

I'm sure that many of you who are listening to this podcast have been to Trafalgar Square. It is one of the most famous places in downtown London. In fact, if you visit London, you will find that all the major landmarks⁽¹⁾ are concentrated in the central area of the city. When I went there this summer with my children, we caught the bus every day to Trafalgar Square. The bus terminated⁽²⁾ there which was perfect for us. So, the first day that we were there, we got off the bus and proceeded to sightsee. My children were quite impressed when they looked around: the statues, the fountains, the great circle of architecture around the square, and of course, the lions. Everybody climbs on the lions to have their photo taken; it's a tradition. Another great thing about the square is the street entertainment. There is always someone doing something, either dancing, singing, playing a musical instrument, or doing something extraordinary⁽³⁾. On this particular day, we found a man dressed in a silver suit, being extraordinary. He was sitting up in the air on what looked like nothing. He was suspended above the ground with nothing but a walking stick touching the floor. Was he magic? Or was his floating just a clever trick? My youngest children were fascinated. With smiles on their faces, they gave him some money and said, "How do you do that?" Of course the mysterious silver man couldn't talk; that would have destroyed the mystery. He simply lifted his hat as if to say "Hello, and thank you" and continued looking shiny and magical. I wonder how long he sat like that. And I also wonder if anyone saw him get down from his invisible chair.

1. 'Landmark' is a building or structure that is historically or culturally important.

a. Stone Henge is one of the oldest and most famous

landmarks in England.

b. Look! There's some kind of landmark. Let's head in that direction.

2. 'Terminated/ to terminate' simply means 'to finish' but it sounds more official or not so every-day.

a. My contract was terminated suddenly.

b. This train terminates in New York at 7pm.

3. 'Extraordinary' is a wonderful word for 'out of the ordinary', 'amazing' or 'odd'. Notice that we don't pronounce the 'a'.

a. His photographic memory is extraordinary.

b. What an extraordinary creature! It is so strange that it's actually a bit scary.