

# ST PETERSBURG

## Speaking

### ST PETERSBURG

**1** What do you know about the Russian city of St Petersburg, which is a UNESCO Heritage site? Circle the correct options in italics to complete the sentences.

Compare your ideas with a partner.

- The city was founded by *Peter the Great* / *Peter II of Russia* / *Catherine the Great*.
- It was built on a *disused coal mine* / *swamp* / *public park*.
- Which of these buildings is not associated with St Petersburg?  
*the Hermitage* / *Menshikov Palace* / *the Spasskaya Tower*
- The city has changed its name *twice* / *three times* / *four times*.
- The city was besieged and many buildings were destroyed in *1848* / *1917* / *1941–1944*.

## Reading

### THE WINTER PALACE

**2** Read the extracts from a tour guide to the Winter Palace, one of the most famous buildings in St Petersburg, and answer the questions.

Which part of the building (A–E):

- has an impressive roof? \_\_\_\_\_
- contains a piece of English furniture? \_\_\_\_\_
- was used for hospital beds? \_\_\_\_\_
- was the scene of an annual ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- is associated with the Russian revolution? \_\_\_\_\_
- is most typical of Rastrelli's style? \_\_\_\_\_



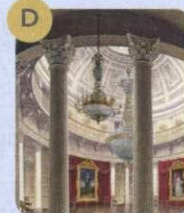
One of the most famous buildings in St Petersburg is the Winter Palace. It was built in the fashionable baroque style for Tsarina Elizabeth (1741–1762), the daughter of Peter the Great, and was designed by the Italian architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli.



The Small Throne Room was dedicated in 1833 to the memory of Peter the Great and houses a silver English throne made in 1731. Diplomats gathered here on New Year's Day to offer good wishes to the Emperor.



The Armorial Hall, with its immense pillars, bronze chandeliers and slender colonnade supporting the balcony and its balustrade, covers over 800 m<sup>2</sup>. An infirmary was set up here during the First World War.



The Rotunda is a circular hall in the northwest wing of the palace, created for Tsar Nicholas I. It served as an antechamber and connected the public rooms with the intimate quarters used by the imperial family in the west wing. It is topped by an impressive dome.



The Malachite Room, richly decorated with malachite columns and ornate vases, gilded doors and ceilings, and a parquet floor, was used during the revolution of 1917 as the seat of the provisional government before the Bolsheviks took power.



The Main Staircase, a vast, white marble staircase was the architect's best work. In the 18th century the staircase was known as the Ambassadorial Staircase because the representatives of foreign countries used it when going to the palace. On 6th January each year the Tsar would descend the staircase in full imperial attire for the ceremony of the Blessing of the Waters of the River Neva.

## Listening

### THE GOLD DRAWING ROOM

- 3 ))) 6.2 Listen to Sonia, a tour guide, during her tour of the Winter Palace and circle the adjective in each list that she uses to describe the noun in bold. Which adjective in each list cannot be used with the noun in bold?

- 1 **ceiling**: painted / wood-beamed / delicate / plaster / vaulted  
 2 **chandeliers**: gilded / gold-plated / bronze / silver / brick  
 3 **columns**: vast / immense / parquet / massive / marble  
 4 **vases**: ornate / velvet / elegant / finely-wrought / ornamental

- 4 ))) Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 What does Sonia say about Alexander II?  
 2 What does she say about Maria Alexandrovna?

## Vocabulary

### ARCHITECTURE

- 5 Look at the pictures of the architectural features below and underline the odd word in each group. Explain your choice. Use a dictionary to help you.

- 1 arch / column / colonnade / pillar  
 2 cupola / dome / façade / tower  
 3 arcades / apartments / chambers / quarters  
 4 balcony / balustrade / gallery / mantelpiece  
 5 bas-relief / minaret / spire / steeple  
 6 vestibule / antechamber / entrance / wing  
 7 gilded / silver / bronze / parquet



balustrade



minaret



arch



pillar



dome



spire



cupola



colonnade

# PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

## WORKING AS A TOUR GUIDE



### Listening

#### GUIDING

- 1 ))) 6.3 Amy Wood works for an agency that trains English-speaking tour guides in Russia. Listen to her introduction to the course and complete the Professional skills box. Use no more than THREE WORDS in each gap.

#### PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: WORKING AS A TOUR GUIDE

##### Personal qualities

To be a good guide, you have to be:

- 1 friendly, helpful and able to cope with <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 enthusiastic, with a good sense of <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and a(n) <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ personality.
- 3 in good physical condition and have plenty of <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 aware of and <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the needs of all members of the group.

