The Eurotunnel and the Eurostar: the fast track to France

Great Britain is an island. It is separate from the rest of Europe, but also very near Europe. The sea between Britain and France is called the English Channel. The distance between the two countries at the Channel’s narrowest point (between Dover and Calais) is only 33 km.

Before 1994, it was only possible to cross the Channel by plane or ferry. But in 1994 a tunnel under the Channel opened. Now you can travel to the rest of Europe on special trains that travel through this tunnel under the sea. The tunnel is called the Eurotunnel. If you want to take your car to Europe, you can travel through the Eurotunnel.

You have to go to Folkstone or Dover, and put your car on a train there. You have to stay near your car in the train, but there is a corridor and you can walk around. A lot of people worry that the journey through the tunnel will be dark and frightening, but the trains are very bright inside. The journey through the Eurotunnel from Folkstone to Calais only takes 35 minutes.

Now there is another fast way for passengers to travel to France. It is called the Eurostar. You can catch the Eurostar (a train) at St Pancras station, in north London. You have to check in 30 minutes before your journey, and you have to show your passport and go through customs, just like when you travel by plane. The Eurostar travels direct to Calais, Lille and Paris in France, and to Brussels in Belgium. The journeys from London to Paris and to Brussels both take about two hours. The Eurostar is very popular. A lot more people are now travelling from London to Paris or to Brussels. You can also travel further, to popular destinations like Disneyland Paris.

Reading

1 Comprehension Rispondi alle domande.

1 How far is Dover from Calais?

2 When did the Eurotunnel open?

3 If you take your car by train to Europe, where do you have to get on the train?

4 Do you have to stay in your car on the journey?

5 How long does the journey through the tunnel take?

6 Which three destinations in France does the Eurostar travel direct to?

7 Which other country can you travel to on the Eurostar?

8 How long does the journey from London to Paris take?

9 Have you ever been to Britain or France? If yes, what was it like? What did you like/dislike about it?

10 Do you prefer travelling by train, car or plane? Write a few lines about a journey you have done.
Summary writing

2 Osserva il riassunto del brano. Confrontalo con il testo originale. Sottolinea le frasi nel brano originale che non compaiono nel riassunto.

The sea between Britain and France is called the English Channel. It is only 33 km at its narrowest point. In 1994 the Eurotunnel, a tunnel under the Channel, opened. You can take your car and travel through the tunnel from Britain to France. You take your car to Folkstone and put it on a special train. The journey through the tunnel takes 35 minutes. You can catch a train called the Eurostar at London’s St Pancras station and travel direct to Calais, Lille, Paris and Brussels. The journeys to Paris and to Brussels both take about two hours.

3 Perché pensi che le altre frasi non siano state incluse? Scegli l’opzione appropriata.
   a) Le frasi contengono informazioni su un argomento diverso. ☐
   b) Le frasi contengono informazioni non fondamentali, superficiale, piccoli dettagli. ☐
   c) Le frasi non sono scritte bene. ☐

Study focus

Omettere le informazioni non essenziali
La prima cosa da fare quando si scrive un riassunto è individuare quali frasi non sono indispensabili per il significato del testo. Mentre leggi il brano, sottolinea o elimina le frasi che contengono informazioni irrilevanti o che forniscono soltanto dettagli ed esempi.

Presentazione orale

4 Immagina di dover preparare una presentazione orale sui trasporti a Londra. Dove puoi trovare informazioni su questo argomento? Pensa a:
   • libri
   • riviste
   • siti
   • la tua esperienza
   • l’esperienza di chi conosci

5 Fai un elenco di tutte le parole che sai collegate all’argomento dei trasporti a Londra. Usa il dizionario se necessario.
Edinburgh and Glasgow: two Scottish cities

Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland. It is on the east coast of the country. It is a very ancient and beautiful city. At its centre is Edinburgh Castle. The Castle is 1,000 years old. Inside, you can visit a museum and see the Scottish Crown Jewels. The castle is famous because well-known kings and queens lived there. Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to the future James I of England in one of the rooms. It also has one of the oldest churches in Scotland – the chapel of St Margaret is over 900 years old.

A street connects Edinburgh Castle to another royal palace – Holyrood House. Holyrood House is the Queen’s official home in Scotland. This street is called The Royal Mile.

In the summer there is a famous festival in Edinburgh. It is called the Edinburgh International Festival. There are lots of shows, concerts, comedy performances and bands. It usually takes place in August. There are lots of visitors from all over the world.

