


Lesson 3. Visiting museums – entertainment or education?

1. Do you agree with the following statement?

Museums can be really fun to go to, especially when they use the latest in interactive technology.

2a.  Listen to the talk about visiting museums in the USA and take brief notes about the pieces of advice the speaker gives.

2b. Discuss in pairs what you should do before, during and after a visit to the museum. Compare with the rest of the class.

3a. Read and guess the meaning of the words in bold. Check in the vocabulary at the back of the book.

Faith Walker: Welcome to the VOA Special English programme. I'm Faith Walker.

Today we talk and answer your questions about museums in the United States. Daniel is helping me in this programme.

We have a letter from our listener Tanya Brown who wants to know how to make a visit to a museum a success. Can you share a few secrets with us, Daniel?

Daniel Stoner: Yes, sure.

Before the visit

Think what you're interested in or what you're studying at school. You'll have an opportunity to **explore** history, art, in other words, to deepen your knowledge about different spheres of life.

Then try to get information about the museum you think might be interesting for you. Find a brochure ['brəʊʃə] or explore the museum's website to learn about the permanent and special **exhibitions** [ˌeksɪ'bɪʃ(ə)nz], **opening times**, **admission** [əd'mɪʃ(ə)n] **fees** and **discounts** ['diskaʊnts]. More than half of museums are **free** to the public. It means people don't need to pay. Of those that **charge fees**, 58.7 percent have free days.

At the museum

Find the information desk and ask what exhibitions are on. When you are in the hall, ask if you can touch the **exhibits** [ɪg'zɪbɪts].

Keep the visit simple and don't try to see everything. It could be better to come again one day. You should try to get to the how and the why of things.

Take a break if you feel tired.

After the visit

Share your experiences with friends and relatives. Think if it has helped you find answers to the questions you came with or make new discoveries.

Faith Walker: Thank you very much, Daniel.

3b. Discuss in pairs what pieces of advice you agree with.

4a.  Listen to the continuation of the talk and mark in what order the museums are spoken about.

A



B



C



D




E



A. The Banana Museum, Auburn, Washington

B. The Smithsonian Museums, Washington, D.C.

- C. The Hammer Museum, Haines, Alaska
- D. Barney Smith's Toilet Seat Museum, San Antonio, Texas
- E. The National Mustard Museum, Middleton, Wisconsin

4b.  Listen to the talk again and mark whether the statements are true or false, then check with your class.

1. Museums are very popular in the US.
2. The Smithsonian museums are found all over the USA.
3. Most Smithsonian museums are expensive.
4. The opening times in most US museums are from 10 am to 5.30 pm daily.
5. Many museums are interactive learning centres.
6. There are about 31 children's museums in the US.
7. Many US museums are places of fun.
8. The National Mustard Museum has over five thousand kinds of mustard from fifty countries.
9. There are almost four thousand objects in honour of the banana in the Banana Museum.
10. Some of the exhibits in the Hammer museum come from Ancient Egypt.
11. Barney Smith's Toilet Seat Museum has painted or decorated about one thousand toilet seats from around the world.

4c. Play 'The last sentence' game about the museums in the USA.

4d. Read one listener's comment about the programme. Do you share the opinion?

Maki (Japan): Almost all the items which these unusual museums display are never found in any museum of my country. Everything is very unusual. And it's funny because what they show is something that ordinary people can collect. But American people built a museum. That's fantastic and it feels American. It was amazing.

5a. Look through the information about some museums in the UK, find answers to the following questions as fast as you can.

- Where can you find combat aircraft (военные воздушные суда)?

- Which is the biggest world museum of human history?
- Which has a large area for indoor and outdoor displays?
- Which museum has free admission?
- Which museum has discounts?
- When are the museums closed?



The British Museum, London, UK

The British Museum in London is the world's largest museum of human history, culture and art. Its exhibits include

Egyptian mummies, ancient books and a lot of objects from the ancient cultures of Mesopotamia and Greece.

Admission

The British Museum is free to all visitors.

Opening times

The Museum is open daily, 10.00–17.30.



Imperial War Museum Duxford

Full of activity and excitement with over six hectares of indoor and outdoor displays giving

an unforgettable experience whatever the weather, Duxford, an aviation history museum, is a must.

Duxford also houses the American Air Museum, which has a collection of historic American combat aircraft including the B-17 Flying Fortress, B-24 Liberator and the SR-71 Blackbird. Duxford is really amazing!

Opening times

Open daily except 24, 25 and 26 December.

Summer (18 March to 28 October inclusive): 10 am to 6 pm. Winter 10 am to 4 pm.

Admission fees

Adult (person aged 19 to 59) – £13

Senior ['si:njə] citizen (person aged 60 years or more) – £11

Discounts – £8

Young person aged 16, 17, 18

Student (over 19 years old)

Registered unemployed (безработный)

Disabled adult (инвалид)

Free admission

Children under 16

School groups

Portsmouth Natural History Museum

The museum's displays aim to celebrate the variety of life. We have one of the most exciting places in the country for wild-life – the marshes, seashore, woodland, grassland and built-up areas of the city mean we can attract all sorts of different species right to our front door.

Opening times

Open daily except 24–26 December from 10 am to 6 pm.

Free admission



5b. Work in pairs. Using the information about the museums make up a dialogue 'Calling the information desk' about visiting a museum. Use reported questions.

I'd like to ask if / when / how ...

I want to know ...

Can you tell me ...?

Grammar focus

Article with the names of museums

- Look at the names of museums (see ex. 3a and 4a) and complete the rule.

We use the definite articles with the names of most museums but we don't use the definite article with museums which have a name of a ... or a ...



Read the rule (p. 285) and check your answers.

6a. Look at the pictures of Belarusian museums. Explain the use of articles. Make up a dialogue.

6b. Which of them have you been to or would like to visit?



Maxim Bogdanovich's
Literary Museum



Marc Chagall Museum



The Belarusian State Museum
of the Great Patriotic War



The National Museum of Culture
and History of Belarus


- 6c.**  Write about a museum in Belarus you would recommend visiting. Find additional information.

I strongly recommend ...
 The museum is a home to a huge collection of ...
 Its exhibitions are dedicated to ...
 There are some rare and ... exhibits, which will help you to discover (how) ...
 The museum shop has a range of ...
 You can find the museum ...
 The opening times are from ... to ...
 Admission is ... for children / adults.
 Don't miss the opportunity to visit the museum.
 You will get unforgettable impressions.

Lesson 4. Can you enjoy simple pleasures?

1. Read the following saying and say whether you agree or disagree with it:

The best things in life are free.

2a.  Listen, read the poem and answer: *What is the author's message/ idea? Do you agree with the author? Why or why not?*

What is this life if, full of care¹,
 We have no time to stand and stare².
 No time to see, when woods we pass,
 Where squirrels (белки) hide their nuts in grass.
 No time to see, in broad [brɔ:d] daylight,
 Streams (ручьи) full of stars, like skies at night.
 A poor life this if, full of care,
 We have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies, a Welsh poet

¹ full of care – полный забот

² stare – смотреть широко раскрытыми глазами