

Text 1: Coober Pedy – the underground town

(1) Sarah King, a British student of management studies, spent half a year at the University of Adelaide, South Australia. During her stay there, she and her friend Emily arranged to spend a few days in the Australian outback. One Monday in August the girls took their backpacks, got on a Greyhound bus and travelled north-west more than 800 kilometres to Coober Pedy. This small mining* town in the middle of nowhere produces 85% of the world's opals*. (A) The girls reached their remote destination at about 5 a.m. after a ten-hour journey through empty desert scenery.

Here is what Sarah wrote in her diary after the first day in Coober Pedy.



My Diary | My Diary | My Diary | My Diary | My Diary | My Diary | My Diary

(2) It was quite cold and dark when early in the morning we walked to Radeka's Backpackers Motel. Like most homes in Coober Pedy this hostel was built underground. In fact most of the town's population lives underground because of the great heat in the summer. They have dug* their homes in the rock where the temperature is always a comfortable 25 degrees. (B) For \$15 a night we were able to sleep in a four-bed dug-out room. We slept well for a couple of hours and after a shower and a big breakfast we went outside and entered a different world. The bright sunlight hurt our eyes, and we saw red sand around us and orange hills in the distance. There wasn't a tree or a bush in sight. Then we noticed something at the top of the hill that clearly looked like a tree. But it was made of old car parts for children to climb on.

(3) We had heard that Coober Pedy has underground museums and churches. So we decided to visit the most important tourist attraction, The Old Timers Mine, which is a historic opal mine and museum. The mine has no open shafts* or mining equipment in operation, so visitors are pretty safe. (C) We took a self-guided tour through the mine and read the information that was written in several different languages. We saw how the miners looked for opals by candlelight. Walking through a 1918 underground home was really fascinating. We looked at newspapers, photos and letters of that time. The Old Timers Mine was well worth a visit.

(4) Emily insisted on seeing a dug-out church, but I wanted to try my luck and spent the afternoon 'noodling'*. Opal miners use large machinery called noodling machines to search for opals in the ground. These machines leave behind small heaps* of earth. Tourists can go through these hills in the hope of finding opals that the miners didn't discover. I worked hard at one of those heaps. When my back started to hurt, I wanted to give up. Just at that moment I found a piece of green rock. I was quite excited. I showed it to a guide, but she said, "Sorry to disappoint you, but your piece is hardly worth a dollar." Bad luck! I put it in my backpack as a souvenir. (D) I met Emily at the Red Sand Restaurant and after a good evening meal we walked back to our underground accommodation.

*NEW: mining – Bergwerks-; opal – Opal (Edelstein); to dig (dug, dug) – graben; shaft – Schacht; noodling – hier: Durchsuchen des Abbaus nach kleinen Opalsteinen; heap – Haufen

Reading

1 Four sentences (1–4) have been removed from the original text. Find the most suitable position (A–D) for each of the sentences below.

- 1 Then I tried to get the dirt off my clothes.
- 2 Mining started in 1915 and is still going on.
- 3 In dug-out homes you can also avoid cold nights.
- 4 Even so, we had to wear hard hats and we looked quite funny.

4

2 Answer the following questions on Text 1. You don't have to write complete sentences, but one word is not enough.

- 1 Why was the girls' accommodation typical of Coober Pedy?

- 2 What did the girls discover when they left their hotel after breakfast?

- 3 Why are visitors pretty safe at The Old Timers Mine?

- 4 Why do some tourists go 'noodling'?

4

3 Coober Pedy welcomes you! Tick (✓) the activities that Sarah mentions in her diary (Text 1).

Visit Coober Pedy. There are lots of things to see and do.

See an amazing place in a colourful lunar landscape. ☐

Buy opal where it is mined. ☐

See how opal was mined a hundred years ago. ☐

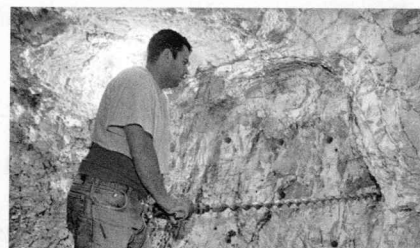
Look for your own piece of opal. ☐

Visit the Coober Pedy Races (Oct 2–4) – a family event with horse and camel races. ☐

Explore a dug-out home! ☐

Visit the town's open air cinema at night. ☐

Drive with the mailman and see remote stations in the outback. ☐



4

- 4 Read the short text below and look carefully at each line. Some of them are correct, but five of them have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct, tick (✓) it. If a line has a word that should not be there, underline it and write it on the line.

