

TOPIC 4: TRAVEL AND HOLIDAY

Speaking Part 1

Frequently-Asked Questions

- ✓ What are the special days celebrated in your country?
- ✓ Which is your favorite and why?
- ✓ In what way do people celebrate the festival?
- ✓ Which do people prefer, to spend it with family or with friends?
- ✓ How did people celebrate the festival in the past?
- ✓ How has the way been changed and why?
- ✓ Do you think that it is important to have festivals?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
explore	/ɪk'splɔ:(r)/	to travel to or around an area or a country in order to learn about it (khám phá)
monument	/'mɒnjumənt/	building, column, statue, etc. built to remind people of a famous person or event (tượng đài)
historical	/hɪ'stɒrɪkl/	connected with the past (thuộc về lịch sử)
sandy	/'sændi/	covered with or containing sand (phủ đầy cát)

vacation	/veɪ'keɪʃn/	a period of time spent travelling or resting away from home (kỳ nghỉ)
hang out	/hæŋ/	to spend a lot of time in a place or with someone (đạo chơi)
chit-chat	/'tʃɪt.tʃæt/	informal conversation about matters that are not important (tán gẫu)
celebrate	/'sel.ə.breɪt/	to show that a day or an event is important by doing something special on it (kỷ niệm)
cozy	/'kəʊ.zi/	comfortable, pleasant, and inviting because small and warm (ấm cúng)
ambience	/'æm.bi.əns/	the character of a place or the quality it seems to have (không khí, đặc điểm)
energize	/'en.ə.dʒaɪz/	to make someone feel energetic or eager (khiến tràn đầy năng lượng)
brand-new	/'brænd 'nju:/	completely new, especially not yet used (mới toanh)
bookmark	/'bʊk.mɑ:k/	to make a record of something (lưu giữ lại)
destination	/,des.tɪ'nei.ʃən/	the place where someone is going (điểm đến)
mountainous	/'maʊn.tɪ.nəs/	having many mountains (vùng đồi núi)
depressed	/dɪ'prest/	unhappy and without hope (chán nản, vô vọng)
guide	/gaɪd/	to show people around a place (hướng dẫn, dẫn đi xung quanh)

overjoyed	/,əʊ.və'dʒɔɪd/	extremely happy (vui mừng, phấn khởi)
temperate	/'tem.pər.ət/	(of weather conditions) neither very hot nor very cold (ôn hòa)

Useful sentence structure

- ✓ During (noun phrase), most Vietnamese families (verb phrase).

Ex: During the Mid-Autumn Festival, most Vietnamese families eat moon cakes.

- ✓ It is an interesting way to + verb phrase

Ex: It's an interesting way to learn more about different cultures.

- ✓ I prefer + to V during + noun phrase

Ex: I prefer to hang out with friends during Christmas vacation.

- ✓ What I enjoy the most about (noun phrase) is (noun/ gerund phrase).

What I enjoy the most about the Spring Festival is being together with my family.

- ✓ (noun phrase) is a very important holiday because (clause of reason).

Ex: The Spring Festival is a very important holiday because it's usually the only time the whole family can get together.

- ✓ The tradition of (gerund phrase/event/festival) comes from the ancient times when (clause of time).

The tradition of setting off firecrackers comes from the ancient times when village people wanted to scare away the evil spirits.

- ✓ Special food like (noun/particular food/drink) is served (time phrase).

Ex: Special food like square cakes is served on the New Year's Eve.

- ✓ People used to (infinitive phrase) to celebrate (noun phrase).

People used to set off firecrackers at midnight to celebrate the New Year.

PRACTICE

Q1: Do you like travelling?

Suggestions

- ✓ historical monuments → sandy beaches
- ✓ learn new cultures/ explore new places

Q1: Do you like travelling? (Sample)

Yes, definitely! I think getting to know the world, from great historical monuments to white sandy beaches, is what life is all about. It's a very interesting way to learn about new cultures and explore new places.

Q2: Whom do you often spend the holiday with?

Suggestions

- ✓ depends on holiday
- ✓ Christmas: hang out with friends
- ✓ New Year: celebrate with family

Q2: Whom do you often spend the holiday with? (Sample)

It depends on what kind of holiday it is. If it's Christmas vacation, I prefer to hang out with my friends here and there and have a chit-chat. If it's the New Year holiday, I just want to celebrate the holiday with my family and relatives in a cozy ambience.

Q3: What kind of places have you visited in your life?

Suggestions

- ✓ active person → places energize me
- ✓ beautiful beaches → closer to nature

Q3: What kind of places have you visited in your life? (Sample)

I am an active person, so I prefer to visit the places which energize me. I have been to some of the beautiful beaches and lakes in my country. These places bring me closer to nature.

Q4: When you visit new places, what do you like to do?

Suggestions

- ✓ take some photos
- ✓ try some local cuisine
- ✓ talk to locals

Q4: When you visit new places, what do you like to do? (Sample)

It seems to me that there's a lot of stuff to do when visiting a brand-new place. At first, I would love to take photographs to bookmark my travel experience as well as share it with my best mates. I also prefer to try some local cuisine and talk to locals.

Q5: Do you prefer travelling alone or in a group?

Suggestions

- ✓ depend on mood
- ✓ depressed → mountainous areas
- ✓ overjoyed → sign up for a guided tour

Q5: Do you prefer travelling alone or in a group? (Sample)

Well, it depends on my current mood. A trip to the mountainous areas will be my initial choice if I feel devastated. On the contrary, I will sign up for guided tours as it's a chance to be shown around and take photographs – one of my hobbies when feeling overjoyed.

Speaking Part 2

Cue card

Describe a city you have visited that you like
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You should say
 where it is
 when did you go there
 what did you do there
 and explain why you like it

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
coastal	/'kəʊ.stəl/	positioned on, or relating to the coast (ven biển)
compact	/kəm'pækt/	closely or neatly put together (chật)
get around	/get/	to travel to a lot of places (đi loanh quanh)
dispel the extreme heat	/di'spel/	avoid the heat from the sun (tránh cái nóng như thiêu đốt)
fresh	/freʃ/	(of air) clean and cool (tươi mát)
salty	/'sɒl.ti/	tasting of salt or containing a lot of salt (có vị mặn)
window shopping	/'wɪn.dəʊ ʃɒp.ɪŋ/	the activity of spending time looking at the goods on sale in shop windows without intending to buy any of them (xem hàng nhưng không định mua)
cuisine	/kwɪ'zi:n/	a style of cooking (ẩm thực)
charming	/'tʃɑ:.mɪŋ/	pleasant and attractive (đầy cuốn hút, lộng lẫy)
reasonable	/'ri:.zən.ə.bəl/	not too expensive (giá cả phải chăng)

set aside	/set ə'saɪd/	to not let a particular feeling, opinion, or belief influence you (gạt sang 1 bên)
retreat	/rɪ'tri:t/	a period of time used to to think carefully, away from normal activities and duties (sự trốn khỏi gì để tận hưởng, nghỉ ngơi)
stroll	/strɔl/	a slow relaxed walk, especially for pleasure (đi dạo)
handicraft	/'hæŋ.dɪ.kra:ft/	a product that is made by hand rather than by using a machine (đồ thủ công mỹ nghệ)

Useful sentence structure

- ✓ It looked (adjective) when I first visited it in (time expression).

Ex: It looked peaceful when I first visited it in the summer of 2005.

- ✓ It is the place where I (verb phrase).

Ex: It is the place where I first met my boyfriend.

- ✓ The reason why I am attracted to it so much is because (clause) / because of (phrase of reason).

Ex: The reason why I am attracted to it so much is because of the traditional houses along the river.

- ✓ I am highly impressed by (noun phrase).

I am highly impressed by the natural beauty of the beaches.

PRACTICE

Describe a city you have visited that you like

You should say

where it is
when did you go there
what did you do there
and explain why you like it

Sample

Anyone who comes to visit my country should spend time discovering one of the most beautiful cities of Vietnam which I'm going to tell about. It's a coastal city named Nha Trang. It's quite compact and you could walk across the city in a couple of hours but actually, there's no need to do that as we have a fantastic public transport system so it's easy to get around.

I visited this peaceful city 2 years ago when I was on my summer holiday to dispel the extreme heat of the sun. I came along the sandy beach to enjoy the fresh air of the wind and the salty taste of sea water. I felt all my daily stress and hardness set aside. I also dropped by some local shops and chain stores in the centre but only for window shopping. Trying some local cuisine when coming to a brand-new place is kind of a must. Nha Trang has acquired a reputation for its seafood which are both delicious and reasonable. It is such a worth-living city because of its peace, cleanliness and beauty.

Speaking Part 3

Frequently-asked questions

- ✓ What essential things do people need to take when they go on a trip?
- ✓ Some people prefer to go on guided tours when they travel, while others prefer to travel independently. What do you think is better?
- ✓ In general, what factors should people consider when planning a trip?
- ✓ How can travelling be useful to people?
- ✓ How do you think commercial flights can improve?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
valid	/ˈvæl.ɪd/	having legal force (còn giá trị, hiệu lực)
withdrawal	/wɪðˈdrɔː.əl/	when you take money out of a bank account (việc rút tiền)
medication	/ˌmed.ɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/	drugs that are used in the treatment of illness or injury (thuốc)
preferable	/ˈpref.ər.ə.bəl/	better or more suitable (tốt hơn, phù hợp hơn)
independent	/ˌɪnˈdɪˈpen.dənt/	not influenced or controlled by other people but free to make your own decisions (độc lập, tự do)
accompany	/əˈkʌm.pə.ni/	to go with someone (đi cùng)
show sb around	/ʃəʊ/	to go with someone to all parts, or the main parts, of a place (dẫn đi tham quan)
accommodation	/əˌkʌm.əˈdeɪ.ʃən/	a place to live, work, stay, etc. in (nơi ở)
draw up something	/drəʊ/	to prepare something in writing, esp. plans or a formal document (lên kế hoạch cụ thể)
itinerary	/aɪˈtɪn.ər.ər.i/	a detailed plan or route of a journey (lịch trình)
like-minded	/ˌlaɪkˈmaɪn.dɪd/	(of people) sharing the same opinions, ideas, or interests (có cùng khuynh hướng, sở thích..)
rely on	/rɪˈlaɪ/	to need a particular thing or the help and support of someone or something (phụ thuộc)

spot	/spɒt/	a particular place (địa điểm cụ thể)
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PRACTICE

Q1: What essential things do people need to take when they go on a trip? (Sample)

Well, there are a few things that should be taken into consideration when planning for a trip. First, make sure you have your valid passport and other travel documents safe in your hand luggage. Also, when travelling abroad, you will have at least one credit card and one debit card that don't charge fees for international purchases or withdrawals. Remember to bring your electronic gadgets, some clothes suitable for the season you decide to travel and some medication.

Q2. Some people prefer to go on guided tours when they travel, while others prefer to travel independently. What do you think is better? (Sample)

I believe that travelling on organized tours is a preferable option when compared with independent travel because of its greater advantages. First of all, when people accompany a tour guide, they have more chances to be shown around must-visit places. Besides, it saves time and energy when you don't need to find suitable accommodation to stay in. Last but not least, people are likely to meet like-minded people during their visit.

Q3. How has travelling changed, compared to several decades ago? (Sample)

I see travelling has gone through a couple of major changes in the past several decades. Since air travel is becoming increasingly cheaper, people are now able to travel to different and unknown destinations. Additionally, in the past people had to rely on magazines or local travel agents to find a suitable vacation spot. With the increasing availability of the Internet, people can read reviews on travelling or even travel online.

HOMEWORK

Describe a short trip that you usually make (or, take) but dislike.

You should say

where you travel from and to

how often you make this trip
why you make this trip
and explain why you dislike this trip.

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