Edinburgh is the Scottish capital, but Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland. The population of Edinburgh is only 500,000, but the population of Glasgow is about 2 million. Glasgow is a large modern city on the west coast of the country. It is only 75 kilometres from Edinburgh. Glasgow grew rich during the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century. The main industry was shipbuilding on the River Clyde. There are interesting Victorian museums and art galleries in Glasgow. The people of Glasgow are passionate about football. The city is famous for its two teams - Celtic and Rangers.

Glossary

Crown Jewels Gioielli della Corona
well-known noto
shipbuilding costruzioni navali

Reading

1 Comprehension Rispondi alle domande.

1 Where is Edinburgh?

2 How old is Edinburgh Castle?

3 Who was born in the castle?

4 Why is St Margaret’s Chapel famous?

5 What is Holyrood House?

6 What is the name of the street that connects Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood House?

7 When is the Edinburgh International Festival?

8 Which is the largest city in Scotland?
9. How many people live there?

10. What was the main industry in Glasgow in the 19th century?

11. What are the names of Glasgow’s two football teams?

12. Which city would you prefer to visit? Why?

Summary writing

2. Complèta la tabella con le informazioni su Edinburgh e Glasgow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Edinburgh</th>
<th>Glasgow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>ancient and beautiful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Famous for</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Usa le informazioni della tabella per completare il riassunto.

1. ____________ is the capital city of Scotland. It is an ____________ and ____________ city on the ____________ coast of the country. Its population is ____________.

In the summer there is a famous ____________, and visitors come from all over the world to watch the shows.

8. ____________ is the largest city in Scotland. It is a ____________ ____________ city on the ____________ ____________ coast of the country. Its population is ____________.

In the 19th century, there was a lot of shipbuilding in Glasgow and the city grew ____________.

Glasgow is famous for its ____________ and ____________ and its two football teams— ____________ and ____________.

Study focus

Riordinare le informazioni
Nel fare il riassunto di un brano, risulta utile cambiare l’ordine delle informazioni contenute nell’originale raggruppandole diversamente tra loro. Se si tratta di un brano basato su fatti, come quello in questa pagina, puoi iniziare prendendo degli appunti sotto diversi titoli. In questo modo, è più facile rendersi conto di quali informazioni possono andare insieme.

Presentazione orale

4. Immagina di dover preparare una presentazione orale su una famosa destinazione turistica del Regno Unito. Prendi degli appunti per ognuno dei seguenti titoli.

   1. **Name of place:** ____________
   2. **Description:** ____________
   3. **Location:** ____________
   4. **Population:** ____________
   5. **Famous sights (historical):** ____________
   6. **Famous sights (modern):** ____________
   7. **Famous shops or shopping streets:** ____________
   8. **Have you ever visited it?/Would you like to visit it?** ____________
   9. **Famous sights (modern):** ____________

5. Fai la tua presentazione. Parla per circa 2–3 minuti.
Alaska is part of the USA, but it is separated from the other states by Canada. It covers over a million square kilometres, and it is the largest state in the USA. The USA bought Alaska from Russia in 1867. In 1959 it became the 49th state of the USA. Alaska contains many forests, lakes, mountains and glaciers. It has a very cold climate. In winter the temperature can fall to -52°C. The northern part of Alaska is in the Arctic Circle and has an Arctic climate. Even in the summer, the temperature there does not get much warmer than 2°C.

The population of Alaska is around 700,000. 75% of the population are white, and 16% are American Indian or Native Alaskan. Most people live in the large towns and cities. The largest city in Alaska is Anchorage, but the state capital is Juneau. Alaska does not have a very extensive road system, and Juneau is very remote. You can only travel there by sea or by air.

The large part of central Alaska that does not contain roads is called ‘the bush’. People in the bush travel by boat, snowmobile or by plane. Small bush planes carry post, deliveries and passengers around the towns and villages. Lots of people in the bush know how to fly a plane.

Most of the inhabitants of the small bush villages are Native Alaskans. In a bush village there might be a small shop or post office, and a place for planes to take off and land, but there are usually no other businesses. People in the villages make their own electricity from generators, and they still often hunt for their food.

Reading

1 Comprehension Rispondi alle domande.

1 When did Alaska become a US state?

2 Which part of Alaska has an Arctic climate?

3 What is a typical summer temperature in that part of Alaska?

4 What is the population of Alaska?

5 What is the state capital?

6 What is the bush?

7 How do people travel in the bush?

8 Are there many shops in a typical bush village?

9 How do a lot of people in the bush get their food?

10 Do you think Alaska is popular with tourists? Why (not)?

11 Would you like to live there? Why / why not?
Summary writing

2 Rispondi alle domande e usa le tue risposte per completare il riassunto in basso.

Which country separates Alaska from other states of the USA?
Canada
1 Which part of Alaska is in the Arctic Circle?
2 What temperature is northern Alaska in the summer?
3 How can you get to Juneau?
4 What do small planes carry to central Alaska?
5 What shops does a bush village have?

