

CHECK

3 Are the sentences True or False?
Correct the false ones.

Unusual British Landmarks

More than 30 million tourists visit the UK every year. Most of them go to the usual tourist attractions, which are crowded, noisy and often expensive, just because they feel they ought to see them. One favourite is Buckingham Palace, where the British Royal family has its official residence. Others include Stonehenge, with its historic but mystical Druid connections, or Big Ben, whose image is on every London souvenir in the gift shops.

1 Most tourists in the UK prefer to go to unusual attractions.

TRUE

FALSE

But the UK also has a wealth of less well-known but more eccentric landmarks. So where should adventurous tourists go to find something a bit different or quirky?



Surprise, surprise!



Our first landmark is a shark! But it isn't in the sea. It's in a roof in the suburbs of Oxford, which is around 100 kilometres from the sea – one of the places furthest from the coast in England!

DJ Bill Heine, who owns the house, installed the Headington Shark on 9th August 1986 (the anniversary of the Atom Bomb at Nagasaki) to express his anger at nuclear war.

2 The owner of the house in Oxford installed the shark as a joke.

TRUE

FALSE



The only way is up



At 310 metres high and with 95 floors, the Shard, which opened to the public in 2013, is Western Europe's tallest building. It is a vertical town with offices, bars, restaurants, a hotel, flats and a viewing platform at the top.

It was designed by Renzo Piano, who comes from Genoa in Italy. The Royal Family of Qatar, who own many expensive buildings in London, paid for the project. Why don't you see it for yourself next time you're in London?

3 The Shard is the tallest building in the world.

TRUE

FALSE

4 An Italian architect paid for the construction of the Shard.

TRUE

FALSE



Bigger is better



In Gateshead, in the north of England, we find a huge metal statue called 'Angel of the North', which is 20 metres high and 54 metres wide – as wide as a jumbo jet!

The angel, which was built in the countryside over a defunct coal mine, was created by sculptor Antony Gormley, who wanted a statue to reflect the north's industrial past.

5 Antony Gormley wanted people to think about the future when they see his sculpture.

TRUE

FALSE



The shock of the new!



Finally, if you want to see something really wacky, why don't you visit the Selfridge's Building, a spacious department store in Birmingham city centre? This is a very weird building, which all architecture students should see!

It has no windows and at one end there's something which resembles a face with only one eye and a smiling mouth! You'd better bring your camera or your friends back home will never believe you!

- 6 The Selfridge's Building in Birmingham contains offices and a hotel.
- TRUE
 - FALSE