



Live Lesson Notes

Holidays

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Some useful links

My **GOLD** online course for IELTS Speaking

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-band7-gold-yt>

Follow me on **social media**

<https://www.youtube.com/@EnglishSpeakingSuccess>

<https://www.facebook.com/keithspeakingacademy>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeithIELTSMastermind/>

https://www.instagram.com/keith_speaking_academy/

Warm Up

1) Read the first part of this story, “The Holiday” and fill the gaps with one word.

The Holiday: Part 1

Emma and John were tired. They were both extremely busy at work, up to their [1]_____ in new projects, so they decided to take a city [2] _____ for a weekend.

Where would they go? They decided to visit Vienna for a long weekend.

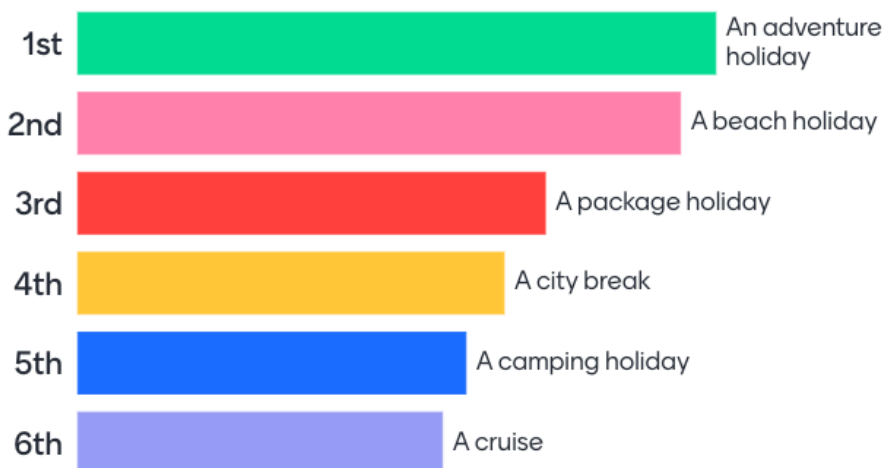
Answers at bottom of PDF

2) Complete this Holiday Poll

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

<https://www.menti.com/alft5mm1j1x2>

Here are your results



IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: HOLIDAYS

1) A **holiday**

= a time when you don't work, so you can travel or relax

I'm going on holiday next week

I am taking a holiday next month

2) A **holiday**

= an official day off work, for national or religious celebrations

- A **bank** holiday (In the UK this is usually Mondays)
- A **public** holiday
- A **religious** holiday

Christmas is my favourite holiday

Next Monday is a bank holiday, we're going to the beach for the day.

Synonyms

A vacation (U.S.)

A break

A getaway

An excursion

A trip

A day trip

A day out

Collocations

A /an _____ holiday

- camping
- skiing
- summer / winter
- beach
- package (*where everything is included, food, tours, drinks, travel...*)
- all-inclusive (*same as package holiday*)
- cruise (*going on a ship*)
- adventure
- backpack

I prefer beach holidays

Let's go backpacking

A _____ break

- city (*visit a city*)
- countryside
- beach

We are going on our honeymoon

Let's take a city break

I want to go on a city break

Destination (n. C) /ˌdɛstɪˈneɪʃən/
= the place where you are going

Spain is a popular destination for holiday makers
Italy is our holiday destination this year

Synonyms (for people on holiday)

- A holiday maker
- A sightseer /ˈsaɪtsiːər/
- A tourist
- A traveller
- A nomad
- A visitor

To see the sights

= to visit famous places such as a museum, a statue, a monument, etc...

A digital nomad

= a person working online and moving / living in different places for periods for time.

Accommodation (n. U) /əˌkɒməˈdeɪʃən/
= a place where someone may live or stay.

We need to book the accommodation
I can't find any cheap accommodation

Itinerary (n. C.) /aɪ'tɪnərəri/

= a planned route or journey - a list of destinations, times, activities...

Have you made a travel itinerary?

Have you made a daily itinerary for your holiday?

Budget (n. C.) /'bʌdʒɪt/

= A financial plan

*We need to **draw up a budget** (=to make)*

*Let's **stick to the budget** (=to follow)*

*It's not **within our budget** (=too expensive)*

To **budget (v.)** /'bʌdʒɪt/

= To plan how much you will spend

*I haven't **budgeted for** food*

Budget (adj.)

Cheap, cost-effective

This is a budget hotel

We can choose a budget airline

IELTS Speaking Idioms: HOLIDAYS

Can you guess these idioms?

1



2



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IT

3



4

Get ↗



Answers at bottom of PDF

Listening Bingo: Planning a Holiday



The Holiday: Part 2

<https://soundcloud.com/keithohare/holiday-nightmare-1>

Listen to Part 2 of the story 'The Holiday' and tick the box when you hear the exact words. When you have 3 boxes in a row, type BINGO in the chat!

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Book the hotels | Make a budget | A peaceful cake |
| In the middle of nowhere | Throw caution to the wind | In the town centre |
| A budget holiday | A one-off | A bad time |

Answers at bottom of PDF

Full script on next page

Full Script

Having chosen their destination, Emma and John now had to book the flights, decide where to stay, what to visit and make a budget.

