

Name _____

Section _____

www.askjeeves.com

An EFL lesson from the web site

Low-intermediate

2-3 class periods

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The latest version of this lesson, and similar lessons by Scott South, are at www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/s/ss.

“Ask Jeeves” is a good starting place for anyone seeking information on the Internet. This lesson combines grammar--in the form of writing grammatically correct questions--with information retrieval. There is also a writing component.

What should I do?

1. Go to www.askjeeves.com and answer the questions. *In some cases you will first have to find the correct drop-down box and then choose the correct keyword.*

For questions 2-9, you will first write a *grammatically correct question* on your work sheet. Next, you will type that question in the “Ask Jeeves” dialogue box, and click on “Go.” Finally, you will navigate the links provided and record the information on your worksheet. *Further examples of questions: **When did Columbus discover the New World? When was electricity discovered?***

2. Find the name of a university in Tanzania.
First, write your question here:

What _____ in Tanzania?

Now type your question in the search box at the top of the Ask Jeeves home page and click on

If you have written your question correctly, on the next page you should see:

Where can I find web sites for international universities or colleges in

?

Again, click on the icon on the left of Tanzania.

Name of university: _____

3. Ask when the Empire State Building in New York was built. First, write the question correctly, below:

Question: _____

Write the answer here: 19____.

4. A “Chinatown” is a Chinese section of a big city in North America. Now, find out if Seattle has a Chinatown. (Seattle is a city in Washington State, not far from Vancouver.) Do NOT begin your question with “Has...”

Question: _____ a Chinatown?

Answer: Yes No

5. Now find the largest cities in the world and write down the top ten along with their populations. Please use the **city limits** populations, not the metropolitan areas. The first one has been done for you.

Question: _____ world?

City	Country	Population
1. Seoul	South Korea	10,873,055
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

6. In 1970, the world population was 3.7 billion. What is the world’s population today?

Question: _____ in the year 2000?

Answer: _____ billion

7. Find out what sport is played by John Lloyd.

Question: _____?

Answer: _____

8. Find out where the tallest building in the world is.

Question: _____?

Answer (city): _____

9. Now, find the land area (in square kilometers), capital city and population of the following countries. The first one has been done for you.

Question: _____

_____ Russia?

Teacher's note: see answer key for tip on helping students with this item.

Country	Land Area	Capital City	Population
Russia	17,070,949 sq.km.	Moscow	149,609,000
Zimbabwe			
Thailand			
Uruguay			
Liechtenstein			
Luxembourg			
Chad			
Bhutan			
Belize			
Andorra			
Saudi Arabia			

10. Writing: You have probably written a descriptive paragraph in which you describe how you did something or how to do something. You should have used transitional devices such as *first, second, then, next, so, therefore*, etc. Now write a description of how you found the information for Zimbabwe in Question 9.

Here is an example, using Question 2 above: *First, I typed in the statement "What's the name of a university in Tanzania?." Then I saw a lot of choices, with links and drop-down boxes. When I scrolled down to the bottom, I saw "Where can I find an international university in [Tanzania] ?When I opened that drop-down box, I found several Tanzanian universities.*

Answer key

2. What is the name of a university in Tanzania? Possible answer University of Dar Es Salaam;
3. When was the Empire State Building built? Answer:1931
4. Does Seattle have a Chinatown? Answer:Yes
5. What are the largest cities in the world?

City	Country	Population
1. Seoul	South Korea	10,229,000
2. Bombay	India	9,925,000
3. Mexico City	Mexico	9,815,000
4. Sao Paulo	Brazil	9,811,000
5. Jakarta	Indonesia	9,160,000
6. Moscow	Russia	8,436,000
7. Shanghai	China	8,205,000
8. Tokyo	Japan	8,021,000
9. Istanbul	Turkey	7,774,000
10. New York	USA	7,420,000
10. (tied) Beijing	China	7,360,000

6. What is the world population? Answer: 6 billion
7. What sport is played by John Lloyd? Tennis
8. Which city has the tallest building in the world? Answer: Kuala Lumpur (in Malaysia)
9. What are the land area, capital city and population of Russia?

Country	Land Area	Capital City	Population
Russia	17,070,949 sq.km.	Moscow	149,609,000
Zimbabwe	945,087 sq.km.	Dodoma	27,966,000
Thailand	514,000 sq.km.	Bangkok	59,510,000
Uruguay	177,508 sq.km.	Montevideo	3,199,000
Liechtenstein	157 sq.km.	Vaduz	30,000
Luxembourg	2,586 sq.km.	Luxembourg City	402,000
Chad	1,284,000 sq.km.	N'Djamena	5,200,000 (1985)
Bhutan	18,147 sq.km	Thimphu	1,739,000
Belize	22,965 sq.km.	Belmopan	209,000
Andorra	450 sq.km.	Andorra la Vella	64,000
Saudi Arabia	2,149,690 sq.km.	Riyadh	18,197,294

11. Variable written answer

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