

# High-rise London

Rob Broomby | *BCC News* | August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 |

[This news article considers tall buildings in London, the capital of the UK]

- A. The London cityscape is undergoing a major transformation with many tall buildings appearing and many more on the way. The backers say it all symbolises London's confidence as a global financial centre. But not everyone agrees.
- B. London's skyline is **upwardly mobile**. Work is about to begin near the Thames on a building called the Shard, a spire of steel and glass that will literally **skewer** the skyline rising 310 meters. By some measures the sky piercing spike will be the tallest building in Europe, a mark of London's growing confidence according to the developer Barry Ossle:
- C. OSSLE: To make London compete at the highest level, one needs modern architecture, new buildings, iconic buildings.
- D. For him big can be beautiful. The dome of St Paul's Cathedral still stands out above its neighbours - it's a protected view - but in the heart of the financial district, what Londoners call the City, there's a reach for the sky that will see 9 or 10 new **high rise buildings shoot-up** in the coming years, with a similar number again to supplement the existing towers of the business development known as Docklands.
- E. But tall buildings **don't suit all tastes**. UNESCO recently warned that the 1,000 year old Tower of London - the Thames-side home to **the crown jewels** and a key London landmark - was at risk of losing its **World Heritage Status** as new buildings **muscled in**. Love them or loath them, **there is confidence in buckets** here and the new buildings symbolise it. London will never look like Manhattan and on a global scale its buildings may be **puny** but it is striding into a new era, whilst trying not to forget its past.



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## Task 1. Comprehension Questions

Are the following questions True, False or Not Given?

1. The shape buildings make against the sky never changes in London. True   
False   
Not Given
- 
2. Ossle thinks that old, historic buildings are what London and Londoners want. True   
False   
Not Given
- 
3. In the next few years about ten new very tall building will be built in London. True   
False   
Not Given
- 
4. Not everyone likes these new high rise buildings. True   
False   
Not Given
- 
5. Building new tall buildings in London might mean that the Tower of London is no longer a protected UNESCO building. True   
False   
Not Given
- 
6. The new buildings in London show that the city is very unsure of itself. True   
False   
Not Given

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## Task 2. Vocabulary

Match these words and phrases to their definitions.

<b>1. upwardly mobile</b>	<b>A.</b> The official position of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which says that a building or place is protected and can't be changed or destroyed
<b>2. skewer</b>	<b>B.</b> small, not very significant
<b>3. iconic</b>	<b>C.</b> new tall buildings are built quickly
<b>4. high rise buildings shoot-up</b>	<b>D.</b> stab, spear
<b>5. don't suit all tastes</b>	<b>E.</b> forced your way into a situation to make certain you are included, although you are not wanted (here, the new buildings are being built which overwhelm or overpower the older, smaller buildings)
<b>6. the crown jewels</b>	<b>F.</b> being able to move to a higher social class by becoming more wealthy. (This is usually a fixed expression but here, the writer is using the term humorously to show that London's new buildings mean its architecture is similar to other wealthy, modern cities)
<b>7. World Heritage Status</b>	<b>G.</b> not everyone likes the same thing (here, tall buildings)
<b>8. muscled in</b>	<b>H.</b> is very confident, is very sure of itself
<b>9. there is confidence in buckets</b>	<b>I.</b> very famous, considered as representing a set of beliefs or a way of life (or here, reflecting what a city is like)
<b>10. predicts whether or not</b>	<b>J.</b> for every one child who doesn't have enough to eat in the world, there are two fat ones

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|------------|-------------|
| 1. = _____ | 6. = _____  |
| 2. = _____ | 7. = _____  |
| 3. = _____ | 8. = _____  |
| 4. = _____ | 9. = _____  |
| 5. = _____ | 10. = _____ |

