BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
6 Minute English
Tourist clampdown

This is not a word-for-word transcript

Rob
Hello. This is 6 Minute English and I'm Rob. This is the programme where in just six minutes we discuss an interesting topic and teach some related English vocabulary. Well, joining me to do this is Sam.

Sam
Hello! So what's our interesting topic today, Rob?

Rob
Something close to our hearts, Sam – it's travel.

Sam
Great!

Rob
But more and more of us are travelling to explore the world – many of us have more leisure time, and the cost of travelling has become relatively cheaper.

Sam
But here lies the problem – the places we're visiting are becoming more crowded, sometimes spoiling the atmosphere and the beauty – the things we came to see in the first place!

Rob
This is why we're going to be discussing how some cities around the world are putting restrictions on the tourists who visit. But that's after I challenge you to answer this question, Sam! Are you ready?

Sam
Bring it on, Rob!

Rob
According to Mastercard's Global Destination Cities Index, what was the most visited city in 2018? Was it…

   a) London

   b) New York, or

c) Bangkok?

Sam
All great places to visit – but I think I'll stay close to home and say a) London.

Rob
OK. Well, as always I will reveal the answer later in the programme.
Now, let's start our journey in Italy's capital city, Rome. Famous for its Colosseum, Trevi fountain and many other things.

Sam
Lots of people are visiting, Rob – and locals and tourists have differing attitudes towards the way they **respect** these beautiful and historic sites. **Respect** here is a verb, to mean treat something with care.

Rob
Well, the authorities in the city fear that some tourists are showing disrespect to the city and have introduced laws to **clamp down** on certain behaviour. **Clampdown** means officially trying to stop or limit people doing something. Sabina Castelfranco is a journalist in the city. She told BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme why new restrictions have been introduced…

Sabina Castelfranco, journalist
The new rules are really to make sure that tourists do not **misbehave** when they are visiting tourist attractions in Rome. Romans don't like to see tourists walking around bare-chested, they don't like to see them wading in their fountains - so really the **objective** is to improve the life of the city for residents and for tourists themselves.

Sam
So, the new rules are to stop tourists **misbehaving** – that's doing bad or inappropriate things. I'm sure not all visitors misbehave – but those who have been, have been wading – that's walking through water – in the famous fountains and men have not been covering up the top half of their bodies – so, going bare-chested.

Rob
Not any more, Sam! These new laws have banned this with the **objective** of improving the life for the people of Rome – the Romans. An **objective** is a plan or aim to achieve something.

Sam
Other laws introduced in Rome, with the objective of improving the city, include giving out severe fines to people who drop litter and to those who attach 'love padlocks' to historic monuments.

Rob
Well, I guess if it makes the city a nicer place to visit for everyone, then it's a good idea.
Well, let's talk about another historic old city – Bruges in Belgium. The old and narrow streets are often packed with sightseers – so restrictions have been introduced there.

Helen Coffey, deputy travel editor for the Independent newspaper, also spoke to the You and Yours programme, to explain what is going on…

Helen Coffey, Deputy Travel Editor, The Independent
Bruges was the latest city to say we're going to introduce new regulations to **crack down** on what they called the **Disneyfication** of their city. A really key one is they're going to **cap** the number of cruises that can dock, and actually this a big one that lots of cities do. They basically don't like cruise visitors because cruise visitors don't spend money.

Sam
So Helen mentioned a **crackdown** – which like **clampdown** – means taking action to restrict or stop certain activities. And Bruges wants to crackdown on the **Disneyfication** of the city.

Rob
This term describes turning something into an artificial, not real, commercial environment, similar to a Walt Disney theme park. I'm not sure it's that similar yet, but one way to maintain the authentic feel of the city is to **cap** the number of cruises that can dock.

Sam
Cap means restrict or limit. It's felt that visitors who come by cruise ship, don't stay overnight and therefore don't bring much money into the city. The message from the city authorities is 'stay overnight or don't come!'

Rob
Well, one city that has people visiting for the day or staying longer is the most visited city in the world – but where is that, Sam? Earlier I asked you what the most visited city in 2018 was? Was it…

    a) London

    b) New York, or

    c) Bangkok?

Sam
And I said London.

Rob
That was in second place. The most visited city last year was Bangkok, in Thailand.

Sam
OK, Rob. Well, maybe what I can get right is a recap of today's vocabulary. Starting with **respect**. If you respect something you treat it with care.

Rob
We also discussed **clampdown**, which means officially trying to stop or limit people doing something. **Crackdown** is a similar phrase.

Sam
To **misbehave** is to do something bad or inappropriate. And an **objective** is a plan or aim to achieve something.

Rob
Our next word is **Disneyfication -** a term that describes turning something into an artificial, not real, commercial environment, similar to a Walt Disney theme park.

Sam
And finally we had **cap** – which means restrict or limit.

Rob
Well, we've had to cap this programme at 6 minutes – and we're out of time. Goodbye!

Sam
Bye bye!

Vocabulary

respect – treat something or someone with care

clampdown (or **crackdown**) – officially trying to stop or limit people doing something

misbehave - do something bad or inappropriate

objective - a plan or aim to achieve something

Disneyfication - turning something into an artificial, not real, commercial environment, similar to a Walt Disney theme park

to cap – to restrict, to limit