

LESSON D

Pre-lesson Student Worksheet

Before you read.

Discuss with a partner:

1. What is the most popular holiday destination for people from your country?
2. What type of holiday do you prefer? Do you like to:
 - Relax
 - Try something new
 - Do lots of activities
3. Look at the picture below of a couple doing "Extreme Ironing." Would you like to give it a try? Are there any popular, but bizarre "extreme sports" in your country?
 - a. Why do "the Brits" love to go abroad?
 - b. Why can more people travel by plane?
 - c. Why are cruises and activity holidays opposites?
 - d. Why is Barcelona such a popular city with tourists?



The Brits on holiday

It could be because their weather is so unpredictable, but British people – the Brits – love to go abroad. They even invented the concept of budget airlines. In fact, these cheap airlines have allowed more people to travel to more destinations for less money. So, what kind of holiday do they prefer and what activities do they like most?

Unsurprisingly, even though extreme ironing was invented in 1997 in the UK, it is not the most popular sport among the British. Not many people fancy ironing and even fewer doing it in remote locations. Beach holidays are still their preferred option and sunbathing their favourite occupation. After the beach, sightseeing remains very popular and city breaks are the way many Brits like to sightsee. Some wonderful destinations are just a short flight away, so people go there for a long weekend. Some lazy Brits love a cruise holiday, while more dynamic travellers choose activity holidays which involve outdoor sports, trekking or camping.

So, what city could combine all of these holiday types? It's easy: Barcelona in Spain! It's unique because it combines the beach and sightseeing. And as an important port, Barcelona also attracts cruises, especially in summer. You can even have an adventure holiday in the Pyrenees mountains nearby. Its football team, Barça, is also a great attraction.

But it's not just Barcelona. Spain has been the Brits' clear favourite since 1994. More than twelve million Brits visit every year. Obviously, the weather is a key factor. Sun is guaranteed most of the year round in most places. There are large ex-pat communities along the coast, so speaking English is not a problem. Spanish people also have a friendly reputation and the food is popular, especially the tapas. It's a surprise that the Brits haven't taken over completely!

GLOSSARY

abroad (adv) to a different country
budget (adj) here: cheap
lazy (adj) a lazy person doesn't like to work
occupation (n) a way of spending your time
unpredictable (adj) changing a lot so it is impossible to know what will happen