- When tourists arrive at Coober Pedy, many of them feel as if they have landed on Mars.
 ➤ The town that is surrounded by hundreds of miles of dry earth and countless heaps of
 1 sandstone. Why are there be so many heaps? In opal mining you start by digging a shaft
 2 straight down into the ground. Then some how horizontal tunnels are dug at various levels.
 3 The heaps around the shafts are the dirt that has been to removed from under the ground.
 4 The shafts can be as deep as 30 metres. There are signs everywhere which warning people
 5 to be careful where they go. Accidents have happened and people have fallen into a shaft.
 6 Not all of them have survived the fall.

✓
that

6

- 5 Find the correct ending to the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box.

- 1 The picture on the right side of the sign
mainly says that ...

- A you mustn't take photos here.
 B you mustn't jump over the gap.
 C you mustn't step back without looking.

☐
☐
☐

- 2 The picture in the middle means ...

- A Don't dive into the water!
 B Be careful!
 C Don't jump head first.

☐
☐
☐

- 3 *UNMARKED HOLES* means there
 are holes which ...

- A aren't safe.
 B are uncovered.
 C are without any warning signs.

☐
☐
☐



3

Text 2: Outback travelling tips for motorists

The Australian outback is a wonderful place to visit. However, it can also be a dangerous place. For all those people who want to do the outback on their own, there are some very important things to remember. These tips can mean the difference between life and death both for you and your rescuers.

- ① A journey in the outback must be well prepared. Before you start, inform your family or friends or hotel manager of your travel plans, route and schedule.
- ② Make sure you have an up-to-date road map and check the hotline number for road conditions before your journey.
- ③ If you break down, don't leave your vehicle. Don't walk off in search of help. Stay calm and someone will find you, but they won't if you get lost in the outback. A missing vehicle is easier to locate than missing people.
- ④ Always carry enough petrol, water and food with you for several days. For long journeys you may need some extra tyres and tools.
- ⑤ Road trains sometimes use outback roads. They are very long, large trucks, as long as ten cars. To overtake a road train safely, you should be able to see at least one kilometre of clear road ahead.
- ⑥ If you travel slowly and a road train is overtaking you, move to the left as far as possible or stop if necessary to allow it to overtake.
- ⑦ Native animals like kangaroos or emus may cross the road. They can cause serious accidents. Match your speed to the conditions at all times.
- ⑧ Be careful when travelling in the outback in the summer. Try to keep out of the sun during the hottest hours of the day. Wear sunglasses, a hat and use lots of sun cream. Remember that a cloudy sky doesn't protect you from the sun.

We hope that you will really enjoy your trip in the Australian outback. Take care!

Mediation

6 Lies die Hinweise für Reisende im australischen Outback und beantworte die folgenden Fragen stichpunktartig auf Deutsch.

- 1 Stelle dir vor, dass sich Reisende für eine Fahrt in das Outback mit allen empfohlenen Gegenständen eingedeckt haben. Was sollten sie noch tun, bevor sie aufbrechen? (Nenne zwei Vorsichtsmaßnahmen.)

2

- 2 Welche Vorkehrungen müssen Kraftfahrer/innen treffen, damit ihr Fahrzeug auf langer Fahrt im Outback möglichst nicht liegen bleibt? (2 Details)

2

- 3 Welche Unfallgefahren des Outback sollten Fahrer kennen? (3 Details)

3

- 4 Welche lebenswichtige Verhaltensregel sollten Reisende beherzigen, falls ihr Fahrzeug im Outback liegen bleibt? Begründe diese Regel.