##### Knowledge

You also need to:

- 5 prepare everything in advance and have all the details <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 avoid being monotonous and try to be <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ possible.
- 7 <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ about any interesting events that took place there.
- 8 take advantage of every opportunity to <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ interesting information.

##### Communication skills

When you take people around a site:

- 9 speak in a(n) <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and <sup>11</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ voice so that people can hear you.
- 10 use non-verbal communication, make <sup>12</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and use appropriate <sup>13</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

### Vocabulary

#### GUIDING EXPRESSIONS

- 2 Match the sentence halves 1–8 with a–h.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 The visit will take an hour and you'll see  | a our steps to the main staircase?                            |
| 2 If you could all be back here               | b our way to the kitchens and servants' quarters.             |
| 3 I suggest we                                | c of 18th century baroque architecture.                       |
| 4 If you'd like to                            | d by 5.30 at the latest.                                      |
| 5 Now we'll make                              | e follow me into the east wing.                               |
| 6 On your left you'll see a beautiful example | f make our way to the courtyard.                              |
| 7 Why don't we retrace                        | g back to the Armorial Hall?                                  |
| 8 Shall we head                               | h the museum's most precious items in the Treasure Galleries. |

**3 Match the sentence halves 1–8 with a–h .**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Saint Petersburg was founded            | a by Baroque architecture.             |
| 2 The statue was erected to commemorate   | b during the First World War.          |
| 3 The Hermitage was inaugurated           | c by a cabinet maker in Moscow.        |
| 4 The interiors were subsequently altered | d by Peter the Great.                  |
| 5 Catherine the Great was inspired        | e by a number of different architects. |
| 6 An infirmary was set up in the Hall     | f by a huge fire in 1837.              |
| 7 The antique furniture was restored      | g as a public museum in 1852.          |
| 8 Sadly, the palace was burnt down        | h the battle of Kagul in 1770.         |

**Listening**

DATES, MEASUREMENTS, STATISTICS

**4 ))) 6.4** Tour guides often have to talk about dates, measurements, statistics, etc. Practise saying the figures below with a partner. Then listen and check your answers.

- |                     |                      |                       |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 1,346 ft tall     | 5 2.57 m high        | 9 75,000,000 visitors |
| 2 1941–1943         | 6 2001               | 10 \$16.90            |
| 3 15 m x 35 m       | 7 ¾ of an inch thick | 11 2nd century BCE    |
| 4 250,000 years ago | 8 6/1/1546           | 12 4,954,000          |

**Speaking**

A WALKING TOUR

**5** You are going to give a walking tour of the district shown on the map. Prepare your tour using the prompts below. Imagine the outside and inside of the buildings and monuments, their history and cultural heritage.



- 1 originally built for ..., acquired by ..., designed in ... style, today forms part of ...
- 2 outside/inside ..., initially home to ..., boasts a fabulous collection of ...
- 3 scene of a dramatic event ..., depicts ..., revolution, annual parade
- 4 erected by ... to commemorate ..., decorated, restored
- 5 commissioned by ..., inspired by ..., made of ..., represents ...
- 6 destroyed by ..., centre of ..., World Heritage site because ...
- 7 founded ..., inaugurated ..., completed ..., 150 rooms containing ...
- 8 the former ..., is said to be ..., terrible event ..., today houses ...

**6** Give your tour to the class. Use the guiding expressions in Exercise 2.



# CASE STUDY DESIGN A MUSEUM EXHIBITION

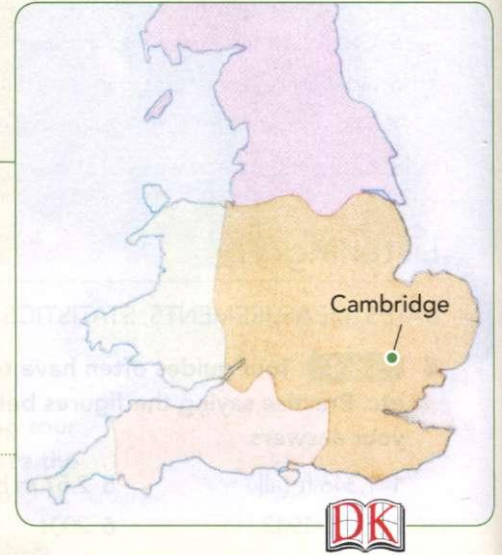
## CASE STUDY MENU

Aim: To design a museum exhibition.

