

Pre-Reading Discussion:

- 1) What is your commute like?
- 2) Have you ever moved from your hometown? What differences did you notice?
- 3) What do you think the story below is about?

A Commuter is Born

It was the noise he noticed first. A cacophony of sounds, each one vying for dominance over the last. It started with the muffled tube announcements:

“There is a good service on all underground lines.”

He was only just able to make it out over the din from all of the commuters. Previously quiet conversations gradually grew in volume as passengers emerged from the underground trains where silence was almost sacred and any invasion of this was greeted with sullen looks, tuts and scowls. So different from where he'd come from. The escalator seemed to serve as the volume control, constantly turning, ever-increasing as he moved from the dark tunnels out into the chaos of London.

He'd arrived. Barry London from Barry, Wales had finally done it. He'd upped and left his family and friends and was now a resident of London...or at least he would be when he'd found somewhere to live and to work.

His thoughts were interrupted by someone shouting at him, asking him if he'd heard the good word of Jesus. Luckily, he had, and was able to continue on his way undisturbed. Head down, he moved off to explore London having successfully ignored his first stranger...he was already feeling like a true Londoner.

Post-reading Discussion:

- 1) Do you think Barry will survive in London or return home eventually?
- 2) Would you be interested in moving to / from a major city?
- 3) What did you think of the story? What have you learnt (or felt) about Barry?

Vocabulary:

- 1) Verb: to not pay attention to someone / something (on purpose) –
- 2) Noun: Someone from London –
- 3) Pre-fix: always –
- 4) Adjective: angry / unhappy –
- 5) Noun: a noise you make to show displeasure with someone's behaviour –
- 6) Noun: a facial expression showing displeasure with someone's behaviour –
- 7) Noun: someone who lives somewhere –
- 8) Verb: struggling or fighting with someone to be superior –

Study skills - Vocabulary:

Study tip: Within a text you can often find a list of words relating to a similar topic. This can be a good way of learning new words, identify the topic and the list, find the words and record them together alongside the text. This gives you the vocabulary, the topic and an immediate context.

Having read the tip above, which of the following word lists could you find in the story:

- Crime vocabulary
- Vocabulary related to commuting.
- Vocabulary related to sound and noise.

Remember, you might find two lists in one text, or more. Choose an appropriate one above and underline all of the related words in the text. Use your knowledge of language, the context, and your dictionary (if necessary) to record the words below.

Topic	Words / Phrases	Synonym / Definition

Writing skills - descriptive comparison:

The escalator seemed to serve as the volume control, constantly turning, ever-increasing as he moved from the dark tunnels out into the chaos of London.

What is the writer comparing the escalator to in this sentence?

What words / phrases does he use to make this comparison?

How does he avoid repeating the words “escalator” and “volume” in this sentence?

Do you think this is a good image?

Vocabulary 2 – imagery / metaphors:

Very often a writer will use metaphors to make their writing more interesting. What images are they trying to get across in the sentence below?

...silence was almost sacred and any invasion of this was greeted with...