

Eiffel Tower full of rust and in need of repair

7th July, 2022



The Eiffel Tower is one of the world's most famous sights. The 324-metre-tall iron tower attracts millions of tourists to Paris every year. It has been an iconic part of Paris' skyline for 133 years. However, it is showing its age. Engineers recently conducted a survey of the monument. They found that its metal is full of rust. They said it is "in a poor state".

They added that if its designer Gustave Eiffel was alive today and saw his creation, "he would have a heart attack". Engineers say there are many cracks in the iron. The tower needs many repairs. A 2016 report on the tower stated there were 698 faults on the tower. These were serious enough to put the tower's long-term future in doubt.

Construction of the Eiffel Tower started in January 1887. It opened to the public on the 31st of March, 1889. It was built to celebrate the 1889 World's Fair in Paris. Builders needed 10,100 tons of iron to make the tower. It was made from 18,000 sections and 2.5 million rivets. The original plan was for the tower to be taken down after 20 years. However, the French government changed its mind and kept it in place. The tower is currently being repainted ahead of the 2024 Olympics. Engineers say painting the metal will not make the rust problem go away. They say the existing paint needs to be completely removed first. However, this will take too long and the tower would lose tourist revenue.

Sources: cnn.com / sky.com / theguardian.com

Writing

The Eiffel Tower is the world's greatest sightseeing spot. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

sights / towers / tourists / skyline / age / engineers / survey / iron / future / in doubt / construction / the public / celebrate / plan / government / paint / rust / take too long

True / False

- 1) The Eiffel Tower is the world's most famous sight. T / F
- 2) The Eiffel Tower opened to the public 133 years ago. T / F
- 3) The tower's designer Gustave Eiffel had a heart attack. T / F
- 4) Engineers say the tower needs a few repairs. T / F
- 5) The Eiffel Tower was opened to celebrate World Expo in 1889. T / F
- 6) Builders used 2.5 million rivets to build the tower. T / F
- 7) The original idea for the tower was to take it down after 20 years. T / F
- 8) Engineers say repainting the tower will make the rust disappear. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. famous | a. building |
| 2. tourists | b. important |
| 3. conducted | c. disappear |
| 4. repairs | d. carried out |
| 5. serious | e. income |
| 6. construction | f. well known |
| 7. original | g. before |
| 8. ahead of | h. fixes |
| 9. go away | i. first |
| 10. revenue | j. visitors |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Eiffel Tower?
- b) Why is the Eiffel Tower so popular?
- c) Should Paris make all repairs to the tower?
- d) What great sights are there in your country?
- e) How romantic is the Eiffel Tower?
- f) What photos of the Eiffel Tower would you like to take?
- g) What three adjectives best describe the Eiffel Tower?
- h) How would you feel if the Eiffel Tower was removed?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. It has been an iconic part | a. to the public |
| 2. They found that its metal is full | b. faults on the tower |
| 3. Engineers say there are many cracks | c. repainted |
| 4. there were 698 | d. of Paris' skyline |
| 5. put the tower's long-term future | e. tourist revenue |
| 6. It opened | f. in the iron |
| 7. Builders needed 10,100 | g. away |
| 8. The tower is currently being | h. in doubt |
| 9. make the rust problem go | i. tons of iron |
| 10. the tower would lose | j. of rust |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the Eiffel Tower?
- Do you think the Eiffel Tower is a good tourist sight?
- What do you think of the city of Paris?
- Have you ever seen the Eiffel Tower in movies?
- What would you like to do at the Eiffel Tower?
- What's the best tourist sight in the world?
- What questions would you like to ask the owners of the Eiffel Tower?

Spelling

- trttacas millions of tourists
- an cconij part of Paris' skyline
- a sevryu of the monument
- The tower needs many rseirpa
- there were 698 tslufa on the tower
- in otbdu
- It opened to the ubpicl
- teabrleec the 1889 World's Fair
- The riagolin plan
- The tower is rtulnycer being repainted
- the exsntgii paint
- lose tourist rveeneu

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Paris

You think Paris is the best city to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): New York, Tokyo or Cairo.

Role B – New York

You think New York is the best city to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Paris, Tokyo or Cairo.

Role C – Tokyo

You think Tokyo is the best city to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): New York, Paris or Cairo.

Role D – Cairo

You think Cairo is the best city to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): New York, Tokyo or Paris.

Speaking – Cities

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

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| • Paris | • Nairobi |
| • New York | • Tokyo |
| • Sydney | • Bangkok |
| • Cairo | • Rio de Janeiro |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.