



## Transport in London

The quickest way to get around London is on the Underground or Tube\*, but there are lots of other ways<sup>1</sup> to travel in the city, too.

\* See Student's Book p. 95

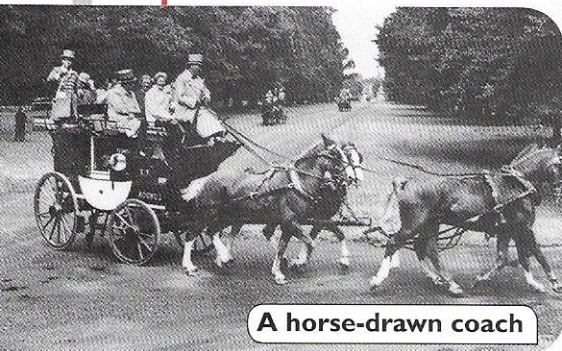
### Double-decker buses

London's red double-decker buses are famous all over the world. The origins of the double-decker bus are from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when people often sat on top of their horse-drawn coaches!

Today, the London bus service is one of the largest in the world. Approximately 7,500 buses transport over 6 million passengers from Monday to Friday.

On buses you can buy a ticket from the driver, but the majority of people use an Oyster card. It's a prepaid smart card. A journey with an Oyster card is cheaper than buying a single ticket.

London also has night buses. They usually have the letter 'N' before the bus number. Night buses are a cheap way to travel around London at night when the Tube closes.



A horse-drawn coach



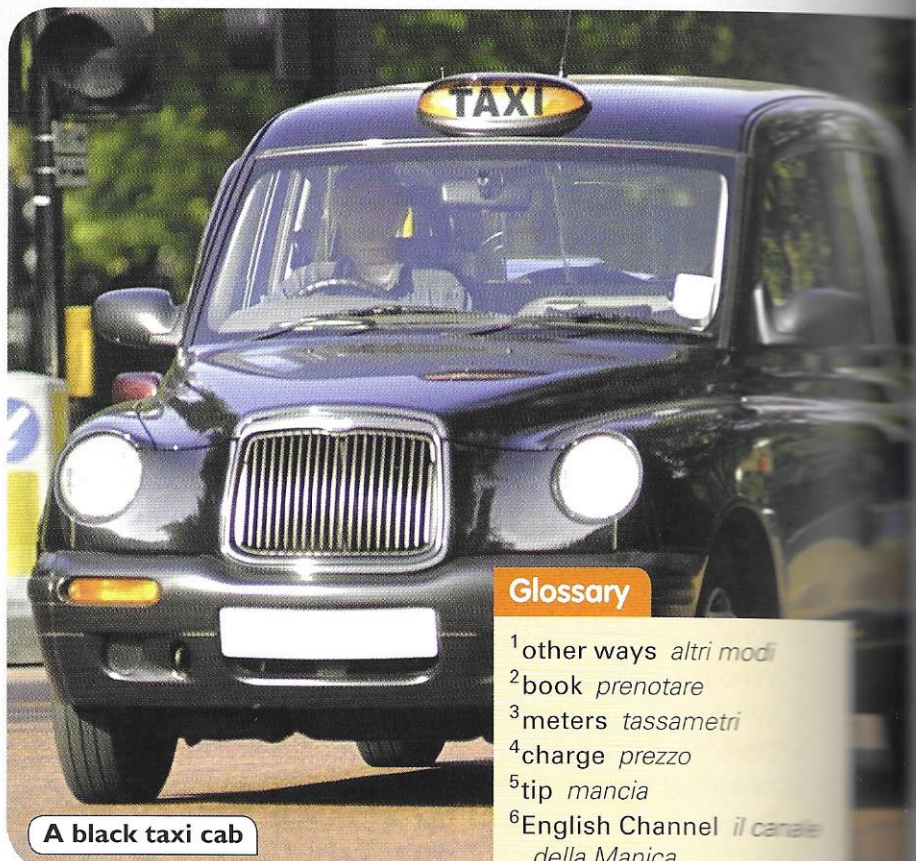
A double-decker bus

### Black taxi cabs

Black taxi cabs are another famous symbol of London. You can stop a black cab in the street. You can also book<sup>2</sup> a black cab by phone, but that costs an extra £2.

There are meters<sup>3</sup> in the taxis and the minimum charge<sup>4</sup> is £2.40. People usually give the driver a small tip<sup>5</sup> at the end of the journey. British people use taxis quite often because they aren't very expensive.

All taxi drivers in London take a test called The Knowledge. They have to memorise 320 routes across London and points of interest on the routes! These include hospitals, hotels, theatres, railway stations, police stations, churches and parks. Taxi drivers usually prepare for four years to take the test! They think The Knowledge is more useful than a Sat Nav for driving around London!



A black taxi cab

#### Glossary

<sup>1</sup> other ways *altri modi*

<sup>2</sup> book *prenotare*

<sup>3</sup> meters *tassametri*

<sup>4</sup> charge *prezzo*

<sup>5</sup> tip *mancia*

<sup>6</sup> English Channel *il canale della Manica*