



Sample Dialogue of the Speaking Exam Part 3

Bridge p. 18

Teacher: There are two tasks in this part of the exam. In task one, you should give a presentation about Canada to your classmates.

Student: Canada is located at the top of North America. It borders the USA in the south. It is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. It has the second largest land area in the world, after Russia. However, its population is only about 33 million people because of the climate. Most people live in the south around the border with the USA.

Canada is a federation of ten provinces and three territories, which include, for example, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

The capital city is Ottawa. Ottawa lies on the borders of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and its population is about the same as that of Prague. The biggest cities are Toronto and Montreal. Other important cities are Vancouver and Calgary and Edmonton, which are famous for their hockey clubs.

Canada is an English-speaking country with two official languages, English and French. The majority of French-speaking Canadians live in the province of Quebec.

Canada is famous for its beautiful countryside and wild animals like bears, moose, and also arctic foxes, polar bears and wolves in the arctic regions. The national animal is actually the beaver.

In Canada there are mostly plains with mountains in the west and lowlands in the south-east. The most important river is the St Lawrence River; the longest river is the river Mackenzie.

Teacher: And why is the St Lawrence River so important?

Student: Well, it connects the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean, so it is important for transport and it forms part of the boundary between Canada and the USA.

Teacher: Thank you. Go on.

Student: A very important area for agriculture, industry and transport is The Great Lake System, with, for example, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie and Lake Superior. The

border with the USA goes through these lakes.

Teacher: You said that the population density of Canada is low because of the climate. What is the climate like in Canada?

Student: Well, Canada is often associated with cold weather and snow, but in reality, the climate varies from mild in the south to arctic in the north.

Teacher: Thank you. And what do you know about the political system in Canada?

Student: Canada is a parliamentary democracy. The political system is based on the British system. There are two chambers: the House of Commons and the Senate. Then there is a government led by the prime minister, but the Queen of England is still formally the head of state.

Teacher: Thank you. And would you like to visit Canada?

Student: Oh, I'd love to visit this country.

Teacher: And which places would you like to visit the most and why?

Student: Definitely, one of the many national parks to see the wildlife and countryside. It may also be interesting to see Montreal, the largest city in Quebec. It has a jazz festival and a nice art museum. Or it might be nice to go to Toronto, one of the most multi-ethnic cities.

Teacher: Thank you. Now, let's go to task two. Look at the photos on your handout. Identify the places in the photographs and tell me something about the places.

Student: There is a photo taken during the Olympic Games, which were held this year in Canada in Vancouver. But actually a lot of the skiing events took place in the resort of Whistler, which is two hours from Vancouver. In the picture there is the Czech speed skater Martina Sáblíková who won I think two gold medals and one bronze. She is probably one of the most successful Czechs in the history of the Olympic Games.

Teacher: And what about the other pictures?

Student: Oh, this picture shows Parliament Hill... in the background of the picture. The building on the hill is the Canadian parliament. The Senate and the House of Commons are there.

This building is in Ottawa, the capital city of Canada. It lies on the banks of the Ottawa River. It was built in the same style as that of Westminster Palace in London. The garden and the park round the hill are places where people entertain themselves and relax.

Teacher: What about the third photograph?

Student: Well, this photograph shows Niagara Falls on the Niagara River. They create the border between Canada and the USA. The Canadian part is called Horseshoe Falls because of its shape. The Horseshoe Falls are over 50 metres high. The falls are one of the biggest tourist attractions in North America and I'd definitely go to see them if I could. Under the waterfall, there is a boat with tourists. I know that the tourists have to wear raincoats, because there is a wet mist from the falling water.

Teacher: Thank you.