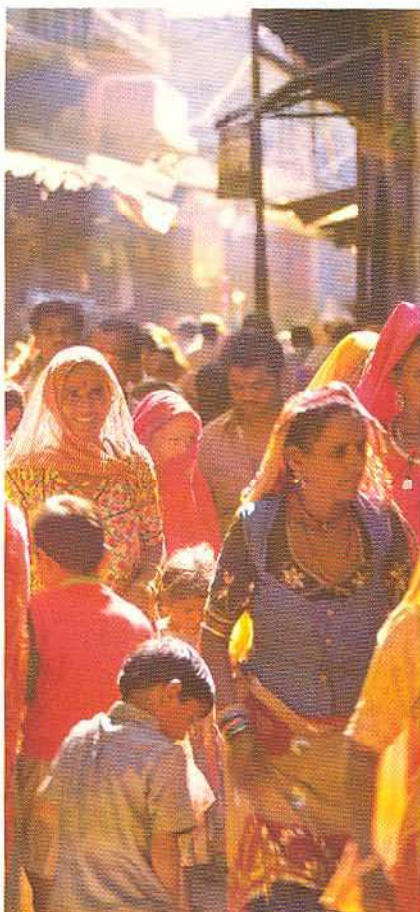


08 FARAWAY PLACES

In this lesson

- Read a guidebook entry.
- Study and practise location expressions.
- Focus on expressing preferences.
- Practise speaking to reach a decision.



Speak for yourself

If you could go anywhere in the world for a holiday, where would you go?

Reading

Following a guidebook entry

- 1 Have you ever been to India? If so, what were your impressions? If not, what sights and sensations would you expect to find?
- 2 **Against the clock!** You have **three minutes** to match the adjectives in **A** with the nouns in **B**.

A

vibrant
barren
tranquil
unspoilt
harsh
fragrant

B

reality
palm groves
colours
aroma
beaches
deserts

A

contrasting
lush
snow-capped
shocking
rolling
exotic

B

peaks
landscapes
filth
paddy fields
spices
hills

- 3 Read the text and check your answers. Which of your ideas from 1 were mentioned?
- 4 **What do you think?** Read the article again.
 - 1 Underline any features of life in India that particularly appeal to you.
 - 2 In pairs, compare your ideas.

India

LAND OF CONTRASTS

There's nowhere quite like India: the heady concoction of all that is beautiful in the world, and the harsh reality of a country that is home to around 900 million people.

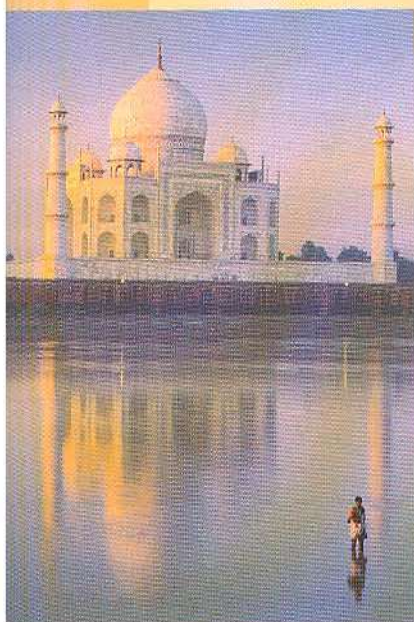
To paint India as only a romantic destination would be painfully superficial. There are such extremes of poverty and wealth in this vast, vast subcontinent that it would be callous just to talk of the incredible sunrises and sunsets over the Taj Mahal. A holiday in India would undoubtedly take in fabulously romantic sights, but no visit to India can gloss over the shocking filth, poverty, continual hassle and throngs of people that is part of life. Despite all this, perhaps because of all the hassles, people fall deeply in love with this fascinating country, and long to return again and again.

The subcontinent has a life of its own – from the haggling buyers and sellers to the passionately revered cows in the streets, along with the vibrant colours and fragrant aroma of the flower garlands and the mounds of exotic spices piled up in the markets. It is also steeped in a complex history stretching back over 4,000 years, during which the philosophies, religions, and languages of its people have expanded to produce the immense wealth of culture, heritage, and tradition that exists there today.

