

LESSON 8. Through visitors' eyes

Communicative area: writing about Belarusian national character

1. Imagine you've arrived in Minsk for your first visit. What would your first impressions about the people and the country be? Discuss with your partner.

2. a)   **Listen to the interview and say whether these sentences are true or false.**

1. Danielle Montagne came to Minsk from Syracuse, New York.
2. Her first glimpse at the city of Minsk was through the windows of her plane.
3. Danielle passed the monument to Lenin.
4. She saw very beautiful monuments – like Victory Square statue and the eternal flame.
5. Minsk was filled with an atmosphere of power and grandeur.
6. Danielle was inspired to begin taking Russian classes in order to be able to read street signs and communicate with people.
7. There is a real sense of community at MSLU that sometimes lacks at other educational institutions.
8. Danielle is sure she will continue to enjoy her time and teaching experiences in Minsk.
9. Danielle will share her impressions about Belarus with her colleagues in the United States.



b) Listen to the interview again and number the following sentences as they appeared in the text.

1. The buildings and monuments were huge.
2. When I learnt that I would be teaching in Minsk, I was very excited.
3. We passed by very modern buildings – like the National Library.
4. Then I saw very beautiful monuments – like Victory Square statue and the Eternal Flame.

5. In the days that followed, I spent a lot of time walking around the streets, getting lost and then finding my way again.
6. All of these images made me happy.
7. My warm sentiments about the city of Minsk followed me to MSLU, where I met the most wonderful colleagues and students I could imagine.
8. I am sure I will continue to enjoy my time and teaching experiences.
9. Minsk was filled with an atmosphere of power and grandeur that I was not expecting.
10. The kindness and thoughtfulness I have encountered from the teachers and professors has made my time here wonderful thus far.
11. My first glimpse at the city of Minsk was through the windows of an old city taxicab.

c) Say what Danielle likes about Minsk and its people. How does she characterise Belarusian people?

3. a) A foreigner living in Minsk and speaking no Russian has a problem. How can a local person speaking English help them?


b)   Listen to the story and answer two questions: What happened to Ariana's flat? Who helped her to fix the problem?

c)   Listen to the story again and complete the short summary of the text.

Last weekend, my American roommate and I were planning to have a tour around Minsk. Andrei, a 22 year-old Belarusian student, called it “a tour of his hometown.”

We suddenly discovered that the bathroom was broken. I called Andrei to cancel our meeting but Andrei decided to help us...

4. Imagine somebody who doesn't speak Russian asked you to help: 1) to find a way to... in your home town or village; 2) to help repair a mobile phone... Discuss with your partner what the questions and answers might be. Act the dialogue out.

5.  Compare the different opinions about Belarusian people. Recollect what you've read at the previous lesson. Write a text about Belarusian character for British Teenage Magazine.