HOLIDAYS

❖ Build up your vocabulary

A. Complete the sentences using the given words:
   resort / scenery / journey / break / flight / book

   1. It was a long ________ by car.
   2. It’s a popular seaside _____________.
   3. It was a real _________.
   4. The ________ around Vancouver was breathtaking.
   5. We caught a ____________ to London at the last minute.
   6. When did you ________ the room?

B. Choose the correct answer:

   1. It was a long _________.
      a) trip
      b) travel
      c) travelling

   2. I’m sure he was ____________, he had a funny accent.
      a) foreigner
      b) foreign
      c) stranger

   3. This year I went to Ireland, it was the first time I had been _________.
      a) aboard
      b) abroad
      c) overseas

   4. Do you often ____________ by train?
      a) journey
      b) travel
      c) trip

B. Choose the correct preposition (you can use each one more than once)

   about / at / through / in / into / for / before

   1. He went away ________ holiday.
   2. They checked ______________ our bags.
   3. We checked ________ the hotel ___ around 5 p.m.
   4. We ate out ___ a restaurant every evening.
   5. We were held up _____ security _____ ages.
   6. We saved up _____ this holiday _____ a whole year.
   7. We checked in ________ the airport ______ two hours ______ our flight.
Train your ears

Underline the stressed words in the following sentences

1. Which flight did you take?
2. Where did you go last year?
3. Why do you prefer staying in a hotel?
4. I haven’t weighed my suitcase yet.
5. I mustn’t forget my passport
6. We have to be at the airport by nine.

Brush up your grammar

Afin d’aller plus loin, veillez à consulter les articles suivants:

- present perfect
- preterit
- les articles (the/α)
- préférence (would rather)
- prépositions vs adverbes (post-positions)

Listening comprehension

Ecoutez l'enregistrement du dialogue fourni et faites l'exercice qui suit.

Read the questions then listen to the recording and answer them.

1. Listen again and fill in the gaps:

Jo is travelling with his __________ Emma and is __________ home.

Jo: Hi mum, I'm calling ________ New York.

Mum: Hi Jo. How __________ have you been there?

Jo: We arrived ________ days ________ from San Francisco. We took a __________ on Monday morning but we had a ten hour delay so we __________ into New York on Tuesday morning. We were ____________ but we’ve kind of caught up __________.
1. Jo is phoning on Friday. Pick out what he and Emma did on Thursday.

2. Pick out what they did on Wednesday.

3. What did they do in Greenwich Village?

4. Where had Jo heard about Ellis Island before?

5. How many immigrants went through Ellis Island altogether?

6. What do the friends plan to do Downtown?

7. Pick out the expression which is often used to describe New York.

8. Does Jo agree with this description?

9. Pick out the two pieces of advice which Jo’s mum gives him.

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**Reading comprehension**

**THE GRAND CANYON, COLORADO**

The Grand Canyon is one of the most visited natural tourist sites in the world, attracting around five million visitors per year. About 83% of the tourists are American.

The Grand Canyon, formed by the erosion of the Colorado River Basin over the past 17 million years, is one of the most spectacular examples of erosion in the world and became a National Park in 1919.

The first inhabitants of the Canyon were the Puebloans and several other tribes, including the Hualapai and Havasupai also lived in the region. Spanish explorers visited the region in 1540 but did not manage to reach the river basin, most probably because their Hopi guides intentionally misguided them. During the 19th century several expeditions were made to the region and in 1869 John Wesley Powell led the first expedition down the Grand Canyon, a journey which took three months to complete.

The Canyon is famous for its overwhelming size as well as its intricate and colourful landscape. It is 446 km long, up to 1,829 metres deep and the widest stretch is 29 km. Temperatures in the Canyon vary greatly, from as high as 37°C in summer and as low as -17°C in winter. The fauna and flora is varied too and there are many ways of visiting the Canyon. This includes rafting, hiking or running and there are helicopter and airplane tours too. If you prefer a more leisurely visit you can take the Coconino Canyon train, a 90 minute journey travelling 24 miles along tracks which were built in the 1800s.

The Skywalk was opened in 2007, a horseshoe shaped walkway with a glass bottom which projects around 70 ft into the Canyon, suspended 4,000 ft above the river. The attraction belongs to the Hualapai Indian Tribe and it is the beginning of a complex which will include restaurants, hotels and a golf course as well as a cable car to take visitors to the river below and a casino. The development has been criticised by many as being a desecration of a natural site. Indeed the project has divided the
Hualapai themselves. Many object to this desecration of sacred land, while others point out the need to make money and overcome other problems facing the tribe, such as chronic alcoholism and unemployment.

