

Ecotourism

Level: Intermediate–advanced

Time: 90 minutes +

Summary: This lesson is about ecotourism and sustainable holidays. In this lesson, students:

1. discuss their choices of holiday accommodation and destinations;
2. study a text about ecotourism;
3. write true and false sentences about the text and correct their fellow students' false sentences;
4. discuss quotes from the article;
5. read reviews of holiday accommodation and write their own reviews.

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; one copy of the vocabulary record per student

Group size: Any

Note: This lesson plan for both pre-experience and in-work business students is based on an original article published in *Business Spotlight* issue 4/2015.

Warmer

This task introduces the topic of holidays and the factors people consider when deciding where to go on holiday. With large groups, the task can be done in pairs or threes.

Key words

a. Students read the definitions and find the key words in the article. Then they should read the article again and notice how the key words are used in context. Note that the definitions for the words are given in the order the words appear in the article.

Key:

1. *package deals*
2. *policy*
3. *vague*
4. *comply with*
5. *breezes*
6. *sustainability*
7. *organic*

8. *authenticity*
9. *superficial*
10. *exoticism*
11. *conservation*
12. *environmentally conscious*

b. This task ensures that the students understand that the word *green* is not only used to describe the colour of something. Ask them to say what other things can be described using the environmental meaning of the word *green*, for example *green energy* and *green campaigners*.

Key:

1. *concerned about the environment*
2. *designed to protect the environment or to limit damage to the environment*

Understanding the article

A writing and comprehension task in which students, working in pairs if possible, write six to eight sentences about the article. Some should be true, some should be false. They then swap sentences with another pair and decide which of the sentences they are now reading are true and which are false. Students tell the pair who wrote the sentences which ones they believe are false. When it has been confirmed which sentences are false, students correct the false sentences that the other pair wrote.

Collocations

Students find all the words in the article that come after *environmentally* and *environmental* and write them onto the word spiders. Encourage them to think of other words that could be added to each word spider as well as others that could be used before *the environment*. Ask them to choose the ones they think they would like to be able to use in general speech and write sentences containing these words.

Key:

- *environmentally* conscious (other examples: *environmentally* friendly, responsible, aware, sound)
- *environmental* impact, policy, laws, regulations (other examples: *environmental* science, protection, movement, campaigners, issues, sustainability)
- words that could be used before *the environment*: protect, save, care for, destroy, damage *the environment*

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Prefixes

Students find three words in the article that have the same prefix as *ecotourism*. Ask them to come up with other words that have the same prefix, using a dictionary if necessary. As before, get them to choose the ones they think they would like to be able to use in everyday speech and write sentences containing these words.

Key:

- a. *ecological, eco-holidays, eco-friendly*
- b. (possible answers) *eco-sensitive, eco-disaster, ecologist, ecocide, ecolabel, ecotricity, ecoterrorism*

On the rise

This task deals with an expression used in the article and encourages students to use it to talk about other topics, too.

Key:

- a. *increasing in popularity*
- b. *ecotourism and specialized travel agencies*

Discussion

Students are asked to discuss two quotes from the article.

Key:

- a. *Kate Baumann;*
- b. *Anita Roddick*

Webquest

Students read reviews of the holiday accommodation mentioned in the article, written by guests after they stayed there. After reading and discussing a few of these reviews, ask them to write a short review of the last place they stayed at while on holiday or while away on business.

Alternatively, get students to work in pairs and use their imagination to write a review of their stay at a fictional ecotourist destination.

Vocabulary record

Here, students should be encouraged to record all of the new and useful vocabulary they have learnt during the lesson, not only in the form presented in the article but also in related forms.

Related topics on onestopenglish

Onestopenglish has a range of lessons on the topic of the environment:

www.onestopenglish.com/clil/secondary/english-across-the-curriculum/geography-and-the-environment/

Below is a link to a set of lessons on the impact of tourism:

www.onestopenglish.com/clil/secondary/geography/leisure-and-tourism/

The following set of news lessons is on car emissions:

www.onestopenglish.com/skills/news-lessons/weekly-topical-news-lessons/2015-weekly-news-lessons-archive/9th-april-2015-eu-pollution-clampdown-for-car-makers/554309.article

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1 Warmer

- What kind of accommodation did you stay in on your last holiday?
- What made you choose that particular accommodation and that holiday destination?
- Where would you like to spend your next holiday? Why?