There is no doubt that India's landscapes are overwhelmingly beautiful in their variety. They range from the harsh barren deserts of Rajasthan to the rolling green hills of Darjeeling; from the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas to the tranquil palm groves and lush paddy fields of the south, to say nothing of the long unspoilt beaches beside the Indian Ocean. You can stay in former palaces, explore hilltop forts, haggle for an auto-rickshaw in Delhi, escape the heat among the tea plantations of Darjeeling, or for those who prefer a more leisurely holiday, you can just relax for a few days on a palm-fringed beach somewhere off the beaten track.

And then there is religion. Apart from the continually contrasting landscapes and the colourful pageant of its people, at the very heart of India is a religious spirit which, more than anything else, is responsible for making the country so magical, so captivating. Indeed, the very essence of India is religion, and the strength of Hinduism and Buddhism, both of which originated there.

The Good Honeymoon Guide



Vocabulary

Location expressions

Just relax for a few days on a palm-fringed beach somewhere off the beaten track.

1 Read these sentences and tick (✓) those which are true for you.

- 1 There is a cinema **within walking distance** of my home.
- 2 I love spending my holidays **off the beaten track**.
- 3 My English school is located **right in the heart** of the town.
- 4 I'd hate to live **in the middle** of nowhere.
- 5 I live a **couple of minutes'** walk from a bus stop.
- 6 It's dangerous to walk alone **in the back streets** of my town.
- 7 It's a **ten-minute drive** to the supermarket from where I live.
- 8 There's a bank **a few blocks** from here.
- 9 I'd like to stay in a hotel that's just a **stone's throw** from the sea.
- 10 The nearest airport is only about ten kilometres away **as the crow flies**.

2 In pairs, compare your ideas.

3 **Against the clock!** In pairs, you have **two minutes** to explain the difference between the expressions in bold.

- 1 The youth hostel is situated **north of** / **in the north of** the city.
- 2 We stayed in a campsite **on the main road** / **off the main road**.
- 3 We have to go **inland** / **to the mainland** to do our shopping.
- 4 We spent our holiday **on the coast** / **on the beach**.

4 Use some of the expressions in 1 and 3 to talk about your home, your school, and holidays you have had.

Did you notice...?


This vast, vast subcontinent

People long to return again and again.

What is the effect of repeating the words in **bold**?



Pronunciation

- 1 Try saying the *Asking about preferences* questions with the correct intonation.
- 2  Listen, check, and repeat.
- 3 In pairs, practise asking and answering.

Language work

Expressing preferences

For those who prefer a more leisurely holiday, you can just relax ...

1 Focus on form Complete the sentences with one word.

General preferences

On the whole, I prefer sightseeing _____ sunbathing.

Personally, I like secluded coves _____ than crowded beaches.

I like them both _____.

I don't like _____ of them.

Making a choice

I think I'd rather go out _____ stay in tonight.

Given the choice, I _____ sooner stay in a hostel than go camping.

On balance, I'd prefer to travel alone _____ than go on a coach tour.

I'd just as _____ go for a week as go for a fortnight.

I don't mind. It's _____ to you.

I'm easy. I'll go _____ you like.

Asking about preferences

Which do you _____, the seaside or the countryside?

Do you _____ the seaside or the countryside?

What would you _____ do, go for a walk or have a swim?

Would you _____ have a beer or a Coke?

