**Double-deckers**

Big red double-decker buses are recognised all over the world. People know them as symbols of London but you can see these buses anywhere in the world. Visitors climb into London buses to go and see Niagara Falls. London buses can be seen driving round Europe to advertise big department stores, or British events. They don't need to have the words "London Transport" on the side of them: they can be instantly recognised by millions of people!

Today, every day, thousands of tourists and Londoners use the big red buses to move - often slowly - around town. A one-day London bus pass can be used on all regular bus routes. It is very convenient and it offers a wonderful opportunity to see the capital city.

The idea of the ‘double decker’ is actually much older than the motor bus. It comes from the age of horse-drawn transport. In those times, some passengers sat inside, and the others travelled on the roof.

The first horse-drawn buses in London had steps at the back, so that people could climb up onto the roof. There was no protection for the people travelling on top. If it rained, they got wet, and there was also some risk of falling down. Nowadays double-deckers trips are much more comfortable and enjoyable.