

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Travelling

Pre-reading activities

1. Answer every question by the whole sentence:

- Do people travel more these days than they did in the past?
- What is the most faraway distance you have ever been?
- Where do you go every day? How?
- Who (what occupation) travels a lot?
- What means of transport did you use to get to the last holiday resort?
- Where can people stay overnight when travelling or when on holiday?
- Do you prefer coaches or trains?
- Have you got a driving licence?
- What mark of the car do you prefer/know?
- Do you like hitchhiking?
- What do you think about the public transport?
- Have you ever got lost?

2. What can you see at the pictures? Describe them. Then choose one of them and write minimum three sentences about it.





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Travelling

Travelling is very popular in the 20th century and that is why it is so common. These days people travel much more than they did in the past. There are new means of transport, cars and planes have become faster and tickets are cheaper so more and more people can afford to travel to faraway places. People used to think of travelling to a neighbouring town as something special and visiting the capital as a journey of their lifetime. Times have changed and it is quite natural to hear something like: "I have just been to Florida for a two-week trip, and in winter we are going on a skiing holiday to the Alps." In other words, even most distant places of the world have come closer.

Reasons:

People all around the world travel for various reasons: One of them is tourism - especially during holidays. People want to see the most beautiful sights of world's famous metropolis: Rome, Venice, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Prague etc. Some people travel on business, for political or cultural reasons. Other people travel for scientific purposes. Even smuggling is not unusual. Many people like travelling because it is very exciting, they can see new places, meet new people and friends, eat something unusual and see the way of life in various countries. Besides they can get new experiences.

Disadvantages:

On the other hand travelling has some disadvantages - it may be very dangerous: we can meet bad people, we can get lost, be murdered or our money may be stolen. Apart from pickpockets you can be mugged on the street, so it is good to think of a suitable place where to hide your valuables. You shouldn't wear gold rings and an expensive watch when travelling and you should avoid strange dark and deserted places as you don't know the country well. Another danger is illness. You should also have medical insurance in case you have an accident or became seriously ill. For some countries vaccination is recommended. For some people travelling is very expensive. The worst is the fact that people and some countries lose their individuality and travelling spoils nature.

Means of transport:

There are many means of transport to choose from and there are many ways of travelling. Let's start with the most primitive one and maybe the cheapest - you can travel on foot. Longer walk in the surroundings is called the trip. Young people like hitchhiking. It is very specific way of travelling. It is mainly used by people who don't need so much comfort, don't have so much money and are not afraid of taking risks.

Some people prefer going by car, by air, by train, by bus, on a motorcycle or riding a motorbike, a bike or even a horse. In London we can travel by a double-decker. Water-lovers can choose from a yacht, rowing boat, liner or a ferry.



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The car is by far the most popular means of transport. Travelling by car is fast and comfortable and we get to our destinations without waiting for hours. There are number of roads, motorways and bridges. As roads have improved, the number of cars has also risen, and this has led to more road accidents. Roads are often crowded with cars and lorries and – on minor roads – bikers. Every person involved in transport must observe special rules called the Highway Code.

Some people prefer trains for travelling even they are not very clean in this country. But you can sleep or read, you can walk if you want, there are lavatories and dining cars on board. Coaches are more difficult for some people as they feel dizzy and sick so they have to sit in the front or take a pill. But they fall asleep and see nothing.

On oceans and seas, there are various ocean liners, luxurious steamers and tankers transporting oil, corn and other goods. Going on a voyage can be a great adventure. Ports are often used by smaller fishing boats but also by huge ferry boats and freight ships and goods are loaded into or out of them. Some people love more romantic means of transport, e.g. going on a yacht, canoeing and gliding, hot-air ballooning, windsurfing, skateboarding or roller-skating. In Europe it is very popular now to travel by residential cars in which you can have everything for your personal use.

Travelling does not mean only going abroad but also seeing interesting places in our country or commuting to work or to school. Transport in cities is provided by different means such as buses, trolleybuses, trams, taxis and even underground or city trains. Travelling by bus can sometimes be rather uncomfortable but it has constantly been improving.

Travel agencies:

There are many travel agencies all around the world. Through travel agencies people have their trips, tickets and accommodation reserved. We can arrange various kinds of trips:

- cultural trips to well-known historic places (Egypt, Rome, Athens), seeing nice architecture in large cities
- recreation stays in various mountains or seaside resorts (in the Alps, around the Mediterranean)
- stays with sports or educational programmes (riding horses, windsurfing, language courses...)

stays in beautiful nature in the mountains, by the lakes and rivers (they can practise mountaineering or camping)

What do we need when travelling?

When going abroad we have to get necessary **documents** - first of all a valid passport and visa (to some countries we need a visa which we can get at a local embassy in Prague). Besides we have to change money to hard currency in a bank or at an exchange-office. When going by train (fast train or express), we have to buy tickets (single or return, first or second class) and when we fly, we have to get air (or flight) tickets and find out our flight number and departure time.



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We should know foreign **languages** because it is important for understanding. Most people all around the world speak English and in Europe German and French can be used as well.

For travelling we can use many kinds of **luggage** according to the kind of a trip. We use a knapsack for long sports journey; we can fix a tent and a sleeping bag to it. We use a rucksack when going for a walk or to school. We use a suitcase when we go by a coach and we need not carry it so often. We use it when we take a fine dress or suit for our evening entertainment and we do not want it to be folded.

Accommodation:

When travelling on vacation we should look for accommodation appropriate our demands. There are many **hotels** and **motels** which differ in price and comfort. Before our arrival we should make a reservation, book a room in such a hotel. We can get bed and breakfast or full board at a daily or weekly rate. All this can be taken at the reception desk where the desk clerk arranges everything necessary. Then we can enjoy our stay with the help of some of the hotel's services - a restaurant, a bar, a coffee shop, a travel desk, a theatre ticket office, a hairdresser's shop and a beauty salon or sports facilities like a swimming pool or a fitness centre or sauna with solarium. Attached to the hotel are tennis courts or sports grounds. Any modern hotel must necessarily have a parking space or garage for guests to leave their cars without any worries. The motels are situated mostly by the roads. The guest can park his car at the door of his own room. Special kinds of accommodation for young people are **youth hostels** where it is possible to stay overnight at a low rate but only for a limited number of times. Some tourists prefer to **stay at a farm** or they **rent a room** on their own.

Travellers and holidaymakers can stay in **Bed & Breakfast (B&B)**, **mountain cottages** or **guesthouses**. Some people go on **caravanning** holidays, other prefer **camping** – not very comfortable, especially when it is raining. There is also a problem with insects getting into your tent, but it is the cheapest accommodation.

Holidaymakers

Some people go on caravanning holidays or buy a package of sightseeing holidays where everything is included in the price – tickets, admission fees, food etc. or on cruises aboard a ship. Some holidaymakers prefer activity holidays - skiing, rafting, fishing, hiking etc., the others are lazy and prefer staying on the beach.

I would like to have a combination of both: two days of lying on the beach relaxing, reading, sunbathing and doing nothing and then some activity holiday. I like water sports like water skiing, scuba diving etc. Sightseeing is fine as well because you get to know country better.

Another good idea how to spend your holiday is Work&Travel. You can earn some money, learn the language as you work with the people and then you can travel a lot. I'd love to do that one day. My dream



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is to go to Australia and help in a farm and then travel and visit New Zealand as well. I have also read a lot about American National Parks so I'd like to visit also the USA and Canada as well.