

Present Simple and Continuous create a tourist town task

Worksheet 1 – Guess the tourist site

Try to find things in common between the area where you live and the area where your partner lives, e.g. shops, transport connections, types of buildings, and distance from the centre of town.

Are there any famous, historic or beautiful places near where you live? What would you say about them if you were showing them to a tourist?

Are there any tourist sites that you could give tourists a guided tour of? Which places would you choose? What would you say about them?

What do you know about these places?

1. The Great Wall of China
2. Big Ben – the clock tower of the UK Houses of Parliament in London and its famous bell
3. The Taj Mahal – a tomb built for an Indian queen that looks like a huge white mosque
4. The Eiffel Tower – the famous communications tower in Paris
5. The Blue Mosque – the most famous mosque in Istanbul, near Aya Sofia and with a similar huge dome
6. The World Cup Stadium in Seoul – where some 2002 World Cup matches were played

Match these descriptions to the places above.

- A) "It is used for sports events once or twice a week"
- B) "Hundreds of people are shopping, eating and watching movies in there now"
- C) "The call to prayer comes from the four towers called minarets five times a day"
- D) "Hundreds of people are climbing the stairs, and maybe 100 more are taking the lifts"
- E) "The top viewing platform moves more than one metre when there is a strong wind"
- F) "We can't go in now, because people are praying"
- G) "The clock rings four times an hour"
- H) "It is striking twelve"

Which tenses are used above? What are the differences between the two tenses?

Make sure you have one of each tense for each thing above, then make similar sentences about the other places.

Worksheet 2 – Design a town and tour

Design your own imaginary historic town and a tour of it, drawing the places on a map. Put six sights like those below into your town. As you decide on each sight, write one Present Simple sentence and one Present Continuous sentence that a tour guide could say as they show it to some tourists.

Suggested local sightseeing spots

Castle	Moat	River
Palace	Mansion	(Thatched) cottage
Clock tower	Town hall	Hotel
Railway station	Natural history museum	Local history museum
Department store	Park	Garden
Hot springs	Church	Cathedral
Monastery	Abbey	Mosque
Temple	Shrine	Holy site
Well	City walls	Aqueduct
Theatre	Opera house	Parliament/ Senate
Statue	(Town) square	Shopping street
Graveyard/ cemetery	(Tree-lined) avenue	A cobbled street
Bridge	Botanical gardens	Skyscraper
Pier	Station	Tower
Tram (= streetcar)	Cable car	Harbour
(Art) gallery	Zoo	Fountain
Casino	Theme park	Beach
(Open air/ antiques/ street/ flea) market		
Ferris wheel (= big wheel, e.g. the London Eye)		

Add some historical places that are no longer there and write sentences about them with “There was/ were... but now...”

Write about some changes to the historical places you decided on with the same language.

Change groups. Show your new partner your map and pretend you are taking them on a tour, including answering their questions.

Suggested Present Simple and Continuous questions for the tourists

- What _____ (those people do)?
- What time _____ (open)?
- _____ (open every day)?
- _____ (people still live there)?
- How many people _____ (visit every day)?
- How much _____ (cost)?
- How many paintings _____ (in there)?
- Where _____ (go to)?
- What _____ (we look at) now?

Check how to complete the questions above with the answers or as a class.

Suggested answers

1. The Great Wall of China
No sentences included

2. Big Ben – the clock tower of the UK Houses of Parliament in London and its famous bell
G “The clock rings four times an hour”
H “It is striking twelve”

3. The Taj Mahal – a tomb built for an Indian queen that looks like a huge white mosque
No sentences included

4. The Eiffel Tower – the famous communications tower in Paris
D “Hundreds of people are climbing the stairs, and maybe 100 more are taking the lifts”
E “The top viewing platform moves more than 1 metre when there is a strong wind”

5. The Blue Mosque – the most famous mosque in Istanbul, near Aya Sofia and with a similar huge dome
C “The call to prayer comes from the four towers called minarets 5 times a day”
F “We can’t go in now, because people are praying”

6. The World Cup Stadium in Seoul – where some 2002 World Cup matches were played
A “It is used for sports events once or twice a week”
B “Hundreds or thousands of people are shopping, eating and watching movies in there now”

What are those people doing?

What time does it open?

Does it/ is it open every day?

Do people still live there?

How many people visit every day?

How much does it cost?

How many paintings are there in there?

Where does it go to?

What are we looking at now?