


1 SPEAKING

a  What do you know about Canada and the city of Montreal? Talk about some of these things:

- location
- buildings
- language
- climate
- people

DID YOU KNOW?

The name RÉSO comes from the French word *reseaux*, meaning 'network'.

MONTREAL'S Underground City

1 No trip to Montreal would be complete without a visit to the underground city, or RÉSO as it's known. It's used by half a million people every day and is the largest complex of its kind in Canada, or the rest of world. So what is it, and what can you do there?

2 What is RÉSO?

RÉSO is 32 kilometres of tunnels which join together office buildings, shopping malls, art centres, concert halls and university buildings. There are bus, train and metro stations serving the complex. Although it's called an underground city, some of the tunnels are on or above the ground – it would be more correct to call it an indoor pedestrian complex. But being indoors is a good thing in a town where winter temperatures can drop below -30°C !

3 Shopping

You can easily spend a day shopping in RÉSO. There are over 2,000 shops, including two large department stores. If you need to break for a meal, there are 200 restaurants. There are even hotels if you want to make your shopping trip longer!

4 Entertainment

There are 40 cinemas to choose between as well as concert halls and art exhibitions from the most important Montreal museums. There is also a hockey arena and a library, and if you want to continue later into the evening, there are a number of nightclubs.

5 Business

With around 1,200 offices as well as a lot of banks, three exhibition halls and a conference centre, RÉSO is really the main part of Montreal's central business district.

6 Visiting RÉSO

Tourists will be very surprised by this network of tunnels which connects the whole of downtown Montreal. The best way to get there is underground – there are a number of different metro stations, and the most popular is McGill. But it's easy to get lost down here, so be sure to carry a map. One thing you won't need is a coat – the temperature is always comfortable and it never rains!



2 READING



BETTER READING: INCREASING READING SPEED

When we read, we usually focus on the content words (for example, verbs, nouns, adverbs and adjectives), and we don't focus on the function words, such as auxiliary verbs and articles. This helps us to read quickly.

1 Do the reading tasks below.

- Read paragraphs 1 and 2 of the text on page 40 and time yourself. Calculate your words-per-minute reading speed (there are 134 words).
- Work in pairs. Underline the content words in paragraphs 3 and 4. Then read the paragraphs, focusing on the underlined words and time yourselves. Calculate your reading speed (there are 93 words).
- Repeat with paragraphs 5 and 6 – this time without underlining content words, just focusing on them, and again calculate your words-per-minute reading speed (there are 106 words).

a Read the text. What kind of book do you think it comes from?

b Find these numbers in the article. What do they refer to?

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| 1 half a million | 4 2,000 |
| 2 32 | 5 40 |
| 3 -30 | 6 1,200 |

c Answer the questions.

- 1 Why is it a good idea to visit RÉSO in the Canadian winter?
- 2 Why is the phrase 'underground city' not completely correct?
- 3 What sport can you play in RÉSO?
- 4 Does RÉSO close at night? How do you know?
- 5 What is 'McGill'?
- 6 Why don't you need an umbrella to walk there?

d Find words with these meanings.

- 1 A large building or group of buildings with many parts. (paragraph 1)
- 2 A person on foot, not in a car. (paragraph 2)
- 3 A big shop with different areas selling different things. (paragraph 3)
- 4 Long corridors, usually under the ground. (paragraph 2)
- 5 Places to meet and dance at night. (paragraph 4)
- 6 Places for very large business meetings. (paragraph 5)
- 7 A display of artworks or other things. (paragraph 4)
- 8 Something like a spider's web. (paragraph 6)

3 SPEAKING

a Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 There are flats in RÉSO. Would you like to live in one? Why / Why not?
- 2 Do you prefer markets, shops, shopping centres or online shopping? Why?

