

Read the text and choose the right option.

Britain-by-the-Sea

Brits are a nation of holiday travellers. In fact, foreign holidays are so popular in the UK that a flight from London to Spain's Costa del Sol is cheaper than a train from London to Newcastle. Given that Britain is surrounded by sea, why is it that we would rather fly thousands of miles away than holiday on our own coast? It's not just our unpredictable weather. Coastal resorts like Blackpool, Bournemouth or Brighton haven't kept up with (идти в ногу с) what's cool and modern.

The English seaside town likes to think of itself as a mini Las Vegas with its main streets lined with arcades, with flashing lights, pumping music, and stuffed with one-armed bandits and video games waiting to take your change. Kids dream of being left there with lots of cash and avoid the obligatory trip to the beach which is mum and dad's idea of a fun day out. They also want to get some thrill in a small and noisy amusement park with roller coasters, dodgems (small electric cars) and water slides. On arrival at the beach, you may be surprised to find that the soft golden sand of your dreams is actually dirty and unpleasant to lie down on. The suspiciously brown water is too cold to bathe in it anything more than your big toe. This uniquely English scene is completed with the beach hut. Many seaside towns still boast to have a row of these colourful, single family huts. If you want to rent one for two weeks then be prepared to pay anything from £100 to £900 for an original Victorian hut at the best beaches.

The main culinary attraction of the English seaside is naturally fish and chips, best enjoyed in a sit-down restaurant with plastic tablecloths and laminated menus. This deep fried fish served with brown strips of greasy potatoes can't be experienced properly unless covered with salt and vinegar. For desert how about a deep fried Mars Bar? After this delicious cholesterol meal it's time to burn calories and relax on a walk along the pier. Here you will find little kiosks selling postcards, bad quality souvenirs and beach toys. Some English piers are big enough to accommodate theatres, which perform year-round pantomimes and revue shows, with the type of humour nobody under 65 seems to find funny.

Not all seaside resorts in Britain are as bad as described above, but many of them are. Is it any surprise then that most British people decide that Spain with its sun and sand is much better?

1. **British people prefer spending holidays abroad because** _____.
 1. they like flying
 2. foreign resorts offer lower prices
 3. the facilities there are much better
 4. of the weather
2. **English seaside resorts may resemble Las Vegas because of** _____.
 1. amusement parks
 2. they all have got casinos
 3. the look of their centres
 4. the pumping American music
3. **Children enjoy spending time** _____.
 1. in the main street
 2. on the beach
 3. in the park
 4. with their parents
4. **English beaches are** _____.
 1. quite pleasant
 2. uninviting
 3. similar to Spanish ones
 4. famous for golden sand

5. The beach facilities are _____.
1. unbelievably cheap
2. offered at a modern price
3. offered at a reasonable price
4. very expensive
6. The food served in seaside restaurants is _____.
1. tasty
2. unusual
3. very spicy
4. too salty
7. Seaside towns offer _____.
1. high-quality entertainment
2. enough entertainment for everybody
3. theatre shows for elderly holidaymakers
4. various entertainment for children and teens
8. The writer would _____ holidays by the British seaside.
1. be satisfied with
2. not choose
3. recommend
4. be fascinated with

Click **FINISH** below