1. How many tourists visit the Grand Canyon each year?  
2. Pick out the names of three tribes which originally inhabited the region.  
3. Explain the most probable reason for the failure of the 1540 expedition in your own words.  
4. In what way was John Wesley Powell’s expedition different to those before it?  
5. How long did it take him to complete the trip?  
6. Pick out the adjective the author uses to describe how big the Canyon is.  
7. What is the base of the Skywalk made of?  
8. Explain why the Hualapai do not agree about the project.
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

Build up your vocabulary

A. Complete the sentences using the given words:
1. It was a long journey by car.
2. It's a popular seaside resort.
3. It was a real break.
4. The scenery around Vancouver was breathtaking.
5. We caught a flight to London at the last minute.
6. When did you book the room?

B. Choose the correct answer:
1. It was a long trip.
2. I'm sure he was foreign, he had a funny accent.
3. This year I went to Ireland, it was the first time I had been abroad/overseas.
4. Do you often travel by train?

C. Choose the correct preposition
1. He went away on holiday.
2. They checked ø / through / in our bags.
3. We checked into the hotel at around 5p.m.
4. We ate out at a restaurant every evening.
5. We were held up at security for ages.
6. We saved up for this holiday for a whole year.
7. We checked in at the airport about two hours before our flight.

Train your ears

1. Which flight did you take?
2. Where did you go last year?
3. Why do you prefer staying in a hotel?
4. I haven’t weighed my suitcase yet.
5. I mustn’t forget my passport
6. We have to be at the airport by nine.

Listening comprehension

A/ SCRIPT
A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
Jo is travelling with his friend Emma and is phoning home.

Jo: Hi mum, I’m calling from New York.
Mum: Hi Jo. How long have you been there?

Jo: We arrived three days ago from San Francisco. We took a flight on Monday morning but we had a ten hour delay so we flew into New York on Tuesday morning. We were exhausted but we’ve kind of caught up now.

Mum: How is New York then?

Jo: Oh it’s great. Yesterday we visited Greenwich Village and went to see a band playing. It’s a really lively place, I loved it. The day before yesterday we took a ferry to visit Ellis Island and then the Statue of Liberty. That was really interesting, you know you learn about it at school but you don’t really get an idea of the scale of it all. Just imagine twelve million immigrants went through the immigration centre in all.

Mum: So what else do you plan to do?

Jo: Today we plan to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and hopefully we’ll have time to visit Downtown too to do some shopping. Maybe we’ll get a yellow taxi. There’s so much to do though, we also want to go to the top of the Empire State Building and hopefully get to see Harlem. They call it the city that never sleeps and it’s just so true. It’s all hustle and bustle and everyone seems to be in a hurry. It’s noisy too; there seem to be police sirens going off all day and all night. It’s so exciting though.

Mum: Well, make the most of it. I’m quite jealous you know, I’ve never been to New York so bring back lots of holiday snapshots to show us. And take care. Don’t go out on your own, make sure you stick with Emma and be wary of pickpockets too.

Jo: Yes mum, we know, don’t worry, we’ll be fine.

Mum: Where do you go on to next?

Jo: We’re going to go up to Boston and New England and then on up to Canada hopefully before we fly back to London in July.

Mum: OK, well remember to call and let us know where you are. I’ll hand you over to your dad, and say Hi to Emma for me. Bye love.

Jo: Bye mum.

B/ ANSWERS
1. Complete:
   Jo is travelling with his friend Emma and is phoning home.
   Jo: Hi mum, I’m calling from New York.
   Mum: Hi Jo. How long have you been there?
   Jo: We arrived three days ago from San Francisco. We took a flight on Monday morning but we had a ten hour delay so we flew into New York on Tuesday morning. We were exhausted but we’ve kind of caught up now.

2. On Thursday Jo and Emma went to Greenwich Village.
3. On Wednesday they visited Ellis Island and The Statue of Liberty.
4. They went to hear a band playing in Greenwich Village.
5. Jo had already heard about Ellis Island at school.
6. Twelve million immigrants went through Ellis Island altogether.
7. The friends plan to do some shopping in Downtown.
8. The expression which is often used to describe New York is ‘the city that never sleeps’.
9. Yes, Jo agrees with the description.
10. Jo’s mum advises him to stick with his friend and to be careful / beware of pickpockets.

❖ Reading comprehension

1. Around 5 million tourists visit the Grand Canyon each year.
2. Three tribes which originally inhabited the region are the Puebloans, the Hualapai and the Havasupai.
3. The most probable reason for the failure of the 1540 expedition was that the Hopi guides made sure the Spanish explorers did not get to the river.
4. John Wesley Powell’s expedition was different because he went down the river.
5. It took him three months to complete the trip.
6. ‘Overwhelming’ is the adjective the author uses to describe how big the Canyon is.
7. The base of the Skywalk is made of glass.
8. The Hualapai do not agree about the project because some believe it is a desecration of sacred land, while others argue that the tribe needs money and that the money will help deal with problems faced by tribe members such as unemployment and alcoholism.