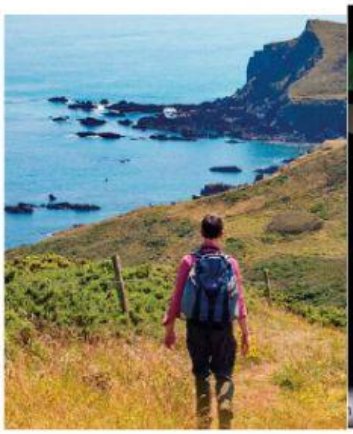
Reading

Holidays without parents

SPEAKING Describe the pictures. Then say which holiday looks more enjoyable, and why.





Look through the texts quickly. Match two of the three texts (A–C) with the pictures (1 and 2).

1 ___ 2 ___



Have you ever seen travel programmes on TV about teenagers on holiday without parents? They're always having a wild and exciting time. But is it really like that? We asked three writers to tell us their personal experiences …

A ***Hilary Bradt: co-founder of a travel guide company***

When I was fifteen, I went to stay with my penfriend in north Germany. It was my first trip abroad and the first without my parents, and I hated every minute of it. The worst moment was probably the time when I was alone in the house and somebody rang the doorbell. They rang it again and again – but I ignored it. Then I saw the visitor walking around the house looking through the windows. Frightened, I hid under the dining-room table. That afternoon, Christina's mother came home from work and said, 'I needed to pick up some papers from the house today and I didn't have my key. I rang the bell. But you didn't hear me.' 'Oh, I was in my room, I expect,' I said. 'Sorry!' My face went red, because she knew I was lying. I'm certain she saw me under the table.

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B *Kevin Rushby: writer*

At sixteen, I hitch-hiked down to Cornwall in the south-west of England with a friend. We spent the holiday walking along the coastal path with a tent and a backpack, staying at campsites on the way. The weather was fantastic and the sea was beautiful. We had almost no money and lived on sandwiches and tea. One of the first things I learned was this: a fire and a mug of tea can make the world seem perfect. The second thing: spending more money does not mean having more fun. What really mattered was talking to people. I had to do lots of chatting, negotiating, discussing and questioning. Strangers could be very helpful and interesting, I discovered. They could also be dangerous, boring and stupid. It was up to me to judge them and decide – and that skill has been useful to me many times since then. I wrote it all down, but I've lost the notebook now, unfortunately.

C *Terry Alderton: comedian*

My friends and I were nineteen and on holiday in the coolest place in the world: Ibiza. On the first day, I fell asleep on the beach – with no suncream. My friends knew I was getting sunburned, but they didn't wake me up because they thought it was funny. When I woke up, I felt a little sore. Then I took off my sunglasses and my friends all fell on the floor, laughing. I had two clear white rings around my eyes! That night, we all went out dancing and of course I had to keep wearing the same sunglasses because of my sunburn. I wasn't enjoying myself, so I left before my friends. For some reason, I didn't want to wait for a bus back to our hotel, so I walked seven kilometres along busy roads. When I finally arrived, my friends were already there, sitting around the pool. I've never understood how they got there so quickly.

This writer:

1 had an enjoyable experience with a friend. _____
2 had an experience that friends found amusing. _____
3 had an embarrassing experience with an adult. _____

Circle the correct answers (a–d).

1 Hilary went red because her penfriend's mother knew
   a that Hilary didn't hear the doorbell.
   b that Hilary was in her bedroom.
   c that Hilary was not telling the truth.
   d why Hilary did not want to open the door.

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2 On Kevin's first holiday without his parents, he
   a walked all the way to the south-west of England.
   b decided to hitch-hike around south-west England.
   c spent the holiday at a campsite in Cornwall.
   d camped at various places along the coast.
3 Meeting lots of different people taught Kevin
   a some useful skills that he later lost.
   b that negotiating with strangers can be dangerous.
   c how to decide what strangers are like.
   d that talking to strangers is usually boring.
4 Terry had circles around his eyes because
   a his friends put lots of suncream on his face.
   b the rest of his face was red from the sun.
   c his eyes were sore from too much sun.
   d he wanted to make his friends laugh.
5 Terry decided to walk back to the hotel because
   a he wanted to get back to the hotel before his friends.
   b he knew there were no more buses.
   c he didn't feel like standing at the bus stop.
   d he knew it was not very far.

- **Decide which holiday experience was the best and which was the worst. Give reasons. Which holiday would you prefer to go to?**

- **Form holiday-related compound nouns by matching the words below with words 1-8. All compounds are in the texts.**

burn cream friend glasses guide pack programme site

1 travel _____ 3 pen_____ 5 camp_____ 7 sun_____
2 travel _____ 4 back_____ 6 sun_____ 8 sun_____

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RECYCLE! First conditional

Remember: we form the first conditional with the present simple in the *if* clause and *will* in the main clause.

If we forget to pack suncream, we'll get sunburned.

Imagine you are going on holiday with some friends. What will be the advantages and disadvantages of being without adults? Use the *IF* clauses below for ideas.

if we run out of money if we lose our passports
if we get ill if we don't want to go sightseeing
if we make some new friends if we argue with each other

SPEAKING Discuss your ideas from exercise 8 with the class. Overall, are holidays without adults a good or a bad idea?

If we become ill, our parents won't be there to look after us.

Yes, but on the other hand, if we don't want to go sightseeing, we won't have to.

Read the texts. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 Sam's parents chose his holiday. ☐
2 Sam had a frightening experience. ☐
3 The weather was good during Harriet's holiday. ☐
4 Harriet's holiday was shorter than she expected. ☐

Have you ever been on holiday without your parents? Would you like to? Read this before you decide ...

SAM

I come from a strange family. My parents have always believed that we should learn to look after ourselves from an early age. That included holidays. I remember my poor brother went on a canoeing trip on the River Thames with a cousin when they were both just twelve years old. They had a miserable time and have never really recovered from the experience. When I was fifteen, they decided I was old enough to go on holiday with just my best friend. 'You're going to hitch-hike to the Lake District with a tent and a backpack; you're going to camp, up in the mountains, for a week; and then – if you're still alive – you're going to hitch-hike back again.' So we hitch-hiked for hundreds of kilometres, we camped, we got
0 cold and wet and scared, and couldn't afford to buy enough food. But, against the odds, we survived.

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HARRIET

I've been on a number of holidays without my parents, but the first holiday was two years ago, when I was sixteen. Six of us decided to go backpacking in Wales during the school holidays. I booked cheap hotels before we left. The first two days were fine. But at the end of the second day, we lost our way. It was pouring with rain and it was getting dark. We eventually came to a farmhouse and knocked on the door. We were so dirty and wet that they didn't let us into the house. We had to wait in the garage! But they let us phone the hotel. Anyway, the hotel manager kindly sent a car for us. But the next day it was still raining so we decided to take the train home. I've learned why no one goes backpacking in Britain in March – it rains non-stop and the fields are covered in deep mud. I've never had such a miserable time! My holidays since then have been in warm places with dry weather!

LIVEWORKSHEETS