

HOLIDAYS



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Holiday – or vacation?



- Are you just back from **holiday** – or **vacation**? At first sight, **holiday** and **vacation** might seem to mean the same thing, but which word people use depends on who they are, where they are, what their job is and who decides they can have time off!
- The British go **on holiday** (**on hols** for short), but Americans go **on vacation**. The British, when lying on the beach on the Costa del Sol, are **holidaymakers** **holidaying** in Spain, while their American cousins, lounging on Miami Beach, are **vacationers** **vacationing**.
- The word **holiday** comes from **holy day**, a religious festival, and in the US, **holiday** is reserved for days that really do have a religious origin (like Christmas Day and Easter Day), and, by extension, to paid public holidays, like New Year's Day, Independence Day and Thanksgiving Day. Americans will often wish each other **Happy Holidays** around Christmas, especially if they wish to make their greeting neutral as far as religion is concerned.
- Public holidays in Britain, designated by the government, are known as **bank holidays**. They were originally days when the banks were shut. Now they're general holidays, often on a Monday.
- The word **vacation** is also used in Britain for the holiday periods at universities and law courts. It's sometimes shortened to **vac**, so students may talk about **the long vac**, **the summer vac**, etc. At American universities, such periods are usually called a **recess** (**the summer recess**, **the fall recess**, etc.), the word also used by the British parliament and the US Congress for their breaks.

Types of Holidays

- 1 An Active Holiday
- 2 Camping
- 3 A Self-catering Holiday
- 4 A Study
Tour
- 5 A Walking Holiday (e.g.
hitch-hiking)
- 6 Ecotourism
- 7 A Cruise Holiday
- 8 A Staycation(=a holistay)
- 9 A Cultural Holiday(sightseeing)
- 10 A Package Holiday

Sort out the holidays into the categories given in the table



	Category	Type of Holiday
1	romantic holidays	
2	dangerous holidays	
3	expensive holidays	
4	cheap holidays	
5	convenient holidays	
6	relaxing holidays	
7	educational holidays	
8	recreation holidays hobby holidays	

Match the types of holiday with the places you think people might stay. Options are possible.



Type of holiday		Places	
1	a package holiday	a	a tent
2	a camping holiday	b	a hotel
3	a cruise	c	a resort
4	a skiing holiday	d	a youth hostel
5	a safari	e	a caravan
6	a walking holiday	f	a guesthouse
7	a sailing holiday	g	a boat's cabin / a ship's cabin
8	a caravanning holiday	h	a villa / a chalet
9	a sightseeing holiday	i	a ski lodge

Answer the questions below using the vocabulary from the tasks above.



- *Have you ever been on any of the holiday described above? Which of them?*
- *Which of the holiday described above would you like to go on? Why? Give reasons for your choice.*
- *Do you agree with the view that some holidays can rather exhaust than refresh people? And which ones?*
- *What do you think is the best choice for a school holiday destination?*
- *Do you consider that a package holiday is perfect for a holiday with classmates?*
- *Is it a good idea to celebrate finishing school going camping with your classmates?*

You have received a letter from your English-speaking pen-friend Erika, who writes:



... We were discussing our next school trip in class. Everyone had different opinions. Have you ever been on holiday with your classmates? What do you think is the best choice for a school holiday destination? Where would you like to go in summer? Why? Are you fond of package holidays? By the way, I've just started taking diving lessons...

Write a letter to Erika. In your letter:

- answer her questions;
- ask 3 questions about her diving lessons.

Write 100-140 words.

Task 2. Study the advertisement.

You are considering going on a sightseeing tour and now you'd like to get more information. In 1.5 minutes you are to ask five direct questions to find out about the following

- 1) operation hours
- 2) starting point
- 3) tourist attractions to see
- 4) price for one person
- 5) group discounts

Enjoy our hop-on-hop-off sightseeing tour!



Task 2. Study the advertisement.

You are considering having a holiday at this resort and now you'd like to get more information. In 1.5 minutes you are to ask five direct questions to find out about the following:

- 1) location
- 2) departure dates
- 3) single rooms
- 4) sports facilities
- 5) price for two weeks for one

Lots of fun in the sun!



Task 4. Study the two photographs. In 1.5 minutes be ready to compare and contrast the photographs:

- give a brief description of the photos (action, location)
- say what the pictures have in common
- say in what way the pictures are different
- say which of the holidays presented in the pictures you'd prefer
- explain why

You will speak for not more than 2 minutes (12–15 sentences). You have to talk continuously.



