

Ecotourism

READING

Advanced

C1_4013R_EN

English





Goals

- Can read and understand a lengthy text about ecotourism.
- Can make comparisons between ecotourism and other types of tourism and present my own views on it.







Ecotourism

**What do you know already about ecotourism?
Tell your teacher.**





Speculation

**Ecotourism has been in vogue for some decades. Have you had any experiences with eco-tours?
Answer the questions below.**



What do you imagine a dream eco-tour might be like?

Have you ever been on an eco-tour before?



Vocabulary



She **undertook** the responsibility of raising awareness for equality.

The profit earned last quarter was **negligible**.



All of his energy had been **siphoned** away before the match.

I am proud of my family's Scottish **heritage**.



idyllic

pristine

An **idyllic** environment is extremely pleasing or beautiful. Something that is **pristine** holds its original state of purity and has been uncorrupted or unchanged by the effects of time.



The **pristine** valley was an **idyllic** location for a picnic.



Ecotourism

**Have you ever visited an idyllic environment?
How did you get there?
Tell your teacher.**





Ecotourism



Ecotourism came into vogue in the late 20th century, promising a form of tourism with a **negligible** impact on the natural environment. An eco-tour might involve visiting a **pristine** or undisturbed environment and ensuring that the tour leaves the area as they found it. Ecotourism became a trend as a direct response to the environmental degradation which was a consequence of mass commercial tourism in earlier decades.



Ecotourism

Marketed as a 'responsible' means of travel, ecotourism appeals to those who are conscious and aware of the impacts of commercial activity on the natural world and want to **undertake** their trip in a socially responsible way. It can also be geared towards educating travellers about a region or culture, provide funds for conservation groups and empower local communities.

Responsible ecotourism enables economic opportunities for local communities while deepening awareness of cultural **heritage** and communities.



Ecotourism



The last decades have seen ecotourism flourish in a range of **idyllic** locales around the world. Nicaragua, Costa Rica, The Gambia, Dominica and Ecuador are just a handful of the countries which have embraced ecotourism with gusto. Being blessed with picturesque and flawless environmental sights on one hand, and fragile ecosystems on the other makes eco-tours an attractive proposition. Rather than spoiling immaculate natural heritage with mass commercial tourism, the ecological alternative allows a greater share of the profits to flow to local operators and to be **siphoned** back into conservation efforts. Or at least that is the theory.



Choose the best answer

1. Ecotourism promises a _____ impact on the environment.
a. negative b. negligible c. pristine d. never ending

2. It developed as a direct response to the environmental _____ brought on by commercial tourism.
a. consternation b. prediction c. degradation d. trepidation

3. Responsible operators ensure that their tour programs leave a _____ impact on the environment.
a. minim b. minimum c. minimal d. maximal

4. Ecotourism can also be geared towards educating travelers about a region or a community's cultural _____.
a. hegemony b. heritage c. horror d. heckling



Choose the best answer

1. As public awareness has grown, ecotourism has _____.
a. faded b. floundered c. flourished d. famished

2. Ecotourism has managed to remain in _____ over the last decades.
a. variance b. vogue c. votive d. vantage

3. Eco-tours are the guilt-free choice for visiting a country's _____ natural heritage.
a. irreversible b. immersed c. immaculate d. immobile

4. Eco-conscious operators can ensure a share of the profits is _____ back into conservation efforts.
a. salvaged b. siphoned c. solved d. serendipity

The birth of ecotourism

**Why do you think ecotourism became so popular?
What aspects of the practice might have contributed to its success?**

Guilt free travel

Greater public awareness



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The future of travel?

Discuss the quote with reference to the text you've just read. Do you agree or disagree?

“

Ecotourism is without a doubt the future of travel. Seeing the world with little to no environmental impact is the way to go!

”



Ecotourism



In practice it is difficult to gauge the **legitimacy** of ecotourism. While many tour operators are committed to responsible ecological practices and have their heart in the right place, there are others who have merely **jumped on the bandwagon** or entered the market solely for profit and self interest. Tour operators are still running a business, and to be successful the financial figures need to add up. This creates something of a **paradox** – as more operators ferry ever greater numbers tourists to unspoilt and serene spaces it becomes difficult to maintain the status-quo of the environment.



Ecotourism



Ecotourism's **very** success is said to **undermine** its ecological friendliness. Ultimately the presence of spectators alters the behaviour of what is observed, a fact that is particularly true of wildlife.

When regulation and guidelines fail, the result can look like the **antithesis** of ecotourism's proclaimed values. Tour operators jostling with each other to ferry well-meaning observers to these **pristine** and untouched natural environments counteracts the stated goals of ecotourism. A colony of seals, for example, will become habituated to human contact and **proximity** with time and adapt their behaviour.



Ecotourism



Proponents of ecotourism claim that dangers of habituation and excessive levels of contact can be minimised with the right regulation and guidelines in place. Guidelines which limit viewing times for wildlife or necessitate a certain distance be kept between tour groups and animals are good solutions in theory. In practice, however, they are hard to police. Popular viewing sights with a high demand can easily become **saturated** with competing operators, having a deep impact on the sight in question.



New words

legitimacy

When David speaks I detect a certain **legitimacy** in his tone.

to jump on the bandwagon

90s clothes have been popular for years now - Stella is jumping on the **bandwagon** with the new shirt she bought.

paradox

How can I still be tired after having slept for so long? What a **paradox**!

proximity

I was in such close **proximity** to the dog that I could feel its breath on my face.



Create sentences

Create new sentences using the vocabulary from the text below



to undermine

excessive

to demand

saturated

regulation

jostling

pristine

status-quo

antithesis



Habituated behaviour

Talk to your teacher about the questions below.



Is ecotourism ultimately in the best interest of wildlife?

What kind of behaviour might habituated seals show to tourist groups?

Is it possible to witness 'undisturbed' wildlife?

How do spectators alter the behaviour of animals in the wild?



Give your opinion on the issue below

"A colony of seals, for example, will become habituated to human contact... and adapt their behaviour."



1

Is this kind of tourism authentic?

2

What might some consequences be?

3

Is it fair on the natural wildlife?





Give your opinion

“Guidelines which limit viewing times for wildlife or necessitate a certain distance be kept between tour groups and animals are good solutions in theory.”



What might some of the flaws of relying on guidelines for tour operators be?

What could the consequences for wildlife be if the rules are broken?



The future of travel?

Think about the points you made about the first quote earlier in the lesson. Has your opinion changed since reading the second part of the text?

“

Ecotourism is without a doubt the future of travel. Seeing the world with little to no environmental impact is the way to go!

”

“

Tour operators jostling with each other to ferry well-meaning observers to these pristine and untouched natural environments counteracts the stated goals of ecotourism.

”



Opinion letter

You have recently been on an eco-tour which was highly disappointing.

You were on an overcrowded whale watching tour where tour boats competed for close proximity to the mammals.

Write a letter to the company explaining the tour operator's actions and expressing your disappointment. You thought that this might be the green future of tourism, but you're starting to doubt this very much.



Ecotourism



Many consider ecotourism, despite all of its claims to the contrary, to be an **oxymoron**. Detractors claim that tourism in any form has a **derogatory** effect on the environment. Behind the **philanthropic** and ecological mask, ecotourism companies are still primarily focused on profit and self-interest. On top of this, the destinations promoted by ecotourism programs are remote and hard to reach. The majority of tourists must rely on air travel to get to their destinations in the first place, contributing significantly to climate change.



Ecotourism



Tourism is not ecologically destructive in and of itself, and can support the protection of wildlife and nature. It pays to be savvy when selecting an operator. The ecotourism industry is awash with contradictions, and there are tour operators who are committed to good ecological practice, as well as those who aren't. Research into which operators are sincere about their conservation efforts and respect for natural boundaries is ultimately the responsibility of the individual.



Urban ecotourism



Ecotourism can also be applied to urban environments. How might an eco-tour look in a city?

philanthropy

philanthropic

Philanthropy is the act of helping or giving money to charitable and non profit organisations. If someone does this a lot, they are **philanthropic** – or a **philanthropist!**



In an act of **philanthropy**, he made a generous donation to the children's charity.



Planning for success

Create two lists: the first of criteria which would determine the success of an ecotourism company and another that would outline the failure of an ecotourism company. Discuss the nuances associated with these criteria.

large carbon footprint

financial viability

good marketing

philanthropy

reputation

success

failure



Planning a tour

Imagine you have great knowledge and passion for a pristine environment near where you grew up.

You have begun a tour company and will begin to offer eco-tours to the area.

Observe the guidelines below – aim for 100 words for each category.

Where will it be?

How will you ensure the venture is profitable?

How will you maintain your 'eco' credentials?
(list guidelines)

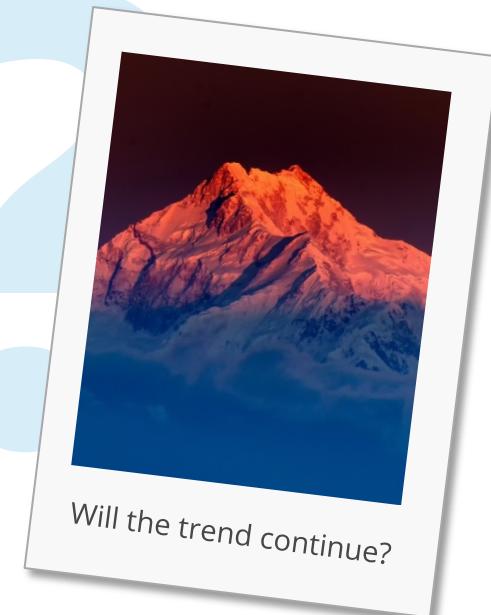
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Talk with your teacher

What is your prediction for the future of ecotourism?

Is the future of travel looking green or sustainable to you?





Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

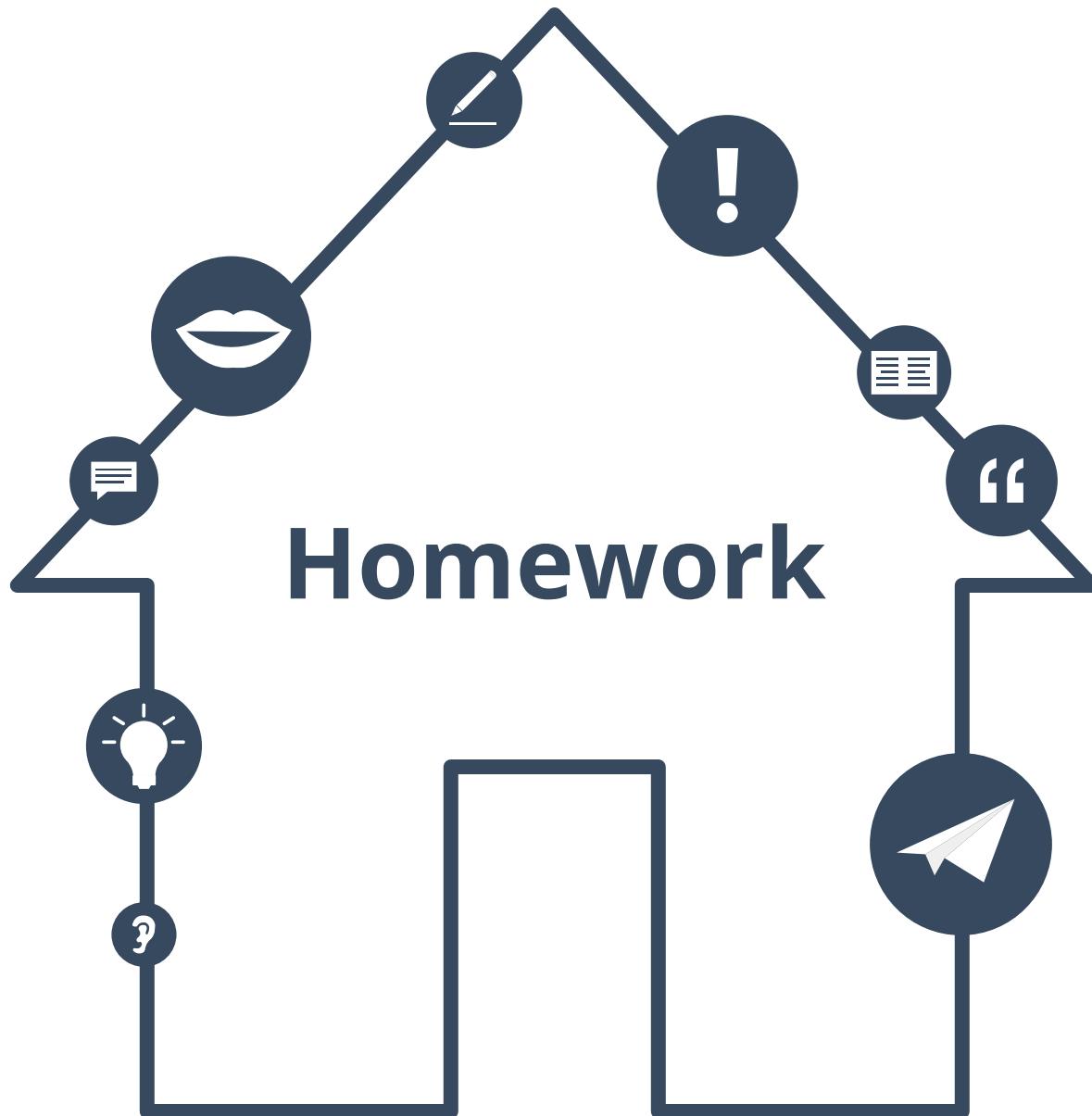




Answer key

Activity p.13
1C, 2B, 3C, 4B

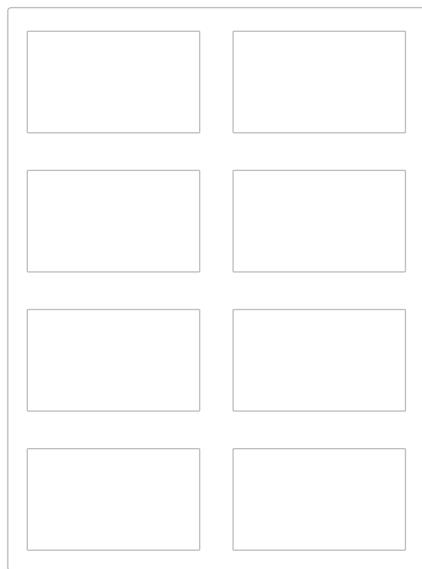
Activity p.12
1B, 2C, 3C, 4B





New vocabulary

Create flashcards for the new vocabulary in today's lesson.
Ensure you write the definition on the back of the card.





Writing activity

Write a paragraph about your experiences undertaking an eco-tour in a city.

Try to use the vocabulary introduced in today's lesson.





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