

Melbourne tops most liveable city list 2011

The Australian city of Melbourne has edged out Canada's Vancouver to take the title of the world's most liveable city for the first time in almost a decade. The city's mayor Robert Doyle said he was "absolutely delighted" with the news. This year Vancouver fell to third place behind the Austrian city of Vienna. The Australian metropolis topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's global liveability survey of 140 cities. Australian cities featured prominently in the top ten, with Sydney ranked sixth and Perth and Adelaide in joint 8th place. Canadian cities also did well, with Toronto and Calgary holding fourth and fifth place respectively. The survey is conducted twice a year. Cities were scored on political and social stability, crime rates, access to quality health care, cultural events, the environment, education and the standard of infrastructure. Vancouver missed out on the top spot because its infrastructure had fallen due to periodic closures of a key motorway.

Jon Copestake the survey editor: "Australia, with a low population density and relatively low crime rates, continues to supply some of the world's most liveable cities." He added, "Despite the rising cost of living, driven by the strong Australian dollar, these cities offer a range of factors to make them highly attractive." Among other well-known cities, Paris came 16th, two places ahead of Tokyo. The top-ranked US city was Honolulu which came 26th, while London was a lowly 53rd just behind Singapore. The top Asian city was the Japanese city of Osaka, which came in 12th, tying with Geneva. The Greek capital Athens dropped five places to 67th due to recent government austerity measures. The Arab uprisings prompted a fall in liveability for affected cities in the Middle East. This was most pronounced in Tripoli, where the descent into civil war saw its ranking plummet from 107th to 135th. Scores in Europe have been pushed slightly down by the Eurozone crisis.

Cities were scored out of 100 and the report noted that the top 10 cities were only separated by 1.8 percentage points. Harare, Dhaka and Port Moresby, the capitals of Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea respectively were bottom of list as least liveable.

Most liveable cities 2011: 1) Melbourne; 2) Vienna; 3) Vancouver; 4) Toronto; 5) Calgary; 6) Sydney; 7) Helsinki; 8) Perth; 9) Adelaide; 10) Auckland.

Category: Cities / Survey / Most liveable
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. Melbourne, Australia: Briefly, what three things do you know about Melbourne in Australia? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. Geography: Melbourne, Australia: What region of the world is Melbourne in? What country is Melbourne in? Where is it located on the map of the country? What sea lies off it? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

7. Melbourne and Vienna! Think of five things you know about Melbourne. Then add five things you know about Vienna. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Melbourne	Vienna
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. Let's think! In pairs, think of three advantages and disadvantages of living in Melbourne and Vienna. Write them below.

Melbourne advantages/disadvantages	Vienna advantages/disadvantages
1	1
2	2
3	3

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9. Let's roleplay: BBC World: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC World TV* radio studio in Washington. Today's interview is about: *Melbourne tops most liveability list 2011. 5-10 minutes.*

1	The Mayor of Melbourne	3	The Mayor of Vancouver
2	The Mayor of Harare	4	The Mayor of your choice of city

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

10. The survey: In pairs/small group - discuss the survey of the world's most liveable cities. *5 minutes.*

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

11. Let's think! In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Melbourne**. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

12. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **Melbourne/Your choice of city**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation.

13. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) In the survey which city came 8th?
- 2) Which city came top of the survey?
- 3) How many cities were in the survey?
- 4) Why did the Middle East cities lose their rankings?
- 5) Why did Athens drop to 67th?

Student B

- 1) Which cities came bottom?
- 2) Why did European cities drop their ranking?
- 3) What was the top US city?
- 4) Why did Vancouver miss out on the top spot?
- 5) Cities were scored on what?

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **'Why Melbourne is the most liveable city in 2011?'**

15. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Vienna _____
- b) Vancouver _____
- c) Melbourne _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Which three cities would you nominate?
- 3) Would you like to live in Tripoli? Why? Why not?
- 4) What makes Geneva and Osaka so attractive?
- 5) Would you like to live in Athens? Why? Why not?
- 6) Why is Australia such a popular place to live in?
- 7) Why are three Canadian cities so high up on the list?
- 8) Why is London at No 53?
- 9) Would you like to live in London? Why? Why not?
- 10) Why are no African cities in the top ten?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Which is your favourite city and why?
- 3) Which is your least favourite city? Why?
- 4) Which cities on the list have you visited?
- 5) Would you like to visit Melbourne? Why? Why not?
- 6) Why did Harare, Dhaka and Port Moresby come bottom?
- 7) Would you like to visit the places at the bottom of the list? Why? Why not?
- 8) Why does the USA do so badly?
- 9) Why does Europe not feature more prominently?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Your top 10 most liveable cities

