

A holiday week

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Level 3 • Elementary

Age: Primary (6–11)

Language aims: To practise questions using *can/can't*; to use leisure vocabulary; to introduce locations

Time: 35 minutes

Student grouping: Pairs, whole class

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; the audio (downloaded in advance or played via onestopenglish); days of the week written large on seven pieces of paper; multiple pairs of scissors; colouring pens or pencils; pictures of *farm, mountains, lake, island, beach, park, zoo, tennis court, swimming pool*; pictures of *playing tennis, horse riding, swimming, having a picnic, skiing, swinging on a swing, sailing a boat, on a beach* (optional)

Language focus: Days of the week; *today; farm, mountains, lake, island, beach, park, zoo, tennis court, swimming pool; can/can't; but; closed; play tennis, go horse-riding, swim, sail a boat*

Procedure

Step 1

Ask the class about their most recent holiday. Have a general discussion about it in L1, asking things like 'How long was the holiday?' and 'What did you do?' Make a list of things the children enjoy doing in their spare time.

Step 2

Teach the days of the week using the seven pieces of paper. Ask seven volunteers to come to the front. They hold up one slip each and move so they are standing in the correct order.

Step 3

Hand out the worksheet. Ask the children to cut out the days of the week and hold up each day as you call it out.

Step 4

Teach the places on the worksheet and elicit the activities available in each place: *play tennis, watch elephants, swim, play, sail boats, ski, climb*, etc. Use the pictures you prepared, the worksheet or mime. Play Simon Says and get the class to mime the actions.

Step 5

Introduce *can/can't* by saying 'Can I swim at the tennis court?' Students must answer 'No, I can't'. Ask 'Can I swim at the lake?' This time, students must answer 'Yes, I can'. Continue asking until students feel confident with their replies. Teach *but* in context, for example: 'I can't swim on the farm, but I can swim in the swimming pool.'

Step 6

Change your questions. Ask 'What can I do at the zoo?' 'What can't I do at the zoo?' Students should answer 'I can't play tennis', etc.

Step 7

Explain that the Smith family have been told that there are certain days they can do certain things at certain places. Play the audio, stopping after 'Sunday'. The children hear the Smith family talking about what they can do and on which days. The class listen carefully and place the correct days of the week over the places the family will visit on their worksheet.

Step 8

Play the audio again from the start for students to check their answers. Then, the audio asks a question. Pause the audio and ask the students which day they think is left. (*Monday*) Check answers and then play the final part of the audio. Students choose an activity for the Smiths to do on Monday from the remaining locations (*mountains, island, beach*).

Key:

Tuesday – go to the zoo; Wednesday – go horse-riding on the farm; Thursday – play in the park; Friday – go to the swimming pool; Saturday – sail a boat on the lake; Sunday – play tennis

Follow-up activity

The children role play a family arguing about what they can and can't do. Act out this dialogue with a strong student first, as an example:

A: Can we watch TV?

B: No, you can't.

C: Can we play in the park?

B: No, you can't.

A: What can we do?

B: You can go to bed!

