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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/06/15

Backpacking Around Europe

Today, let's talk about backpacking around Europe. It's a popular pastime, especially among young people at this time of the year. Many like to go around Europe while they discover themselves, and whilst discovering what joys the continent offers them.

The best way to travel around Europe is by coach or train. Students can buy all sorts of different passes that are relatively inexpensive. Popular routes include Berlin to Prague, Amsterdam to Berlin, and Milan to Venice. There is also Munich to Salzburg, as well as Prague to Bratislava then onwards to Budapest. These days many low-cost airlines offer a cheap alternative to rail and coach travel around Europe.

Many students opt to stay in Youth Hostels or Hostels. There are some wonderful places to choose to stay; including many castles which offer good inexpensive modern accommodation behind their ancient walls.

Many castles offer events, such as, Knight Life in a castle. Perhaps you might fancy being Lady of the Castle for a night, or joining in a jousting tournament? What about a Medieval Feast? What about a night in Colditz Castle?

Youth Hostelling certainly has changed over the years. Often you will find state-of-the-art-interiors, rooms with en-suite showers and toilets, a cosy cafeteria and common rooms, not to mention much needed Wi-Fi!

A lot of students like to visit Europe's cities including London, Edinburgh, Barcelona, and Copenhagen. These days many families use Youth Hostels. Some Gap Year students and backpackers opt to share a private room. Couch surfing is now the 'in thing' to do.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is a backpacker? Think of three things you know about backpacking. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is 'a Youth Hostel'?
- 2) What is 'a hostel'?
- 3) What is 'a jousting tournament'?
- 4) Where is Bratislava?
- 5) Where is Colditz Castle?

Student B questions

- 1) What is 'relatively inexpensive'?
- 2) What is 'behind their ancient walls'?
- 3) Name three cities.
- 4) What is 'backpacking'?
- 5) What is 'a Medieval Feast'?

Category: Holidays / Travelling / Backpacking
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Backpacking**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of six things you might see on a train while backpacking. Write them below. Discuss!

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 4) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 6) _____ |

Add three dangers you might face while backpacking. Discuss together.

- | |
|----------|
| 1) _____ |
| 2) _____ |
| 3) _____ |

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs – *Student A* is a student who is backpacking around Europe. *Student B* is a Castle owner who is offering students a Medieval Experience while staying in a castle. *2-3 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to listen to their day in front of the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Have you ever been backpacking? If yes, where?
- 2) What are the advantages of backpacking?
- 3) What are the disadvantages of backpacking?
- 4) Would you like to stay at Colditz Castle?
- 5) What do you need most when backpacking?
- 6) Are friends important when backpacking?
- 7) Is it better to travel in pairs when backpacking?
- 8) What is the best way to see Europe?
- 9) Would you like to stay in a castle and be a Knight for a night?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the Vienna FM radio studio in Vienna. Today's interview is: *Backpacking around Europe. 10 mins.*

- 1) Someone from Asia.
- 2) Someone from North America.
- 3) Someone from Europe.
- 4) Someone from Africa.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - WRITING

In pairs. Think of 20 things you might put in a backpack. Write them down Discuss together! *5 mins.*

SPEAKING

In pairs. Think of the top 20 places/sights/beaches/monuments you might like to see if backpacking around Europe. Create a list and discuss together. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 5-10 minutes – As a class.

Backpacking around Europe

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Would you like to see a jousting competition?
- 3) Would you like to take part in a Medieval Feast?
- 4) Which three cities might you like to visit?
- 5) What is a Gap Year?
- 6) Did you ever do a Gap Year?
- 7) Which is the best coach company to see travel around Europe? Explain.
- 8) Which is the best airline and rail company to see Europe? Explain!
- 9) When you go backpacking where do you like to go?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Backpacking Around Europe

Today, let's talk about (1)___ around Europe. It's a popular pastime, especially among young people at this time of the year. Many like to go around Europe while they discover themselves, and whilst discovering what joys the (2)___ offers them.

The best way to (3)___ around Europe is by coach or train. Students can buy all sorts of different passes that are relatively (4)___. Popular routes include Berlin to Prague, Amsterdam to Berlin, and Milan to Venice. There is also Munich to Salzburg, as well as Prague to Bratislava then (5)___ to Budapest. These days many low-cost airlines offer a cheap (6)___ to rail and coach travel around Europe.

Many students (7)___ to stay in Youth Hostels or Hostels. There are some (8)___ places to choose

opt / backpacking / wonderful / inexpensive / alternative / onwards / continent / travel /

to stay; including many (1)___ which offer good inexpensive modern accommodation behind their ancient walls.

