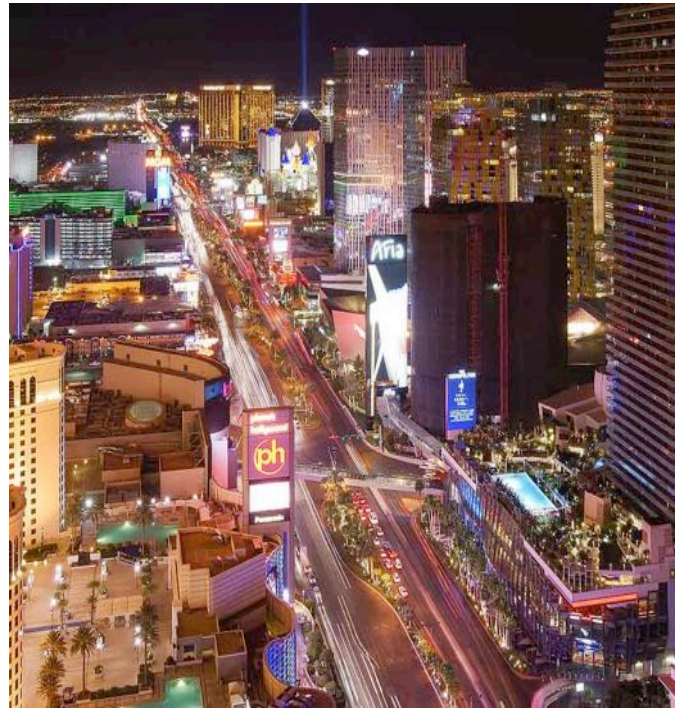


Like Los Angeles, the *Desert City* has a Spanish name. *Las Vegas* means *the meadows*. The town is devoted to gambling and entertainment, to fine dining and shopping. Some people call the place *Sin City*. It is also the *Marriage Capital of the World*.

If you travel north-east from Los Angeles on Interstate 15 across the Mojave Desert and into Nevada, you eventually reach Las Vegas. The main street of the **Entertainment Capital of the World** is **The Strip** - 7 kilometres of hotels, nightclubs and casinos, all lit at night with brilliant neon signs. Many of the world's top entertainers have appeared at the clubs here, which include "Caesar's Palace", "The Tropicana" and "The Mirage". As for the

casinos, most are open 24 hours a day, and inside them you won't find a single clock or window. Why? Because the owners want their customers to forget about the passing of time.



The Strip - the heart of the gambling world

In October 2017, a **sniper** opened fire on a crowd of concertgoers at the "Route 91 Harvest music festival" on the Las Vegas Strip. The man killed 58 people and wounded 422. He fired more than 1,100 rounds of ammunition from his suite on the 32nd floor of a nearby hotel. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern United States history. After the crime, the sniper was found dead. His motives remain unknown.

Blackjack is the American variation of a worldwide popular banking game known as *Twenty-One* or *Vingt-et-Un*. It is a comparing card game between several players and a dealer. Each player in turn competes against the dealer, but players do not play against each other. It is played with 52 cards, and is the most widely played casino banking game in the world.

meadow: area of grassland
devoted: concerned, dedicated,
to gamble: to play games of chance for money
to entertain: to provide with amusement
sin: offense against religious or moral law
Interstate: highway connecting two or more states of the U.S.
eventually: in the end
Mojave (pronounced: mou'ha:vi) is a rain-shadowed desert in the Southwestern United States.
sniper: someone who shoots at people from a hidden position.
round: shot fired by a gun, shell
to deal cards: to distribute them
objective: aim, goal
to compete: "fight"
score: total number of points made in a game
to exceed: to be superior to
to draw: to pull out
wedding: marriage
licence: permit
to require: to ask
chapel: small church

The objective of the game is to beat the dealer in one of the following ways:

- Get 21 points on the player's first two cards (called a "blackjack"), without a dealer blackjack;
- Reach a final score higher than the dealer without exceeding 21; or
- Let the dealer draw additional cards until his hand exceeds 21.

Las Vegas is a **popular wedding destination**. Marriage licences are easy to get. There are minimal costs: \$77.00 in cash. No waiting period is required. There are numerous options for wedding ceremonies in Las Vegas. Most of the hotels have wedding chapels. The restaurants offer wedding ceremonies. Drive-thru weddings are also available. Even at one of the many golf courses there is a wedding chapel.

The owners (**SUBJECT**) want (*expect, ask, beg, would like*) their customers (**ACCUSATIVE OBJECT**) to forget (**INFINITIVE**) about the passing of time. Be careful with "want": ~~The owners want that their customers forget...~~

Do you want me to come with you to the casino? I don't expect you to hit the casino jackpot.
 Would you like me to lend you money? My girlfriend doesn't want us to be married in Las Vegas.

20 QUESTIONS ABOUT LAS VEGAS - True or False?

0	The meadows along the Strip of Las Vegas are famous.	<i>FALSE</i>
1	Las Vegas is situated in the middle of a desert.	
2	Las Vegas is a famous place for gambling.	
3	Only married women are allowed to gamble.	
4	An unmarried man is called "a blackjack".	
5	Gambling halls don't have any windows.	
6	A sniper shot hundreds of people to protest against gambling.	
7	The man who gives out the playing cards is called "the dealer".	
8	Priests or vicars in a church or chapel must hold the wedding ceremonies.	
9	All restaurants, bars and gambling halls close at midnight.	
10	In Las Vegas, marriages are considered to be sin.	
11	Las Vegas is famous for a large variety of clocks in and outside the buildings.	
12	The aim of the game Blackjack is to earn more than 21 points.	
13	<i>Vingt-et-un</i> is French and means <i>Twenty-one</i> .	
14	The famous people you meet in Las Vegas are usually in the show business.	
15	Even in Las Vegas you need a licence to get married.	
16	Las Vegas is a city in the state of Nevada.	
17	At night, it can be very dark in the streets of Las Vegas.	
18	"Eventually" means "perhaps" or "maybe".	
19	"Eventually" means "in the end".	
20	An "Interstate" is a highway that goes from state to state.	