

HOLIDAYS

Vocabulary: Find the "odd one out"

There may be more than one answer. Give your reasons.

	A	B	C
1.	full-board	half-board	all-inclusive
2.	amenities	facilities	services
3.	operators	competitors	rivals
4.	hire	rental	purchase
5.	travel agents	timeshare developments	tourist complexes
6.	an itinerary	a journey	a route
7.	bed & breakfast	a hotel	a guest house
8.	a youth hostel	a tent	a caravan
9.	a tour	an excursion	a sightseeing trip

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Text for dictation:

In Britain, *Tourist Information Centres* can arrange short stays in *Hotels*, *Guest Houses* and *Bed & Breakfast* establishments. *Bookings* can be made either by phone or in person on arrival in large towns or cities. *Clients* can usually specify the part of town where they want to be based, though this may limit their choice of *price-range*. It is helpful to state whether you are looking for *economical*, *medium-priced* or *luxury accommodation*. A small *deposit* is usually required which is *returnable* if you inspect the room and decide you do not want it. If you *take* the room, the deposit is *deducted* from the *bill*.

For *longer stays* or holidays in other countries, it is usual to go to a *travel agency*. You can collect *brochures* from *rival companies* which offer *packages* in the countries and resorts which you are interested in. Many people go home and study the information. The *booking forms* on the back of the brochures contain the information which the *travel agent* needs to know, should you wish to go ahead. You will need to decide the *number in your party*, the *resort*, the *departure date*, the *duration*, the *type of accommodation*, the *eating arrangements* (*full board*, *half board* or *self-catering*), *travel or transport options* (e.g. *air or sea*), *car hire*, *equipment hire* (e.g. *skis*), *excursions*, *insurance cover* and the *method of payment*.

When you return to the travel agent, you may have further questions to ask about the *facilities* for children, elderly or disabled people, the *activities* available or *places of interest* within easy reach of your resort. If you have chosen an *all-inclusive package* you may wish to know whether your *investment* contributes to the *local economy* of your holiday resort, whether it brings *business* and *employment* to *local residents* or whether your presence merely helps to exclude them from the best parts of their own beaches.

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Discussion questions: ask and answer

1. Do you prefer to book holidays through travel agents or to make your own arrangements? Describe your best and worst holidays?

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of TWO of the following

forms of holiday accommodation:

(a) five star hotel (b) budget hotel (c) guest house

(d) bed & breakfast (e) self-catering villa (f) farmyard cottage

(g) ocean liner (h) student family (i) youth hostel

(j) caravan (k) tent (l) canal boat ?

3. Which form of accommodation did you have on your last holiday?

Were you satisfied with it?

4. Which form of accommodation would you prefer for your next holiday and how many people would you like to accompany you?

5. What are your favourite holiday activities?

6. Has your country been spoilt by tourist developments?

7. A friend wants to get to know your country and is planning a tour.

What advice would you give about places to visit, travel, accommodation, eating out, shopping, sightseeing, things to bring and souvenirs to buy?

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Dialogue: read aloud in pairs

A: *What do you think of package holidays?*

B: *Well, they're usually very cheap, but joining a crowd of noisy people and eating plastic food is not my idea of a holiday.*

A: *Are the resorts worth visiting?*

B: *Some of them are, but in my experience it's better to arrange private accommodation rather than accepting the tour operator's choice of hotel.*

A: *But surely, you can see what you're getting in the holiday brochure.*

B: *You may see a picture of the hotel and there may even be a popular beach, but if you want to go to a nicer locality, you can spend all day getting there.*

A: *Then how do you go about making your own arrangements?*

B: *It's not as difficult as you think. First, you look at the "flight only" advertisements on teletext, in Sunday newspapers or travel shop windows to get an idea of the best time to go. I usually go in early June or mid September to avoid school children. There's a good range of flights and prices aren't too high.*

A: *How do you find private accommodation?*

B: *That's very easy* in Europe because many British people buy holiday villas which they let to other people while they're not staying there themselves. They advertise in journals such as Dalton's Weekly, Exchange & Mart and in Sunday newspapers.

A: *I suppose that* if they own these homes, they must be in nice locations.

B: *That's the point.* Also, they are usually well maintained and the owners will leave you details of the best shops, restaurants and places to visit. They really want you to recommend their homes to your friends. *However, remember to ask them about* transport, especially if you don't drive.

A: *Surely,* most of these resorts would have bus services.

B: *There are two problems here.* Some of these homes are a long way from bus routes. *Moreover,* bus services can disappear altogether when the tourist season comes to an end. Many of these resorts are like ghost towns from October to May.