

8b Walking for wildlife

Mike Fay, *a conservationist whose work makes a difference*



trekked 10,000 kilometres in Africa and North America



counted giant redwood trees in North America, elephant populations in central Africa



created 13 national parks in Gabon



protected thousands of elephants from poachers



survived a malaria attack, an elephant attack, a plane crash



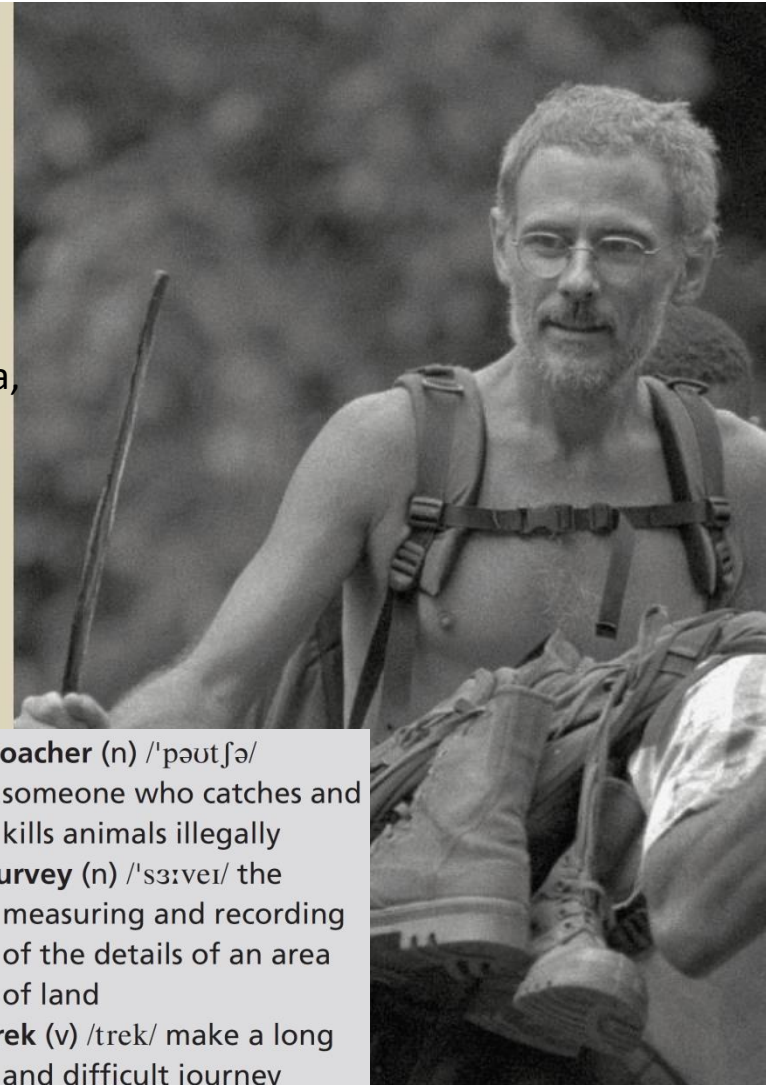
flown over the African continent for an aerial survey



uploaded thousands of photos to Google Earth



helped to create a marine park off the Gabon coast



poacher (n) /'pəʊtʃə/
someone who catches and kills animals illegally
survey (n) /'sɜːveɪ/
the measuring and recording of the details of an area of land
trek (v) /trek/
make a long and difficult journey

Listening

1 What kind of work does a conservationist do? What is their main aim?

2 Look at the information about Mike Fay. Do you think he's a typical conservationist? Why? / Why not?

probably not, because he's trekked 10,000 kilometres and has had some dangerous/exciting experiences.

3 Listen to an extract from a radio programme about Mike Fay. Complete the sentences. [Track 65](#)

- 1 Mike Fay's work is about saving the last _____ on Earth.
- 2 He's spent a total of more than _____ years of his life on treks.
- 3 His usual luggage is a T-shirt, a pair of shorts and a _____.
- 4 He's walked in Africa, the United States and _____.
- 5 He's worried about how _____ people will affect the planet.

