

# Teachers' Notes for Lesson 1: Travel

**Target group:** high intermediate students

**Aims:** students will be able to talk about their own holidays and read about favourite British holiday destinations while practising comparative and superlative adjective forms and using verbs to express senses and emotions. Students will also be able to design and write their own holiday brochure.

**Time:** approximately 3-4, 45-minute lessons.

## 1. Warm-up: Where in the world?

Students discuss the questions with a partner and share the answers with another group of two students.

## 2. Where should these people go?

Open answers.

## 3. The Brits on holiday

Vocabulary match

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| a. soap opera                         | 4. TV series  |
| b. expat community                    | 1. A group of people living outside their country ('expat' is short for 'expatriate') |
| c. caravanning holidays               | 2. Holidays spent in a 'house' that can be pulled by a car                            |
| d. a little further afield            | 5. a little further away  |
| e. intrepid backpackers               | 3. People with rucksacks who are not afraid   |
| f. holidays not requiring phrase book | 6. holidays where a dictionary is not needed  |

**A. – D.** Have students get into pairs and discuss the questions.

Write the suggested destinations on the board. Then have students read the passage silently or with a partner.

**E.** Have students read again to find the answers.

1. Brits
2. Blighty (the word derives from a Hindustani word meaning "foreign", related to the Arabic word wilayat, meaning a kingdom or province. People use it slightly ironically nowadays.)
3. phenomenon
4. ferry
5. Chiantishire (based on Devonshire, etc.)
6. sleepy
7. fly-drive
8. poll

**F.** Answers

1. Cheap trips to the sun with good food and friendly people
2. In the 1960s
3. France and Italy
4. Tuscany
5. Airline prices have dropped
6. The Grand Canyon

**G.**

1. cheap – cheaper – cheapest
2. sleepy – sleepier – sleepest
3. popular – more popular – most popular
4. common – more common – most common
5. close – closer – closest
6. intrepid – more intrepid – most intrepid

## 4. Vocabulary:

hiking: serious walking; hike: a serious walk; pine tree: kind of tree with needles rather than leaves; canyon: big natural hole in the ground, often carved by a river over time; rim: edge; elevation: height (over sea level)

## Answers for the text:

If you (**like** / are liking) hiking, the Grand Canyon is for you. You can choose from a variety of hikes that range from easy to difficult. If you (**want** / are wanting) to take a short hike, you can choose a day hike around the rim of the canyon. It is an easy way to (**see** / seeing) the landscape. However, if you (**want** / are wanting) to (**hear** / hearing) the birds singing and (**smell** / smelling) the fresh pine trees up close, you (**need** / are needing) to choose an overnight hike. If you (**dislike** / are disliking) the heat, do not hike to the bottom of the canyon in summertime; it can get very hot. You will (**feel** / feeling) the cool air the higher up you are in elevation. No matter which hike you choose, though, just (**enjoy** / enjoying) it; it is the world's most spectacular hole in the ground.

**5.** Students read the words in the box. Explain any new words.

A. - C. Students fill in the sentences and compare with a partner before discussing the questions in D.

**6.** Give students a few minutes to think about their favourite destination before speaking to their partner. Then have them answer the questions in B. and compare with another partner (C.). Then brainstorm best and worst destinations (from the pair work) and write them on the board. Have students vote on them.

**7.** Have students get into groups and choose a destination to make a brochure for. If students have access to the Internet, encourage them to look there for more information in English (using [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and not the national versions!). The more concrete the task is, the better the result. If you think students would enjoy it more, have them create posters instead, which you can post in the classroom when the task is completed.



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## 2. Where should these people go?

Work with a partner. Look at the pictures below. Which destination would be more appropriate for ...?

- a middle-aged couple with no children
- a single young man
- a middle-aged couple with teenage boys
- a large family
- a young couple with a baby
- a single young woman
- a middle-aged couple with teenage girls
- a group of friends



Deserted beach



Sydney



New York City



Venice



Beach resort



Large city



Historical city



Thailand

## 3. The Brits on holiday

First, match these words and expressions with their explanations.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. soap opera                           | 1. A group of people living outside their country        |
| b. expat community                      | 2. Holidays spent in a house that can be pulled by a car |
| c. caravanning holidays                 | 3. People with rucksacks who are not afraid              |
| d. a little further afield              | 4. TV series   |
| e. intrepid backpackers                 | 5. a little further away                                 |
| f. holidays not requiring a phrase book | 6. holidays where English is spoken                      |

Before you read, think about these questions.

**A.** What are the most popular holiday destinations for people from your country?

**B.** What do you think the most popular holiday destinations are for the British? How about Australians? Canadians? Americans? The Irish?

**C.** Now read this text to check if you were right about the British.

When you think of the British on holiday, you think immediately of Spain. Cheap trips to the sun with good food and friendly people have been attracting Brits for almost 40 years. It is also one of the top destinations for the British to live if they decide to leave 'Blighty'. This phenomenon even inspired a television soap opera, the BBC's *Eldorado*, which was set in an expat community on the Costa del Sol.

For those in search of fine food and drinks, France, of course, has always been popular. It also has the advantage of being close to the UK. The ferry journey from England takes between four and nine hours, making it the perfect destination for a driving or even caravanning holiday.

A little further afield, but still reachable by car, is Italy. The British love affair with the land of lovers began in the eighteenth century. By the 1920s, cities like Florence had well-established English communities, many of whom refused to leave even when the Second World War devastated the country. In the 1980s Tuscany began to become extremely popular again with the British and remains so. In fact, so many British now have holiday homes there that it is sometimes referred to as 'Chiantishire'.

