

Beautiful, brilliant Brighton

1 THINK ABOUT IT

Beautiful, brilliant Brighton

Did you notice that the two adjectives before the name of the town start with the same letter as the town? Invent similar slogans for any two other cities, e.g. 'Lively, loud London' and 'Pretty, peaceful Paris'. Then have a class competition to see who can invent the best slogan for your town.

2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Write these words from the article next to their meanings. The paragraph numbers will help you.

ultimate	burnt-down	marina	candyfloss	charity	funfair
maze	promenade	pier	gay pride	comedy	busy

- A structure built out from the land over water, especially at the seaside, where people can go to walk and for entertainment. _____ (para 1)
- An area of water beside the land that is designed for keeping small private boats in. _____ (para 1)
- Full of people. _____ (para 2)
- An organization to which you give money so that it can help people who are poor or ill, or who need advice and support. _____ (para 2)
- This describes the idea that people who are lesbian or gay should be proud. _____ (para 2)
- A place to walk, usually next to a beach. _____ (para 4)
- A word used about something that is better, more extreme, or more important than all others. _____ (para 6)
- A type of entertainment intended to make people laugh. _____ (para 11)
- A sweet food consisting of very thin strings of pink sugar wrapped around a stick. _____ (para 12)
- A set of many small streets, paths etc. that is easy to get lost in. _____ (para 13)
- An event held outside at which people go on rides (large machines that you ride on for pleasure) and play games to win prizes. _____ (para 15)
- A building or something large that has been destroyed by fire, has been _____ (para 15)

Definitions from www.macmillandictionary.com

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BEAUTIFUL, BRILLIANT BRIGHTON

by Rebecca Perl

1 Sea air and students, colour and creativity – Brighton, on the southern coast of England, is the coolest, youngest city in Britain. It's full of artists, musicians and people having great fun at the seaside. The city is known for its wonderful Royal Pavilion and Brighton Pier. But it also has beautiful beaches and one of Europe's biggest marinas. And Brighton has the best mix of entertainment – with theatres, cinemas, concerts and art galleries. It has an exciting music scene: bands like The Kooks and DJ Fat Boy Slim come from Brighton. It's a great place to visit – and to learn English!

2 Brighton is busy all year round, especially in summer. In May there's the Brighton Festival – an arts festival with music, dance, comedy and wonderful fireworks. In June there's the London-to-Brighton Bike Ride – when around 27,000 people ride bicycles for charity. In August there's a huge gay pride festival. And in September, Brighton Live is a whole week of free gigs by bands from Brighton.

3 When the sun shines, the beaches are full of people relaxing, playing beach volleyball or doing water sports. That's no wonder – with its neighbouring town, Hove, almost half a million people live in Brighton! The area first became popular in the 18th century. Even King George IV spent much of his time in the town in the early 1800s and built what is now one of England's most famous buildings – The Royal Pavilion. Londoners started going to Brighton on holiday when the railway to Brighton opened in 1841. Brighton is now one of Britain's largest and most popular seaside resorts; a fun city full of creative people with great ideas.

4 **Action for you**
If you love sports, Brighton is perfect for you. On the beach and the promenade, you'll see teens cycling, rollerblading, skateboarding, playing volleyball or beach football. And with swimming, surfing and many other water activities, you'll find your favourite sport, and more, in Brighton.

5 The Yellowwave Beach Sports Venue, between the two piers, is a fantastic place to play different types of sports – including volleyball, football, and 'beachminton' (badminton on the beach!).

6 Ultimate Frisbee has been popular in England for more than 20 years. The best team plays in Brighton – the Mohawks, from the University of Sussex. Richard Harris, 20, is the team's captain. "The game is very fast and you can't run with the disc. You score by catching it in the opposing team's end. It's great fun," Richard says.

English by the sea

7 Brighton is one of the best places in the world to learn English. There are more than 25 language schools in the area. Most of these schools have summer courses, and some organize visits to museums, trips to the countryside and to London.

8 In 2006, Annalisa, 17, from Germany, visited Brighton for two weeks. Most pupils stay in language-school accommodation. Rebecca Rausch, 15, also from Germany, says, "I stayed at the Brighton Residence, near Brighton Pier, with the other pupils from the language school. There were pupils from all over Europe: Italy, Poland, Hungary, Spain, Russia and Germany. A language holiday in Brighton is a great way to make friends."

