

Occupy London

by Jane Lawson at DailyStep.com

If you visit St Paul's cathedral in London at the moment, you will be greeted by a very unusual sight. Protesters from the Occupy London movement are occupying the grounds of St Paul's, camping there in around 200 tents, and throughout the day they are holding rallies and giving interviews to newspapers and TV news channels. But who are they and why are they there?



Occupy London opened as a Facebook page on 10th October 2011, calling for people to occupy Paternoster Square, outside the London Stock Exchange, which is opposite St Paul's cathedral. The London Stock Exchange is the main British institution of the global financial system. The protest is against corporate greed, particularly by the banks, and against tax injustice and social inequality. One of the main slogans of the Occupy movement is "We are the 99%". This slogan is now used worldwide, but it originally came from the USA, where most of the wealth is apparently concentrated in just the richest 1% of the population, while the other 99% suffer the consequences of this inequality. The text on the banner in the bottom picture – "We apologise for inconvenience during essential global improvement works" – sounds like a traffic disruption notice, which is quite funny because the protesters have been criticised for causing a disruption to the area.

When they first arrived in Paternoster Square, the London protesters were quickly moved on by the police, so they went into the grounds of St Paul's cathedral, and were given permission to stay. The Canon of St. Paul's, Reverend Giles Fraser, even asked the police to leave the cathedral steps, saying he was happy for people to "exercise their right to protest peacefully" outside the cathedral. But after a week, the Dean of St Paul's (another leading cleric) asked the protesters to leave. There was talk of legal action being taken against the protestors, with the implied threat of forcible eviction from the grounds of St Paul's. But other senior members of the Church have expressed support for the protest, with one senior cleric stating that excessive greed should become completely socially unacceptable.

This kind of protest is inspired by the brave protesters who occupied Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt, in early 2011, and brought about such huge change in their country. There have been Occupy protests throughout the USA and worldwide. Using the internet and social networking sites such as Facebook, ordinary people can now organise and exchange ideas in a way that was impossible even 10 years ago. The Occupy London protest has provoked a far reaching debate throughout Britain, and it is one of the hottest topics on any news program right now. This protest does seem to be having an effect because, essentially, its demands for a fairer system are reasonable, and no politician or cleric wants to be the one to disagree with them!

Anyway, let's move on now to our [Audio Word Study](#), where I will teach you how to use **MIGHT** (part 2).

To download this free PDF and to hear and download the audio blog, please visit: <https://www.dailystep.com/en/blog/meanings-might-part-2-and-occupy-london-protesters-st-pauls>

DailyStep English

www.DailyStep.com

Speak Good English!

Register for a free trial of DailyStep Audio Lessons:

<https://www.dailystep.com/en/user/register>

Subscribe to regular DailyStep Audio Lessons (22 lessons per month to download or use online): <https://www.dailystep.com/en/purchase-plans>

For self-study tips, please visit this page:

<http://www.dailystep.com/en/content/self-study-tips>

How to use DailyStep Audio Lessons:

<http://www.dailystep.com/en/content/how-use-dailystep>

Read testimonials from DailyStep students:

<http://www.dailystep.com/en/content/testimonials-0>

How to use DailyStep in other languages:

Please change from the English website www.dailystep.com/en to these pages:

Español: www.dailystep.com/es

Français: www.dailystep.com/fr

한국어: www.dailystep.com/ko

Italiano: www.dailystep.com/it

日本語: www.dailystep.com/ja

Thank you for trying DailyStep Audio Lessons from [DailyStep.com](http://www.dailystep.com). If you have any questions at all, please email me at jane@dailystep.com