

Writing Descriptions A Tourist Guide Places to visit in my country

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**Russia is a huge country rich in historical events and tourist sights.
What would you recommend foreigners to visit in your region?**

Write a Tourist Guide.

Discussion **Ex. 1** Moscow, St Petersburg are world famous. Read the list of the most attractive sights for tourists in these Russian cities.

Moscow Lomonosov University, the Kremlin, the Academy of Science, the Bolshoi and Maly Theaters, Red Square

Sankt Petersburg the Winter Palace, the Hermitage Palace, Petrodvorets

Work with a partner. How many places are there near you and your partner live that might interest visitors from other countries? Make a list of three places and write why you think they would be interesting!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Writing Tourist Guides

Learning to write. When you write a Tourist Guide you should think not only about the places to visit but also about the information that might be useful for tourists - time of the year best to visit your country, where they should stay, how they can get to your country, how much it is going to cost etc.

Ex. 2 **Read the text about Rio de Janeiro. Find the information about:**

- a) the city

- b) the hotel
- c) the climate
- d) day trips
- e) things to do

RIO DE JANEIRO

A romantic name - River of January-for a romantic city; green mountains behind the deep blue see of Guanabara Bay. Rio has beautiful beaches with beautiful names; Flamengo, Copacabana and Ipanema. And the city is famous, too, for its exciting nightlife.

Your hotel is the California, close to the shopping areas. It's a short walk to cafes and restaurants. The hotel overlooks the famous Copacabana Beach. All rooms are air conditioned with private bathroom and TV.

There are lots of things to do in Rio-you can shop, swim, sunbathe, dine out, visit nightclubs or take a trip out of the city.

Take a boat trip to Jaguanam along the coast on the clear blue waters of the Atlantic. Visit Corcovado Mountain with its wonderful views from beside the gigantic statue of Christ. Go to the Tijuca Rain Forest and see tropical birds and flowers.

Rio is unforgettable.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Max Shade Tem (C) | 26 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 25 |
| Daily Sunshine | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 5.6 |
| Monthly Rainfall(inches) | 4.9 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 4.1 | 5.1 |

Make notes like this:

| | Notes |
|--------------|---|
| The city | Romantic beautiful beaches green mountains exciting nightlife deep blue sea |
| The hotel | |
| The climate | |
| Day trips | |
| Things to do | |

Writing about a city

Ex. 3 In groups of three. Each of you should choose one of the texts below, read it and write a similar text about one of the towns of your region. Then exchange your information.

Text 1. Change the underlined words in order to write the description of your city\town.

Salisbury -a city in S England famous for its cathedral. Salisbury is an agricultural center, and its industries include brewing and carpet manufacture(in nearby Wilton). The cathedral of St Mary, built in

1220-66, is one of the finest examples of Early English architecture; its decorated spire rising 404 ft\123 m is the highest in England; its clock (1386) is one of the oldest still working.

Text 2. Read the text about Bristol and write about the main city of your region. Fill in the gaps.

Bristol- an industrial city and international port in the SW of England, on the Avon River, where the local government for Avon is based. Population (1991): 370,000. It is a center for trade and export, and industry. Tobacco, chocolates and aircraft are manufactured there. Bristol has a cathedral, the church of St Mary Redcliffe, and a university (1909). Just outside the city the Clifton Suspension Bridge crosses the Avon Gorge.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Important | Volga | North of Russia | Yaroslavskaia Oblast | Machinery |
| Tyres | Yaroslavl | Prophete Ilya | Railway | Volga |

Yaroslavl- an industrial city and _____ port in the _____, on the _____ River, where the local government for the _____ is based. Population (1991): 370,000. It is a centre for trade and export, and industry. _____, _____ are manufactured there. _____ has a cathedral, the church of _____, and a university (1909). Just outside the city the _____ Bridge crosses the _____ river.

Text 3. Are there healthy resorts in your country? Could you describe one of them using the text about Bath as example? Change the underlined words in order to write the description of your city\town.

Bath- a town in SW England famous for its health-giving waters, and visited by tourists for its old Roman bath and its Georgian buildings. Population (1991): 79,900. Bath has also a university.