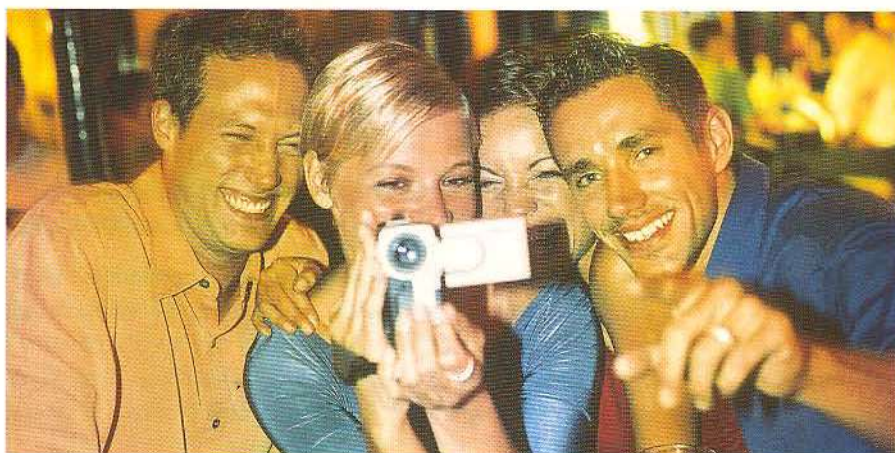
2 In pairs, ask and answer questions about the following topics.
Give reasons for your preferences.

General preferences

rugged landscapes / picturesque landscapes
beach holidays / city breaks
lively resorts / quiet places
travelling by train / travelling by car

Making a choice

go to an art gallery / visit a monument
travel independently / go on a package tour
go on holiday alone / go with friends
camp / stay in a hotel



English in use

Reaching a decision

- 1 Read this description of a hotel in India.
Would you like to stay there? Why / why not?



WINDAMERE HOTEL

THE most refined and popular place to stay in Darjeeling, the Windamere is the perfect spot if you are looking for a little old world style and relaxation. This wonderful old colonial mansion, set on the slope of Observatory Hill, is just like stepping back in time to the days of the Empire. You'll find no

frivolous modern amenities here such as televisions, central heating, or minibars, and the owner of the hotel, Mrs Tenduf-La, a formidable Tibetan octogenarian, is proud of it. Instead, the Windamere has other delights in store for guests, such as open fires lit each night in the guest rooms, hot

water bottles, afternoon tea served on the lawn, a string quartet playing in the drawing-room, and a pianist who plays during dinner. The food at the Windamere is excellent, and the portions generous. Bedrooms are basically furnished, with private shower (cold water only) and WC.

Pronunciation

- 1 Listen to extracts from the conversation in 2. Notice how the speaker's voice changes pitch when he quotes from the text.

- 2 In pairs, practise quoting from the text about India on pp.26 and 27.

It says here, ...
Listen to this ...

- 2 Listen to two people discussing the hotel. Are they enthusiastic?
- 3 Turn to the Tapescript on p.112 and listen again. Underline the language they use to express ...
 - enthusiasm about something
 - lack of enthusiasm about something
 - doubt or uncertainty
 - a suggestion
- 4 In pairs, use the expressions to discuss your reactions to the text.

Speak out

- 1 a In three groups, A, B, and C, A look at the hotel information on p.104, B on p.107, and C on p.108.
 - b Highlight the points which appeal to you, things that don't appeal, and anything you are uncertain about.
 - c Compare your ideas with other people in your group.
 - d In A / B / C groups, tell each other about your hotels, and reach a decision about where to go.
- 2 In new groups of three or four, imagine you have to make a three-minute promotional video clip for a holiday destination you know. Reach a decision about ...
 - what exactly you would show on the clip.
 - a running sequence for the video.
 - a title.

Remember

- Use different expressions to express enthusiasm, lack of enthusiasm, uncertainty, and to make suggestions.
- Ask and answer about preferences.
- Use a range of location expressions.
- Concentrate on correct intonation to quote from a text and ask about preferences.

Follow-up

- 1 Produce a poster to advertise your country or another holiday destination, and display it on the classroom wall.
- 2 Write a voice-over for the promotional video you planned in *Speak out*.
- 3 Find a description of a famous holiday destination in your country. Prepare to give a short summary to the class, and give your opinion on how accurately it portrays the place.
- 4 Find a holiday brochure and note the kind of adjective / noun collocations that are commonly used. Start a page in your vocabulary book for adjective / noun collocations.