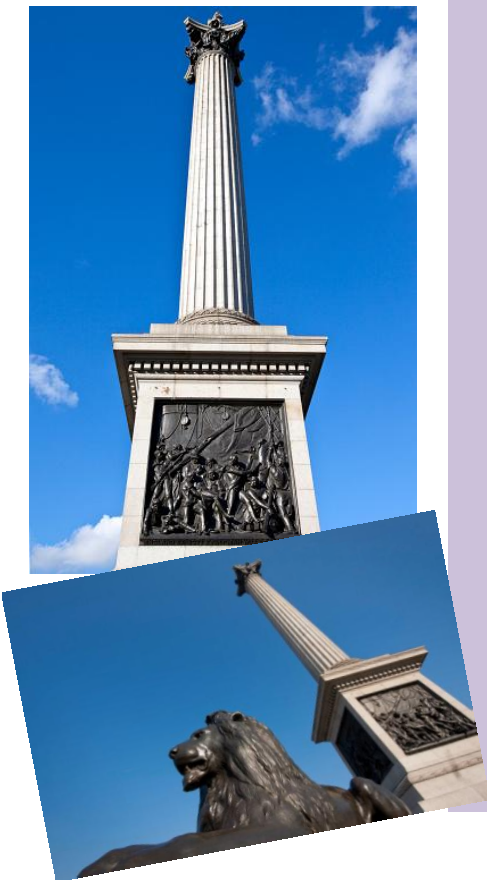
2. The government paid for some of the monument to be built but most of the money was contributed from individuals. The person who contributed the most (£12,000) was the Tsar of Russia!

3. There are four huge bronze lions at the base of Nelson's Column which were created to protect the monument. They were completed on 31st January 1867.

4. Even though all four lions are sitting in the same positions, they are actually not identical. There are differences in their faces and manes.



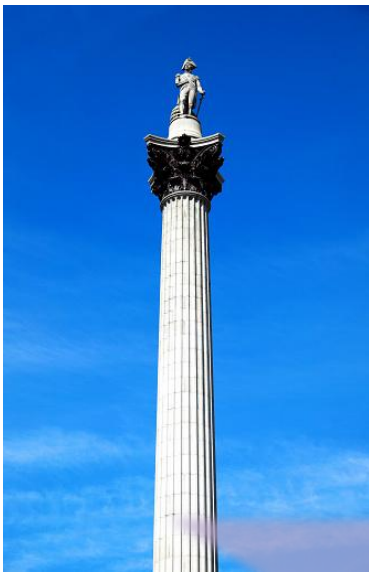
5. It has been noticed that the lions have become damaged from people climbing on them and in 2011 a report was written to try and ban people from climbing them.



6. There are four panels at the bottom of Nelson's Column which each show a scene from Nelson's most famous battles: the Death of Nelson at Trafalgar, the Battle of the Nile, the Battle of Copenhagen and the Battle of Cape St Vincent.

7. The panels were made by four different artists and were made from captured French guns which were melted down.

8. There is an 18ft statue of Nelson at the top of the monument. In 1896, it was struck by lightning and Nelson's shoulder was chipped.



9. Nelson's Column was refurbished in 2006 and they discovered that it is actually 14ft 6in shorter than they originally thought! The monument is 169ft 3in tall (51.6m).

10. If Hitler had successfully invaded Britain in the Second World War, he planned to move Nelson's Column to Berlin!

So whether you are coming to London to visit, work, study at university or [study English](#), make sure you plan a trip to see Nelson at the top of his column!

Have fun with English!

Opposites

Can you match the words on the left with their opposite on the right?

vertical

fail

succeed

rural

prohibit

innocent

optimistic

permanent

urban

horizontal

temporary

pessimistic

guilty

cowardly

brave

allow

Vertical – horizontal, succeed – fail, prohibit – allow,
optimistic – pessimistic, urban – rural, temporary – permanent,
guilty – innocent, brave – cowardly

Answers: