

COMMUNICATION

Writing a postcard

LEVEL

Beginner (A1)

NUMBER

EN_A1_2092X

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can structure and write a brief postcard about a trip.
- I can use the present simple and present continuous appropriately when talking about a trip.

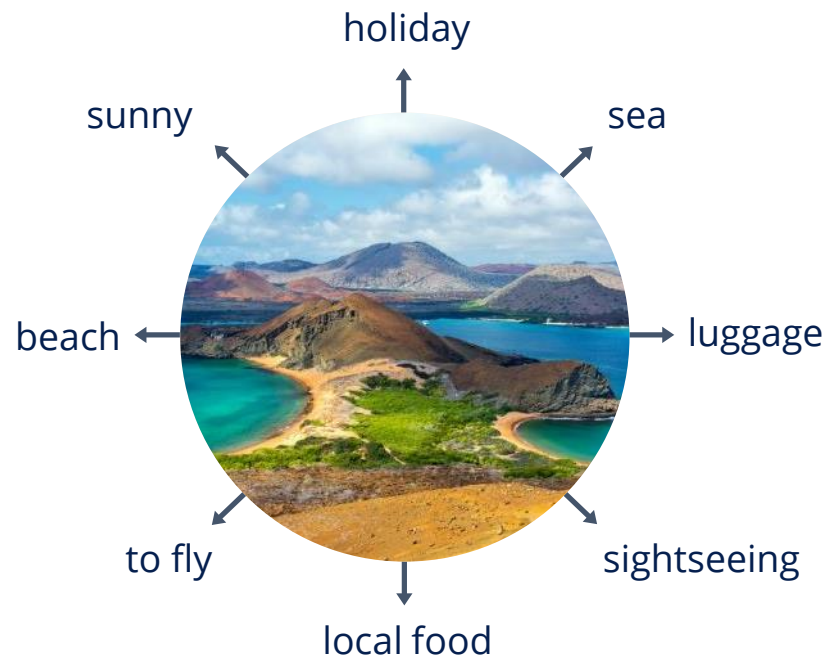


Hello from beautiful
Belize...
wish you were here!





Vocabulary review





Vocabulary review



The days are long and **sunny**!

The **beach** is nice and quiet.





Vocabulary review



I take two **holidays** every year.

I go **sightseeing** at all the famous places.



I try lots of interesting **local food**!

I don't take too much **luggage** when I **fly**.





Match the pictures to the words

1



2



3



4



a sunny

b beach

c sightseeing

d luggage



Sightseeing

With a partner, think of places you can go sightseeing while you're on holiday. Then, **share** your ideas with your classmates.





The present simple

- Use the **present simple** to talk about an action that is **regular** or **always true**.
- Use a **personal pronoun** and a present simple **verb** to form present simple sentences.

personal pronoun	verb	
I	am	in Berlin.
You	have	a daughter.
We	live	in Frankfurt.
They	travel	a lot.



Third person singular

- Add **s** to the **verb** after the pronouns *he*, *she* and *it*.

incorrect

He **live** in Hong Kong.

She **work** as an accountant.

It **rain** every day.

correct

He **lives** in Hong Kong.

She **works** as an accountant.

It **rains** every day.



The present simple

- Here are some examples of when to use the present simple.

When to use it	Example
Regular actions in the present	I go to the beach every day.
Facts	People speak Spanish here.
Habits / Routines	We eat breakfast at the hotel.
General truths	The sun rises early.



The present continuous

- Use the **present continuous** to talk about actions **happening now**.
- Use **personal pronouns**, the verb **to be** and a **verb with -ing**.

Personal Pronoun	to be	verb + ing
I	am	eating.
You	are	dancing.
He/She/It	is	sleeping.
We	are	learning.
They	are	laughing.

The present simple vs the present continuous

- Use the **present simple** to talk about an action that is **regular** or **always true**.
- Use the **present continuous** to talk about actions **happening now**.

Present simple

I **play** football on Wednesdays.

You **go** shopping at the weekend.

He **works** on weekdays.

Present continuous

I **am playing** football now.

You **are going** shopping now.

He **is working** today.



Multiple choice

1 My sister _____ two children.

a. has

b. is having

2 I _____ a postcard now.

a. write

b. am writing

3 We're _____ a great time on holiday!

a. have

b. having

postcard

Noun

I write **postcards** to all my friends and family when I'm on holiday!





Dear...

Hello from...



Dear Mum and Dad, I'm
having a great time on
holiday!

Hello from beautiful
Thailand!



I'm having a great holiday!

The weather here is lovely!



I'm having a great holiday! I love Cuba!

The weather here is lovely! Lots of bright and sunny days!

See you soon!



See you soon! Love, Dave.



Writing a postcard



Hello from sunny Cape Town! **The weather here is lovely!**

Hello from rainy Ireland! **The weather is not so good!**



I'm having a great holiday with my friends!

I'm not having such a good time.





Writing a postcard

- Use **short sentences** when writing a postcard.
- Write about simple topics like **weather**, **food** and **holiday activities**.

Weather

The weather is lovely here!
The days are long and sunny.

Food

The local food is delicious.

Holiday activities

There are lots of interesting
things to do! I go sightseeing
every day.



What do you do when you're on holiday?





Sample postcard

Dear Bob,

Thanks for the lovely postcard. I'm happy to hear that you're having a nice time in Barcelona!

I am really enjoying my time in Ireland. The weather is not so good, but the people are lovely and I have already made a lot of friends! I am learning so much English too.

Tonight I'm going to a karaoke bar in the city centre. Hopefully it is fun!

Talk soon,

Christina





Fill in the gaps

_____ Christina,

Hello _____ beautiful Barcelona. I'm having a great _____!

The weather is lovely. I go to the beach every morning. The local _____ is delicious too! I'm going _____ now.

See you soon!

Bob



time

Dear

sightseeing

from

food



Writing a postcard

Write a postcard to a friend or family member. Tell them about your holiday.

A white rectangular area representing a postcard, with a folded corner at the top left. It contains ten horizontal lines for writing a message.



End of the lesson

Idiom

to pack light

Meaning: to take a small amount of luggage when travelling

Example: Sheila always packs light when she travels! It's impressive.



Additional practice



Present simple or continuous?



1

I am travelling

2

He is playing

3

We go

4

I travel

5

It is

6

We are going

7

He plays

8

She is trying

Present simple

Present continuous



Fill in the gaps



1 It is _____ every day.

2 I'm having a _____ holiday. The _____ food is delicious!

3 I go swimming at the _____ .

4 Hello _____ sunny Portugal! The weather _____ is lovely.

5 See you _____ !

pool
sunny
from
soon
great
here
local



A postcard

Read the postcard and answer the questions with your partner.

Dear Dad,

Hello from sunny Spain! The weather here is amazing. I am currently sitting on the beach drinking an ice tea. This afternoon I'm meeting some friends and then we're going to get some ice cream in the town centre.

I hope everything is okay back home. Tell everyone I say hello!

See you in two weeks,

Stephen



What is the weather like in Spain?

What is Stephen doing right now?

What is Stephen doing in the afternoon?



What can you see in the pictures?





Answer key

P.7: 1) c, 2) d, 3) b, 4) a

P.14: 1) a, 2) b, 3) b

P.23: Dear, from, time, food, sightseeing



Answer key



P.28: Present simple: 3, 4, 5, 7. Present continuous: 1, 2, 6, 8

P.29: 1) sunny, 2) great, local, 3) pool, 4) from, here, 5) soon

P.30:

- The weather in Spain is sunny and amazing.
- Stephen is sitting on the beach and drinking tea.
- In the afternoon, Stephen is meeting friends and getting ice cream in the town centre.



Summary

Reviewing the present simple:

- Use the **present simple** to talk about an action that is **regular** or **always true**. Use a **personal pronoun** and a present simple **verb** to form present simple sentences. *I live in London.*
- Add **s** to the **verb** after the pronouns **he, she** and **it**. *He plays football.*

Reviewing the present continuous:

- Use the **present continuous** to talk about actions **happening now**. Use **personal pronouns**, the verb **to be** and a **verb with -ing**. *I am eating. She is waiting.*

The present simple vs the present continuous:

- Use the **present simple** to talk about an action that is **regular** or **always true**.
- Use the **present continuous** to talk about actions **happening now**.
- *I walk to school on Mondays. I am walking to school now.*

How to write a postcard:

- Use **short sentences** when writing a postcard.
- Write about simple topics like **weather, food** and **holiday activities**.
- *The weather is lovely. I go sightseeing every day.*



Vocabulary

postcard

Dear...

Hello from...

I'm having a great holiday

The weather here is lovely

See you soon!