Describing a hotel

Ex. 4 Read the advertisement. Imagine you are a hotel manager. How could you advertise your hotel to attract tourists? Use the words from the box.

Your hotel is
the Princess,

comfortable and lively with two restaurants and a discotheque. All the guest rooms are air-conditioned with private bath and shower

Single room, double room, telephone, fridge, swimming pool, balcony, lift, post-office, bank, exchange office, sport facilities, bar, laundry, dry-cleaner, barber's, hairdresser's, supermarket, shoe repair shop; to book a room, to rent a car.

Describing weather

Ex. 5 Many people from other countries think it is always cold in Russia with much snow. Are they right? Work with your partner to fill in the chart.

- It's raining (snowing).
- It's windy (cloudy, sunny).
- The strong (weak, mild, warm) wind is blowing.
- The sun is shining.
- It is hot (cold, cool).
- The sky is blue (Grey, without clouds).
- The temperature is 15 degrees above (below) zero.
- The days are short and the nights are long.
- White nights.

| The season | The weather |
|------------|-------------|
| Winter | |
| Spring | |
| Summer | |
| Autumn | |

Ex. 6 Read a short description of the weather in Mexico City and say what is the best time of the year to visit it? What about your country?

Mexico City has warm days and cool nights. From November to April the days are clear, hot and sunny.

Describing activities Managers from the tourist agencies advertise different things to do for their guests. Their aim is not only to attract more tourists, but also to create the unforgettable image of the country, to show its best sites.

Ex. 7 Work with your partner. Read an ad about places to visit and things to do in Mexico. Pay attention to the "language" of the ad. Then write an ad about places to visit and things to do in your country.

There are lots of places to see. Look at the modern university, the old cathedral, the national palace, or do some shopping in the native handcraft market. Visit the floating gardens or the pyramids of the Sun and Moon. Make a trip to Taxco, famous for its silversmiths-a beautiful hillside town of white houses.

- There are lots of _____.
- You can _____.
- Take a _____.
- Visit _____.
- Go to _____.
- See _____.

Write it yourself

What would you recommend foreigners to visit in your region? Write a Tourist Guide.

Use the plan

1. The city\town and its sights.
2. The hotel, how much it costs.
3. The time of the year, the weather.
4. Things to do.

Variant 1.

1. In groups of four distribute the tasks. Each of you should choose a topic and write a piece of information. As you write keep in mind the information you learnt about this topic in the exercises and in the readings. Do not write much. The ad should be short but attractive. Do not worry much about spelling, grammar and punctuation. You have 10 minutes. Then improve your letter using 'Improving your writing' checklist.
2. In your group exchange the information and put it into the form accepted in tourist guides.
3. Exchange your tourist guides with those of others groups. Are there any improvements you wish to make to your peers' writing? Would you like to visit places described in your peers' guides? Use the "Questionnaire for peers' evaluation".
4. Now you have feedback about your tourist guides from several classmates. You can use what you learnt about your writing to improve your work.

Variant 2.

Make a Tourists's Guide.

Use the plan

1. The city\town and its sights
 2. The hotel, how much it costs.
 3. The time of the year, the weather.
 4. Things to do.
1. Write the information for the Tourists Guide. As you write keep in mind the information you learnt about this topic in the exercises and in the readings. Do not write much. The ad should be short but attractive. Do not worry much about spelling, grammar and punctuation. You have 20 minutes. Then improve your letter using 'Improving your writing' checklist.
 2. Exchange your Guides with with those of your classmates. Are there any improvements you wish to make to your peer's writing? Use the "Questionnaire for peers' evaluation".
 3. Now you have feedback about your Tourists Guide from several classmates. You can use what you learnt about your writing to improve your work.
 5. Now you can print your Tourists Guide using Publisher

program in your school-or home computer.
Do not forget to add some photos.

