

Things to do in Vancouver

(Selective Reading)

Description: Scanning printed announcements to choose the appropriate activities for ten different people.

Use with or after: *English Network Certificate Skills*, Unit 12.

Skill: Selective reading

Focus: Practice for *Reading Part 3* of the TELC exam.

Time: 10 minutes

Preparation:

- Print out the second, third and fourth pages of this file, and make copies for each student.
- Cut on the dotted line to remove the key from the bottom of the second page.

Procedure:

- Give each student a copy of all three pages, without the key.
- On one page they will find the instructions for the task, and descriptions of ten people (**numbers 1 – 10**). On the other two pages they will find twelve short texts about events and activities in Vancouver (**letters A – L**).
- If necessary, remind the students that they do not have to understand every word of the announcements – just enough to complete the task.
- Working individually and silently, the students read the descriptions of the ten people, then scan the twelve texts on the other two pages, choose the appropriate activity for each person and write the correct letter next to the description of the person.
- When they have finished, give each student a copy of the key.

You want to recommend things to do in Vancouver for ten different friends or relatives.

Read the descriptions of the people (**numbers 1 – 10**) on this page, then scan the texts about the twelve activities on the next page and choose the appropriate activity (**letters A – L**) for each person.

Write the correct letter next to the description of the person.

1. Your aunt actually didn't want to come to North America at all. She prefers travelling in Asia.
2. Your best friend wanted to go on a big ship from Vancouver to Alaska, but that turned out to be too expensive so she would now like to take a short boat trip instead.
3. Your brother enjoys looking at fish, as long as he can do it without getting cold and wet.
4. Your brother-in-law likes books and modern architecture.
5. Your father-in-law likes to look at paintings.
6. Your mother-in-law loves to go walking in the woods, but she gets tired rather quickly.
7. Your niece is seriously interested in learning about the culture and traditions of the American Indians, the original inhabitants of North America.
8. Your sister likes to get plenty of exercise, so she always brings her running shoes with her wherever she goes.
9. Your teen-aged nephew has green hair, writes poetry and doesn't eat meat. He's very nice, but a bit unusual.
10. Your uncle likes all kinds of musical theatre, not only Broadway musicals.

Key:

1 G, 2 H, 3 C, 4 E, 5 I, 6 J, 7 D, 8 A, 9 F, 10 L



A

Stanley Park is the largest city park in North America, larger than New York's Central Park. It's on a peninsula, so most of it is surrounded by water. Because it's right downtown, you have a wonderful combination of lush green temperate rainforest next to modern skyscrapers. Great for walking, jogging, cycling, skateboarding or rollerblading around the seawall.

B

Most people think of the tropics when they think of scuba diving, but Vancouver has some of the best cold water scuba diving in the world. Scuba divers plunge into the frigid waters between Vancouver Island and the mainland to view spectacular marine species like the wolf eel and octopus, as well as a brilliant red coral found in few other places around the world.

C

The Vancouver Aquarium is one of Vancouver's best attractions for people of all ages. Get a close look at over 60,000 animals including beluga whales, sea lions, dolphins, seals and more. Enjoy the dolphin and whale shows, sea otter feeds and shark dives. What makes the Vancouver Aquarium unique is that many of its exhibits focus on marine life off the coast of British Columbia.

D

The Museum of Anthropology's focus is primarily First Nations cultures from British Columbia. Here you can see the famous totem poles and other characteristic artefacts of the local and regional indigenous cultures. The walls of the west side of the museum are made of glass to provide beautiful views of the mountains and water below, bringing to life the Pacific northwestern culture that the museum is famous for.

E

The Vancouver Public Library's Central Branch is a stunning elliptical building that was designed by architect Moshe Safdie and opened in 1995. The architect explained that Vancouver was a city of glass so he needed to "anchor the downtown" with a building more solid than the typical Vancouver glass skyscrapers. There is an outer promenade with shops and cafes, creating an attractive public space.

F

Commercial Drive (which local people just call "the Drive") used to be Vancouver's 'Little Italy', but in the past 20 years it has become the center of Vancouver's bohemian culture. Think of San Francisco's "Haight Ashbury" or Melbourne's "Brunswick Street". Commercial Drive is Vancouver's home to a community of artists, hippies, lesbians, vegans, punks and immigrants.

G

In the heart of downtown Vancouver, the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden is the very first authentic classical Chinese garden ever built outside of China. It is ideal for providing peace, tranquility and a harmonious delight for the nature lover, cultural tourist, and sight-seeing visitor. Within this paradise, enjoy a cup of complimentary tea, a guided tour and our Chinese garden gift shop; an experience in itself. Open year round.

H

Join Vancouver's very popular Sunset Dinner Cruise through a secluded Mountain fjord or the only narrated tour of the inner harbour on the authentic paddlewheeler MPV Constitution. Special event cruises throughout the year include the annual Fireworks competition and Christmas Carol Ships in December. Just ask for "Harbour Cruises and Events" at your hotel or travel agency.

I

Located in the heart of the downtown, the Vancouver Art Gallery displays contemporary and historical art from around the world, like the impressive collection of artwork from Canadian artist Emily Carr. At the same time, its main feature is usually a touring exhibit, varying from well known impressionist painters like Van Gogh, to pop art icons like Andy Warhol. Celebrating 75 years as Vancouver's #1 visual arts destination!

J

Lighthouse Park is ideal for visitors who want to experience an enjoyable and easy hike through an old growth temperate rainforest within a short drive from downtown Vancouver. There are numerous paths through Lighthouse Park. All are well maintained and can be done within an hour or two. Picnic tables and flush toilets are conveniently located through the park.

K

Canada loves hockey. It's considered the national sport – and cheering on your favorite team or player is the national pastime. The Vancouver local team, the Canucks, play home games at GM Place and are so popular, games are often sold out from the beginning of the hockey season – so always book tickets well in advance!

L

The Vancouver Opera is Canada's third largest Opera Company. With its main productions, school tours, community performances, special events and outreach programs, the Vancouver Opera reaches an audience of close to 100,000 annually. Vancouver Opera productions take place at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Hamilton at Georgia Street. Recent productions include Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Puccini's *Turandot*.