

# Beautiful, brilliant Brighton

## 1 THINK ABOUT IT

### Beautiful, brilliant Brighton

The two adjectives before the name of the town start with the same letter as the town. This is called *alliteration: the use of the same letter or sound at the beginning of words in a sentence, especially in poetry.*

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?

Skim-read the article to find the words that fit in the gaps. The paragraph number will help you.

1. A structure built out from the land over water, especially at the seaside, where people can go to walk and for entertainment. \_\_\_\_\_ (para 1)
2. An area of water beside the land that is designed for keeping small private boats in. \_\_\_\_\_ (para 1)
3. 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)
4. This describes the idea that people who are lesbian or gay should be proud. \_\_\_\_\_ (para 2, two words)
5. A small stone, especially one that has been made smooth by water. \_\_\_\_\_ (para 3)
6. A word meaning *lively and exciting* and *bright and colourful*. \_\_\_\_\_ (para 3)
7. A place to walk, usually next to a beach. \_\_\_\_\_ (para 4)
8. A sweet food consisting of very thin strings of pink sugar wrapped around a stick. \_\_\_\_\_ (para 12)
9. A set of many small streets, paths etc. that is easy to get lost in. \_\_\_\_\_ (para 13)
10. 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)

Definitions from [www.macmillandictionary.com](http://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's the gay capital of Britain and has an exciting music scene. Bands like The Kooks and DJ Fat Boy Slim come from Brighton, and there are lots of new young bands. It's a great place to visit – and to learn English!

2 Brighton is busy all year round, but in summer the city is especially lively. In May there's the Brighton Festival – an arts festival with music, dance, comedy and wonderful fireworks. Sports fans enjoy the London-to-Brighton Bike Ride in June – 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 and the coast.

3 When the sun shines, the pebble 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. A doctor there started telling his patients that the sea air was good for their health. Soon the little fishing village had become a fashionable tourist resort! 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. During the Second World War Brighton had to close its beaches and build defences. But after the war, Brighton again became one of Britain's largest and most popular seaside resorts. In the 1960s two universities opened. And now the many language schools and the famous Brighton Institute of Modern Music help make Brighton a fun, vibrant 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 (sometimes called 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 zone – similar to an end zone in American football or rugby. It's great fun," Richard says.

#### English by the sea

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.

7 In 2006, Annalisa, 17, from Germany, visited Brighton for two weeks. She and her best friend, Anika, stayed with a family friend in Brighton. Most pupils, however, 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, and I'm still in contact with many of them."

8 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, Anika and I 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

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

10 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!

11 You can't visit Brighton without trying the food! 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.

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

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

14 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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### BEAUTIFUL, BRILLIANT BRIGHTON

by Rebecca Perl

#### Look closer

16

#### The Royal Pavilion

Brighton's Royal Pavilion is not like any other royal palace in Europe. British architect John Nash gave the palace an Indian style with Chinese decorations – including dragon figures and lilies. The first king to live there was George IV in the 1820s. However, the palace didn't stay royal for very long. Queen Victoria didn't like it and moved out in 1845! To save it from being destroyed, 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 – of course, in other towns it's not called Brighton rock! There's also a well-known book called Brighton Rock, written by author Graham Greene, 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

- Brighton is ...
  - ... an English city by the sea.
  - ... an American seaside town.
  - ... the capital of Great Britain.
- How many piers are there in Brighton?
  - one
  - two
  - three
- The Royal Pavilion is ...
  - ... a castle.
  - ... a palace.
  - ... a big tent.
- Which king or queen lived in the Pavilion?
  - Queen Victoria
  - Queen Elizabeth
  - King George IV
- In the nineteenth century people thought that sea air was ...
  - ... dirty.
  - ... healthy.
  - ... freezing.
- The best place in Brighton to buy cool clothes is ...
  - ... North Laine.
  - ... the pier.
  - ... Churchill Square shopping centre.
- Brighton rock is ...
  - ... a hard candy sweet.
  - ... bad for your teeth.
  - ... a classic film about gangsters.

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### 4 TEEN TALK

1. **Gig.** A gig is a ...
  - a. ... new beach sport.
  - b. ... live music performance.
  - c. ... 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 of Brighton's tourist attractions you would most like to visit.

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### 7 WRITE A POSTCARD

Write a postcard to a friend telling them about your day in Brighton: the places you visited (see task 6), the things you saw and what you ate.



### POSTCARD

Dear .....

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Love .....



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## Beautiful, brilliant Brighton

### KEY

**2**

1. pier
2. marina
3. charity
4. gay pride
5. pebble
6. vibrant
7. promenade
8. candyfloss
9. maze
10. funfair

**3**

1. a
2. b (but the second pier is now just a burnt-down shell)
3. b
4. c
5. b
6. a
7. a, b and c

**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