

World-famous London shopping street pedestrianized

29th October 2026



One of London's most famous shopping streets has been pedestrianized. This means no cars, buses, trucks, or motorbikes can enter it. The street is called Oxford Street. It is well known all over the world. It used to be full of traffic. The Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq

Khan, decided to make it pedestrian-only. Around one kilometre of the street is off limits to vehicles. However, delivery trucks can use the area between midnight and 7 am. Mayor Khan hopes the pedestrianization will bring more shoppers back to the area. He called it a very important event for London. Mr Khan also plans to plant more trees along the street, create public squares, and add more seats and tables.

There have been mixed reactions to the pedestrianization of Oxford Street. Many people support the plan. They are happy that the area will be less polluted. Khan said a traffic-free Oxford Street would "unlock the full potential" of an important area of London and help make a better, greener, and richer London. Around half a million people visit the street every day. However, many Londoners are unhappy that the street has been closed to traffic. Local official Tim Barnes said: "Traffic will be pushed to the small streets nearby causing economic and environmental harm." The Spectator magazine warned that life for car drivers would be harder. It wrote: "London is now officially the world's slowest city."

Sources: sky.com / spectator.com / upi.com

Writing

All shopping streets should be for pedestrians and not cars. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

London / shopping street / cars / traffic / delivery truck / trees / public squares / seats / mixed reactions / polluted / potential / environmental harm / car drivers / city

True / False

- 1) London's most famous shopping street has been pedestrianized. T / F
- 2) The UK's leader decided to pedestrianize the street. T / F
- 3) No vehicles at all are allowed to drive on the street. T / F
- 4) The London mayor wants to plant more trees on the street. T / F
- 5) Some people like the pedestrianization, and others don't. T / F
- 6) London's mayor said the pedestrianized will make London greener. T / F
- 7) About 500,000 people visit the shopping street every day. T / F
- 8) A magazine called London the world's fastest city. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. famous | a. neighbourhood |
| 2. traffic | b. power |
| 3. pedestrians | c. responses |
| 4. area | d. well known |
| 5. create | e. damage |
| 6. reactions | f. back |
| 7. support | g. vehicles |
| 8. potential | h. make |
| 9. harm | i. motorists |
| 10. car drivers | j. people on foot |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of shopping streets?
- b) What do you think of shopping in London?
- c) Are shopping streets better than malls?
- d) What are the best shops on shopping streets?
- e) What damage have online stores done to shopping streets?
- f) Should cars, buses, trucks, etc. be allowed on shopping streets?
- g) What do you think of the idea of pedestrianized shopping streets?
- h) Is internet shopping better than going to a shopping street?

Phrase Match

1. no cars, buses, trucks, or motorbikes
 2. It is well known all
 3. It used to be full
 4. delivery
 5. bring more shoppers
 6. There have been mixed reactions
 7. They are happy that the area will be less
 8. unlock the full
 9. half a million people
 10. life for car
- a. of traffic
 - b. polluted
 - c. drivers would be harder
 - d. back to the area
 - e. to the pedestrianization
 - f. can enter it
 - g. visit the street
 - h. trucks
 - i. over the world
 - j. potential

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are your favourite shopping streets?
- c) What are your favourite stores?
- d) How could you make shopping streets better?
- e) Are there any stores on shopping streets you dislike?
- f) Who is it best to go shopping with?
- g) What advice do you have for Londoners?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mayor Khan?

Spelling

1. London's most safumo shopping streets
2. full of rfiftca
3. the street is off limits to liecshev
4. erviyled trucks
5. between tmihgdin and 7 am
6. create public seasgru
7. There have been mixed sreintoca
8. people uptosrp the plan
9. the area will be less dptluole
10. unlock the full nitpealot
11. mncicooe and environmental harm
12. The Spectator anzmgaei

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	Where is Oxford Street well known?
2.	What does the article say Oxford Street used to be full of?
3.	What vehicles are allowed to enter Oxford Street?
4.	Who does Mayor Khan hope will go to Oxford Street?
5.	What kind of squares will London's mayor create on Oxford Street?
6.	What kind of reaction has there been to the pedestrianization?
7.	What does Mayor Khan say pedestrianization will make London?
8.	How many people visit Oxford Street every day?
9.	What did a magazine say life would be like for car drivers?
10.	What did a magazine call London?

Speaking – Shops

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

- Stationery shops
- Grocery stores
- Mobile phone shops
- Sports shops
- Clothes shops
- Book stores
- Charity shops
- DIY stores

Answers – True False

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