

Activity Type

Reading Exercise:
comprehension questions

Speaking Activity: asking
and answering questions
from prompts, guided
discussion, freer practice
(pair work)

Focus

Describing places:
*name, location, climate,
landscape, scenic spots,
historical sites, wildlife,
leisure activities, nightlife
and getting around*

Making preferences

Aim

To describe and discuss
ideal holiday destinations.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
two-page worksheet for
each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

50 minutes

Introduction

In this talking about places activity, students describe their ideal holiday destination and find out about their classmates' holiday destinations, discussing which one they would prefer to visit and why.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students read a passage describing a holiday destination and answer questions about it in complete sentences.

Exercise A - Answer key (wording may vary)

1. It is in the southwest corner of Australia south of Perth.
2. It has a mild climate with cool wet winters and hot dry summers.
3. The landscape is mostly rural with rolling hills dotted with farms and vineyards. The area also has some beautiful coastal landscapes that include beaches, bays, and rocky headlands.
4. Some of the more popular scenic spots include the Boranup Karri Forrest, Sugarloaf Rock, and Lake Cave.
5. Yes. Historical sites include the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse built in 1895, and Ellensbrook Farm established in 1857.
6. Yes. The area is great for whale watching especially during the spring as Humpbacks migrate up the coast.
7. Wine tasting tours of some of the area's famous wineries are very popular. The area is also a popular destination for surfers from around the world.
8. The nightlife is a bit quiet as there is only a pub and a few restaurants for entertainment.
9. No. Because there is little to no affordable or convenient transport options, so you need to bring your own car.

Next, students think of their ideal holiday destination. This could be a city, a town, a village or a tourist spot that the students really enjoyed visiting. Alternatively, you could ask the students to create their own destination.

After that, go through the categories in the table and draw the students' attention to the useful language. Elicit more vocabulary for the categories from the students if need be.

Each student then completes the second column in the table with notes about their ideal holiday destination.

(continued on the next page)

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Procedure continued

When the students have finished, divide them into pairs.

Elicit the questions the students need to ask for each category using the questions from the first exercise, e.g. 'What's the name of your ideal holiday destination?' 'Where is...?' Etc.

Students then ask two classmates about their ideal holiday destinations.

Students record each partner's name at the top of each column and make notes underneath.

Afterwards, students find a new partner and discuss which of the six destinations from their two worksheets they would prefer to visit and why.

Finally, have a class feedback session where students discuss which holiday destinations they liked the most and the similarities and differences between them.

As an extension, each student creates a short promotional talk about their ideal holiday destination, describing it and explaining why it's ideal. Then, in groups of four to six, each student gives their talk. The group then votes for the best one.

A. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

The name of my favourite holiday destination is Margaret River. Margaret River is located in the southwest corner of Australia south of Perth. It has a mild climate with cool wet winters and hot dry summers. The landscape is mostly rural with rolling hills dotted with farms and vineyards. The area also has some beautiful coastal landscapes that include beaches, bays, and rocky headlands. Some of the more popular scenic spots include the Boranup Karri Forrest, Sugarloaf Rock, and Lake Cave. Historical sites include the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse built in 1895, and Ellensbrook Farm established in 1857. The area is great for whale watching especially during the spring as Humpbacks migrate up the coast. Wine tasting tours of some of the area's famous wineries are very popular. The area is also a popular destination for surfers from around the world. After dark, people can enjoy a drink at the Settler's Tavern or eat at one of the quality restaurants on the main street. It is best to bring your own vehicle as public transport options are not only very limited but also expensive.



1. Where is Margaret River?

.....

2. What is the weather like there?

.....

3. How would you describe the landscape there?

.....

4. What are some popular scenic spots to visit in the area?

.....

5. Are there any places of historical interest to visit?

.....

6. Is it possible to encounter any wildlife in the area?

.....

7. What are the most popular leisure activities to do there?

.....

8. How would you describe the nightlife? Why?

.....

9. Is it easy and convenient to get around the area? Why? Why not?

.....

B. Think about your ideal holiday destination and complete the table with the information using the useful language to help you. Then, ask two classmates about their holiday destinations using the questions from the first exercise.

	My ideal holiday destination's destination's destination
Name			
Location			
Climate			
Landscape			
Scenic spots			
Historical sites			
Wildlife			
Leisure activities			
Nightlife			
Getting around			

Useful language:

Location: north of, to the south of, in the middle of, off the coast

Climate: wet, dry, humid, changeable

Landscape: mountainous, coastal, rural, green

Scenic spots: a waterfall, a forest, a beach, mountains, a bay

Historical sites: temples, monuments, ruins, castles

Wildlife: animals, fish, birds

Leisure activities: kayaking, swimming, skiing, tennis

Nightlife: clubs, restaurants, theatres, cinemas

Getting around: bicycle, taxi, motorbike, tram

