

1) Reading comprehension. Read the text and do the exercises.

The best place in the world to live

Vancouver is the third biggest city in Canada. It's in the south west of the country and it has a population of 2.6 million. A recent study showed that it's the best city in the world to live. The study looked at areas like weather, transport, education, healthcare, and safety. This study happens every year and Vancouver is usually number one. We asked Vancouver resident Jacob Meyers if he agrees.

I've lived in Vancouver all my life. I work for an engineering company and I've travelled on business to many Canadian cities. Two years ago another company offered me a very good job in Montreal but I didn't take it because I never want to leave my city. Let me tell you why not:

Vancouver is situated between the mountains and the Pacific Ocean. That means the summers aren't too hot and the winters aren't too cold. It also rains a lot, in summer and winter. Some people don't like that but I do because our gardens and parks are always green and fresh. Every day I cycle or walk for an hour in a park and in Vancouver you're never more than a few minutes from one.

I don't feel frightened when I walk in Vancouver's streets at night. Of course, Vancouver has a high population and there's crime in every big city, but compared to the USA, for example, it's quite safe.

But my favourite thing about Vancouver is its incredible mix of nationalities. I've got friends here from all over the world. And there's an enormous variety of foreign food in the restaurants and markets. I've eaten wonderful dishes from China, India, Italy, Greece, and Japan and I haven't been to any of these places.

A) True or false.

1. Two million, six hundred thousand people live in Vancouver.

A True B False C Doesn't say

2. Jacob moved to Vancouver when he was a young boy.

A True B False C Doesn't say

3. He lived in Montreal for two years but didn't like it.

A True B False C Doesn't say

4. The temperatures in Vancouver are comfortable.

A True B False C Doesn't say

5. There are a lot of parks in Vancouver.

A True B False C Doesn't say

6. Jacob walks to work.

A True B False C Doesn't say

7. He has a bike.

A True B False C Doesn't say

8. He says that Vancouver is safer now than before.

A True B False C Doesn't say

9. Jacob can speak a lot of foreign languages.

A True B False C Doesn't say

10. You can eat food from many different countries in Vancouver.

A True B False C Doesn't say

2) Multiple choice.

3) Fill in the blanks. Drag and drop the words in the correct gap. There are two extra words which you do not need to use.

Australia – a great place to be

When people think of Australia, they often picture beautiful beaches, lovely weather, and lots of dangerous animals – such as salt water

crocodiles and taipan snakes! It's true that we have these things, but Australia is (1) _____ interesting than you might think.

Australia is in the South Pacific and it's the world's (2) _____ island. We don't have any borders with other countries and our closest neighbours are Papua New Guinea and East Timor. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world. It's thirty times bigger than the United Kingdom, but nearly three times more people (3) _____ in the UK. In the centre of the country there is a lot of desert.

Most Australians live near the coast, (4) _____ the country's biggest cities are.

(5) _____ are plenty of exciting cities to visit here, including Canberra, our capital, and Sydney, which is famous (6) _____ its Opera House and amazing harbour. However, it is Melbourne which is near the top of the list of the 'most exciting cities of the world'. It (7) _____ wonderful beaches, a great nightlife, fantastic shops, and lots of arts festivals and exhibitions.

Australia is a fascinating (8) _____ to visit. We're very proud of our country and we usually welcome tourists. Our way of life isn't very formal, but we often take presents when we visit people. If someone invites you to dinner, it's a good idea to (9) _____ flowers or wine for your host.

The good weather means we can do lots of outdoor activities. Summer lasts from December to February, and winter from June to August. However, Australia is enormous and the weather isn't the same everywhere. The north has two types of weather – very (10) _____ and very dry! The centre stays dry all year round. But in the south, the weather changes from season to season. Summer in the south is hot, but winter can be cold, wet, and windy – you can even go skiing in the mountains!

where	there	biggest	for	live	has got	were
place	more	bring	wet		bigger	

4) Complete the dialogue.

Interview with Paul Mason

Last week Paul Mason, author of the novels *Silence*, *Who did it?* and *Go Away*, agreed to be interviewed by one of our journalists, Jane Dawson.

Jane: Hi Paul, Thank you for giving me this interview. (1) _____?

Paul: I live in New York with my second wife and our three children.

Jane: Great! (2) _____?

Paul: My favourite author is Agatha Christie and at the moment I'm reading a book she wrote about her life.

Jane: (3) _____?

Paul: No, I haven't written any mystery books yet, but I would love to.

Jane: (4) _____?

Paul: Yes, I did. I went to Venice with my family. We had a wonderful holiday!

Jane: (5) _____?

Paul: I'm going to visit New York and see all the wonderful places there! And maybe write a mystery book about the Big Apple!!

5) Writing ability.

Write about a city you've been to recently. Include the following information.

- What city have you been to?
- When did you go there?
- What did you do there?
- Which was the best and the worst thing about this city?