

## A visit to Vienna!

Most people who visit Central Europe like to visit Vienna. Known as the 'music city' the city has class, culture and charm. Vienna has imperial grandeur! It is the capital city of Austria. Former capital of the Austrian Empire it then became part of the Austro Hungarian Empire. The Habsburg family ruling in Vienna and its Empire for centuries until Austria was defeated at the end of the Great War when its monarchy and Empire was broken up. Visit the Habsburgs Imperial Palace. It is one of the largest palaces in Europe and was the seat of the Habsburg family who spent their winter months here. The famous Schönbrunn Palace that's located on the outskirts of the city was until 1918 the summer residence of the Habsburgs.

There is so much to see and do in Vienna. There is the famous 430-year-old Spanish Riding School. See their stunning show and dressage movements. Try out Vienna's famous Ferris wheel. It offers visitors great views of the city together with a fascinating brief history before boarding. In the centre of Vienna is the Gothic St Stephens Cathedral. It towers over you as you walk down any one of the pedestrianised streets that lead towards it. In fact, Mozart not only got married here, he even had his funeral here! You can visit where Mozart lived – unsurprisingly it's called 'Mozart's house'! Enjoy a stroll along the river Danube that passes right through the centre of this wonderful huge city.

Museum lovers can spend hours looking round the Vienna Natural History Museum or the Vienna Museum of Fine Arts, which houses works of art from Michelangelo and Raphael. The Liechtenstein Museum is definitely worth a visit. Stroll around the famous Stadtpark or the Schönbrunn or Belvedere Palace. If you are into the performing arts and like the music of Mozart or Strauss then why not enjoy a performance by the Vienna Mozart Orchestra? See them in historical costumes and wigs on special occasions in such places like the State Opera House, Musikverein (Golden Hall), Hofburg or at the world famous Vienna Konzerthaus.

For Strauss lovers watch one of the daily performances of his most impressive pieces – such as "The Blue Danube Waltz" or "The Radetzky March." The Schönbrunn Palace Orchestra also devotes itself to traditional

**Category: Central Europe / Places to visit / Vienna**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## A visit to Vienna – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Viennese music, especially the works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Strauss and Joseph Haydn, who incidentally, started his career as a member of the famous Vienna Boys' Choir in Vienna.

Into opera? The famous Volksoper offers many operas, classic musicals, contemporary dance and concerts, and operettas. Vienna's classical concert repertoire is dominated by two great concert halls: Vienna Musikverein and Vienna Konzerthaus. The latter is no doubt familiar to millions of music lovers all over the world as a traditional concert venue. From its Golden Hall the annual New Year's Concert with the Vienna Philharmonic is broadcast internationally. The Vienna Konzerthaus with its art nouveau ambiance plays classical repertoire, music from the Middle Ages as well as the most progressive modern sounds.

You could try an old traditional Viennese coffee house. They offer delightful cakes, pastries, coffee and other such delights. Newspapers are there to be read and are part of the atmosphere. Enchanting huge chandeliers hang in the rooms, making the moment one to savour. Other Viennese foods to sample include the world famous Vienna Schnitzel, goulash and deer. For desert try some apple strudel or Germknödel (dumplings and plum jam). Vienna boasts many bars, all serving good Austrian beer. Vienna's vibrant nightlife includes the liveliest beer halls, restaurants, wine bars, classical concerts, world famous opera and modern day discos.

Vienna's 7<sup>th</sup> district is a Mecca for all shopping lovers. In the centre of Vienna is the world renowned Kärntner street. This kilometre-long shopping street is the city's most famous shopping street. Run by influential Viennese business families and international companies it offers an influential mix of shops. Out of town shopping centres include Millennium City, Shopping City Süd' (South), and Parndorf. Markets to visit include the delightful 400-year-old Naschmarkt and the Farmers Market.

Experience summer in the city in Vienna. Visit Danube Island. Known as 'Vienna's recreational paradise' the island has a lot more going for it too - including cycle and surfboard hire, beaches and bars. There's even extensive nude sunbathing! You could also visit Vienna's 'Tel Aviv' beach. In winter there are several delightful Christmas markets all serving Glühwein – hot mulled wine. Sample a hot ham burger. (It's not a hamburger! This one's with real hot ham!). Vienna also has its own zoo. It's also got the U.N. Go on, enjoy Vienna!

## EXERCISES

1. **Vienna:** Briefly, what three things do you know about Vienna. Go round the room swapping details.

