

1. Countries quiz

This week's lesson comprises exercises based on information about various countries.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students to describe any foreign countries they have visited, and/or to say what countries they would like to visit in future. If they were able to have, say, a six-month, all-expenses-paid trip around the world, where would they go, what would they like to do, and why?
2. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet A. Give the students at least five minutes to read the information and, through discussion with their partners, try to match countries in the box to the twelve descriptions. Make sure the students understand that four of the sixteen countries in the box are not described. (As a preliminary exercise you could perhaps fold the worksheets so that the box at the top is hidden, and see if the students know any of the countries that are being described before unfolding the paper and seeing the names of the possible countries.)
3. Check answers in open class. (When going through the answers you could also provide a little extra information so as to aid the students' understanding of how the countries match the descriptions – see below.)
4. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet B and ask the students to complete the crossword, which is based on the correct answers to Exercise 1.
5. Check answers in open class.
6. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheet A or to hand them back to you temporarily. Keeping them in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and give them at least five minutes to find and correct the mistakes. Each description contains two mistakes. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, that most corrections only require the students to change a word, and that no correction requires them to write more than one additional word.
7. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. Romania (The region of Transylvania is particularly associated with the legend of Count Dracula.) 2. Nicaragua 3. Pakistan 4. Brazil 5. Mongolia 6. Venezuela 7. Sudan 8. Iceland 9. Fiji 10. Portugal (Former Portuguese possessions in Asia include East Timor, Goa and Macau; in southern Africa, Mozambique and Angola; and in South America, Brazil.) 11. Equatorial Guinea (It used to be a Spanish colony, known as Spanish Guinea. Spanish is one of its official languages.) 12. India
Countries not described: Colombia, Australia, Tanzania, France

Exercise 2

1. baseball 2. earthquake 3. Brazil 4. rugby 5. speakers 6. empire
7. Mongolia 8. part 9. number 10. currency 11. Egypt 12. Pakistan 13. fly
If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Bulgaria* and *Nepal* will read from top to bottom.

Exercise 3

1. This eastern European country, which has a **coastline** on the Black Sea, joined the European Union in 2007. 'Dracula's Castle' is one of its tourist **attractions**.
2. This small country in Central America had a **civil** war in the 1980s and has also had natural **disasters** including earthquakes and hurricanes. Tourists visit its forests, beaches and volcanoes.
3. This Muslim country is the **sixth** most populous in the world, with a population of over 180 million. **Its** capital is Islamabad.
4. This country is **the** fifth most populous in the world and also the **fifth** biggest.
5. This is quite a large country but its population is less than three million. It has borders with (**the**) Russia and China and doesn't have a coastline. Its **currency** is the togrog.
6. The natural **resources** of this South American country include a lot of oil. **Unusually** for this part of the world, the most popular sport is not football: it's baseball.
7. Most people in the north of this country **speak Arabic**. It is the largest country in Africa and it has a border with Egypt to the north.
8. This country, an island in the northern Atlantic Ocean, has a lot of volcanoes. When one of them **erupted** in 2010 it caused many **problems** for aircraft.
9. This is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, about 2,000 kilometres **from** New

Zealand. Most people there can speak English and the most popular sport is **rugby**.

10. This country used to have an empire that **included** very small parts of Asia, some of southern Africa and a large part of **South** America.

11. This small country, with a **population** of less than one million, is one of very few parts of Africa where most people can speak Spanish. It has a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean and has recently **discovered** a lot of oil.

12. There are more **wild tigers** in this country than anywhere else in the world.

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

The 'Country Profiles' section of the BBC website. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/world.htm>

One of numerous online world atlases. Generally Intermediate level and above, but with some sections accessible to Pre-intermediate level.

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/travel-quizzes/country-quizzes>

National Geographic magazine's menu of online multiple-choice country quizzes. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.