

LESSON 5. Canberra – Australian capital

Communicative area: reading about Canberra

Active vocabulary: government, parliament

1. Canberra is the capital of Australia. What do you think 'Canberra' means in the local language? Is it a) a friendly place? b) a lovely place? c) a meeting place? d) a public place?
2. a) Look through the article on Canberra from a tourist site and check your guess.

Canberra is halfway between Sydney and Melbourne – two largest cities of Australia. The city of Canberra has been the capital of the country since 1927. It is the home of the Government, the city where you can visit the Government House, the Parliament House, the Old Parliament House and many Nationals – the National Library, the National Museum of Australia, the Australian National Botanic Gardens and others. It is difficult to travel round the Nationals because there isn't enough public transport.

But it's not at all bad in the 'berra'. The name is believed to mean 'a meeting place' in the local language. It is surrounded by green hills making it a great place for bushwalking, cycling and skiing. The National Parks of the Canberra region are worth visiting.

Architect Walter Burley Griffin planned an ideal city of the future. The population of the capital is over 300,000 people who live in an area with around 12 million trees. Famous author of travel books Bill Bryson first arrived in Canberra in the late 1990s and

said that it looked like a very large park with a city hidden in it. There is a lot to see and do in Canberra.

b) Read the article carefully and say if the statements below are true or false.

1. Canberra lies between Sydney and Melbourne.
2. Canberra has always been the capital of Australia.
3. It is easy to travel in the capital.
4. The area around the capital is good for summer and winter sports.
5. Canberra and the area around the capital are very green.
6. Canberra is a city with a huge population.
7. There is only one national building in Canberra – the National Library.

c) Read the information in the boxes. Tell your partner where you would like to go and why.

The National Zoo

It is a fun zoo for all ages with many species of animals which has the largest collection of big cats.

The National Capital Exhibition

It tells the story of Canberra from the start of Aboriginal times until the present.

The Parliament House

It was opened in 1988 and a flag on top of the building can be seen from almost any place in the city. It is in 3 kilometres from the city centre and you can go on a guided tour of the Parliament House when Parliament is not sitting.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens

The Gardens are over two kilometres to the west of the city centre. They have the best collection of Australian flora in the world. You can go on a guided tour of the gardens.

The Australian Institute of Sport

It was opened in 1981 and has trained most of Australia's greatest athletes since then. There are some fun and interesting tours with famous sportsmen as tour guides.

The National Library

The building looks both modernist and classic at the same time. Its collection is huge and the local café is one of the best public places in the capital.

3. 🎧 a) Listen to Mr. Rambler asking about the details of a Hop-on Hop-off Bus Tour of Canberra. Fill in the missing information.

- Hop-On Hop-Off Tours. How can I help you?
- I'd like to know more about my tour of Canberra.
- When are you going on a tour?
- When does the first bus leave?



The National Botanical Gardens



Bush walking in Australia



The National Museum building is a landmark which matches its beautiful surroundings.



The National Library of Australia

– It leaves quite early, at ... in the morning. You should be on time, sir.

– Where does it leave from?

– From Northbourne Avenue.

– What attractions do I visit?

– The National Library, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery of Australia, ... , ... , the National Museum of Australia and some others.

– Do I visit ... ?

– I'm afraid you don't, sir. You can go there by yourself, if you like.

– Is it ... ?

– Yes, it is. Your guide will be speaking English, sir.

– Ok. When do I arrive back at the city centre?

– You know, you can So you can see as much or as little of the city as you like.

– I'm going to see as much as I can. Thank you.

– You're welcome. I hope you'll enjoy your tour.

b) Explain the use of grammar in the underlined sentences.

c) Role-play the conversation with your classmate.

4. Compare Canberra and Minsk.

- What does 'Minsk' mean in the local language?
- What famous landmarks can you see on a guided tour of Minsk?
- Are the Parliament House and the Government House open to the public in your country?
- What do Minsk and Canberra have in common?

LESSON 6. Too busy to meet?

Communicative area: inviting, refusing or accepting invitations

Active vocabulary: busy

1. a) Listen to the conversation. Follow in the book. Why can't Mr. Rambler go bushwalking on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday?

– Hi, Andrew. Would you like to go bushwalking tomorrow?

– Sorry, Mel. I'm afraid, I can't. I'm going on a guided tour of Canberra tomorrow.

– How about Wednesday or Thursday?

– I'd love to, but I'm doing some sightseeing. We're going to Uluru on Wednesday.

– When are you coming back?

– My flight arrives at 8 o'clock on Thursday.

– You're a very busy man. What are you doing on Friday?

– Let me see. Friday, Friday. I'm not doing anything on Friday. OK, I'll go with you on Friday.