UNIT 2: PLACES AND BUILDINGS

D. SPEAKING

Exercise 1: Read the task card. Then complete the student's notes. Use the words in the box.

Describe a place where you had a holiday that you enjoyed.

You should say:
where the place was
when you went there and how long you stayed
what you did while you were there
and explain why you enjoyed having a holiday at that place.

bought	*had*	*ran*	*stayed*	*was*	*went*	*were*

Notes

- **where the place was**

We _____ a holiday in Pingyao, China = historical small town

- **when you went there and how long you stayed**

It _____ this year (June) / we _____ for 2 or 3 days

- **what you did while you were there**

We _____ shopping and _____ some local things

- **explain why you enjoyed having a holiday at that place**

The people who _____ the hotel _____ very friendly

Exercise 2: Read the task card. Then watch the video of a student doing IELTS Speaking Part 2. The student makes some mistakes and uses the wrong tense in her answers. Correct the ten mistakes using the past simple form of the verbs.

Describe a place where you had a holiday that you enjoyed.

You should say:
where the place was
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what you did while you were there
and explain why you enjoyed having a holiday at that place.

1. I really want to go there. 2. We stay there for two or three days. 3. We travelling there and go around there and … buy some local things. (3 mistakes) 4. We have two days in a hotel. 5. It's quite a small hotel. 6. I really enjoy this holiday. 7. After that, we go around another city nearby ... 8. And then we go back to Beijing.	*(Unit 2 Video 1)*

Exercise 3: Match the two halves to complete the sentences.

Sometimes people in Warsaw spoke to me in Polish,	●		●	or Arabic, which meant that we had to speak English.
My father gave me a camera for my birthday,	●		●	because the people were so friendly.
I loved the food in Germany,	●		●	so I saw the pyramids.

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I didn't feel lonely in India	●		●	because they could not speak English.
We didn't speak Chinese	●		●	but I hated the weather.
When I was I New York I lost my wallet	●		●	and another thing was the wildlife.
I visited Egypt	●		●	so I had to cancel my credit card.
One thing I liked about Alaska was the scenery,	●		●	so I took a lot of photos on the holiday.

Exercise 4: Watch the video and read the information.
Then match the descriptions with the sentences. The sentences include words and phrases that you can use in the IELTS Speaking test to sound more natural.

You can use words or phrases like *basically*, *for a start*, *I mean*, *now* and *actually* to sound more natural. Did you notice how the student in the video uses *actually* to talk about a surprising fact? **Example:** *... and it was actually the first holiday that we were together.*	*(Unit 2 Video 2)*

adds or clarifies information *gives an example* *introduces a new topic*
shows surprise about a fact *simplifies or summarizes information*

1. It's a good place to visit. *I mean*, for a holiday. _____
2. We spent the whole holiday on the beach. Every day, *basically*. _____
3. There is a lot to see in this city. *For a start*, there are so many museums. _____
4. *Now,* let me tell you about the hotel …_____
5. I thought it would be hot but *actually* it was cold. _____

Exercise 5: Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

1. I expected the weather in Jamaica to be lovely but *actually/basically/for a start/I mean/now* it was really bad.
2. The weather was really bad. *Actually/Basically/For a start/I mean/Now* , it rained every day!
3. Swedish winters are much worse than British winters. *Actually/Basically/For a start/I mean/Now* , it always snows in Sweden, plus it's a lot colder …
4. We loved the food in Italy. *Actually/Basically/For a start/I mean/Now* , I have to tell you about the ice cream …
5. It's an expensive city. *Actually/Basically/For a start/I mean/Now* , it isn't as expensive as some other cities, but it's not cheap.

Exercise 6: You are going to do IELTS Speaking Part 2. You will need some paper and a pencil.

Describe a place where you had a holiday that you enjoyed.

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where the place was
when you went there and how long you stayed
what you did while you were there
and explain why you enjoyed having a holiday at that place

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