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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/03/16

Would you like to live and work in Antarctica?

Recently four jobs were advertised to work in the British post office in Antarctica. More than 50 people applied for them. The jobs at Port Lockroy in British Antarctica Territory offer a monthly salary of around £1,100. Applications are now closed.

Those selected will see some wonderful mountain scenery including a lot of snow and virtually 24 hours of daylight. Applicants should however be aware of the 2,000 odd penguins they'll have for company. The job itself involves cleaning penguin poo from the surrounding paths near the post office.

The lucky four will travel 11,000 miles (17,600km) to be a post office worker in Antarctica for the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Part of the job will see them hand-frank 80,000 letters and postcards from all around the world. They will run the gift shop, the post office and museum operation at Port Lockroy.

Applicants will also be responsible for the upkeep of the historic buildings and artefacts, wildlife observations, as well as many other varied and challenging tasks. Port Lockroy is visited by 18,000 cruise ships passengers each season.

Job holders are warned in advance that there is no running water! Instead it is sourced from ice on the shore or collected from visiting ships. Applicants will need to be physically and medically fit to do the job. Temperatures on the Northern Antarctic Peninsular in the summer months between November and March will vary between -5°C to +10°C. The wind chill might make it feel a bit colder.

Port Lockroy stands on Gouldier Island. There is no mains electricity or any means of communication to the outside world other than a VHF radio or satellite phone. There will be minimal communication with home for up to five months. Layers of warm clothing is necessary as often the work is outdoor.

Would you really want to live and work in Antarctica for five months?

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about Antarctica. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Where is Antarctica?
- 2) How many jobs were offered?
- 3) Where will job applicants be working?
- 4) What does 'VHF' stand for?
- 5) Where is Port Lockroy?

Student B questions

- 1) How many penguins are there?
- 2) How many cruise ship passengers visit every year?
- 3) What does 'hand-frank' mean?
- 4) How many people applied for the jobs?
- 5) What is the average temperature? When is this?

Category: Antarctica / Career Job / Post Office
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Would you like to live and work in Antarctica? – 10th March 2016

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about the 'Antarctica' One-two minutes. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – What three things might you do in your free time whilst living and working in Antarctica? Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

What three things might you eat whilst living and working in Antarctica? How would you cook?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings to the class.

DISCOVER

In pairs/As a class - Allow 5-10 minutes

Port Lockroy, Antarctica

Google it if necessary! Look at the photos!
Discuss!

The teacher can moderate the session

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Would you want to live and work in Antarctica for five months between November and March? Explain.
- 3) Do you know anyone who has been on holiday to Antarctica?
- 4) Would you want to apply for the post office jobs in Antarctica next time the positions are offered?
- 5) Do you like to travel? Explain.
- 6) Do you enjoy skiing? Explain.
- 7) Do you like animals? Explain.
- 8) Do you like adventure holidays? Explain.
- 9) What dangers might you face in Antarctica?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Would you like to live and work in Antarctica?*

- 1) A post office worker.
- 2) A tourist who has been to Antarctica.
- 3) A photographer.
- 4) A travel writer.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - *Student A* is a reporter. *Student B* is a post office worker. You are in Port Lockroy, Antarctica. *Student A* describes a typical day. 3-5 mins.

SPEAKING

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class.

10 different jobs to do in Antarctica

Or

2 famous explorers who have been to Antarctica – when?

Talk about them - Google it all if necessary!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you like to work in another country? If yes, where?
- 3) Could you live in a remote place for months on end without much communication with folks back home?
- 4) Would you like to go on a cruise ship holiday?
- 5) Would you like to go on a cruise ship holiday to Antarctica?
- 6) Do you have a sense of adventure?
- 7) Do you think the jobs advertised are just for young people?
- 8) Would working in Antarctica be good for the C.V.?
- 9) Would you apply for the post office job in Antarctica?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Would you like to live and work in Antarctica?

Recently four jobs were advertised to work in the British post office in Antarctica. More than 50 people applied for them. The (1)___ at Port Lockroy in British Antarctica Territory offer a monthly (2)___ of around £1,100. Applications are now closed.

Those selected will see some wonderful mountain scenery including a lot of snow and virtually 24 hours of daylight. (3)___ should however be aware of the 2,000 odd (4)___ they'll have for company. The job itself involves cleaning penguin poo from the surrounding (5)___ near the post office.

The (6)___ four will travel 11,000 miles (17,600km) to be a post office worker in Antarctica for the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Part of the job will see them (7)___ 80,000 letters and postcards from all around the world. They will run the gift shop, the post office and (8)___ operation at Port Lockroy.

applicants / museum / lucky / jobs / penguins / salary / paths / hand-frank /

Applicants will also be responsible for the upkeep of the historic buildings and artefacts, wildlife observations, as well as many other varied and challenging tasks. Port Lockroy is visited by 18,000 (1)___ passengers each season. Job holders are warned in advance that there is no running water! Instead it is sourced from (2)___ on the shore or collected from visiting ships. Applicants will need to be physically and medically fit to do the job. Temperatures on the Northern Antarctic Peninsula in the summer months between November and March will (3)___ between -5°C to +10°C. The (4)___ might make it feel a bit colder.

Port Lockroy stands on Gouldier Island. There is no mains electricity or any means of communication to the outside world other than a (5)___ radio or (6)___ phone. There will be minimal communication with home for up to five months. (7)___ of warm clothing is (8)___ as often the work is outdoor.

satellite / necessary / VHF / ice / cruise ship / wind chill / layers / vary

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

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(3)___ selected will see (4)___ wonderful mountain scenery including (5)___ snow and virtually 24 hours of daylight. Applicants (6)___ (7)___ be aware of the 2,000 odd penguins they'll have for company. The job itself involves cleaning penguin poo from the surrounding paths near the post office.

The lucky four will travel 11,000 miles (17,600km) to be a post office worker in Antarctica for the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Part of the job will see (8)___ hand-frank 80,000 letters and postcards from all around the world. They will run the gift shop, the post office and museum operation at Port Lockroy.

those / should / them / some / however / more / a lot of / than

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it / of / as well as / any / on / by / or / a

Would you like to live and work in Antarctica? – 10th March 2016



GAP FILL: LISTENING

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/As a class*, list 10 pieces of equipment you might take with you on a trip across Antarctica. Talk about it all. *3-5 minutes*.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Antarctica _____
- 2) The scenery _____
- 3) The penguins _____

3) Write down 50 words about: Would you like to live and work in Antarctica? Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Would you like to live and work in Antarctica?** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) penguin
- 2) Antarctica
- 3) museum
- 4) applications
- 5) jobs
- 6) lucky
- 7) observations
- 8) responsible
- 9) applicants
- 10) peninsular

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) satellite
- 12) communication
- 13) minimal
- 14) advance
- 15) physically
- 16) medically
- 17) artefacts
- 18) season
- 19) poo
- 20) paths

Would you like to live and work in Antarctica? – *10th March 2016*