Ecotourism

by Karen Richardson



Ecological considerations are playing an ever-increasing role in holiday planning. Dive into the topic and vocabulary of ecotourism with Karen Richardson.

the direction of the wind before they started building. They also use solar energy for lighting and fans, and to power the music played in the bar. What is more, rainwater is collected to supply the showers, do the laundry and water the gardens. The food they serve is organic, including fruit from their own garden, cheese from a goat dairy that works with local farmers and fish from local fishermen.

1 These days, green travellers are turning away from all-inclusive package deals because of their negative environmental impact.

2 Ecotourism is on the rise but, although many large hotels now have an environmental policy, this often contains vague statements, such as: "We aim to minimize pollution and waste, and to comply with environmental laws and regulations." And promising to turn off air-conditioning units while guests are out is not the same as building rooms that make use of natural breezes to keep guests cool. "It's not what you do, it's what you don't do that counts," says Kate Baumann, a Canadian and co-owner of Almost Paradise Cottages and Restaurant on Grenada, which received a sustainability award in 2013.

3 There are no air-conditioning units in their holiday cottages. Instead, Kate and her husband, Uwe, thought carefully about

Specialized travel agencies are also on the rise, such as Responsible Travel, which started 14 years ago with the help of the late Body Shop founder, Anita Roddick, and offers eco-holidays around the world. Roddick once said: "Responsible travellers want experiences rather than packages, authenticity rather than superficial exoticism and holidays that put a little bit back into local communities and conservation. This is the future of tourism."

5 According to a survey by the travel website TripAdvisor, 79 per cent of travellers think it's important that their accommodation should be eco-friendly and 47 per cent of business travellers prefer to stay in a green-certified hotel.

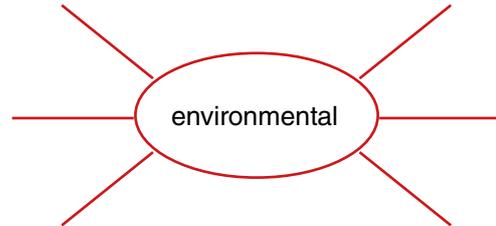
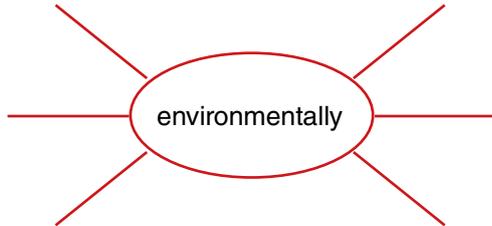
6 There is a lot more to being an environmentally conscious tourist than hanging up your hotel towels to use them a second day.

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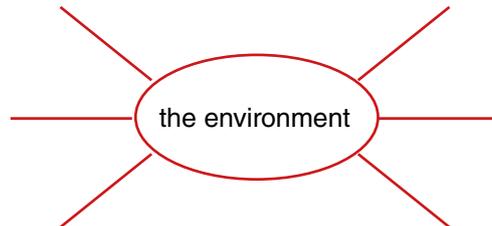
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4 Collocations

Find all the words in the article that come after *environmentally* and *environmental*. Write them onto the spider diagrams. Can you think of any other words? If so, write them too.



Think of other words that can be used before *the environment* and add these to the third spider diagram.



5 Prefixes

a. Find three words in the article with the same prefix as *ecotourism*.

b. What other words do you know, or can you find, with the same prefix?

c. Use the words from activities a. and b. in sentences of your own.

6 On the rise

a. What does *on the rise* mean?

b. What two things are on the rise according to the article?

c. What other things are on the rise in the world today?

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7 Discussion

- a. Who said this and what do you think they meant?

It's not what you do, it's what you don't do that counts.

Can you think of any other situations when not doing something is better than doing something?

- b. Who said this? Do you agree? Why? Why not?

Responsible travellers want experiences rather than packages ... This is the future of tourism.

8 Webquest

Visit tripadvisor and read and discuss the reviews that travellers have written about Almost Paradise Cottages, or another hotel of your choice:

www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g616296-d1372620-Reviews-Almost_Paradise-Saint_Patrick_Parish_Grenada.html

Write a review of the last place you stayed at.

