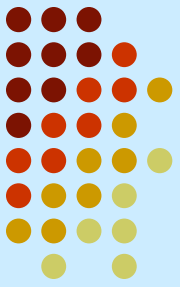


СПб ГОУ СПО «Политехнический колледж городского хозяйства»

Big Ben



**Преподаватель: Аксенова И.В.
Санкт-Петербург
2013 г.**

Big Ben in London



Big Ben is the nickname for the great bell of the clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster in London. It'll celebrate its 160th anniversary on 31 May 2019.

The present Clock Tower – metonymically referred to as Big Ben, and historically confused with St Stephen's Tower – was raised as a part of Charles Barry's design for a new palace, after the old Palace of Westminster was largely destroyed by fire on the night of 16 October 1834.



Despite being one of the world's most famous tourist attractions, the interior of the tower is not open to overseas visitors, though United Kingdom residents are able to arrange tours (well in advance) through their Member of Parliament. However, the tower has no lift, so those escorted must climb the 334 limestone stairs to the top.



The clock and dials were designed by Augustus Pugin. The clock dials are set in an iron frame 23 feet (7 m) in diameter, supporting 312 pieces of opal glass, rather like a stained-glass window. Some of the glass pieces may be removed for inspection of the hands. The surround of the dials is gilded. At the base of each clock dial in gilt letters is the Latin inscription:

“DOMINE SALVAM FAC
REGINAM NOSTRAM
VICTORIAM PRIMAM”.
*(O Lord, keep safe our
Queen Victoria the First).*





Construction was entrusted to clockmaker Edward John Dent.

After his death in 1853 his stepson Frederick Dent completed the work, in 1854, as the Tower was not complete until 1859.



The Big Ben clock tower has been tilting as a result of the excavation of tunnels near Westminster.

The tower has tilted an additional 0.9 mm each year since 2003, and the tilt can now be seen by the naked eye.

The nickname was applied first to the Great Bell; it may have been named after Sir Benjamin Hall, who oversaw the installation of the Great Bell.

Now Big Ben is often used, by extension, to refer to the clock, the tower and the bell collectively, although the nickname is not universally accepted as referring to the clock and tower. Some authors of works about the tower, clock and bell sidestep the issue by using the words Big Ben first in the title, then going on to clarify that the subject of the book is the clock and tower as well as the bell.





Thank you for attention!

