

'Mingling is part of the adventure': a family trip to Wales shows why hostels are booming

Level 1: Elementary

Article summary: This article describes a journalist's experience going to a hostel in Wales and considering the advantages compared to more private holidaymaking experiences.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Defining relative clauses

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student, *The Guardian* website, if you want to share the images

1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to get students thinking about their preferences when they go on holiday, particularly in terms of socialising and privacy.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do this task individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. As an extension activity, ask students to highlight the key words in the article.

Key:

1. *bunk room*
2. *awkward*
3. *draughty*
4. *doubt*
5. *privacy*
6. *luxury*
7. *private rental*
8. *mingle*

- b. Before reading the article carefully, students use the key words to fill the gaps in the sentences to ensure that they know how the words are used in other contexts.

Key:

1. *draughty*
2. *awkward*
3. *private rental*
4. *mingle*
5. *doubt*
6. *bunk room*
7. *privacy*
8. *luxury*

3. Comprehension check

- a. Students answer the questions based on the information in the article. Encourage students to justify their answers with references to the article before writing the corrected sentences.

Key:

1. *They offer comfort and a sense of community that private rentals do not.*
2. *Penguins*
3. *They had doubts; the husband remembered school trips, and the children were unsure.*
4. *In the 1930s*
5. *She spoke to another guest.*
6. *Hostelling is growing again and is in very good health.*

4. Key language

- a. This activity is designed to help students notice how defining relative clauses are used, the forms they take, and how to spot them. If necessary, review *defining relative clauses*: they are used to add information about the subject or object of a sentence. It can be used to put across more information in fewer words, or simply as a stylistic choice. They often use a relative pronoun to connect the information. Encourage them to look for the key words in the example sentences, and to try to identify how the sentences in the article are put together.

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Key:

1. *We began talking to another guest in the large kitchen of The Rocks hostel in Capel Curig, where people often chat while they wait for food or drinks.*
2. *Hostels now provide home comforts and a sense of community that private rentals will never match.*
3. *easy exchange of ideas, which happens so often in hostels.*
4. *Hostels in the UK were first created in the 1930s to provide cheap places to stay for young travellers who wanted to explore the outdoors*
5. *We enjoyed returning to the hostel in the evening, when guests shared stories about their adventures.*

- b. This activity is designed to give students the opportunity to solidify their understanding of which relative pronoun to use in which situation and see more examples in practice before moving on to write their own sentences.

Key:

1. *Who*
2. *Which*
3. *Where*
4. *Answers will vary.*

- c. Here, students can write their own sentences using defining relative clauses. The prompts are designed to give students the opportunity to use all of the relative clauses used in the table. Note that there are multiple possible answers in sentences 1 and 4.

Key:

1. *This phone has a battery that/which other models can't match.*
2. *We stopped at a café where you can charge your laptop.*
3. *Our decision was based on advice which/that people shared during the meeting.*
4. *I spoke to a neighbour who/that understood my frustration.*
5. *It was dinner time when I realised my fridge was broken.*

5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the statements related to the article and give their reasons and justifications for each answer, referring to their own experiences wherever possible. Feel free to refer them back to their warmer discussions, now having read the article. You can also refer them to the original *Guardian* article to give them a visual of Wales, the hostel, and the journalist's experience.

6. In your own words

- a. Encourage students to envision their perfect holiday experience. Have them consider the arguments made in the article and whether they agree with them or not. If students disagree within their groups, the presentation could take the form of a debate or a list of pros and cons. You can also keep the relative pronouns on the board to support students in practising the lesson's language point.
- b. For online classes or more digitally inclined students, presentations could be replaced with the creation of a video for a streaming platform.