2. **Geography: Austria:** Where is Austria? What is its capital? What countries surround it? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

3. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

4. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

7. **Let's think!** Think of five things you know about Vienna. Then add five things you know about Austria. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five things about Vienna	Five things about Austria
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Vienna**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

9. **Let's debate:** In pairs. Students A think Vienna is the best European City for tourists to visit. Students B think otherwise – choose an alternative city. Explain why.

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**10. Let's talk! In Vienna:** In pairs. You are in a pub in Vienna. One of you is a barman/barmaid. The other is a tourist just in off the street who wants a drink. The tourist orders one at the bar. Between you get talking. Find out what you can about each other. Then ask questions about where to go in Vienna. *5-minutes.*

**11. Let's talk! Radio Vienna:** *In pairs/groups.* You are in the Radio Vienna studio. One of you is the presenter; the other student(s) is/are one the people below. Try to get a balanced interview.

1	Student	3	Waiter / Waitress
2	Horse and carriage driver	4	Museum attendant

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

**12. Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Where can you watch an opera?
- 2) Which district is a Mecca for shoppers?
- 3) Name the shopping centres.
- 4) What can you do on Danube Island?
- 5) Name some Viennese food.

**Student B**

- 1) Name the Palaces.
- 2) Name the former imperial family.
- 3) Name the museums.
- 4) How old is the riding school?
- 5) Name the cathedral.

**13. Vienna:** In pairs discuss the following about Vienna etc...

1	The nightlife	6	Working / Jobs in Vienna
2	Major events in Vienna	7	Its economy
3	Its centre	8	The tourists!
4	The airport	9	Shopping in Vienna
5	The Euro	10	Its pubs!

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

**14. Presentation on Vienna:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **An aspect of Vienna**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

**15. Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **A visit to Vienna**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

**16. Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

a) Vienna \_\_\_\_\_

b) Austria \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

Note: A previous trip to Vienna will benefit students here.

For students who have NOT been to Vienna – IMAGINE a little!

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Is Vienna overrated? Why? Why not?
- 3) How would you get to Vienna?
- 4) How long *would/will* it take you to get to Vienna?
- 5) Have you ever been ripped off in Vienna? If yes, where? When?
- 6) What do you think of Austrians?
- 7) Where is the best place to go shopping in Vienna?
- 8) What do you think of Vienna's trams and its underground system?
- 9) What do you think of Vienna airport?
- 10) Give three examples of how Vienna has changed over 25 years.

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) What do you think of Vienna?
- 3) Is Vienna cheap?
- 4) Why do tourists go to Vienna?
- 5) Have you ever been ripped off in Vienna? How?
- 6) What do you think of Vienna taxis?
- 7) Are there too many tourists in Vienna?
- 8) Where's a good place to stay in Vienna?
- 9) Where's a good place to eat in Vienna?
- 10) Where's a good place to drink in Vienna?

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Vienna

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

Vienna – 20 places to go and visit
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The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### A visit to Vienna!

Most people who visit Central Europe like to visit Vienna. Known as the 'music city' the city has (1)\_\_\_\_, culture and charm. Vienna has imperial grandeur! It is the capital city of Austria. Former capital of the Austrian (2)\_\_\_\_ it then became part of the Austro Hungarian Empire. The Habsburg family ruling in Vienna and its Empire for centuries until Austria was defeated at the end of the Great War when its (3)\_\_\_\_ and Empire was broken up. Visit the Habsburgs Imperial Palace. It is one of the largest palaces in Europe and was the seat of the Habsburg family who spent their (4)\_\_\_\_ months here. The famous Schönbrunn (5)\_\_\_\_ that's located on the (6)\_\_\_\_ of the city was until 1918 the (7)\_\_\_\_ residence of the Habsburgs. There is so much to see and do in Vienna. There is the famous 430-year-old Spanish Riding School. See their stunning show and dressage movements. Try out Vienna's famous Ferris wheel. It offers visitors great views of the city together with a fascinating (8)\_\_\_\_ history before boarding.

In the centre of Vienna is the Gothic St Stephens Cathedral. It towers over you as you walk down any one of the pedestrianised streets that lead towards it. In fact, Mozart not only got (1)\_\_\_\_ here, he even had his (2)\_\_\_\_ here! You can visit where Mozart lived - unsurprisingly it's called 'Mozart's house'! Enjoy a (3)\_\_\_\_ along the river Danube that passes right through the centre of this wonderful (4)\_\_\_\_ city. Museum lovers can spend hours looking round the Vienna Natural History Museum or the Vienna Museum of Fine Arts, which houses works of art from Michelangelo and Raphael. The Liechtenstein Museum is (5)\_\_\_\_ worth a visit. Stroll around the famous Stadtpark or the Schönbrunn or Belvedere Palace. If you are into the performing arts and like the (6)\_\_\_\_ of Mozart or Strauss then why not enjoy a performance by the Vienna Mozart Orchestra? See them in historical (7)\_\_\_\_ and (8)\_\_\_\_ on special occasions in such places like the State Opera House, Musikverein (Golden Hall), Hofburg or at the world famous Vienna Konzerthaus.