APPENDIX

To the Student studying in class

If you are working with this book in a class follow these general instructions. They will help you improve your writing:

- When you are asked to 'work in pairs' or 'with a partner' try to follow the instructions carefully. You can often learn more quickly through discussion than by doing exercises silently.
- Do not worry about making mistakes. The most important thing to pay attention to in your writing is the extent to which it communicates. Spelling, punctuation and matters of handwriting are important but subordinate to this purpose.

To the self-study Student

If you are not in class follow these general instructions:

- go through the unit carefully, because it is logically structured and is aimed to help you to make a good piece of writing
- when you are doing exercises it is not enough to "fill in" the text. Write the whole text to develop your writing skills.
- as you go through a unit, check your work with the key. The keys are to help you-use them.
- Write the first version and use the **Improving Your Writing Checklist** and **Questionnaire for self-evaluation**. Then improve your writing.
- When you think your writing is as good as it can be, give it to someone else to read. Another person can see things that are invisible for you.

Improving your writing. Using the checklist

This list of things to check in a first version of a piece of writing is very important. You will be asked to use it in many of the units and it should help you produce clearer, more effective writing.

FIRST CHECK

Check that your writing makes sense

- Is it correctly organised on the page?
(Writing models in each unit will help you check this.)
- Is the information presented in a clear, logical order?
- Have you put in all the information your reader needs?
- Have you put in unnecessary information?

SECOND CHECK

Check that you have used the right words

- Have you used any words that are too formal or informal?

- Can you replace any of the words in your writing with more precise vocabulary?

Check spelling and punctuation

- Have you made any spelling mistakes?
- Have you punctuated your writing correctly?

Check the grammar

- Have you made any grammatical mistakes?

ESPECIALLY

- Subject/Verb agreement
- Correct article
- Word order

Questionnaire for self-evaluation

1. Am I sharing my impressions clearly enough with my reader?
2. Have I missed out any important points of information?
3. Are there any points in the writing where my reader has to make a “jump” because I’ve omitted a line of argument or I’ve forgotten to explain something?
4. Does the vocabulary need to be made stronger at any point?
5. Are there some sentences which don’t say much or which are too repetitive and can be missed out?
6. Can I rearrange any sets of sentences to make the writing clearer or more interesting?
7. Do I need to rearrange any paragraphs?
8. Are the links between sections clear? Do they guide my reader through the writing?

Questions for peers’ evaluation (after the 1st draft)

1. What do you like most about the writing?
2. What is the main idea?
3. Who is the audience, and what is the purpose?
4. What convincing details does the writer use?
5. Where could the writer add details to make the piece more convincing?
6. What areas in the writing seem unclear?
7. How could the writer make the piece clearer?

To the Teacher

Writing profile. Evaluation tools.

Your second draft will be evaluated after these criteria.

Communicative quality

5. Communicates what is intended clearly and effectively.
4. Communicates intentions quite well.
3. Communicates intentions adequately.
2. Does not communicate intentions adequately.
1. Fails completely to communicate intentions.

Logical organization

5. Information and ideas extremely well-organised.
4. Good organisational structure.
3. Organisational structure evident with some breakdowns.

2. Difficult to identify logical structure.
1. No logical structure evident.

Layout and presentation

5. Extremely well-presented. Shows complete familiarity with conventions.
4. Reasonably well-presented; a few minor problems with conventions.
3. Acceptably presented but needs more familiarisation with conventions.
2. Some serious gaps in familiarity with conventions.
1. Fundamental lack of familiarity with conventions.

Grammar

5. Wide range and excellent control of appropriate grammatical structures.
4. Effective use of a good range of grammatical structures.
3. Adequate range and control of grammatical structures.
2. Limited range and poor control of grammatical structures.
1. Extremely limited range and control of grammatical structures.

Vocabulary

5. Wide range and excellent control of appropriate vocabulary.
4. Effective use of a good range of vocabulary.
3. Adequate range of fairly appropriate vocabulary.
2. Limited range of vocabulary.
1. Extremely limited range of vocabulary.

Handwriting, punctuation, spelling

5. No faults.
4. Occasional faults.
3. Adequate but needs improvement.
2. Significant weaknesses.
1. Little knowledge of or ability to handle the basic conventions.

