

Listening Exercise – The Tube

https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_bierut_the_genius_of_the_london_tube_map?language=en

A. Warm up questions: With a partner look at the questions below and discuss them:

Apart from the metro here, have you ever been to another city and used some form of underground train like the Tube?

Did you find it easy or difficult to find your way around? Why or why not?

What do you know about the Tube in London?

B. Vocabulary - Before you watch the video, match the vocabulary to the meanings given:

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Body of water | a. Sharp and clear. |
| 2. Crammed | b. More than one branch of knowledge. |
| 3. Periphery | c. A significant accumulation of water (oceans, lakes, wetlands, etc.,). |
| 4. Draughtsman | d. A person who makes mechanical drawings of machines, structures, etc., |
| 5. Circuitry | e. The science of designing electric or electronic circuits. |
| 6. To be 'onto something' | f. To fill something with more than it can easily hold. |
| 7. Crisp | g. The features through which users interact with a system, often electronic. |
| 8. User interface | h. The external boundary of any surface or area. |
| 9. Cross disciplinary | i. To realise. |

C. Now watch the video and decide if these statements are true or false:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. The history of civilization, in some ways, is a history of maps. | true / false |
| 2. The London Underground came together in 1918. | true / false |
| 3. Harry Brown was a 29-year-old engineering draftsman who had been working on and off for the London Underground. | true / false |

4. The lines only go in three directions: true / false
they're horizontal, they're vertical, or
they're 45 degrees.
5. In 1933, the Underground decided, at true / false
last, to give Harry Beck's map a try.
6. They realized they were onto
something, they printed 850,000 more, true / false
and this is the map that you see today.
7. First one is focus. Focus on who you're true / false
doing this for.

D. Now watch it again and complete the missing spaces:

1. One of the most _____ maps works because it really isn't a map at all.
2. So, the map was geographically _____, but maybe not so useful.
3. He's taken this complicated mess of spaghetti, and he's _____ it.
4. Likewise, he spaced the stations equally, he's made every station _____
correspond to the _____ of the line, and he's fixed it all so that it's not really a
map anymore.
5. Beck's design really became the _____ for the way we think of metro
maps today.
6. The second principle is _____. What's the shortest way to deliver that need?
7. Who _____'ve thought that an electrical engineer _____ be the person to
hold the key to unlock what was then one of the most complicated systems in the world.

E. Post listening questions:

What new vocabulary did you hear?

How would you describe Beck's design?

What is the key idea behind the video?