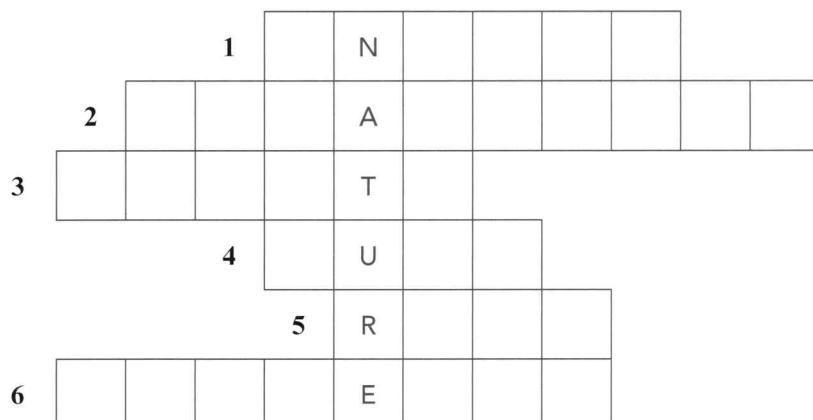
2

Total: Reading

30

Use of English: Vocabulary

7 Which word from Text 1 is it?

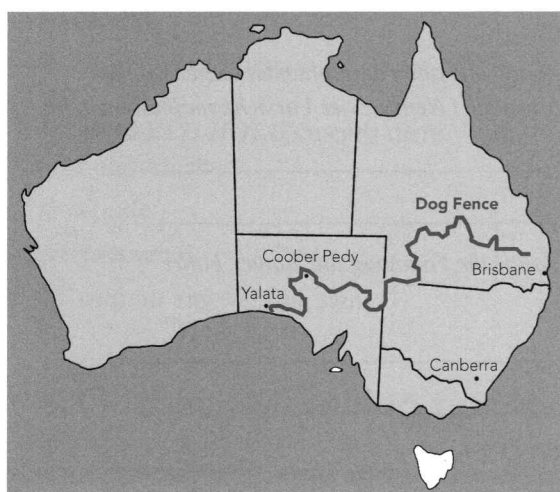


- 1 to say that you absolutely must do or have something (Paragraph 4)
- 2 to make someone sad because something is less good than he/she had expected (Paragraph 4)
- 3 far away from places where people live (Paragraph 1)
- 4 to cause pain or injury (Paragraph 2 + 4)
- 5 the hard, stony part of the earth *or* a large piece of stone (Paragraph 2 + 4)
- 6 something that you can keep to remind you of a place or person (Paragraph 4)



6

8 Use the words in capital letters at the end of some of the lines to form a word of the same word family that fits into the space.



About 15 kilometres outside Coober Pedy you can see the Dog Fence, which is the longest fence in the world.

It's about 5,400 kilometres long and was (1) _____

by farmers over a hundred years ago. BUILDING

The farmers wanted to keep the northern dingoes away

from the (2) _____ sheep. SOUTH

The dingoes are the wild (3) _____

dogs. AUSTRALIA

The high fence is regularly repaired by groups of

(4) _____ of the ranch owners, EMPLOY

who usually (5) _____ in protecting their sheep. SUCCESS

5

9 Use the word in capital letters and complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. Use between two and five words including the word given.

- Emily went to a dug-out church and didn't spend the afternoon noodling. INSTEAD
Emily went to a dug-out church instead of spending the afternoon 'noodling'.

1 During their stay in Adelaide the girls went on a trip to Coober Pedy. WHILE

_____ in Adelaide, the girls went on a trip to Coober Pedy.

- 2 Coober Pedy is situated in the outback. REMOTE

Coober Pedy is situated in a _____ of Australia.

- 3 Coober Pedy is surrounded by desert. PLANTS

The area around Coober Pedy is so dry that _____.

- 4 Most people live in dug-out homes because of the heat in the summer. TEMPERATURES

Most people live in dug-out homes to _____ in summer.

- 5 This museum is well worth a visit. RECOMMEND

I can _____ this museum.

5

Use of English: Grammar

10 Complete the following text.

Use the correct form of the words in brackets. Look carefully at the context and use the correct tenses.

In 1915, four men (1 search) _____
_____ for gold south
of Coober Pedy when the youngest of
them, Willie Hutchinson, (2 find)
_____ some pieces of opal on the ground. He
(3 not/know) _____
that he (4 discover) _____
_____ the richest opal field



in the world. Willie died young. If he had lived long enough, he (5 see) _____ the fruits of his discovery.

Soon some railway workers and soldiers, who (6 return) _____ from World War I some time ago, (7 come) _____ to the opal fields to try their luck. In 1920 the place (8 call)

_____ Coober Pedy, which is the English version of the Aboriginal words *Kupa Piti* meaning 'white man in a hole'. The miners lived in the holes they (9 dig) _____ in search of opals and (10 quick) _____ realized the advantages (11 live) _____

underground, away from the immense heat on the surface. Even today more than 50% of the 3,500 inhabitants of Coober Pedy live in dugouts. Nobody (12 dig) _____ by hand any more. The new building work (13 do) _____ by modern tunnelling machines. The homes aren't deep holes in the ground, they (14 actually/dig) _____ into the hillsides. People even have small front gardens at the entrance and of course they have running water, electricity and television.

14