

Cooper: Hi everybody. Here I am with my friend, Paolo, and he is, and we're in London, in Liverpool Street Station and I wanted to ask him about this neighbourhood of London.

Paolo: Hi, everybody. Well, we're in the City at the moment and the City is the kind of **central** neighbourhood of London. It's also called the Square Mile because of its size and it's where all of the **financial** and **legal** and **professional** heart of London is. It's one of the nicest places in London, I really like it.

Cooper: So, why do you think it's such a nice neighbourhood in London?

Paolo: Well, I mean, it's not nice **in the sense that** it's a particularly friendly neighbourhood. It's nice **in the sense that** it's, because it's such a rich neighbourhood.

Cooper: Why is it such a rich neighbourhood?

Paolo: Because there are all of the banks and all of the **legal studios** which **pay for** all the buildings which **come up** and they've been paying them coming up for the last four hundred years or so, so you've got this mixture of architecture **all over the place**.

Cooper: What's the most famous architecture in the city?

Paolo: Ah there is **loads**, but probably the Gherkin is my favourite. It's this **skyscraper** which looks a bit like a cucumber.

Cooper: So, is this part of London the part of London that has the biggest buildings?

Paolo: No, the Canary Wharf is probably the one with the most **skyscrapers** per square mile, but this one is one, the one where it kind of all started. Canary Wharf is where they have to **offshore** all of their **bankers** because there wasn't enough space here in the Square Mile.

Cooper: So, there are bankers here and there are bankers in Canary Wharf?

Paolo: There are bankers everywhere in London.

Cooper: But I just want you to explain one more time to the audience, because people, they're gonna hear the word "The City" and they're gonna think "a cidade" and really the City is not London, right? I mean...

Paolo: But it's where London started, which is why it's called The City. So, it's the original part of London and as a result it's still called The City or even though it's its own little **entity** within London.

Cooper: But it's not where the Queen lives.

Paolo: It's not where the Queen lives and, say, Buckingham Palace, when it was built, it was built on **marshes**, so well outside of the original city of London.

Cooper: Ah, I didn't know that. So, all of the places where tourists go aren't the original city of London and that's why the Tower of London is close to here, right?

Paolo: That's right. So, the King and Queen would usually **reside** in the Tower of London before Buckingham Palace was built.

Cooper: Ah, okay. And now, the City, the neighbourhood "The City" in London **is occupied by** the new kings, who are the **bankers**.

Paolo: That's right. And it's also got a really interesting **setup**. Because it's got its own little **government**, it has a **representative** in **parliament**, so it's kind of a city **within** a city and a kind of city within a nation.

Cooper: Very interesting. I bet you didn't know that, audience!

English by Dr Cooper