4 Listen to the extract again and choose the correct option to complete the sentences. [Track 65](#)

- 1 Recently, Fay has been *flying* / *walking* across Canada.
- 2 Mining companies have been *looking for* / *producing* gold and oil.
- 3 Mining companies have been *digging up* / *destroying* vast areas.
- 4 In Gabon, people have been *asking* / *trying* to set up mines near parks.

5 Work in pairs. Would you like to spend a year working with Mike Fay? Why? / Why not?

Students' own ideas

Grammar present perfect simple and continuous

6 Look at the grammar box.
Answer the questions.

- 1 How do we form the present perfect simple?
How do we form the present perfect continuous?
- 2 Which verb form emphasizes the duration or repetition of an activity? Which verb form emphasizes an action or an activity that is complete?

► PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE and CONTINUOUS

Present perfect simple

*When you've **walked** across half of Africa and you've **walked** up the west coast of North America, where do you go next?*

*They've **destroyed** hundreds of square kilometres of wilderness.*

Present perfect continuous

*Recently he's **been walking** again, this time across Canada.*

*He **hasn't been taking** it easy!*

*What **has he been doing** since then?*

Stative verbs like *be, have, know, like* are not usually used in the continuous form.

For further information and practice, see page 170. 

7 Complete the text with the present perfect simple and present perfect continuous form of the verbs.

This year, Mike Fay 1 _____ (work) in Gabon. He 2 _____ (check) the situation in the national parks and he 3 _____ (discover) some problems. For example, poachers 4 _____ (kill) elephants again. Fay 5 _____ (talk) about ways of controlling poaching with the Gabonese government. As a result, the Gabonese president 6 _____ (send) soldiers to several of the parks. So far, the poachers 7 _____ (not / return). Meanwhile, for the past few years, foreign ships 8 _____ (fish) in the marine park. The Gabonese government 9 _____ (try) to find ways of dealing with this problem.

8 Write questions for Mike Fay with the present perfect simple and present perfect continuous form of the verbs.

- 1 What / you / do / recently?
- 2 you / prepare for / any new trips?
- 3 How / you / feel / since the plane crash?
- 4 How many photos / you / take / in your career?
- 5 How long / you / travel / alone?
- 6 you / be / anywhere dangerous lately?

9 Match the travel preparation activities (1–6) with the results (a–f). Then write two sentences.

I've been buying holiday clothes. I've spent a fortune.

- 1 buy holiday clothes
 - 2 look for cheap flights
 - 3 talk to travel agents
 - 4 download tourist information
 - 5 pack my suitcase
 - 6 practise useful phrases in Thai
-
- a be on the phone all morning
 - b spend a fortune
 - c run out of space
 - d not learn many
 - e print a couple of pages
 - f not find any

Grammar *How long ... ?*

▶ **HOW LONG ... ?**

How long have you had this camera?

How long have you been travelling alone?

How long did it take you to get there?

For further information and practice, see page 170. 

10 Look at the grammar box. Which verb form is used in each question? Why?

11 Match the questions (1–6) with the answers (a–e). Then work in pairs and continue the conversations.

1 How long have you been coming to this resort?

2 How long did the flight from London take?

3 How long have you known each other?

4 How long did you spend in Canada?

5 How long have you been waiting for the bus?

6 How long have you been here?

a About ten hours non-stop.

b For the last four or five years.

c I was there for a couple of months.

d Not long – we met on holiday this spring.

e Only a few minutes. But I think we just missed one.

f We arrived yesterday morning.

A: How long have you been coming to this resort?

B: For the last four or five years.

A: Has it changed a lot in that time?

Speaking

12 What kinds of activities are you interested in? How long have you been doing them? Work in pairs and tell your partner. Ask follow-up questions. Use some of these ideas.

