**Audio Track 3-1-8/Audio Track 3-1-9**

Tips for better packing

Are you planning to travel for a weekend or several months, around the country or overseas? Here are some tips to help you pack your bags.

1.Pre-trip planning: • Make a packing list to help you remember everything. Review it about a week before your trip. • Plan a time to go shopping for things you need for your trip. • Don’t pack the night before you travel. You will forget things when you’re in a hurry.

2.Tagging luggage: • Before packing, put name tags on valuable items like cameras and cell phones. • Make sure that each piece of luggage, including carry-ons, has a luggage tag on it. • If you know your hotel’s address and phone number, put it on your luggage tags.

3.Saving space: • Pack small items (socks, belts, etc.) inside your shoes. It uses the empty space and helps the shoes to hold their shape. • Pack your clothes in plastic bags. • If you are traveling with a friend, plan your packing together. Share your alarm clock, toothpaste, or first aid kit.

4.Your carry-on bag: • The most important items for your trip (passport, plane tickets, traveler’s checks, credit cards, keys, etc.) should go in your carry-on bag. Always keep them with you. • Keep your carryon bag small and light. Put bulky, heavy items in your check-in luggage. • Use soft bags, such as backpacks or shoulder bags, for carry-ons. They fit easily under the airplane seat, or into small overhead compartments.

5.Other ideas: • Bring an empty bag for souvenirs from the trip. • Remember to pack a few rubber bands, safety pins and plastic bags. They can be very useful. • Bring some snacks such as nuts, cookies or dried fruit. You can eat them if you don’t have time for a meal. Sharing food is a great way to meet other travelers.