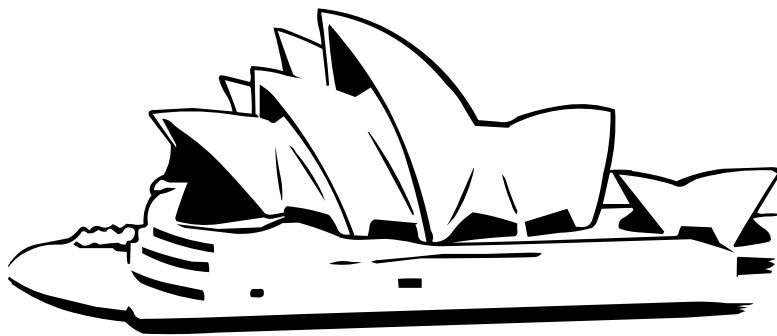


Finding information – 1

When you read text you can usually remember some of the information, but if you are asked about details you should read the text again to locate and check that your information is correct. Remember: The answer you are looking for is there in the text, you just need to find it!

Read the report.

The Sydney Opera House



1. This well-known Australian landmark is recognised throughout the world and is a leading tourist attraction. Set on the shore of Sydney Harbour, its soaring sails are visible from the city's other equally famous and widely recognised symbol, the Sydney Harbour Bridge.
2. In 1956, an international competition to design the opera house was won by the Danish architect, Joern Utzon. His daring and expensive design caused a great deal of controversy. His plan was criticised because many people didn't like his unusual design and doubted that it would work. It would be very different and look like no other building in the world.
3. Construction began in 1959 and delays and budget problems proved to be a nightmare for all concerned. It was finally completed in 1973. The original cost had been estimated at seven million dollars but the final cost was 102 million, even after some changes had been made to the original plans in an effort to save money. The government did not have the money needed to complete the building and extra money had to be raised by conducting special opera house lotteries. It was a topic of great concern and was discussed all around Australia for many years.
4. Utzon, tired of all the criticism, resigned in 1966 and left Australia. This was well before the building was complete. It was left to a group of Australian architects to redesign the interior and to try to reduce the cost. It took another seven years before it was finally finished. It was such a spectacular building that gradually many Australians forgot about all the problems and became proud of their opera house.
5. In 1999, the New South Wales government proposed some much needed renovations and invited Utzon to return to Australia and to act as a consultant. He was 81 years old and in all those years he had never returned to see his extraordinary achievement. It was a wonderful reconciliation after so long and it was no doubt an emotional experience for the man whose imagination and vision played such an important part in creating this amazing building.