WHAT IS ECOTOURISM?

Words

Write the letter of each definition with the word it defines. If you don't know the definition, use the context of the reading passage to help you. Look for the words in bold as you read the passage.

PARAGRAPH 1

Words	Definitions
1 ..... concept	**A** v., to hurt
2 ..... publicity	**B** v., to work very hard to do something
3 ..... practice[1]	**C** n., activity that makes something known to the public
4 ..... injure	**D** n., idea
5 ..... strive	**E** v., to prevent from happening; stay away from
6 ..... avoid	**F** n., a custom; method

PARAGRAPH 2

Words	Definitions
7 ..... category	**G** v., to work for no pay; freely offer to do something
8 ..... destination	**H** n., natural region away from towns and cities
9 ..... volunteer	**I** n., the place somebody or something is going to
10 ..... wilderness	**J** n., a group of things that have something in common

[1]BrE: practice *n.*, practise *v.*

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PARAGRAPHS 3–4

Words	Definitions
11 ..... accommodations[1]	**K** n., guilty party; origin of a problem
12 ..... recycling	**L** n., a place to stay such as a hotel
13 ..... barrier	**M** n., something that blocks or separates
14 ..... culprit	**N** v., collection and treatment of trash for reuse

PARAGRAPHS 4–5

Words	Definitions
15 ..... dump	**O** v., to get rid of garbage and trash[2]
16 ..... delicate	**P** adj., not completely trusting
17 ..... pleasure	**Q** adj., easily hurt or broken
18 ..... remote	**R** n., enjoyment
19 ..... wary	**S** n., rule; basic idea behind a system
20 ..... principle	**T** adj., far away

[1]BrE: accomodations

[2]BrE: rubbish

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Reading

What Is Ecotourism?

(1) The **concept** of ecotourism has been gaining **publicity** over the past couple of decades. It arose out of the "green movement"—a growing interest in developing **practices** in all aspects of daily life that preserve rather than **injure** the natural environment. Ecotourists **strive** to have minimal impact on the places they visit, in terms of both the local ecology and the local culture. Some followers take the concept even further and define ecotourism as travel that aims not only to **avoid** harming the environment, but also to make a positive contribution to the local ecology and culture.

(2) The types of vacations[1] that fit into the **category** of ecotourism vary widely. Ecotourism might involve travel to a natural **destination** such as a national park or a nature preserve to learn about the natural environment and, in some cases, to **volunteer** on environmental protection projects. It could be a few weeks spent with local artisans learning how to do a traditional craft. Trips that involve hiking or rafting through **wilderness** areas with no regard for the natural habitats one passes through would not be included in the definition of ecotourism. Neither, of course, would be trips with a focus on hunting.

(3) Ecotourists seek out **accommodations** that follow environmentally friendly practices such as using renewable resources and **recycling**. Ecotourists look for hotels and tour companies that hire mainly local staff, keeping tourist dollars within the local economy. Ecotourists might choose to join a bicycling or walking tour rather than a bus tour that adds to air pollution and allows tourists to see the local area only through a **barrier** of glass windows.

(4) Ecotourists usually avoid cruise ships, because these are among the biggest **culprits** in the tourism industry in terms of environmental pollution. Massive cruise ships release large quantities of harmful emissions into the air as well as pollute the waters they sail through with fuel from their engines. The huge numbers of passengers on these ships generate many tons of garbage and wastewater, which is often **dumped** into the sea. Cruise ships also cause damage to coral reefs and other **delicate** ecosystems that they travel near. Perhaps in part because of the growing interest in ecotourism, some cruise companies are now making an effort to be more environmentally friendly. These efforts include recycling wastes and using fuel more efficiently. Vacationers who are interested in ecotourism and still get **pleasure** from cruises can travel with cruise companies that follow these practices.

[1]BrE: holidays

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(5) Because of the growing interest in ecotourism, many companies advertise themselves as ecotourism companies, especially those that offer trips to **remote**, natural areas, the type of destination that ecotourists favor[2]. Travelers need to be **wary** and do their research carefully. Not all of these companies follow the **principles** of ecotourism. Some are simply trying to take advantage of the current interest in this type of travel. The positive side of this, however, is that it may actually be an indication that the movement is gaining in popularity.

Answer the questions about **What Is Ecotourism?**

Questions 1–7

Do the following statements agree with the information in the reading passage?

Write

TRUE *if the statement agrees with the information.*
FALSE *if the statement contradicts the information.*
NOT GIVEN *if there is no information on this in the passage.*

..... **1** Ecotourism refers only to trips made to remote wilderness destinations.

..... **2** Ecotourists are interested in preserving delicate natural areas.

..... **3** Ecotourists prefer less expensive accommodations.

..... **4** Ecotourists strive to support the local economy where they travel.

..... **5** Many large cruise ships injure the environment by dumping garbage into the sea.

..... **6** Hunting trips can be included in the category of ecotourism.

..... **7** An ecotourism trip might include volunteering to work on local projects.

..... **8** Some cruise companies are changing their practices to become more environmentally friendly.

..... **9** Cruise ships do not recycle paper and plastic because it is too expensive.