Booking the flights was **a piece of cake** (=easy) because there was a budget airline that went from London to Vienna so they used that one.

Organising accommodation was not so **straightforward** (=easy, simple). They could **opt for** (=choose) a hotel or an apartment. Emma preferred the idea of a hotel in the middle of town, where everything was taken care of but John was up for renting an apartment on Airbnb because of the independence it gave them.

They **mulled it over** (=think something over) and Emma tried talking John into the idea of booking a hotel, a nice hotel so they didn't have to worry about **self-catering** (=cooking for yourself) or cleaning. John was hesitant, but in the end he agreed to throw caution to the wind and **splash out on** (=to spend a lot of money on) a four star hotel **slap bang in the city centre** (=right in the very centre of the city)

Finally, when it came to budgets they both agreed. They weren't used to budgeting for holidays. They both felt it was a **one-off** (=something they would only do once), so they would spend as much as they wanted to have a good time.

Dad Jokes

1) What happens when you wear a watch on a plane?

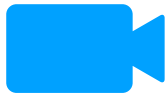


2) What do you call a traveler that doesn't lose his/her temper? (Doesn't get angry!)



Answer at bottom of PDF

IELTS Speaking Part 2: Model Answer



The Holiday: Part 3

<https://vimeo.com/976522598/621f03cd1e>

Watch John talk about his recent holiday.

1) In your opinion, what was the worst thing about the holiday?

Answers at bottom of PDF

2) Watch again and note any **useful collocations**

Full script on next page

Full Script

Let me tell you about a **holiday nightmare** my wife and I had. Recently we had decided to take a **city break** to Vienna.

So, there we were, excited about our holiday. We had booked a **budget airline** to save a few pounds. Little did we know, that was a mistake.

Our flight was delayed. And not just a little late, but *hours* late. We were **stuck in** the terminal, surrounded by other **frustrated holidaymakers**. It was noisy and uncomfortable. Nowhere to sit, and no updates about the flight.

Finally, 12 hours later, we **took off**, tired and **fed up** (*=bored and angry*)

But the adventures had only just begun. We arrived at our destination, only to find that our accommodation was a nightmare.

We had **splashed out** (*=to spend a lot of money*) **on** a supposedly **top-notch** hotel (*=excellent*), expecting a bit of luxury. **It turns out**, (*=in the end*) our room overlooked a disco on a busy street.

That first night **we couldn't sleep a wink** (*=couldn't sleep at all*) and although we complained in the morning, the hotel was **fully booked**, so we couldn't **change rooms**.

And then came Sunday. We discovered that our hotel was right next to a church. The bells started ringing in the early morning and didn't seem to stop. We couldn't **sleep in**, (*=stay in bed for a longer time deliberately*) and even when we tried to **put our feet up** (*=to relax*) after lunch, it was impossible.

The city itself was lovely, though. It was a great place for an excursion or a quick city break. We enjoyed exploring, but **the lack of sleep** and **constant noise** was really too much.

If we had known, we would've definitely chosen a place **off the beaten track**.

We were hoping to **live it up**, but in the end, we were just fed up. Better luck next time, I guess!

ANSWERS

Warm Up

The Holiday: Part 1

Emma and John were tired. They were both extremely busy at work, up to their [1] **ears, neck, eyeballs** in new projects, so they decided to take a city [2] **break, tour, (trip, vacation)** for a weekend.

Where would they go? They decided to visit Vienna for a long weekend.

NOTE:

To take a **trip** to Vienna

To go on a **journey** to Vienna

To go **sightseeing** in Vienna

To travel (v.) to Vienna

IELTS Speaking Idioms: HOLIDAYS

①



2



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4



1) In the middle of nowhere

A place that is very remote and isolated.

We found a great cabin in the middle of nowhere.

2) To live it up

To enjoy life in a lively, extravagant, or luxurious way.

They wanted to live it up on their holiday, so they stayed at a five-star resort.

3) To throw caution to the wind

To not be careful. To take a risk, without considering the consequences.

I was busy at work, but we threw caution to the wind and booked a last-minute holiday package.

We don't have a lot of money, but we decided to throw caution to the wind, and book a holiday.

4) To get off the beaten track / path

To go off the beaten track / path

To visit a place that is not well-known or frequently visited.

We prefer destinations that are off the beaten path to avoid crowds.

Listening Bingo: Planning a Holiday



The Holiday: Part 2

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| Book the hotels | Make a budget | A peaceful cake |
| In the middle of nowhere | Throw caution to the wind | In the town centre |
| A budget holiday | A one-off | A bad time |

Dad Jokes

1) What happens when you wear a watch on a plane?

Time flies!



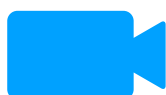
2) What do you call a traveler that doesn't lose his/her temper? (Doesn't get angry!)



A nomad

To be mad = to be angry

IELTS Speaking Part 2: Model Answer



The Holiday: Part 3

Watch John talk about his recent holiday.

1) In your opinion, what was the worst thing about the holiday?

The answer will depend on your opinion, but possible answers include,

The delay of the flight

Waiting in the airport

The hotel overlooking the disco

The church bells ringing on Sunday morning

Not being able to sleep in

The lack of sleep and rest