

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210116-champs-elysees.html>

The mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, has said there are ambitious plans to transform Paris' famous street the Champs-Elysees. She said she wants to turn the 1.9km avenue into an "extraordinary garden". The Champs-Elysees is in the heart of the French capital. It joins the Place de la Concorde with the Arc de Triomphe. It is often called "the most beautiful avenue in the world". However, many Parisians believe it looks old. They want it to look more modern. Ms Hidalgo said she wants to reduce the amount of traffic on the avenue. She wants to cut the number of car lanes to make more room for pedestrians. She also wants to plant more trees to make it greener and more attractive.

The Champs-Elysees once showed how sophisticated and elegant Paris was. There were many car showrooms full of luxury cars, and chic designer fashion stores. It was a magnet for rich people who wanted to buy the latest brands. Today, it looks like many other streets in the world. It is full of international chain stores, fast food restaurants and coffee shops. It will take a decade to beautify the Champs Elysees. Work will start on it after the 2024 Paris Olympics. Ms Hidalgo said: "We will redo the Place de la Concorde before the Olympic Games, then the full length of the avenue afterwards. It will be an extraordinary garden." The budget for the project is around \$305 million.

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/paris-mayor-pushes-ahead-with-plan-to-give-champs-elysees-a-305-million-green-makeover/>
<https://www.thelocal.fr/20210111/green-light-for-paris-famous-champs-elysee-to-be-turned-into-garden>
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/pariss-champs-elysees-garden-renovation-1936162>

WARM-UPS

1. PARIS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Paris. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

mayor / ambitious / plans / garden / beautiful / avenue / modern / traffic / trees / sophisticated / elegant / luxury / fashion / decade / Olympics / length / budget

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. TREES: Students A **strongly** believe all towns and cities should plant thousands more trees; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't necessary. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. STREETS: What are the streets like in your town? How can we improve them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What Is It Like?	Improvements
Trees		
Walking space		
Litter		
Lights		
Easy to use		
Parking		

5. FAMOUS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "famous". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. CITIES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best cities at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Paris
- Dubai
- Tokyo
- New York
- Nairobi
- Rio De Janeiro
- Beijing
- Sydney

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. ambitious | a. Make smaller or less in amount, degree, or size. |
| 2. transform | b. Unusually great. |
| 3. extraordinary | c. Make a big change to. |
| 4. capital | d. Nice to look at. |
| 5. reduce | e. Of a plan or piece of work that is planned to do great things or be great. |
| 6. pedestrian | f. The most important city or town of a country or region, usually where its government is. |
| 7. attractive | g. A person walking along a road. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 8. sophisticated | h. A type of clothing or other product made by a particular company under a particular name. |
| 9. showroom | i. Make the looks of something better. |
| 10. magnet | j. One of many shops owned by one company and selling the same things. |
| 11. brand | k. A kind of store used to show goods for sale, such as cars or furniture. |
| 12. chain store | l. The amount of money given to a project or plan. |
| 13. beautify | m. Having or showing a high level of fashion and culture. |
| 14. budget | n. A person or thing that has a power to make people move towards them. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210116-champs-elysees.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The Champs Elysees is over two kilometres long. **T / F**
- b. The Champs Elysees is pretty much in the middle of Paris. **T / F**
- c. The Champs Elysees joins the Eiffel Tower with the Arc de Triomphe. **T / F**
- d. The mayor wants to create more space for people to walk. **T / F**
- e. The article says Paris didn't use to be elegant or sophisticated. **T / F**
- f. The article says the Champs Elysees now looks like many other streets. **T / F**
- g. Work on the Champs Elysees will take ten years. **T / F**
- h. The beautification work will cost around \$305 billion. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. plans | a. ten years |
| 2. transform | b. amazing |
| 3. extraordinary | c. pretty |
| 4. reduce | d. later |
| 5. attractive | e. change |
| 6. sophisticated | f. focus |
| 7. magnet | g. decrease |
| 8. decade | h. financial plan |
| 9. afterwards | i. cultured |
| 10. budget | j. ideas |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. there are ambitious plans to transform | a. traffic on the avenue |
| 2. The Champs-Elysees is in the | b. the latest brands |
| 3. she wants to reduce the amount of | c. more attractive |
| 4. make more room | d. length of the avenue |
| 5. make it greener and | e. elegant Paris was |
| 6. how sophisticated and | f. around \$305 million |
| 7. many car showrooms full | g. Paris' famous street |
| 8. people who wanted to buy | h. of luxury cars |
| 9. the full | i. heart of the French capital |
| 10. The budget for the project is | j. for pedestrians |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210116-champs-elysees.html>

1. What adjective did the article use to describe the Mayor's plans?
2. How long is the Champs Elysees?
3. What does the Champs Elysees join to the Place de la Concorde?
4. What does the mayor want to cut the number of?
5. For whom does the mayor want to make more room?
6. What did many showrooms used to have on the Champs Elysees?
7. Who did the writer say the Champs Elysees was a magnet for?
8. What is the Champs Elysees full of besides restaurants and coffee shops?
9. How many years will it take to beautify the Champs Elysees?
10. How much will the Champs Elysees project cost?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210116-champs-elysees.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'street' and 'garden'.

street	garden
---------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ambitious• turn• heart• often• modern• plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• showed• luxury• chain• decade• redo• budget
---	--

PARIS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Paris'?
3. What do you know about Paris?
4. What do you want to know about Paris?
5. What is your town like for gardens?
6. What do you think of the mayor of your town?
7. Do you have any ambitious plans?
8. How beautiful is your town?
9. Should towns have more space for pedestrians?
10. Should all towns have many more trees?

Paris' Champs-Elysees to be 'extraordinary garden' – 16th January, 2021
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

PARIS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'garden'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How important are gardens?
15. What is an extraordinary garden for you?
16. How interested are you in the latest brands?
17. Are international chains making the world's streets look the same?
18. What would you do to beautify your town?
19. What would you do as mayor?
20. What questions would you like to ask the mayor?