

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## 450th anniversary of Moscow's St. Basil's

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st\\_basils\\_cathedral.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st_basils_cathedral.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**14th July, 2011**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st\\_basils\\_cathedral.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st_basils_cathedral.html)

Russians celebrated the 450th anniversary of the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral on July 12th. The Cathedral has been a symbol of Russia for decades. It was completed in 1561 on the orders of Tsar Ivan the Terrible. It took workers 11 years to build it. Legend has it that Ivan the Terrible blinded the architects who designed it so they could not build anything more beautiful. Napoleon Bonaparte tried to blow the Cathedral up in 1812, but heavy rain put out the burning fuses to the gunpowder.

St. Basil's consists of nine churches. Its bright-colored onion-shaped domes make it one of the world's most famous buildings. Moscow just finished restoration work to the church in time for its 450th birthday. The repainting and repairs cost \$14 million and have brought the buildings back to their former beauty. Up to 2,000 tourists visit St. Basil's every day. Russia plans to celebrate the anniversary with four months of festivities, starting from July 12th and running through to October 14th.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st\\_basils\\_cathedral.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st_basils_cathedral.html)

## Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Russians celebrated the   | a. 11 years to build |
| 2. a symbol of Russia        | b. 450th anniversary |
| 3. It took workers           | c. the architects    |
| 4. Legend has                | d. for decades       |
| 5. Ivan the Terrible blinded | e. the burning fuses |
| 6. heavy rain put out        | f. it that...        |

### Paragraph 2

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. St. Basil's consists        | a. domes              |
| 2. bright-colored onion-shaped | b. work to the church |
| 3. just finished restoration   | c. visit St. Basil's  |
| 4. The repainting and repairs  | d. of nine churches   |
| 5. Up to 2,000 tourists        | e. of festivities     |
| 6. four months                 | f. cost \$14 million  |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st\\_basils\\_cathedral.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st_basils_cathedral.html)

Russians \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary of the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral on July 12th. The Cathedral \_\_\_\_\_ of Russia for decades. It was completed in \_\_\_\_\_ Tsar Ivan the Terrible. It took workers 11 years to build it. \_\_\_\_\_ Ivan the Terrible blinded the architects who designed it \_\_\_\_\_ build anything more beautiful. Napoleon Bonaparte tried to blow the Cathedral up in 1812, but \_\_\_\_\_ the burning fuses to the gunpowder.

St. Basil's \_\_\_\_\_. Its bright-colored onion-shaped domes make it one of the world's most famous buildings. Moscow just \_\_\_\_\_ to the church in time for its 450th birthday. The \_\_\_\_\_ cost \$14 million and have brought the buildings back \_\_\_\_\_. Up to 2,000 tourists visit St. Basil's every day. Russia plans to celebrate the anniversary with four \_\_\_\_\_, starting from July 12th \_\_\_\_\_ October 14th.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st\\_basils\\_cathedral.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st_basils_cathedral.html)

Russians celebrated the 450th anniversary of the (1) \_\_\_\_ St. Basil's Cathedral on July 12th. The Cathedral has been a symbol of Russia for (2) \_\_\_\_\_. It was completed in 1561 on the orders of Tsar Ivan the Terrible. It took workers 11 years to build it. Legend (3) \_\_\_\_\_ it that Ivan the Terrible (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the architects who designed it so they could not build anything more beautiful. Napoleon Bonaparte tried to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the Cathedral up in 1812, but heavy rain put (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the burning fuses to the gunpowder.

St. Basil's consists (7) \_\_\_\_\_ nine churches. Its bright-colored onion-shaped (8) \_\_\_\_\_ make it one of the world's most famous buildings. Moscow just finished restoration work to the church (9) \_\_\_\_\_ time for its 450th birthday. The repainting and repairs cost \$14 million and have brought the buildings back to their (10) \_\_\_\_\_ beauty. Up to 2,000 tourists visit St. Basil's every day. Russia plans to celebrate the anniversary with four months of (11) \_\_\_\_\_, starting from July 12th and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ through to October 14th.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |              |             |                 |
|-----|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) iconic   | (b) icon    | (c) icons       |
| 2.  | (a) decade   | (b) decades | (c) tens        |
| 3.  | (a) does     | (b) has     | (c) gives       |
| 4.  | (a) deaf     | (b) sounded | (c) blinded     |
| 5.  | (a) destroy  | (b) blow    | (c) damage      |
| 6.  | (a) out      | (b) in      | (c) up          |
| 7.  | (a) of       | (b) in      | (c) at          |
| 8.  | (a) tomes    | (b) homes   | (c) domes       |
| 9.  | (a) at       | (b) in      | (c) every       |
| 10. | (a) former   | (b) farmer  | (c) firmer      |
| 11. | (a) festival | (b) festive | (c) festivities |
| 12. | (a) walking  | (b) hopping | (c) running     |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st\\_basils\\_cathedral.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st_basils_cathedral.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. tlabedecre the 450th anniversary
2. the locicn St. Basil's Cathedral
3. a symbol of Russia for aedcdsd
4. Ivan the Terrible dnlbdie the architects
5. build ynainthg more beautiful
6. put out the iungbrn fuses

## Paragraph 2

7. St. Basil's csotnssi of nine churches
8. bright-colored onion-shaped eodsm
9. repainting and piaresr
10. back to their frmreo beauty
11. four homsnt of festivities
12. girnnun through to October 14th

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st\\_basils\\_cathedral.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st_basils_cathedral.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) orders of Tsar Ivan the Terrible. It took workers 11 years to build it. Legend has
- ( ) it that Ivan the Terrible blinded the architects who designed it so they
- ( ) domes make it one of the world's most famous buildings. Moscow just finished restoration
- ( ) cost \$14 million and have brought the buildings back to their former beauty. Up to 2,000 tourists
- ( ) months of festivities, starting from July 12th and running through to October 14th.
- ( ) St. Basil's consists of nine churches. Its bright-colored onion-shaped
- ( ) visit St. Basil's every day. Russia plans to celebrate the anniversary with four
- ( ) been a symbol of Russia for decades. It was completed in 1561 on the
- ( ) work to the church in time for its 450th birthday. The repainting and repairs
- ( ) could not build anything more beautiful. Napoleon Bonaparte tried to blow the Cathedral
- ( ) up in 1812, but heavy rain put out the burning fuses to the gunpowder.
- ( **1** ) Russians celebrated the 450th anniversary of the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral on July 12th. The Cathedral has

# WORD JUMBLE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st\\_basils\\_cathedral.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1107/110714-st_basils_cathedral.html)

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. the . The of St anniversary iconic Basil's 450th.

---

2. Russia decades A of for symbol.

---

3. the the blinded architects Ivan Terrible.

---

4. to Cathedral 1812 tried the in Bonaparte blow up.

---

5. rain Heavy fuses burning the out put.

---

6. Its - bright shaped - domes colored onion.

---

7. work Moscow to just the finished church restoration.

---

8. million repairs cost The \$ repainting 14 and.

---

9. Up every St to day . tourists 2,000 Basil's visit

---

10. festivities with four Celebrate months the of anniversary.

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. ANNIVERSARIES:** Search the Internet and find more information about anniversaries. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about St. Basil's Cathedral. Include imaginary interviews with people who love it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the boss of St. Basil's Cathedral. Ask him/her three questions about the anniversary. Give him/her three of your opinions on anniversaries. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.