9 In most summer language courses, lessons start at nine o'clock and end at 12, which leaves lots of free time. Annalisa told us, "After our English lessons, we often went shopping, met friends from the school and went to the beach. There were always lots of people playing sports there, but we usually wanted to relax. Brighton's beach is great, and we went there to listen to music, sunbathe, and sometimes to swim."

Brighton and beyond

10 There are lots of fun things to do and see in and near Brighton. Here are five top tips!

11 Go to Brighton during one of the city's many fantastic festivals! They're all fun and colourful. The Brighton Festival and Festival Fringe are in May, with music, art, dance, comedy and fireworks. If you visit in August, there's one of Britain's best gay-pride festivals. For great live music, Brighton Live in September is for you!

12 You can eat candyfloss and Brighton rock and of course fish and chips on the beach! But if you just want to watch fish, visit Brighton Sea Life Centre – the world's oldest aquarium.

13 Brighton Lanes, five minutes from the seafront, are a maze of small streets full of fun shops! The best area for cool and crazy clothes is North Laine. Nearby Churchill Square has the best high-street shops.

14 You can visit the Prince Regent's palace, the beautiful Royal Pavilion (the prince became King George IV in 1820). The outside looks like an Indian palace and the inside is decorated in a Chinese style. Old, but very cool!

15 Have fun at the Brighton Pier funfair. From there, you can see parts of the burnt-down West Pier. You can also go on the Volk's Electric Railway – the world's oldest electric railway that's still running.

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Look closer

16 The Royal Pavilion

Brighton's Royal Pavilion is not like any other royal palace in Europe. The palace has an Indian style with Chinese decorations. The first king to live there was George IV in the 1820s. However, Queen Victoria didn't like it and moved out in 1845! To save it, the people of Brighton bought the Pavilion and made it one of the city's most famous tourist attractions.



Look closer

17 Brighton rock

If you go to Brighton, you have to eat Brighton rock, or read it, or watch it! Brighton rock is the name of a hard sweet that is traditionally sold in a lot of seaside towns in Britain. There's also a well-known book called Brighton Rock, about a dangerous gangster in Brighton. The story was made into a classic British film in 1947.

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3 FIND THE INFORMATION

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F) according to the article? Correct any false sentences.

1. Over one million people live in Brighton.
2. Brighton is a good place to go shopping.
3. Many artists and musicians live in Brighton.
4. Brighton has a royal palace.
5. It is a favourite place for students to learn English.
6. There is a funfair on Brighton Pier.
7. Brighton rock describes the stones on the beach.
8. Brighton has many music and arts festivals.
9. The world's oldest aquarium is in Brighton.
10. Beachminton is played with a Frisbee.

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4 TEEN TALK

1. *Gig*. A gig is a ...
- ... new beach sport.
 - ... live music performance.
 - ... fish restaurant.

Brighton Live is a whole week of free gigs.

2. Decide which of these words can go before *gig* in the sentence below.

great rock concert punk band brilliant

I went to a _____ gig at the weekend.

5 WEBQUEST

Find and underline at least four tourist attractions and four events in the article.

In small groups, choose one of these attractions or events. Do Internet research and present your findings to the class – don't forget to use pictures and maps and to include entrance prices and opening times!

6 DISCUSSION

You are planning a day trip to Brighton. Decide which three places or things you would most like to visit or do.

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KEY

2

1. pier
2. marina
3. busy
4. charity
5. gay pride
6. promenade
7. ultimate
8. comedy
9. candyfloss
10. maze
11. funfair
12. burnt-down

3

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. T
7. F
8. T
9. T
10. F

4

1. A *gig* is a live music performance.
2. These words can all go before *gig*: *great, rock, punk, brilliant*

5

The attractions and events mentioned in the article are:

- Royal Pavilion
- Brighton Pier
- Volk's Electric Railway
- Sea Life centre
- Brighton Lanes
- The Yellowwave Beach Sports Venue
- Brighton Festival and Fringe Festival
- London-to-Brighton Bike Ride
- Gay Pride Festival
- Brighton Live

Also mentioned are:

- shopping in North Laine and Churchill Square
- the beaches
- theatres
- cinemas
- concerts / gigs
- art galleries