A holiday week

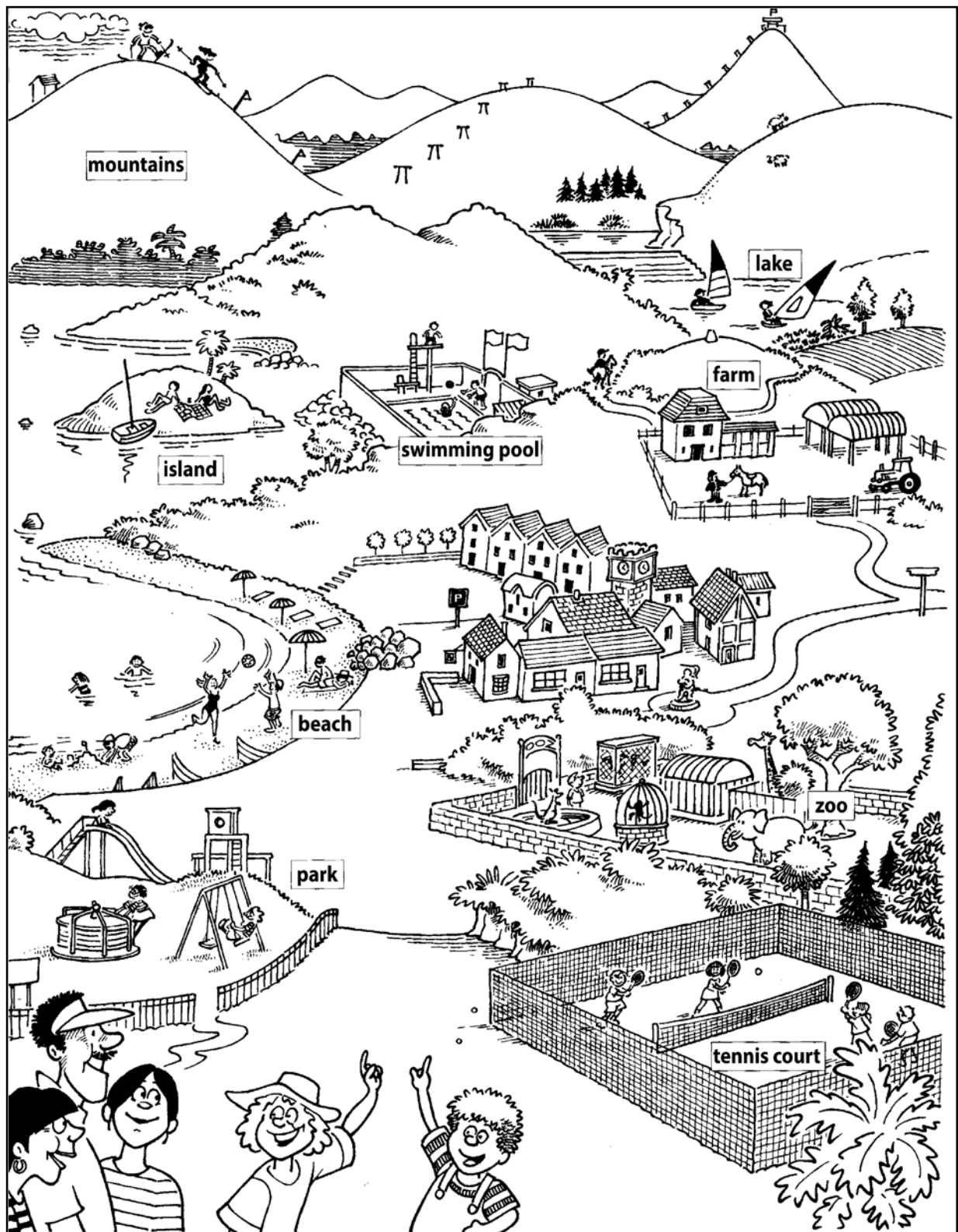
by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Transcript

- Dad: Right, children. What can we do this week?
- Child 1: Can we go swimming today, Daddy?
- Dad: No, but we can go to the swimming pool on Friday.
- Child 2: Can I ride a horse today?
- Mum: No, but you can ride a horse at the farm on Wednesday.
- Child 3: Well, can we play in the park today?
- Dad: No, we can't. But we can play in the park on Thursday. OK?
- Child 3: Oh good!
- Mum: I'd like to go to the zoo today, but we can't! We can only go to the zoo on Tuesday. That's tomorrow.
- Dad: I'd like to sail a boat on the lake, but we can't do that until Saturday.
- Mum: Can we play tennis today?
- Child 1: No, the tennis court is closed. We can play tennis on Sunday.
- Narrator: Now, can you guess which day of the week it is? // Yes, it's Monday! Listen again. What can the Smith family do on Monday? (*Argument breaks out*) Where can they go? Choose a place and stick Monday on the place.

A holiday week

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