- 1 Read an article about a gift to a museum.
- 2 Listen to a meeting about a collection of artefacts.
- 3 Sort artefacts into categories.
- 4 Plan the layout of exhibits and write supporting documentation.

## A present from the past

- 1 Read the newspaper article. What does the collection include and what decisions have to be made?



## Local Donington man donates museum collection

Albert Johnson, 79, a resident of Donington with a lifelong interest in local history, has donated his collection of artefacts and objects of historical interest to the Donington Trust, which intends to house them in nearby Ascoby Hall. The building has been empty for a number of years.

The priceless collection spans 2,000 years of life in East England, with items ranging from whalebone combs to windmills. Particularly well-represented are the many objects dating back to the time when the area was settled by the Vikings. A number of

possessions belonging to the locally-born explorer Matthew Flinders (1774–1814) will also be among the exhibits on display.

The newly-appointed curator of Ascoby Hall told our reporter that plans are underway to design the layout of the exhibition in the limited space available. 'We can't house everything, so we have some difficult decisions to make. We need to assess the relative importance of each of the artefacts and decide how to display them, based on their intrinsic significance and ability to appeal to the public.'

## A meeting to discuss the display

- 2 **6.5** Listen to the curator of Ascoby Hall and an interior designer talking to Albert Johnson about organizing the exhibition space and answer the questions.

- 1 What were the rooms available for the exhibition originally used for?
- 2 What ideas do the curator and the interior designer have for the use of the rooms?

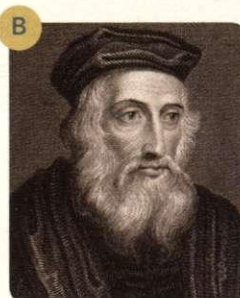
- 3 Listen again and answer the questions about the people in the pictures.

Who:

- 1 built Ascoby Hall? \_\_\_
- 2 lived at Ascoby Hall? \_\_\_
- 3 installed a stained glass window? \_\_\_
- 4 founded the Gentlemen's Society? \_\_\_
- 5 was a genius? \_\_\_
- 6 was a sailor? \_\_\_
- 7 went to Australia? \_\_\_
- 8 wrote an important book? \_\_\_



Sir Isaac Newton



Geoffrey Johnson



Tobias Johnson



Matthew Flinders

## Sorting the exhibits

4 Put the words in the box in FIVE groups and give a name to each group. Use a dictionary if necessary.

axe bracelet brooch clay compass helmet model pendant pot  
replica reproduction sextant shield telescope vase

Pottery	_____	_____	_____	_____
e.g. clay				
pot				
vase				

5 Work in pairs. Student A, look at the information below. Student B, turn to file 23, page 108. Look at your inventories and decide how best to group all the objects into EIGHT different categories for the eight rooms in the museum. There is one object you do not need. Follow the steps below.

- 1 Identify the objects in your inventory. Put them into groups according to periods of history (e.g. Roman, Saxon, 18th century) or types of activity/areas of interest (e.g. drainage, local language).
- 2 Compare your results with your partner. Discuss and see what common groups you can make.
- 3 Finalize your eight groups and decide on a name for each one.

Student A

### Inventory

- a life-size replica of a Viking longship
- an 18th-century telescope, compass and sextant
- a large map of the Australian coastline (1801–1803)
- five combs carved from whalebone (circa eighth century)
- a 1.5 x 1 m photo of excavations of a Roman salt-making site
- photos of the great floods in 1947 and 1953
- a first edition of Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*
- ten silver pendants and brooches originating from Sweden
- manuscripts dating back to Saxon times
- medieval kitchen utensils and bronze keys
- models of windmills and steam engines used to pump water
- a collection of surgical instruments used on board ships



### TASK

6 Work in small groups. You are going to design the layout of the museum. Discuss the questions and make decisions.

- 1 What names will you give the rooms?
- 2 What kind of articles will you sell in the gift shop?
- 3 How can you make the museum attractive to visitors, including children?

7 Draw a museum plan and then use it to present your exhibition to the class. Explain your group's plans for the success of the museum.

### UNIT 6: KEY WORDS

artefact bas-relief commemorate  
dome excavate inaugurate  
masterpiece monument prehistoric  
replica ruins shield stained glass  
throne wing

See DVD-ROM Mini-dictionary

