



**Notre-Dame cathedral**

- a The cathedral of Notre-Dame was started by Bishop de Sully in 1163 and work continued for nearly 200 years. It was completed in 1345. The cathedral is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and stands in the centre of Paris on the Ile-de-la-Cité.
- b It is undoubtedly the finest example of French gothic architecture. The twin towers are a famous feature of the Paris skyline, and are 69 metres high. The spire, which was added in the 19th century, is 90 metres high.
- c The façade is the most striking part of the building. The three portals are adorned with remarkable stone sculptures, including the Last Judgement. The rose window in the façade was built over 700 years ago and is magnificent.
- d The cathedral is still used for regular church services as well as special occasions. The vast interior can accommodate 9,000 people. French road distances are established from the '0 km' point located on the square in front of the cathedral entrance.

## • Language spot

### The Passive

- 1 Find a form of these verbs in the descriptions in *Reading*.
 

1 erect	4 use	7 continue	10 establish
2 build	5 light	8 stand	
3 depict	6 start	9 adorn	

  - a Which are Present tenses and which are Past tenses?
  - b Which are Passive and which are Active?
  - c Find other examples of Passive and Active verbs.
- 2 Is the Passive used more than the Active because
  - 1 descriptions like this are more formal?
  - 2 we are thinking about what *is done* to the thing we are interested in, not about what it *does*?
  - 3 sometimes we don't know *who* or *what* does the action (i.e. who is the 'agent')?
  - 4 it makes the text more interesting?
- 3 Which preposition (*by, of, for*) is used to describe
  - 1 the person (or thing) who did it?
  - 2 the reason or function?
  - 3 the material used?
- 4 Write descriptions using these notes.

- a Nelson's Column, London
  - In Trafalgar Square – constructed 1829–1841 – commemorate Battle of Trafalgar 1805
  - Column = 56 m; statue of Nelson 5.5 m. Granite
  - Base: 4 giant bronze lions (sculptor = Landseer) – represent strength of British Empire
  - A place to meet – celebrating New Year

- b Buckingham Palace, London
  - Originally a country house for Duke of Buckingham – converted to palace 1825 (architect = Nash)
  - Official royal residence 1837–present
  - Façade redesigned 1913 – 429 rooms (78 bathrooms) – employs 335 staff
  - Buckingham Palace open to public August and September. Also art gallery

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