

Task 1 – Long reading: Sydney and its famous landmarks

Level: ISE Foundation

Focus: Task 1 – Long reading

Aim: Read information for gist

Objectives: To read short paragraphs, to read possible paragraph titles, to recognise the gist of texts, to choose correct paragraph titles and to discard unsuitable titles

Skill: Skimming and reading for gist

Subject area: Holidays – Landmarks in Sydney

Language functions: Describing people, objects and places

Lexis: Countries, nationalities and common activities

Materials needed: One worksheet per student and some pictures of Sydney (eg the city and people, the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House)

Timing: 55 minutes

Preparation

Find some pictures of Sydney, Australia. Include a picture of the Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge. Print/copy one worksheet per student.

In class

1. Tell the class they are going to read about Sydney, which is in Australia, and some famous places in Sydney.
Point to the pictures of the people and the city and ask the class what they can see in the pictures. Then ask the students: *'Do you think this is a beautiful city? Why? Do you think that the people enjoy living there? Why?'*
Point to the pictures of the bridge and the Opera House and ask the students: *'Do you know what these are called?'*
Tell the class the names of the landmarks: **'Sydney Harbour Bridge'** and **'Sydney Opera House'**. Write the words on the board.
2. Tell the class they are going to read a short paragraph about Sydney and they must decide the best title for the paragraph.
Hand out one worksheet per student.
Tell the class to look at the worksheet and read the paragraph called 'Sydney'. Then read the titles A, B, and C and decide the best title for the paragraph.
3. Ask the students to check their choice in pairs and then check the answer as a class. Write up the correct answer on the board. Ask the class: *'Why is B the best title?'* (Answer: Because the paragraph is talking about many different kinds of people who live in Sydney, not just one nationality.)
4. Now, tell the class to read 'Sydney Harbour Bridge' on the student worksheet, and choose the best title for paragraphs 1-3. Explain that there are three paragraphs and four titles. One title is not needed.
5. When the students finish reading and choosing the best titles, they should check their answers in pairs and then check as a class. Write up the correct answers on the board. Explain that the extra title is 'Fireworks on the bridge'. Ask the students to explain why. (Answer: Yes, there are fireworks, but there are also other celebrations like the Olympic rings/a big walk with people wearing yellow caps.)
6. Now tell the class that they are going to read the two paragraphs about Sydney Opera House on their worksheet and that they must choose the best title for paragraphs 1 and 2. There are three titles and only two paragraphs. One title is not needed.
7. When the students finish reading and choosing, they should check their answers in pairs and then check as a class. Write up the correct answers on the board. Ask the students to explain which is the extra title and why. (Answer: Shopping and eating at the Opera House – because you can shop and eat but you can also do many other things at the Opera House.)

Preparation activities for ISE Foundation Reading & Writing

8. Ask the students if they would like to visit the Opera House or Sydney Harbour Bridge. Ask them to explain why or why not.

Extension activity

For students who finish the task early, tell them to look up four new words from the paragraphs in their dictionaries.

Further support activity

For students finding the task difficult, cross out the extra title on their worksheets so that they only have to find which paragraph matches each title.

Homework

Students can carry out the homework task on the worksheet.



Student worksheet: Sydney and its famous landmarks

1. Sydney

Sydney is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. Aboriginal people first lived there, and then settlers came from England, Ireland and Scotland. The Australian gold rush in the 19th century brought immigrants from China. After 1945, people went to Sydney from Europe, the Middle East, South Africa and the Pacific Islands. Later, Asian settlers arrived. The culture and food in Sydney reflect the backgrounds of the many different people who live in the city.

What is the best title for the paragraph?

- A. Asian people go to Sydney
- B. Sydney's mixed population
- C. Different cultures and food in Sydney

2. Sydney Harbour Bridge

Paragraph 1

The Harbour Bridge goes across Sydney harbour. Trains, cars, bicycles and people can travel on the bridge to get between the big business district and the north side of the city.

Paragraph 2

The bridge has one of the longest and widest spans in the world. This gives it a special shape. The bridge's nickname is 'The Coathanger' because the shape looks like something you can hang your clothes on.

Paragraph 3

The Harbour Bridge plays a central part in Sydney's New Year's Eve celebrations, with a wonderful display of fireworks at midnight. For the 2000 Olympics the bridge was decorated with the Olympic rings. On the 75th anniversary of the bridge, 250,000 people wore yellow caps when they walked across the bridge, listening to music and famous speeches.

The text above has three paragraphs. Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-D below. There is one title you don't need.

- A. Celebrations on the bridge
- B. What the bridge looks like
- C. Fireworks on the bridge
- D. Who and what can use the bridge

Paragraph 1:

Paragraph 2:

Paragraph 3:

3. Sydney Opera House

Paragraph 1

The Opera House is a great building which has influenced architecture around the world. It is built to look like three connected shells and is revolutionary in design. It took 16 years to build.

Paragraph 2

There are over 1,500 performances every year but the Opera House is more than just a place to listen to music and song. You can take a tour backstage, have a wonderful meal, go shopping, see a play or attend a conference.

Preparation activities for ISE Foundation Reading & Writing

The text above has two paragraphs. Choose the best title for each paragraph. One title is not needed.

- A. Shopping and eating at the Opera House
- B. What you can do at the Opera House
- C. Sydney Opera House: an important building design

Paragraph 1:

Paragraph 2:

Homework

Read this paragraph about Sydney Zoo and give it a title.

Title:

It's always good to start your tour of Sydney Zoo from the top entrance. That way you'll be walking downhill facing the harbour. You'll then keep being surprised when you turn a corner and see a different view of the horizon. Then, when you reach the bottom you can catch the Zoo Sky Safari chair lift to take you to the top again and begin your downhill walk around the zoo along a different path.

Answers: Sydney and its famous landmarks

1. Sydney: B
2. Sydney Harbour Bridge:
Paragraph 1 = D
Paragraph 2 = B
Paragraph 3 = A
3. Sydney Opera House:
Paragraph 1 = C
Paragraph 2 = B

Homework

Possible titles:

- ▶ How to see the zoo
- ▶ The best way to walk around the zoo
- ▶ How to tour the zoo
- ▶ Walking around the zoo