

## Glass slide opens 300 metres above the street

28th June, 2016



A very scary slide has opened to the public in Los Angeles. Slides are usually seen in children's parks, but the scary Skyslide is on the outside of a building, 70 stories high. To

make it scarier, the Skyslide is made of glass, which is just 3 cm thick. People who go on it have to look down at the street 300 metres below them. It is part of the U.S. Bank Tower in downtown L.A. It cost \$3.5 million to build. The slide starts at the 70th floor and goes down one storey to the 69th floor. It is only 15 metres from start to finish and takes about five seconds to get from top to bottom. Riders must sit on a special safety mat and push themselves out of a window. Only one person can go on it at a time.

The president of the company that owns the building said there were many meetings about what kind of attraction it should have. They wanted something special. The president said: "We have to do something that doesn't exist anywhere else." She said the slide is safe enough to support a school bus filled with people. An L.A. Times reporter spoke about the ride. He said: "The ride takes just a few seconds. Before you can get a really proper scream going, you're launched out onto a safety mat on an outdoor deck on the 69th floor." Tickets to get into the Skyspace area on the 70th floor are \$25 for adults and \$19 for children aged between 3-12. A ride on the Skyslide cost an additional \$8.

Sources: *L.A. Times / Timeout.com*

## Writing

It is crazy to make a \$3.5 million slide on a building. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

slide / public / children's parks / downtown / start to finish / special / safety / mat / president / meetings / attraction / exist / support / school bus / scream / launched

## True / False

- A slide has opened in a children's park in Los Angeles. T / F
- The glass on the slide is 3 cm thick. T / F
- The glass slide cost \$3.5 million to build. T / F
- Only one person can use the slide at a time. T / F
- The building's owners had one meeting to decide to build the slide. T / F
- The slide is strong enough to support a school bus filled with people. T / F
- The ride takes nearly a minute to complete. T / F
- It will cost \$25 to go on the slide. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. scary       | a. secure      |
| 2. stories     | b. begins      |
| 3. below       | c. floors      |
| 4. starts      | d. sort        |
| 5. finish      | e. extra       |
| 6. kind        | f. frightening |
| 7. safe        | g. only        |
| 8. just        | h. end         |
| 9. proper      | i. beneath     |
| 10. additional | j. real        |

## Discussion – Student A

- What's your favourite building and why?
- Why do people like to do scary things?
- What other things can you do in LA?
- Where else in the world could you make a good slide?
- What do you think of the name Skyslide?
- How could you make a slide more exciting?
- What do you think of the price of the ride on the slide?
- What questions would you like to ask the owner of the slide?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. A very scary slide has opened
  2. look down at the street
  3. The slide starts at the 70th floor and
  4. Riders must sit on a special
  5. Only one person can go on it
  6. something that doesn't exist
  7. school
  8. The ride takes
  9. get into the Skyspace area
  10. A ride on the Skyslide costs
- a. safety mat
  - b. just a few seconds
  - c. at a time
  - d. on the 70th floor
  - e. 300 metres below them
  - f. an additional \$8
  - g. to the public
  - h. anywhere else
  - i. goes down one story
  - j. bus

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of the Skyslide?
- b) Would you like to go on the slide?
- c) How dangerous do you think the slide is?
- d) What kind of slides do you like?
- e) What do you think of the cost of the slide to build?
- f) Should the slide have been longer?
- g) How scary do you think the ride on the slide is?
- h) What scary things do you like doing?

## Spelling

1. opened to the bilpuc
2. on the outside of a iibgnudl
3. 70 iressot (USA) / rtseyos (UK) high
4. just 3 cm ihktc
5. odwwotnn L.A.
6. sit on a cpliaes safety mat
7. The edpstrnei of the company
8. what kind of ttaiotrnca it should have
9. something that doesn't etixs anywhere else
10. safe enough to rpptosu a school bus
11. a really eroppr scream
12. cost an odiatndial \$8

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. d	7. a	8. g	9. j	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Scary slides

You think scary slides are the best attraction for a city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their attractions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): art galleries, shopping malls or old buildings.

### Role B – Art galleries

You think art galleries are the best attraction for a city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their attractions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): scary slides, shopping malls or old buildings.

### Role C – Shopping malls

You think shopping malls are the best attraction for a city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their attractions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): art galleries, scary slides or old buildings.

### Role D – Old buildings

You think old buildings are the best attraction for a city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their attractions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): art galleries, shopping malls or scary slides.

## Speaking – Attractions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best attractions at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Scary slides
- Jetcoasters
- Art galleries
- Street performers
- Old buildings
- Shopping malls
- Parks
- Amusement parks

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.