

# Lesson 20 – Camping & Hiking

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Welcome to Lesson 20 of the Everyday English Speaking Course! Today, George is going to the **countryside** - that means the rural area outside major cities.

## Conversation #1 – Getting information about camping

The word “**camping**” means staying in the middle of nature, in simple accommodations, such as a **tent**. The picture shows a yellow tent.



Many countries have designated areas to camp, where you pay per night to camp there. These areas are called **campgrounds**, and they often have facilities such as bathrooms, cooking areas, and sometimes rental of equipment for outdoor recreational activities. Listen to George’s conversation with an employee of a campground:

**George:** Hi, I’d like some information about your campground.

**Campground employee:** Well, we have sites for both tent and RV camping, as well as cabins. Each site has a picnic table, a water spout, and a fire pit.

**George:** Do you have bike rentals?

**Campground employee:** Yes, we do! We have both bike and canoe rentals.

**George:** What about fishing gear?

**Campground employee:** No, sorry. There are some great fishing spots on the lake, but you'd have to bring your own gear.

**George:** OK. One more thing – can we bring our dog?

**Campground employee:** You can, as long as it's not a pit bull, Dalmatian, or Chihuahua. Any other breed is welcome, but you will need to keep your dog on a leash at all times.

**George:** I understand. All right – I'd like to make a reservation for next weekend.

## Conversation Phrases & Vocabulary

This campground has three types of accommodations. There are sites for tent camping, sites for RV camping, and cabins. “**RV**” is short for recreational vehicle; it is a vehicle with a small apartment inside including beds, a kitchen, and a bathroom. It can also be called a **camper**.



The campground also has **cabins**. Cabins are small, simple houses, usually built with natural materials, and located in rural areas such as in forests or on the beach. There are no cabins in the city.



The employee also says that each campsite has a **picnic table**, a **water spout**, and a **fire pit**. A **picnic table** is a rectangular table made of wood, which has two long benches on each side instead of chairs. A **water spout** is a pipe that gives water, and a **fire pit** is a designated area for making fires. **Campfires** are used for cooking and to provide heat.



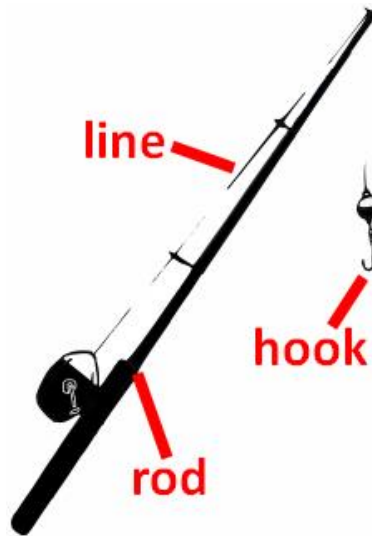
**picnic table and campfire**

In the conversation, George asks, “Do you have bike rentals?” The word **bike** is short for **bicycle**. At this campground, you can rent **bikes** and **canoes**. A **canoe** is a long boat that is powered by **rowing** (not by a motor). In the picture, one person is **rowing** to move the canoe forward. If you go out on a boat, you should wear a **life jacket** or **life vest**, which help your body float if you fall into the water.



**canoe and life jacket**

Another thing mentioned in the conversation is **fishing gear**. The word “gear” is an informal word for equipment – usually small personal equipment used for a sport or hobby, not big equipment like industrial machines. Thus, **fishing gear** would include the **fishing pole** or **rod**, **line**, and **hooks**.

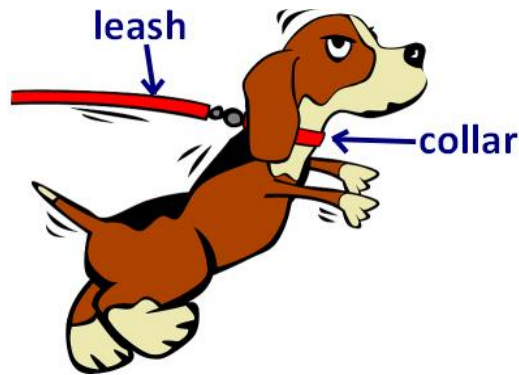


The employee says that there are some great fishing **spots** on the lake. The word **spots** is an informal word for **places** or **locations**. A **lake** is a body of water that is surrounded by land on all sides. It is not connected to the ocean.



