

## BEAR COUNTRY

*Skills: Predictive listening; Listening for key information and note-taking*

*Vocabulary: Parallel expressions*



### Pre-listening activity

Before you listen, answer these questions:

1. Where is Canada located?
2. What is its capital? (Vancouver / Montreal / Ottawa / Quebec)
3. *Odd one out:* in each of the following lists, one place is not in Canada. Which is it?
  - a. Labrador, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Alaska, Yukon
  - b. Lake Winnipeg, Lake Michigan, Great Slave Lake, Hudson Bay, Gulf of St Lawrence
  - c. Seattle, Halifax, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto
  - d. Vancouver, Baffin Island, Long Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland

### Activity 1: listening practice

*Thinking about what to expect (predictive listening)*

The following questions are in the form of statements which have to be completed by choosing the correct answers. Read through the statements and discuss the most likely answers with another student. Choose one answer which you think is most likely to be correct in each case.

1. Canada is the *biggest/second biggest/third biggest* country in the world.
2. Canada has a population of 26/66/106 million people.
3. A third of the country is covered by *mountains/lakes/forest*.
4. Summers in Canada are generally *cold/cool/warm*.
5. In winters a *raincoat/an overcoat/a waistcoat* is necessary.
6. A *quarter/third/half* of all Canadians are French speaking.
7. A million *Italians/Greeks/Germans* also live in Canada.
8. French is the only official language in the province of *Ontario/Quebec/Alberta*.
9. Seafood specialities include *Pacific salmon/shark/whale*.
10. A dessert speciality is *apple pie/waffles/cheese* served with maple syrup.
11. One thing which is rather expensive is *foreign wine/mineral water/beer*.
12. The best thing to buy in Canada include *gold jewellery/woolen sweaters/chocolates*.
13. The unit of currency is the Canadian *dollar/franc/pound*.

Now listen to some information about Canada in a recording from a telephone information service. As you listen, look at the questions above again and put a circle around the correct answers. How many numbers have you got it correct?

## Activity 2: Language practice: Alternative words

In the listening practice you have just done, the questions didn't always use exactly the same words as the recording. Look at the examples below.

### **Recording**

### **Question**

...second in size only to the Soviet Union = second biggest in the world

...it has only 26 million people = it has a population of 26 million

Now find the words used in the questions to express the same meaning as the following extracts from the recording.

...speak French as their first language = .....

Good buys include..... = .....



**This is a very common examination questions where you have to complete notes or true/false or multiple-choice questions, and it's important to be ready to recognize key information when you hear it, even if it's expressed in a slightly different way from the question.**

**All the words in column A have a 'partner' in column B with a very similar meaning. Find twelve pairs.**

| A               | B          |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Dear         | unhappy    |
| 2. Broad        | fast       |
| 3. Stretch (v)  | photograph |
| 4. Risky        | near       |
| 5. Dessert      | expensive  |
| 6. Swift        | erect      |
| 7. Enormous     | extend     |
| 8. Fasten       | wide       |
| 9. Miserable    | sweet (n)  |
| 10. Close (adj) | huge       |
| 11. Upright     | tie up     |
| 12. Shot (n)    | dangerous  |

### Activity 3: Predicting and listening for key information

You are going to hear about different kinds of bears in Canada. Fill in the missing information in the table below.

|                                                                                    |                                 |                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grizzly bear                                                                       | Stands up to ..... cm high (2). | Found on higher ..... (1) of mountains. Poor ..... (3) but excellent sense of ..... (4) and hearing. Very fast.         |
|   | Up to ..... cm long (6). 90 kg. | Found all across Canada and often seen around ..... (5) grounds, cabins and garbage dumps. Active during the ..... (7). |
|  | Up to ..... kg (8).             | Found only in the ..... (9). Moves fast on land and can also ..... (10) considerable distances.                         |

### Activity 4: Predicting, listening for key information

You're going to watch a documentary "**BYE CANADA - Why Canadians and Immigrants Are Fleeing The Country**". Complete these following statements based on the information you hear from the passage.



1. Canada is a rich country which gets its wealth from some vital sectors such as .....
2. The factor that mainly contributes to the increase of Canada's population as well as boosts its economy is .....
3. People from the U.S., especially ....., migrate to Canada to search of better life opportunity.
4. However, there is a trend especially in Ontario that the residents are starting to move to other cities because .....
5. The number one reason why Canadians are leaving to other cities or countries is because .....
6. The Canadian government has to increase tax because....., which in turn makes Canadian residents want to migrate.
7. Another problem is that although Canada has free health care system, people often can't get the health care for free because.....
8. The last reason Canadians move to more affordable cities/countries is that .....