

Finding out about Latvia

Places to be illustrated (on prompt cards, in the order they might be seen by a visitor):



Rīgas lidosta (Riga airport)



Vecrīga (Old Riga)



Rīgas pils (Riga Castle)



Operas nams (Opera house)



Autoosta (Bus station)



Rīgas tirgus (Riga Market)



Ventpils osta (Ventpils harbour)



Etnogrāfijas dabas muzejs (Outdoor ethnographic museum)



Daugavas upe (River Daugava)



Daugavpils

These are places that will become familiar to you if you visit Latvia. Before we look at them again and learn about their Latvian names, let's learn a little vocabulary and a few simple sentences about travelling to Latvia.

upe river

ezers lake

karogs flag

pils castle

pilsēta town

kuģis ship

vilciens train

lidmašīna aeroplane

autobuss bus

kalns mountain, hill

osta port, harbour

autoosta bus station

lidosta airport

lidot to fly

braukt to travel (by vehicle)

jūra *sea*

Baltijas jūra *Baltic Sea*

krasts *coast*

Now let us learn how to ask and answer some questions about Latvia:

Kur ir Latvija? *Where is Latvia?*

Latvija ir Eiropā. *Latvia is in Europe.*

Ka šīs Latvijas kaimiņi? *Who are Latvia's neighbours?*

Krievija *Russia*

Igaunija *Estonia*

Lietuva *Lithuania*

Baltkrievija *Belarus* ('White Russia'; *balts = white*)

Polija *Poland*

Somija *Finland*

Zviedrija *Sweden*

Kas dzīvo Latvijā? *Who lives in Latvia?*

Latvieši. *Latvians.*

Kur dzīvo latvieši? *Where do the Latvians live?*

Latvijā. *In Latvia.*

Kur dzīvo latvieši ārpus Latvijas? *Where do Latvians live outside of Latvia?*

Latvieši dzīvo arī Anglijā, ASV (=Amerikas Savienotajās Valstīs), Īrijā, Austrālijā, Kanadā un citur. *Latvians also live in England, the USA (United States of America), Ireland, Australia, Canada and elsewhere.*

No kurienes mēs braucam? *Where are we travelling from?*

No Anglijas – lidojam *From England – we fly*

No ASV – lidojam *From the USA – we fly*

No Krievijas – braucam ar vilcienu *From Russia- we travel by train*

No Igaunijas – braucam ar autobusu *From Estonia – we travel by bus*

No Lietuvas – braucam ar autobusu *From Lithuania – we travel by bus*

Rīga mēs redzam (*reintroduce cards as visual cues*):

Rīgas lidostu (Riga airport)

Vecrīgu (Old Riga)

Rīgas pili (Riga Castle)

Operas namu (Opera house)

Autoostu (Bus station)

Rīgas tirgu (Riga Market)

Ventspils ostu (Ventspils harbour)

Etnogrāfijas dabas muzeju (Outdoor ethnographic museum)

Daugavas upi (River Daugava)

Notice how we change the ending of each word to show that it is the object of mēs redzam 'we see'.