

CHRISTMAS HOMEWORK

A. READING COMPREHENSION

Australians call the central desert area of their country “the outback”. Alice Springs is a town in the middle of the outback. It is sometimes called Alice or the Alice.

The native *Arrernte* people have lived near Alice Springs for more than 50,000 years. The town grew in the 1860s. It started as a telegraph station - part of the Overland telegraph line, which connected the North and the South of Australia. Later, explorers came to Alice looking for gold, and early settlers created enormous farms there. In 1920s, Alice became the base for Australia’s famous Royal Flying Doctor service. From Alice, doctors still fly in small planes to visit patients in remote villages and farms in the outback.

Tourists come to Alice Springs for many reasons. You can try different adventure sports in the desert, like camping, mountain biking and walking. You can also fly over the desert in a hot air balloon, small plane and helicopter. The early explorers in the outback used camels for transport, and tourists can enjoy camel rides there today. Every year in Alice there is the Camel Cup-a camel race. Racing camels is not easy, and they often go in the wrong direction!

Alice Springs is also a centre for Aboriginal art. Aboriginal art is one of the oldest art traditions in the world. The paintings tell stories about the landscape and about the Aboriginal religion. At the Todd Mall in Alice Springs, you can find lots of art galleries full of modern Aboriginal art. The artists still use traditional techniques, such as painting, with very small dots of colour.

Answer these questions

1. What is the outback?
2. Where is Alice Springs?
3. How long have the Arrernte people lived near Alice Springs?
4. What was Alice Springs at the beginning?
5. Why did explorers go there?
6. What does a flying doctor do?
7. What did Alice Springs become in the 1920s?
8. What can tourists do in the desert?
9. What is the Camel Cup?
10. Where in Alice Springs can you see Aboriginal Art?
11. What kind of techniques do artists use?

B. GRAMMAR REVISION

- **Use** - When do we use which tense?

1. To talk about an action in the past (without any consequences in the present), we use _____
2. To emphasise a past action's consequence in the present, we use _____
3. 'so far' is a signal word for _____
4. '5 minutes ago' is a signal word for _____
5. 'recently' is a signal word for _____

- **Positive Sentences** - Put the verbs into the correct tense (simple past or present perfect simple).

1. He (leave / just) _____ his house.
2. We (build) _____ a tree house last week.
3. Two years ago, Fiona (break) _____ her leg.
4. I (wash / already) _____ the dishes.
5. The other day, our cat (bring) _____ home a mouse.

- **Negative Sentences** - Put the verbs into the correct tense (simple past or present perfect simple)

1. We (empty / not) _____ the bin last week.
2. She (be / not) _____ there an hour ago.
3. He (lose / not) _____ any game so far.
4. My brother (pick / not) _____ me up at 8 o'clock.
5. I (make / not) _____ up my mind yet.

- **Questions** - Put the verbs into the correct tense (simple past or present perfect simple)

1. (you / see) _____ Bob recently?
2. Who (switch) _____ off the lights a minute ago?
3. When (she / become) _____ a teacher?
4. (you / ride / ever) _____ an elephant?
5. (you / hurt) _____ your knee when you were playing football?

- **Mixed** - Put the verbs into the correct tense (simple past or present perfect simple).

A: (you / play / already) _____ the new computer game?

B: No, not yet. I only (buy) _____ it yesterday and I (have / not) _____ the time yet.

A: (you / go) _____ to the cinema last night?

B: Yes. I (be) _____ there with Sue and Louis. (you / be) _____ to the cinema recently?

A: I last (go) _____ to the cinema two weeks ago.

B: So you (see / not) _____ the new action film yet.

A: No, unfortunately not. (you / enjoy) _____ it?

B: Oh, I really (love) _____ it. But Sue (like / not) _____ it - too much action!

A: But why (you / take) _____ her with you? She (tell) _____ me last week that she (hate) _____ action films.

B: I think she has an eye on Louis. She (try) _____ to flirt with him all the time. So he (can / concentrate / not) _____ on the film.