

Reading: The Tower of London

Nick is on holiday in London, and he has already visited many interesting places. Today, he and his parents are in the Tower.



William the Conqueror, a king of England, told his people to build a fortress¹ to protect² London and the king. In the following years, the Kings of England added new walls and buildings.

Many kings lived in the Tower. They also used it as a prison³ and they kept important things in there – for example the Crown Jewels. Many authors wrote about these jewels and many people tried to steal them.

The kings also kept animals in the Tower. Lions, polar bears and elephants lived in small cages. Unfortunately the people who had to look after them didn't know much about wild animals. Often they got the wrong food and they died early. Today, eight ravens⁴ are the only animals in the tower. A legend says that the kingdom will end when there are no ravens left in the building.



Nick likes the legends and scary stories about the Tower. People have seen ghosts there – for example the ghost of Anne Boleyn. She was a queen of England and she was executed⁵ in 1536. Nick hopes he will see a ghost, too, before they leave the building and go back to their hotel.

EXERCISE 1 About Nick. True, wrong or not in the text?	T	W	NT
a) Nick is staying in a hotel.			
b) He is twelve years old.			
c) He is fascinated by the crown jewels.			
d) He is scared he might see a ghost.			
e) His parents are with him.			

¹ fortress: Festung

² protect: schützen

³ prison: Gefängnis

⁴ raven: animals

⁵ to execute: hinrichten

EXERCISE 2 About the tower. True or wrong?	T	W
a) It was William the Conqueror's idea to build the Tower.		
b) The animals in the Tower had a good life.		
c) Anne Boleyn was killed by someone who was trying to steal the Crown Jewels.		
d) There are no animals in the Tower today.		
e) People say there are ghosts in the Tower.		
f) You can see lions and polar bears in the Tower.		
g) People added new parts to the building from time to time.		
h) The kings of England didn't live in the Tower.		
i) A legend says that England will end if there are more than eight ravens in the tower.		

EXERCISE 3 Correct the wrong sentences from **EXERCISES 1** and **2**.

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Lösungen:

EXERCISE 1 About Nick. True, wrong or not in the text?	T	W	NT
a) Nick is staying in a hotel.	x		
b) He is twelve years old.			x
c) He is fascinated by the crown jewels.			x
d) He is scared he might see a ghost.		x	
e) His parents are with him.	x		

EXERCISE 2 About the tower. True or wrong?	T	W
a) It was William the Conqueror's idea to build the Tower.	x	
b) The animals in the Tower had a good life.		x
c) Anne Boleyn was killed by someone who was trying to steal the Crown Jewels.		x
d) There are no animals in the Tower today.		x
e) People say there are ghosts in the Tower.	x	
f) You can see lions and polar bears in the Tower.		x
g) People added new parts to the building from time to time.	x	
h) The kings of England didn't live in the Tower.		x
i) A legend says that England will end if there are more than eight ravens in the tower.		x

EXERCISE 3

1. d) He isn't scared. He hopes he will see a ghost.
2. b) The animals didn't have a good life. They lived in small cages and often died early because they didn't get the right food.
2. c) She wasn't killed by a robber, she was executed.
2. d) There are eight ravens in the tower today.
2. f) You can't see lions and polar bears in the Tower today. The kings used to keep these animals in there, but today there are only ravens.
- 2.h) The kings did live in the Tower.
- 2.i) A legend says that England will end if there aren't any ravens left in the tower.