Many young British people now spend their holidays in the discos and nightclubs of Ibiza or Cyprus's Agia Napa so much that these once sleepy idyllic islands now resemble a permanent Saturday night in a British city centre. Recent falls in the price of airline tickets have opened up new destinations for the British. Thailand, once the destination of the most intrepid backpackers is now popular with Brits of all ages. Fly-drive holidays to the United

States are also a common feature of summer holidays. Perhaps the attraction of the common language helps there. Added to the list of destinations not requiring a phrase book are, of course, Australia and South Africa. Both are popular among the British.

So, if they could go anywhere, where would the British go? A recent television poll put the Grand Canyon at the top of the list. This was closely followed by the Great Barrier Reef, and Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls. It seems that impressive nature is what really gets the British excited.

**D.** Read the text again and find the following words and phrases.

1. a colloquial (every day) word for 'British people'
2. a colloquial word for 'Britain'
3. a strange happening
4. a passenger boat
5. a joke name based on a British county name
6. a word that means 'quiet'
7. a phrase meaning holidays involving planes and cars
8. another word for 'vote'

**E.** Now answer these questions

1. What attracts British people to Spain?
2. In what decade did Spain first become popular for the British?
3. Which two countries do the British usually go to by car?
4. What is the most popular part of Italy for the British?
5. Why have the British started travelling outside of Europe?
6. What destination would the British most like to visit?

**F.** Now go back and underline the adjectives from the reading that begin with the following letters and then write the comparative and superlative forms on the right.

- |    |               |       |       |
|----|---------------|-------|-------|
| 1. | c _ _ _ _     | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | s _ _ _ _     | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | p _ _ _ _ _   | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | c _ _ _ _     | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | c _ _ _ _     | _____ | _____ |
| 6. | i _ _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | _____ |

#### 4. The big hole in the ground

Here is some more information on the Brits' most popular destination: the Grand Canyon. Read the text and circle the correct verbs in brackets. First, check that you understand these words.

hiking • hike • pine tree • canyon • rim • elevation



If you (like / are liking) hiking, the Grand Canyon is for you. You can choose from a variety of hikes that range from easy to difficult. If you (want / are wanting) to take a short hike, you can choose a day hike around the rim of the canyon. It is an easy way to (see / seeing) the landscape. However, if you (want / are wanting) to (hear / hearing) the birds singing and (smell / smelling) the fresh pine trees up close, you (need / are needing) to choose an overnight hike. If you (dislike / are disliking) the heat, do not hike to the bottom of the canyon in summertime; it can get very hot. You will (feel / feeling) the cool air the higher up you are in elevation. No matter which hike you choose, though, just (enjoy / enjoying) it; it is the world's most spectacular hole in the ground.

## 5. Expressing emotions and senses

### Vocabulary focus

When we express our emotions or use our senses, we often use the following verbs:

Senses: smell, taste, see, hear, look, sound like

Emotions: like, love, hate, dislike, want, need, feel, enjoy

Some of these verbs can be followed by another verb in the infinitive or '-ing' form.

I smell the fresh mountain air.

She hates to go shopping.

My mother needs to help me with my homework.

Can you taste the pepper in the sauce?

We love going hiking.

I hear a noise. It sounds like a bird.

**A.** Write sentences using the senses to describe your favourite holiday place.

1. I smell \_\_\_\_\_
2. I taste \_\_\_\_\_
3. I want \_\_\_\_\_
4. I feel \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Write sentences to express your emotions about your favourite holiday place.

1. I like \_\_\_\_\_
2. I love \_\_\_\_\_
3. I want \_\_\_\_\_
4. I feel \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** Write sentences to express your emotions about a place you do not enjoy.

1. I dislike \_\_\_\_\_
2. I hate \_\_\_\_\_
3. I need \_\_\_\_\_
4. I don't enjoy \_\_\_\_\_

**D.** Discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. Do you like to go shopping on your holiday?
2. Which is more relaxing, a weekend at a cabin in the wilderness or a weekend at the beach?
3. Do you feel happier when you are with friends or alone on holiday?
4. What are two activities you love doing on holiday?

## 6. My favourite place in the whole world

**A.** Think of your favourite travel destination. How would you describe it? Here are some useful words for talking about travel. Use them to describe your favourite travel destination to your partner. Next, listen as your partner describes his or her favourite destination.

cheap • expensive • breathtaking • gorgeous • safe • dangerous • comfortable • quiet • hot  
chilly • crowded • lively

**B.** Now, with your partner, compare the two places by answering these questions.

1. Which place is hotter in the summer?
2. Which place is more expensive?
3. Which place is more crowded?
4. Which place is livelier?
5. Which place is safer?

**C.** Compare your holiday destination with another pair's. Decide which place...

- ... is safer for children.
- ... has better food and/or restaurants.
- ... has friendlier people.
- ... has more interesting things to see.

**D.** As a class, take a vote on the best and worst destinations based on

weather • food • prices • sightseeing • friendly people • transport

## 7. Make your own travel brochure

**A.** Get into a small group and decide on a travel destination you would like to write about. Use the Internet to find information, if you can. Well-known travel book publishers offer some good websites, for example, [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com), [www.fodors.com](http://www.fodors.com) and [www.roughguides.com](http://www.roughguides.com) offer some ideas.

**B.** Look at some examples of holiday brochures online or in print. Do the following:

1. make a list of any adjectives that describe the place.
2. Make a list of phrases you want to use in your brochures.
3. Make a list of specific places you plan to advertise as well as some practical details you plan to write about (hotels, transport, prices).
4. Try to plan one day of activities for visitors, such as places to visit and how to get around.

**C.** In your small group, design and write a brochure for print or a website for your destination. Use pictures and maps. Then share your material with the class. Which place would you choose and why?