3 Completa il riassunto con le risposte delle domande nell’esercizio 2.

Canada separates Alaska from the other states of the USA. Alaska is the largest state in the USA. The USA bought Alaska from Russia in 1867. In 1959 it became the 49th state of the USA.

Alaska contains many forests, lakes, mountains and glaciers. It has a very cold climate. In winter the temperature can fall to -52°C. 1 is in the Arctic Circle and has an Arctic climate. In the summer, 2 .

The population of Alaska is around 700,000. Most people live in the large towns and cities. The largest city in Alaska is Anchorage, but the state capital is Juneau. Juneau is very remote and you can only travel to Juneau 3 .

Central Alaska is called the bush. People in the bush travel by boat, snowmobile or by plane. Small planes carry 4 .

Most of the inhabitants of the small bush villages are Native Alaskans. In a bush village 5 but there are no other businesses.

Presentazione orale

4 Prepara una presentazione orale su un altro stato degli USA. Puoi fare riferimento alle pagine di cultura sulle Hawaii nel Culture and DVD Extra Book 2, pag. 10 e al DVD. Prendi degli appunti su:
• location
• geography and climate
• population
• cities
• industry

Esercitati ad esporre la tua presentazione ad alta voce. Parla per circa 2–3 minuti.
1 The President of the USA is the head of state and the head of the United States government. Americans have elections every four years for a new president.

2 The first president was George Washington. He was president from 1789–1797, but he never lived in the White House. In 1800, the White House was built in Washington DC and it became the official home of all future presidents.

3 The longest-serving president was Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was president from 1932–1945. These days, a person can be president for only eight years. After that time he or she has to retire. William Henry Harrison was president for the shortest time. He was president for just 30 days before he died naturally in 1841.

4 Four American presidents were assassinated. They were all shot by their political enemies.

Abraham Lincoln was shot in 1865, when he was at the theatre. James A. Garfield was shot in 1881 at a railway station, William McKinley was killed at an exhibition in 1901, and John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 in Dallas, Texas, while he was travelling in his car. If a president dies, the Vice President immediately becomes the next president.

5 Only one president has resigned. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974. People accused him of spying on other politicians and of not being honest.

6 People disagree about which president was the greatest. Many people choose Abraham Lincoln, because he ended slavery and he helped the country through the Civil War. For other people, Franklin D. Roosevelt is the greatest. Roosevelt helped the country through the Great Depression of the 1930s and the Second World War.

Reading 1 Comprehension Rispondi alle domande.

1 How often is there an election for a new US president?

2 When was the White House built?

3 Who was president for the longest time?

4 How long was William Henry Harrison president?

5 How long can someone stay as president these days?

6 How many US presidents were assassinated?

7 Which president resigned?

8 Why was Franklin D. Roosevelt a great president?

9 Who is the US President today?

10 Can you name any other presidents not in the text?

11 Who is your favourite American president?
Summary writing

2 Osserva il brano sottostante che deriva del paragrafo 4 a pag. 46. Sono stati effettuati i seguenti cambiamenti:

1 sottolineare le informazioni essenziali
2 eliminare le informazioni non essenziali, i dettagli o gli esempi
3 riscrivere le frasi usando meno parole ma facendo in modo che le informazioni scorrono naturali

Four American presidents were assassinated. They were all shot by their political enemies. Abraham Lincoln, was shot in 1865, when he was at the theatre. James A. Garfield, was shot in 1881 at a railway station. William McKinley was killed at an exhibition in 1901 and John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 in Dallas, Texas, while he was travelling in his car. If a president dies, the Vice President immediately becomes the next president.

3 Ora fai lo stesso con i paragrafi 5 e 6.

4 Sottolinea le informazioni essenziali nei restanti tre paragrafi.

5 Ora scrivi il riassunto dell’intero brano (120–140 parole).

Study focus

Concentrarsi prima di tutto sulle informazioni essenziali
Nel caso ci siano delle parti contenenti informazioni essenziali, può iniziare a scrivere il tuo riassunto riformulando quelle parti prima di tutto. Poi, può decidere se ci sono altre informazioni da inserire, sempre nei limiti delle parole consentite.

Presentazione orale

6 Scegli un presidente americano, per esempio Abraham Lincoln. Prendi nota di ciò che ha fatto nel fact file. Poi, prepara una presentazione orale sulla sua vita e i suoi traguardi. Parla per circa 2 minuti.