I've been ... since/for ...

I took it up when ...

I've always/never ...

In the last few ... , I've ...

8c All aboard!

Reading

- 1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.
 - 1 Do many tourists come to your country or region? From which countries?
 - 2 What do these tourists do? Activity holidays, backpacking, cultural sightseeing, ecotourism, or other holiday activities?
 - 3 What are the advantages of this tourism? Are there any disadvantages?

2 Read the article quickly. What is it about? Choose the best option (a–c).

- a It describes extreme activities tourists can do.
- b It compares the positive and negative effects of tourism.
- c It talks about the impact of lots of tourists on a destination.

3 Read the article again and complete the table.

Destination	Number of tourists	Impact
1 Himalayas: 4	2 on a cruise ship 5 in the climbing season	Falling numbers of 3 6 each year left on the mountain
7	8	Negative effects on 9

All **ABOARD!**

A plane comes in to land on the Caribbean island of Saint Martin.

Track 66

The tourism industry started to grow rapidly in the middle of the last century and it's been growing ever since. In the last twenty years especially, more and more people have been travelling to distant places around the world. It's a wonderful thing, to be able to travel to destinations we had previously only read about or seen on television. But what kind of impact do large numbers of people have on these places?

A voyage to the end of the Earth?

A large cruise ship can carry as many as six thousand passengers at a time, with about twenty-four million people going on cruises every year. Cruise ships drop about ninety thousand tons of waste into the oceans every year and each ship produces as much air pollution as five million cars. The effects of this are made even worse by the fact that cruises visit the same places over and over again, so the damage is repeated. In Patagonia, this has been having an effect on wildlife. The numbers of Magellanic penguins have been falling for some years now, for example.

Climbing to the top of the world

Far fewer people go climbing or trekking in the Himalayas than take a cruise, but in the short climbing season each May about a thousand people try to climb Everest. At times, there are actually queues of climbers on the route to the top. The difficult conditions mean that everyone needs to take a lot of equipment with them. Unfortunately, for the last few decades, climbers have been leaving their equipment on Everest. In recent years, clean-up teams have been organizing expeditions just to pick up this rubbish. The teams are made up of local and international climbers. One group has brought over eight tons of rubbish down from the mountain!

Let's all go to the beach

What happens when a region of about a million people is visited by thirteen million tourists every year? The Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea have been dealing with this situation for decades. Where has the fresh water, the food, the petrol and the electricity for thirteen million tourists come from? And how have the islands maintained the quality of the beaches, the roads and the countryside? Recently, the government of the Balearic Islands decided to charge tourists an ecotax of two euros a day. This has been tried once before, but it wasn't a success. However, the challenges have been getting harder every year. The money from the tax is used to reduce the negative effects of tourism on the local environment.

Difficult choices

So, should we travel or simply stay at home? Many destinations offer low-impact tourism such as ecotourism. It's time to ask ourselves some difficult questions. Can we really visit the world's beautiful places without destroying them?

waste (n) /weɪst/ rubbish

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4 Answer the questions with information from the article.

- 1 When did the tourism industry start to be successful?
- 2 Why are cruises bad for the environment? Find three reasons.
- 3 What have groups been doing to improve the environment on Everest?
- 4 What action has the government of the Balearic Islands taken, and why?

- 5** Find these words in the article. Look at how the words are used and try to guess their meaning. Then complete the sentences (1–6).

pollution (line 11)

equipment (line 24)

rubbish (line 26)

charge (line 37)

challenges (line 39)

ecotourism (line 45)

- 1 Airlines usually _____ you a lot of money if your luggage is over the weight limit.
- 2 On average, each person in the UK produces about 500 kg of _____ each year.
- 3 I don't have much kitchen _____ – just a microwave.
- 4 Speaking a new language can be one of the hardest _____ when you travel abroad.
- 5 _____ is a way of enjoying a holiday without damaging the environment.
- 6 Plastic is a major cause of _____ in the oceans.