(Adopted from Hopkins, Andy (1995). *Perspectives*, p. 9.- Longman)

Scoring

31-35 points –“5”

26-30 points -“4”

21-25 points -“3”

Marking Code.

You should know the marking code to improve your work.

| Symbol | Error | Example |
|--------|------------|--|
| WF | wrong form | the <u>best</u> will be its achievements |
| WW | wrong word | patient, funny and <u>kindly</u> |

| | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| T | wrong tense | In the last two weeks you <u>didn't have</u> much fun. |
| Om ^ | something is missing | You arrived in London ^ the 1 st |
| Sp. | wrong spelling | <u>con</u> fortable |
| WO | wrong word order | You havn't seen <u>yet</u> London. |
| P | wrong punctuation | Sincerely yours_Kate. |
| V | wrong verb form | The Titanic <u>sunk</u> very quickly. |
| // | new paragraph needed | |
| O | not necessary | John came in and <u>he</u> sat down. |
| ? | I don't understand what you are trying to say. | |
| Sence | This isn't quite right: it needs clearer expression | |
| !! | You really should know what's wrong here because -we've just done it in class | |
| Agr. | agreement(subject-verb, adj.-noun) | In Moscow there <u>is</u> many museums. |
| Art. | wrong or omitted article | <u>a</u> climate |
| F | untruth | |
| Log. | illogical | |
| Rep. | repetition | I took part in the singing competition. I won this <u>competition</u> . |
| Prep. | preposition | I'm interested <u>for</u> music. |
| Style | the task is not compiled | |

Keys:

Ex. 3

| | Notes |
|--------------|---|
| The city | Romantic beautiful beaches green mountains exciting nightlife deep blue sea |
| The hotel | Close to the shopping area cafes restaurants overlooks the beach air conditioned private bathroom TV |
| The climate | hot |
| Day trips | Out of the city boat trip |
| Things to do | Shopping swimming sunbathing dining out nightclubs a boat trip sights |

Ex. 4 Text 1.

Rybinsk -a city in North Russia famous for its cathedral. It is an industrial center, and its industries include machinery and dairy farming(in nearby Poshechonye-Volodarsk). The Spasso-Preobrazhensky cathedral built in the 18th century, is one of the finest examples of Russian architecture; its decorated spire rising more than 100 ms is the highest in Rybinsk; its clock is one of the oldest still working.

Text 2.

Yaroslavl- an industrial city and an important port in the north of Russia on the Volga River, where the local government for Yaroslavl and Yaroslavskaia Oblast is based. Population: _____. It is a center for trade and export, and industry. Steel goods, machinery, engines, paints, tyres and aircraft are manufactured there. Yaroslavl has many cathedrals, monasteries, the church of Prophete Ilya, museums, galleries, theaters and universities. Just outside the city the railway Bridge crosses the Volga river.

Text 3.

Uglich- a town in Central Russia famous for its health-giving waters, and visited by tourists for its beautiful countryside, museums of Russian myths. Populated less than other tourist centers of Yaroslavl Region. Uglich has also a a clock plant

Ex. 6

| The season | The weather |
|------------|--|
| Winter | It is snowing. It's windy (cold). The strong wind is blowing. The temperature is ... degrees below zero. The days are short and the nights are long. |
| Spring | Week warm wind is blowing. The sky is blue. The temperature is... degrees above zero. |
| Summer | It is sunny. The sun is shining. It is hot. The sky is blue, without clouds. The temperature is ... degrees above zero. White nights. |
| Autumn | It's raining(cloudy, cool). The sky is grey. The temperature is ... degrees above zero. |

Ex. 7

Rybinsk has warm days and cool nights. From April to September the days are clear, hot and sunny.

Ex. 8

There are lots of places to see.

You can visit the modern university, the old cathedral, exciting Russian churches and cathedrals, or do some shopping in the handcraft gallery.

Take a trip to Yaroslavl, Uglich or Myshkin.

Visit famous (name) Museum

Go to the Drama theatre.

See the Volga Embankment and Lev Oshanin monument.

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