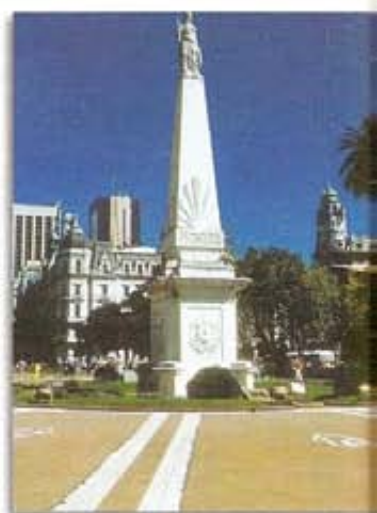


# UNIT 7

## Describing Places/Buildings

**1** Look at the table below, then listen to the cassette and tick the information mentioned. Finally, use the table to describe the city.

Name:	Brussels	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buenos Aires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bonn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location:	Argentina	<input type="checkbox"/>	Africa	<input type="checkbox"/>	Antarctica	<input type="checkbox"/>
	centre of the country	<input type="checkbox"/>	south-east coast	<input type="checkbox"/>	north-east coast	<input type="checkbox"/>
Things to see and do:	Plaza de Mayo	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Gallery	<input type="checkbox"/>	History Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cathedral	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish Tower	<input type="checkbox"/>	Casa Rosada	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shopping:	antiques fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	big market	<input type="checkbox"/>	superstore	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nightlife:	dance halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	cinemas	<input type="checkbox"/>	variety of restaurants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	better in August	<input type="checkbox"/>	recommend it	<input type="checkbox"/>	too noisy	<input type="checkbox"/>



A descriptive composition about a place or building should consist of:

- an **introduction** in which you give the name and location of the place or building and/or the reason for choosing it;
- a **main body** in which you describe the main aspects of the place or building in detail — for example, when you describe a place you should describe what you can see and do there; when you describe a building you should describe its exterior and interior, as well as give historical facts about it;
- a **conclusion** which includes your comments/feelings and/or a recommendation.

Descriptions of places or buildings can be found in tourist magazines, travel brochures, stories, letters, etc. The style you use depends on the situation and the intended reader. For example, in an article for a magazine you should use semi-formal style and a polite, respectful tone. You normally use **present tenses** to describe a **place/building**. You use **past tenses** to write about the historical facts.

**2** Read the rubric and underline the key words, then answer the questions.

You have seen an advertisement in an international travel magazine inviting readers to send in articles about a town they have visited. Write your **article** describing a town, including things to see and do as well as information about the town's shops and nightlife.

- What type of writing is this? Who is going to read this? Are you going to use chatty language/abbreviations/colloquial phrases? Why (not)?
- Which of the following points *must* you include? Tick (✓).

- |                          |                          |                   |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| A main sights            | <input type="checkbox"/> | D entertainment   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B population and climate | <input type="checkbox"/> | E train schedules | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C shops                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | F restaurants     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Introduction

#### Paragraph 1

name, location and/or reason for choosing it

### Main Body

#### Paragraphs 2 - 4\*

main aspects in detail  
(Place: things to see/do, shopping, nightlife, restaurants, etc  
Building: historical facts, exterior, interior)

### Conclusion

#### Final Paragraph

comments/feelings and/or recommendation

\* The number of main body paragraphs may vary depending on the rubric.





### PHRASES OF LOCATION

To describe the location of a place/building, you can use the following phrases.

- is situated/is located ...
- in (the) south/east/west/south-east/north-west/etc (of) ...
- on the south/east/west/north/etc coast of ...
- in the centre/heart/middle of ...

**3** Look at the map, then use phrases from the table above to talk about the location of each town/city.

e.g. *Brighton is situated on the south-east coast of England.*

**4 a)** Match the words/phrases in the list to the headings that follow. Can you add any ideas of your own?

*museum, boutique, nightclub, ancient theatre, open-air market, zoo, café, bazaar, temple, art gallery, restaurant, music hall, palace, botanical gardens, fair, theatre, souvenir shop, monument, statue, antique shop, shopping centre, amusement arcade, multi-screen cinema, funfair*

Things to see and do:

Shopping:

Nightlife:

**b)** Use the vocabulary from part a) and the phrases below to talk about your town, as in the example.

- The most fascinating/lively/interesting/etc part of the city is ...
- The most famous attraction is ...
- There is plenty of ...
- The town centre has ...
- The nightlife in ... is exciting, with ...
- The town is well-known for its ...

e.g. *The most interesting part of the city is the open-air market.*  
*The most famous attraction is the botanical gardens.*

**5 a)** Read the article and label the paragraphs with the correct headings, then talk about Brighton.

- comments/recommendation
- name, location, reason for choosing it
- nightlife
- things to see and do
- shopping

#### An Ideal Seaside Resort by Sally Fulton

Introduction

Brighton is a large town on the south-east coast of England. Located only an hour from London, it is a **charming** seaside resort and the perfect destination for a **peaceful** weekend.

Main Body

Brighton has several tourist attractions which are worth visiting. Among these is the Royal Pavilion, a **beautiful** Indian-style palace which was built in the early nineteenth century. Brighton's most **famous** attraction is the lively Palace Pier, with its fantastic funfair and amusement arcades. Both young and old can have fun while admiring the spectacular view of Brighton's seafront.

There are plenty of places to go shopping in Brighton. The town centre has a large **modern** shopping centre. There are also **narrow** lanes full of lovely antique shops that are always bustling with tourists.

Conclusion

The nightlife in Brighton is **exciting**. There are a lot of music and dance clubs which are extremely **popular** with younger people. The area is also well-known for its fashionable restaurants, which offer a variety of **international** cuisines.

Brighton is a town that has something to offer everyone. Whether you want to spend your time shopping and seeing the sights, or simply relaxing and enjoying the fresh sea air, Brighton is the ideal choice for a few days away from the city.

Para 1

Para 2

Para 3

Para 4

Para 5

**b)** Underline the topic sentences in the main body paragraphs. Suggest other appropriate topic sentences.

**c)** Read the article in 5a) again and match the adjectives in bold with their opposites in the list below. Then, make sentences using them.

*unknown, local, wide, old-fashioned, ugly, boring, unattractive, unpopular, hectic*