Critical thinking close reading

- 6** According to the article, are these statements true (T) or false (F)? Or is there not enough information (N) in the article to say if the statements are true or false?
- 1 The tourism industry has grown steadily and has now reached its peak.
 - 2 There are fewer Magellanic penguins since cruises started visiting Patagonia.
 - 3 Climbers on Everest cause problems for the local population.
 - 4 There's not enough fresh water in the Balearic Islands in the holiday season.
 - 5 It's better to stay at home than be an ecotourist.
- 7** Work in pairs. Underline the sections of the article that helped you decide about the sentences in Exercise 6. Do you agree with each other?

8 Work as a class. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you think an eco-tax on tourists is a good idea?
- 2 What is your answer to the final question in the article?

Speaking

9 Work in pairs. Look at these activities. Decide if they have a good or bad impact on the environment. Which ones does your family do?

- 1 flying to distant holiday destinations
- 2 recycling household waste (paper, glass, organic waste)
- 3 travelling by car
- 4 switching off lights and electrical appliances
- 5 saving water (turning off taps, not watering the garden)
- 6 using eco-friendly cleaning products

10 Work in groups. How easy is it for you and your family to live a green lifestyle?

A: We've been recycling paper for years. It's not hard to remember to do if you have a special box for it.

B: We do that too.

8e Hello from London!

Writing a text message

- 1 Read the message from Lynne. Answer the questions.
 - 1 Where has Lynne come from and where is she now?
 - 2 Who do you think the message is for? Friends, family, or both?
 - 3 What does Lynne say about the people and the city?
 - 4 What has she been doing?

Hi everyone!

Finally made it to London after 18-hour delay in Bangkok!!! 🥵 Weather here awful but people fantastic. London massive compared to Brisbane! So far have: been shopping in Oxford Street, seen the Shard (wow!), done the Harry Potter tour (awesome!), had a boat trip along the river. Then slept all day & night cos jetlagged 😞. Text from my uncle in Edinburgh – he's found me a job there for summer! Spk soon L xx 😘



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- 1 Read the message from Lynne. Answer the questions.
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 - 3 What does Lynne say about the people and the city?
 - 4 What has she been doing?

2 Writing skill informal style

- a Read the message again. Which of these features of informal style does Lynne use?

abbreviations	informal expressions
comments in brackets	listing items
contractions	missing out words
exclamation marks	symbols

- b** Look at this extract from the message. The words *I* and *an* are missing. Mark their position in the complete sentence.

Finally made it to London after 18-hour delay
in Bangkok!!!

- c** Mark the places in the message where Lynne has missed out words. What are the words?

d Rewrite the sentences in full.

- 1 city massive & noisy!
- 2 not got theatre tickets cos fully booked
- 3 been visiting Tower of London – scary!
- 4 took selfies (lots) on Oxford St
- 5 can't understand London accent (trying!)
- 6 text from Jo – arriving Sunday

e Rewrite the sentences. Miss out words where possible.

- 1 The weather is wet and it has been very cold sometimes.
- 2 I've been touring all the typical places – it's exhausting!
- 3 The people here are very kind and they have helped me a lot.
- 4 I took some photos of some pigeons – they're everywhere!
- 5 I haven't heard anything from Anton yet.
- 6 I'm getting a bus up to Edinburgh because flying is too expensive.

3 Choose a place you have visited or would like to visit. Make notes. Use the questions in Exercise 1 as a guide.

- 4 Decide who to write to. Write a message of about 75 words describing your trip. Use some of the features of informal style from Exercise 2a and miss out words which are not necessary.
- 5 Send your message to someone in your class. Then read the message you have received. Use these questions to check your classmate's message.
 - Is everything clearly expressed?
 - Are there any sections you do not understand?
- 6 Work in pairs. Tell your partner about the message you have received.

A: I got a message from Daisuke the other day.

B: Oh! How's he getting on?