[2]BrE: favour

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Word Families

A

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the word family chart. Make nouns plural where necessary. Use the correct form of verbs.

noun	verb	adjective
accommodations	accommodate	accommodating

1 The ..... on our trip were very comfortable.

2 We found our hosts very ..... .

3 It's a small hotel that can only..... about 50 guests.

noun	verb	adjective
avoidance	avoid	avoidable

4 We can ..... damaging the environment if we are careful to follow certain practices.

5 Following certain environmentally friendly practices makes damage to the environment ..... .

6 ..... of environmental damage is an important part of ecotourism.

noun	verb	adjective	adverb
concept	conceive	conceptual	conceptually

7 It is not hard to ..... of ways to protect the environment.

8 Ecotourism differs ..... from regular tourism.

9 Ecotourism is a ..... that is growing in popularity.

10 Ecotourism has gone beyond the ..... stage to become something that many people have put into practice.

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noun	verb	adjective
injury	injure	injurious

11 Some practices, such as anchoring large cruise ships close to coral reefs, are ..... to the environment.

12 Ecotourists try not to ..... the environment.

13 Large cruise ships cause several types of ..... to the environment.

noun	verb	adjective	adverb
publicity	publicize[1]	public	publicly

14 Many companies ..... themselves as ecotourism companies, but not all of them follow ecotourism principles.

15 The need to protect the environment is being discussed ..... .

16 The more ..... ecotourism gets, the more people will become interested in this type of travel.

17 Tour companies make their services ..... through advertisements on the Internet and in magazines.

noun	noun	adjective	adverb
wild	wilderness	wild	wildly

18 Many tourists enjoy photographing animals in the ..... .

19 Some tours travel to destinations where ..... animals can be observed.

20 Many people enjoy spending time in the ..... .

21 The tiger growled ..... in its cage.

[1]BrE: publicise

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Word Families

B

Choose the correct word family member from the list below to complete each blank.

1	avoidance	avoid	avoidable
2	concept	conceive	conceptual
3	accommodations	accommodate	accommodates
4	wilderness	wildly	wild
5	injury	injure	injurious
6	publicity	publicize	public

Ecotourism companies operate on the principle that **1**..... of harm to the environment is not only possible but also an important part of pleasure trips. The basic **2**..... of ecotourism is to respect the places you visit, in terms of both the culture and the natural environment. Ecotourism companies offer a wide range of tours. Some include stays in luxury hotels, whereas others take travelers to remote destinations where only the simplest **3**..... are available. On some trips, travelers learn about the **4**..... plants and animals that live in the area. On others, they learn about the local traditions. On all trips, travelers are careful not to cause any type of **5**..... to the environment. Where environmental harm is concerned, they don't want to be among the culprits. If you are interested in ecotourism, it's easy to find out about trips being offered. Ecotourism companies **6**..... their trips in travel magazines and on travel websites.

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Paraphrases

Read the sentence from the reading passage. Then, choose the sentence that has the same meaning.

1 *Ecotourists seek out accommodations that follow environmentally friendly practices such as using renewable resources and recycling.* (paragraph 3)

A When traveling, ecotourists make sure to always recycle their trash.
B Ecotourists prefer hotels that are careful not to harm the environment.
C Ecotourists often return to the same place year after year.

2 *The huge numbers of passengers on these ships generate many tons of garbage and wastewater, which is often dumped into the sea.* (paragraph 4)

A Cruise ships throw large amounts of waste into the sea.
B Large cruise ships create much more waste than other ships.
C Often, cruise ship passengers don't know where to put their garbage.

Dictionary Skill

PARTS OF SPEECH

Volunteer can be a noun, a verb, or an adjective.

Read the dictionary definitions below. Then read the sentences and write the letter of the correct definition for each sentence.

vol-un-teer [vol-un-TEER]
A *noun.* a person who offers to do work for no pay; a person who freely offers a service
B *verb.* to work for no pay; freely offer to do something
C *adjective.* done by volunteers

..... **1** Many environmental protection projects depend on *volunteer* work.

..... **2** A *volunteer* not only provides a service but also has the opportunity to gain valuable experience.

..... **3** Many people *volunteer* to spend their vacation time helping out on environmental protection projects.

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Listening

Track 17

Listen to the conversation. Complete the form below. Write ***NO MORE THAN ONE WORD*** *for each answer.*

Excellent Eco Tours

Customer Name: *Bob Henderson*

Trip: **1**..... *Adventure*

Dates **2**..... *12–25*

Type of **3**..... : *campground*

How did customer hear about us?

Saw our **4**..... *in a travel magazine*

Writing (Task 1)

The charts[1] below show information about environmentally friendly practices followed by three different cruise ship companies in two different years.

Summarize[2] the information by selecting and reporting the main information and making comparisons.

Write at least 150 words.

[1]BrE: tables

[2]BrE: summarise

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Year: 2000

	Sun Cruises	Sea Adventure	Water World Tours
Recycles at least 75% of waste	Yes	No	Yes
Has system to reduce air pollution	No	No	No
Avoids dumping waste water into the sea	Yes	No	Yes
Avoids destinations with delicate underwater ecosystems	No	No	No

Year: 2010

	Sun Cruises	Sea Adventure	Water World Tours
Recycles at least 75% of waste	Yes	Yes	Yes
Has system to reduce air pollution	Yes	No	Yes
Avoids dumping waste water into the sea	Yes	Yes	Yes
Avoids destinations with delicate underwater ecosystems	Yes	No	Yes

Speaking

Talk about the following topics.

When you travel, do you enjoy going to wilderness destinations, or do you prefer visiting cities or some other kind of place?

What kinds of places do you avoid visiting when you travel?

What kinds of accommodations do you like? Is luxury important to you when choosing accommodations?

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