*brief*

*outskirts*

*summer*

*Empire*

*Palace*

*winter*

*class*

*monarchy*

*funeral*

*definitely*

*huge*

*music*

*wigs*

*married*

*costumes*

*stroll*

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### A visit to Vienna!

Most people (1)\_\_\_ visit Central Europe like to visit Vienna. Known as the 'music city' the city has class, culture (2)\_\_\_ charm. Vienna has imperial grandeur! It is the capital city (3)\_\_\_ Austria. Former capital of the Austrian Empire (4)\_\_\_ then became part of the Austro Hungarian Empire. The Habsburg family ruling in Vienna and its Empire (5)\_\_\_ centuries until Austria was defeated at the end of the Great War when (6)\_\_\_ monarchy and Empire was broken up. Visit the Habsburgs Imperial Palace. It is one of the largest palaces in Europe and was the seat of the Habsburg family who spent their winter months here. (7)\_\_\_ famous Schönbrunn Palace that's located (8)\_\_\_ the outskirts of the city was until 1918 the summer residence of the Habsburgs. There is so much to see and do in Vienna. There is the famous 430-year-old Spanish Riding School. See their stunning show and dressage movements. Try out Vienna's famous Ferris wheel. It offers visitors great views of the city together with a fascinating brief history before boarding.

In the centre of Vienna is the Gothic St Stephens Cathedral. It towers over you as you walk down any one of the pedestrianised streets (1)\_\_\_ lead towards it. In fact, Mozart not (2)\_\_\_ got married here, he even had his funeral here! You can visit (3)\_\_\_ Mozart lived – unsurprisingly it's called 'Mozart's house'! Enjoy a stroll along the river Danube that passes right (4)\_\_\_ the centre of this wonderful huge city. Museum lovers can spend hours looking round the Vienna Natural History Museum or the Vienna Museum of Fine Arts, which houses works of art (5)\_\_\_ Michelangelo and Raphael. The Liechtenstein Museum is definitely worth a visit. Stroll around the famous Stadtpark or the Schönbrunn or Belvedere Palace. If you are (6)\_\_\_ the performing arts and like the music of Mozart or Strauss (7)\_\_\_ why not enjoy a performance by the Vienna Mozart Orchestra? See (8)\_\_\_ in historical costumes and wigs on special occasions in such places like the State Opera House, Musikverein (Golden Hall), Hofburg or at the world famous Vienna Konzerthaus.

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## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	charm	11	monarchy
2	stunning	12	impressive
3	fascinating	13	centuries
4	wigs	14	outskirts
5	influential	15	pedestrianised
6	experience	16	unsurprisingly
7	recreational	17	funeral
8	delightful	18	contemporary
9	performance	19	choir
10	wonderful	20	incidentally

### LINKS

<http://www.wien.info/en>

<http://www.world66.com/europe/austria/vienna>

<http://www.viennaustria.co.uk/>

<http://www.visitingvienna.com/weather/besttimetovisit/>

<http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-q190454-Activities-Vienna.html>

### ANSWERS

GAP FILL: A visit to Vienna! Most people who visit Central Europe like to visit Vienna. Known as the 'music city' the city has **class**, culture and charm. Vienna has imperial grandeur! It is the capital city of Austria. Former capital of the Austrian **Empire** it then became part of the Austro Hungarian Empire. The Habsburg family ruling in Vienna and its Empire for centuries until Austria was defeated at the end of the Great War when its **monarchy** and Empire was broken up. Visit the Habsburgs Imperial Palace. It is one of the largest palaces in Europe and was the seat of the Habsburg family who spent their **winter** months here. The famous Schönbrunn **Palace** that's located on the **outskirts** of the city was until 1918 the **summer** residence of the Habsburgs. There is so much to see and do in Vienna. There is the famous 430-year-old Spanish Riding School. See their stunning show and dressage movements. Try out Vienna's famous Ferris wheel. It offers visitors great views of the city together with a fascinating **brief** history before boarding.

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