Many castles offer events, such as, (2)___ Life in a castle. Perhaps you might (3)___ being Lady of the Castle for a night, or joining in a (4)___ tournament? What about a Medieval (5)___? What about a night in Colditz Castle?

Youth Hostelling certainly has changed over the years. Often you will find state-of-the-art-interiors, rooms with en-suite showers and toilets, a cosy cafeteria and common rooms, not to mention much needed (6)___!

A lot of (7)___ like to visit Europe's cities including London, Edinburgh, Barcelona, and Copenhagen. These days many families use Youth Hostels. Some Gap Year students and backpackers opt to share a private room. (8)___ is now the 'in thing' to do.

students / castles / couch surfing / feast / knight / fancy / jousting / Wi-Fi

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Backpacking Around Europe

Today, let's talk about backpacking around Europe. It's a popular pastime, especially among young people at this time of the year. Many like to go around Europe (1)___ they discover themselves, and (2)___ discovering what joys the continent offers (3)___.

The best way to travel around Europe is by coach or train. Students can buy all sorts of different passes (4)___ are relatively inexpensive. Popular routes include Berlin to Prague, Amsterdam to Berlin, and Milan to Venice. There is also Munich to Salzburg, (5)___ Prague to Bratislava then onwards to Budapest. (6)___ days (7)___ low-cost airlines offer a cheap alternative to rail and coach travel around Europe.

Many students opt to stay in Youth Hostels or Hostels. There are (8)___ wonderful places to choose

whilst / some / while / many / these / them / that / as well as /

to stay; including many castles (1)___ offer good inexpensive modern accommodation behind their ancient walls.

Many castles offer events, such as, Knight Life in a castle. Perhaps (2)___ might fancy being Lady of the Castle (3)___ a night, (4)___ joining (5)___ a jousting tournament? What about (6)___ Medieval Feast? What about a night in Colditz Castle?

Youth Hostelling certainly has changed over the years. Often you will find state-of-the-art-interiors, rooms (7)___ en-suite showers and toilets, a cosy cafeteria and common rooms, not to mention much needed Wi-Fi!

A lot of students like to visit Europe's cities including London, Edinburgh, Barcelona, and Copenhagen. These days many families use Youth Hostels. (8)___ Gap Year students and backpackers opt to share a private room. Couch surfing is now the 'in thing' to do.

you / for / which / some / in / or / a / with

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Backpacking Around Europe

Today, let's talk about backpacking around Europe. It's _____, especially among young people at this time of the year. Many like to go around Europe while they _____, and whilst discovering what joys the continent offers them.

The best way to travel around Europe is by coach or train. Students can buy all sorts of different passes that are _____. Popular routes include Berlin to Prague, Amsterdam to Berlin, and Milan to Venice. There is also Munich to Salzburg, as well as _____ then onwards to Budapest. These days many low-cost airlines offer a cheap alternative to rail and coach travel around Europe.

Many students opt to stay in Youth Hostels or Hostels. There are some wonderful places to choose to stay; including _____ offer good inexpensive _____ behind their ancient walls.

_____ events, such as, Knight Life in a castle. Perhaps you might fancy being Lady of the Castle

for a night, or joining in a jousting tournament? What about a Medieval Feast? What about a night in Colditz Castle?

Youth Hostelling certainly has changed over the years. Often you will find _____, rooms with en-suite showers and toilets, a cosy cafeteria and common rooms, not to mention much needed Wi-Fi!

A lot of students like to visit Europe's cities including London, Edinburgh, Barcelona, and Copenhagen. These days many families use Youth Hostels. Some _____ and backpackers opt to share a private room. _____ the 'in thing' to do.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board – *As a class / In pairs* - List 20 cities you might like to visit in Europe. *5-10 mins. Discuss together.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Backpacking _____
- 2) Students _____
- 3) Couch surfing _____

3) On paper - Write a paragraph about: *Backpacking around Europe.* (30-50 words) *The teacher can select some students to read their paragraphs aloud.*

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Backpacking around Europe.** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) backpacking
- 2) alternative
- 3) couch-surfing
- 4) perhaps
- 5) wonderful
- 6) accommodation
- 7) inexpensive
- 8) ancient
- 9) Knight
- 10) Copenhagen

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) opt
- 12) pastime
- 13) especially
- 14) among
- 15) whilst
- 16) cafeteria
- 17) mention
- 18) popular
- 19) routes
- 20) Prague

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