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Discuss the following:

Your top 10 most liveable cities

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Melbourne tops most liveable city list 2011

The Australian city of Melbourne has edged out Canada's Vancouver to take the title of the world's most (1)___ city for the first time in almost a (2)____. The city's (3)_____ Robert Doyle said he was "absolutely delighted" with the news. This year Vancouver fell to third place behind the Austrian city of Vienna. The Australian (4)_____ topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's global liveability survey of 140 cities. Australian cities featured prominently in the top ten, with Sydney ranked sixth and Perth and Adelaide in joint 8th place. Canadian (5)_____ also did well, with Toronto and Calgary holding fourth and fifth place respectively. The (6)_____ is conducted twice a year. Cities were scored on political and social (7)_____, crime rates, access to quality health care, cultural events, the environment, education and the standard of infrastructure. Vancouver missed out on the top spot because its infrastructure had fallen due to periodic closures of a (8)_____ motorway.

metropolis

survey

key

mayor

decade

cities

stability

liveable

Jon Copestake the survey editor: "Australia, with a low population (1)_____ and relatively low crime rates, continues to supply some of the world's most liveable cities." He added, "Despite the rising cost of living, driven by the strong Australian dollar, these cities offer a range of factors to make them highly (2)_____." Among other well-known cities, Paris came 16th, two places ahead of Tokyo. The top-ranked US city was Honolulu which came 26th, while London was a lowly 53rd just behind Singapore. The top Asian city was the Japanese city of Osaka, which came in 12th, tying with Geneva. The Greek (3)_____ Athens dropped five places to 67th due to (4)_____ government austerity measures. The Arab (5)_____ prompted a fall in (6)_____ for affected cities in the Middle East. This was most pronounced in Tripoli, where the descent into civil war saw its ranking (7)_____ from 107th to 135th. Scores in Europe have been pushed slightly down by the Eurozone (8)_____.

liveability

plummet

attractive

uprisings

crisis

density

recent

capital

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Melbourne tops most liveable city list 2011

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GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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The Australian city of Melbourne has edged out Canada's Vancouver to take the title of the world's most liveable city (1)___ the first time in almost (2)___ decade. The city's mayor Robert Doyle said (3)___ was "absolutely delighted" with the news. This year Vancouver fell to third place behind the Austrian city (4)___ Vienna. The Australian metropolis topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's global liveability survey of 140 cities. Australian cities featured prominently in (5)___ top ten, with Sydney ranked sixth (6)___ Perth and Adelaide in joint 8th place. Canadian cities also did well, with Toronto and Calgary holding fourth and fifth place respectively. The survey is conducted twice a year. Cities were scored on political and social stability, crime rates, access to quality health care, cultural events, the environment, education and the standard of infrastructure. Vancouver missed out (7)___ the top spot because (8)___ infrastructure had fallen due to periodic closures of a key motorway.

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which

most

where

these

just

into

them

some

SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	survey	11	standard
2	quality	12	crime
3	plummet	13	decade
4	austerity	14	almost
5	respectively	15	respectively
6	environment	16	cultural
7	liveability	17	education
8	infrastructure	18	periodic
9	stability	19	density
10	metropolis	20	population

LINKS

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World%27s_most_liveable_cities

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatches/globalpost-blogs/down-under/most-liveable-cities-2011-melbourne-takes-the-prize>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14716442>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-30/melbourne-wins-world27s-most-liveable-city/2862628>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Melbourne tops most liveable city list 2011: The Australian city of Melbourne has edged out Canada's Vancouver to take the title of the world's most **liveable** city for the first time in almost a **decade**. The city's **mayor** Robert Doyle said he was "absolutely delighted" with the news. This year Vancouver fell to third place behind the Austrian city of Vienna. The Australian **metropolis** topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's global liveability survey of 140 cities. Australian cities featured prominently in the top ten, with Sydney ranked sixth and Perth and Adelaide in joint 8th place. Canadian **cities** also did well, with Toronto and Calgary holding fourth and fifth place respectively. The **survey** is conducted twice a year. Cities were scored on political and social **stability**, crime rates, access to quality health care, cultural events, the environment, education and the standard of infrastructure. Vancouver missed out on the top spot because its infrastructure had fallen due to periodic closures of a **key** motorway.

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