

## Swansea

### Activity 1

Complete the gaps in these extracts:

1. It's situated on the Gower Peninsula, Britain's first ever Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and is a \_\_\_\_\_ for water-sports enthusiasts and hikers alike.
2. An extensive network of coastal paths give hikers of all levels the opportunity to take in the \_\_\_\_\_ views.
3. Sadly now these industries have declined and the Swansea valley is \_\_\_\_\_ with derelict works.
4. . . . one \_\_\_\_\_ is that it is after a famous dog which used to work in the once thriving docks.
5. . . . the first time the \_\_\_\_\_ had ever been achieved in a first class match.
6. So if you bring your car or decide to \_\_\_\_\_ one, . . . .

### Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. How do you spell the Welsh name for Swansea?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the two principal raw materials shipped from Swansea in the 16th Century?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did Swansea become a city in 1969?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What's another word for the slang word 'Jack'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where is Mumbles in relation to Swansea marina?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What's the local slang word for nice \ good?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 3

Listen and complete the gaps

Swansea, called Abertawe locally, a-b-e-r-t-a-w-e, is Wales's second city with a population of around 225,000. It's \_\_\_\_\_ on the Gower Peninsula, Britain's first ever Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and is a haven for water-sports \_\_\_\_\_ and hikers alike. An extensive network of coastal paths give hikers of all levels the opportunity to take in the breathtaking views. The \_\_\_\_\_ is pretty mild thanks to its coastal location, although the prevailing Atlantic winds bring rain - lots of it. In fact, Swansea is the \_\_\_\_\_ city in Britain, so an umbrella or raincoat would be useful to bring.

The Romans visited the area, as did the Vikings, who gave it the name Swansea. The Welsh name comes from 'tawe', the local \_\_\_\_\_. By the mid-sixteenth century it had become a significant port, shipping locally found limestone and \_\_\_\_\_ out of the area, and at the time of the eighteenth century industrial revolution its port, natural resources and trading links with the south-west of England helped it to become a major centre for copper smelting. It even got the \_\_\_\_\_ Copperopolis! By the mid nineteenth century Swansea was the largest exporter of coal in the world. Sadly now these industries have declined and the Swansea valley is littered with \_\_\_\_\_ works.

The once working docks have now been renovated and Swansea has become a commercial centre. Many of the buildings in the city centre are post-war, the original ones having been destroyed during the \_\_\_\_\_ Three Nights blitz bombings. In fact I talk of Swansea as a city in this period, but in fact it became a city only in 1969, to mark the \_\_\_\_\_ of Prince Charles as the Prince of Wales.

Curiously, people from the city are called Swansea Jacks. There is some \_\_\_\_\_ as to why they have this particular nickname. One school of thought is that it is after a famous dog which used to work in the once thriving \_\_\_\_\_. This dog, Jack, used to save people who had fallen in the cold, murky water from drowning - 27 in all. Alternatively others suggest that the name in fact is simply from the use of the word Jack to mean 'sailor'.

The predominant language here is English, although the Welsh language is still reasonably \_\_\_\_\_ spoken. Indeed, the language has experienced somewhat of a \_\_\_\_\_ in recent years, especially in schools. You'll notice that most street signs and public notices are in both languages.

Swansea is a university town, which I know pretty well as I spent three happy years here studying. During \_\_\_\_\_ rare moments of rest and relaxation I spent some time enjoying what the city has to offer. At one end of the bay you can find the beautiful Marina, with pleasant bars and cafés, a museum, various statues and sculptures and an all-round relaxing \_\_\_\_\_. Head west along the bay and you'll come across St Helens, the local cricket ground made famous by the great West Indian batsman Sir Garfield Sobers, who hit six sixes in one over, the first time the feat had ever been \_\_\_\_\_ in a first class match. For those of you who know nothing about cricket, suffice to say he did something quite \_\_\_\_\_! Keep heading west, past the university campus, and you eventually come to the \_\_\_\_\_ fishing village of Mumbles. Here you can find an old castle and a wonderful pier, as well as a number of traditional pubs and restaurants. It's well worth a visit.

Swansea really is a nice place to come to. However, as with any place, a word of \_\_\_\_\_. It is widely considered to be one of the worst places in Britain for car crime. So if you bring your car or decide to hire one, be \_\_\_\_\_ where you park and don't leave any valuables on display. Also just take some care when out late in the city centre, especially where you find the larger pubs and clubs as these areas can be a little dangerous. Indeed, you'll notice a heavy police presence \_\_\_\_\_ with alcohol related incidents.

Oh, and by the way, if you hear something referred to as 'tidy' it probably doesn't mean that it's \_\_\_\_\_ and in order but in fact good or nice.

This student worksheet is free to download and print for use in the classroom or for self-study. It is meant to be used in conjunction with the listening file which is available in mp3 format. However, the transcript can be used not only to check answers but also for reading comprehension and vocabulary

## Transcript

Swansea, called Abertawe locally, a-b-e-r-t-a-w-e, is Wales's second city with a population of around 225,000. It's situated on the Gower Peninsula, Britain's first ever Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and is a haven for water-sports enthusiasts and hikers alike. An extensive network of coastal paths give hikers of all levels the opportunity to take in the breathtaking views. The climate is pretty mild thanks to its coastal location, although the prevailing Atlantic winds bring rain - lots of it. In fact, Swansea is the wettest city in Britain, so an umbrella or raincoat would be useful to bring.

The Romans visited the area, as did the Vikings, who gave it the name Swansea. The Welsh name comes from 'tawe', the local river. By the mid-sixteenth century it had become a significant port, shipping locally found limestone and coal out of the area, and at the time of the eighteenth century industrial revolution its port, natural resources and trading links with the south-west of England helped it to become a major centre for copper smelting. It even got the nickname Copperopolis! By the mid nineteenth century Swansea was the largest exporter of coal in the world. Sadly now these industries have declined and the Swansea valley is littered with derelict works.

The once working docks have now been renovated and Swansea has become a commercial centre. Many of the buildings in the city centre are post-war, the original ones having been destroyed during the infamous Three Nights blitz bombings. In fact I talk of Swansea as a city in this period, but in fact it became a city only in 1969, to mark the investiture of Prince Charles as the Prince of Wales.

Curiously, people from the city are called Swansea Jacks. There is some debate as to why they have this particular nickname. One school of thought is that it is after a famous dog which used to work in the once thriving docks. This dog, Jack, used to save people who had fallen in the cold, murky water from drowning - 27 in all. Alternatively others suggest that the name in fact is simply from the use of the word Jack to mean 'sailor'.

The predominant language here is English, although the Welsh language is still reasonably widely spoken. Indeed, the language has experienced somewhat of a revival in recent years, especially in schools. You'll notice that most street signs and public notices are in both languages.

Swansea is a university town, which I know pretty well as I spent three happy years here studying. During those rare moments of rest and relaxation I spent some time enjoying what the city has to offer. At one end of the bay you can find the beautiful Marina, with pleasant bars and cafés, a museum, various statues and sculptures and an all-round relaxing atmosphere. Head west along the bay and you'll come across St Helens, the local cricket ground made famous by the great West Indian batsman Sir Garfield Sobers, who hit six sixes in one over, the first time the feat had ever been achieved in a first class match. For those of you who know nothing about cricket, suffice to say he did something quite remarkable! Keep heading west, past the university campus, and you eventually come to the delightful fishing village of Mumbles. Here you can find an old castle and a wonderful pier, as well as a number of traditional pubs and restaurants. It's well worth a visit.

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