Name: Abraham Lincoln
Date of birth: ____________________________
Place of birth: ____________________________

What was happening in the US at the time of his presidency? ____________________________

Important achievements: ____________________________

Date of death/How he died: ____________________________

How you feel about him? ____________________________

Do you think he was a good/bad president? Reasons for your choice:

____________________________
____________________________
____________________________
____________________________
____________________________

Study focus

Rispondere a domande sulla tua presentazione
Alla fine della tua presentazione, ti potrebbero fare delle domande sull’argomento che hai scelto. Cerca di pensare a quali domande potrebbero farti e preparati una risposta in anticipo. Le domande potrebbero riguardare le tue opinioni personali piuttosto che fatti. Rivedi le tue risposte ed assicurati di sapere tutte le parole che potrebbero tornarti utili.
Australians call the central desert area of their country ‘the outback’. Alice Springs is a town in the middle of the outback. It is sometimes called Alice or the Alice.

The native Arrernte people have lived near Alice Springs for more than 50,000 years. The town grew in the 1860s. It started as a telegraph station – part of the Overland Telegraph Line, which connected the north and south of Australia. Later, explorers came to Alice looking for gold, and early settlers created enormous farms there. In the 1920s, Alice became the base for Australia’s famous Royal Flying Doctor service. From Alice, doctors still fly in small planes to visit patients in remote villages and farms in the outback.

Tourists come to Alice Springs for many reasons. You can try different adventure sports in the desert, like camping, mountain biking and walking. You can also fly over the desert in a hot air balloon, small plane or helicopter. The early explorers in the outback used camels for transport, and tourists can enjoy camel rides there today. Every year in Alice there is the Camel Cup – a camel race. Racing camels is not easy, and they often go in the wrong direction!

Alice Springs is also a centre for Aboriginal art. Aboriginal art is one of the oldest art traditions in the world. The paintings tell stories about the landscape and about the Aboriginal religion. At the Todd Mall in Alice Springs, you can find lots of art galleries full of modern Aboriginal art. The artists still use traditional techniques, such as painting with very small dots of colour.
Reading

1 Comprehension Rispondi alle domande.

1 What is the outback?

2 What are two other names for Alice Springs?

3 What are the native people of the area called?

4 Which three reasons does the text give for people arriving in Alice Springs in the 19th century?

5 What does the Royal Flying Doctor service do?

6 Which sports can you do near Alice Springs?

7 What is the Camel Cup?

8 Where in Alice Springs can you see Aboriginal art?

9 Would you like to visit Australia?

10 Would you like to visit the big cities, or the outback?

Summary writing

2 Scrivi il riassunto del brano (circa 150 parole). Segui tutti i passaggi:

1 Sottolinea le informazioni essenziali in ogni paragrafo.

2 Decidi se si possono omettere frasi o paragrafi interi.

3 Elimina qualsiasi informazione, esempi o particolari superflui negli altri paragrafi.

4 Riscrivi i paragrafi che contengono le informazioni importanti usando il minor numero di parole pur facendo scorrere il senso delle informazioni.

5 Conta il numero di parole nel tuo riassunto. Se ce ne sono troppi, rileggi il riassunto e pensa a come abbreviarlo.

Study focus

Rispettare il limite delle parole
Se, quando hai finito il riassunto, ti accorgi che il numero di parole supera il limite consentito:

- assicurati di non aver ripetuto la stessa informazione più di una volta
- taglia le informazioni che sono meno importanti delle altre
- elimina i dettagli e gli esempi
- elimina le parole superflue, come gli aggettivi e gli avverbi

Presentazione orale

3 Immagina di essere nel mezzo della tua presentazione orale. Quale dei seguenti problemi ti spaventa di più?

a You forget what you are talking about because you are nervous.

b You cannot read or understand your notes because you are nervous.

c Someone asks you a question and you don’t hear it.

d Someone asks you a question and you don’t understand it.

e Someone asks you a question and you don’t know the answer.

f You can’t think of the correct English word that you need.

4 Abbina le frasi ai problemi dell’es. 3.

1 I’m sorry. I don’t understand the question.  d

2 Could you repeat that, please?  —

3 I’m afraid I don’t know the answer to that.  —

4 I’m afraid I’m a bit lost.  —

5 I can’t think of the word I need at the moment. It means …  —

6 I’m sorry. I need to look at my notes carefully.

5 Ora prepara una presentazione su un’altra città dell’Australia. Cerca le informazioni, prendi degli appunti e collegali tra di loro. Parla per circa 2–3 minuti.

DVD 3 Puoi trovare ulteriori informazioni su Sydney, Australia nel Culture 2 del DVD e a pag. 31.