Finally, there is a question about dogs. The different types of dogs are called **breeds**. The employee says that certain breeds – such as pit bulls, Dalmatians, and Chihuahuas – are not allowed at the campground, probably because they are known to be aggressive.

She also says that dogs must be kept on a **leash** at all times. A **leash** is a rope or chain held by a person, which connects to a **collar** around the dog's neck. The leash keeps the dog in control and stops it from running around freely.



## Conversation #2 – Talking about hiking trails

**Hiking** is when you walk some distance through an area of nature. The path you follow is called a **trail**. Here's a conversation about different types of hiking trails.



**George:** Could you recommend a trail for a day hike?

**Campground employee:** One of our most popular trails is up Mount Marcy. It's the highest peak in the Adirondacks and the highest point in New York state.

**George:** How long is the trail?

**Campground employee:** It's 15 miles round-trip. It takes most people 9 or 10 hours, so it's good to get an early start. The first couple miles are easy going, and then it gets steeper and steeper as you approach the summit.

**George:** I'm not sure I'm up for such a demanding hike. How about something a little easier?

**Campground employee:** You could hike around the lake. That's about 9 miles, so it's still pretty long, but at least it's not uphill. There's also a side path you can take to see some waterfalls.

**George:** That's more like it. Will I need a guide, or is the trail pretty easy to follow?

**Campground employee:** Oh, it's a piece of cake. Just follow the markers. Remember to bring bug spray, though, because there are a lot of mosquitoes.

**George:** Thanks for the tip!

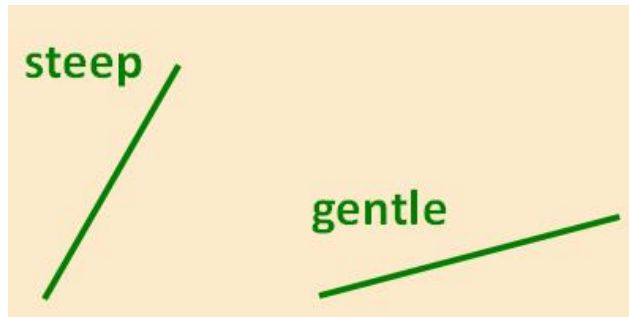
## Conversation Phrases & Vocabulary

Any time you want to ask for a suggestion, you can use the phrase "**Could you recommend...?**"

The word **peak** refers to an individual mountain. This word can also be used to describe the top of the mountain, along with the word **summit**.

The employee says it's good to "**get an early start**" - that means to start early in the morning. She also says that the beginning of the trail is easy, but then it gets **steeper** and **steeper**. The word "steep" refers to how vertical the hill or mountain is. A more vertical path is called "steep," and a more horizontal path is called "gentle."





In the conversation, George says “I’m not sure I’m up for such a demanding hike.” The word **demanding** means difficult, and the expression “I’m not up for” means “I don’t want to” or “I don’t have enough energy to do this.”

The employee then suggests a different trail, one that goes around the lake. There’s also a side path to see some **waterfalls** - that is when water from a river falls vertically into a lower area.



George responds with the phrase, “**That’s more like it.**” This is a phrase you can use in response to two situations, when the first situation wasn’t good, and the second situation was better. For example, if you scored a 55 on your first English test, and a 95 on your second English test, you could say “That’s more like it!” because you liked the second test result much better than the first one.

The employee says that the lake trail is “**a piece of cake.**” This expression means that something is very easy. She also reminds George to bring **bug spray**. This is a liquid you apply to your skin in order to keep mosquitoes and other insects away from you. It is also called **insect repellent**.

**This insect is called a mosquito.**



You've finished Lesson 20 of the Everyday English Speaking Course! Today's speaking challenge is to [leave me a message](#) telling me about a trip you took. You can use vocabulary from this lesson and the previous one to tell me about what you did during your trip in the city or countryside.

Tomorrow, we'll finish up our section on Travel English by going to go to the beach and learning phrases for talking about water sports and beach activities.