2 Listening: tune in

You are going to hear a podcast about travel called, "Take me away!" Listen to the introduction and answer these questions.

1. How does the podcast get the ideas for the vacations they describe?
2. How many vacations are they going to talk about in this episode? Who is taking these vacations?
3. What's the same about all these vacations?

3 Listening 1: Chris

Listen to Chris talking about his travel experience. As you listen, choose the best option to complete each sentence.

1. The experts *put together* a camping vacation for Chris and his family and they were away for **five days / one week / ten days**.
2. Chris explains that *glamping* is **camping for grownups / very comfortable / extremely expensive**.
3. They didn't need to *pitch a tent* because they were staying in a **log cabin / vintage camper van / yurt**.
4. Chris really liked the *wood-burning stove* because **he didn't need to make a fire / he could dry his clothes / it kept the insects away at night**.
5. Chris and his family went on an *expedition* to **buy some food at the supermarket / climb a mountain / spend the day at the beach**.
6. They got *soaked* when **they fell into the pool / they tried to fix the shower / the weather turned bad**.
7. The kids had a lot of fun when they *built a shelter* because they **felt this was proper camping / worked together as a family / saw a snake**.
8. Chris said that *the hot tub***was not clean / cost extra / was his favorite thing**.
9. The family enjoyed some long *treks*, but they **got very tired / got lost a few times / never found the place they were looking for**.

Talk about the meanings of the items in italics. You do not need to make any notes.

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4 Listening 2: Angie

Listen to Angie talking about her travel experience. Before you listen, choose the best option to complete each sentence. Then listen to check.

1. Angie and her partner wanted to go away for *a long weekend* by train _____.
2. She wanted to support the *thriving* tourist industry in her local area _____.
3. She thought their *boutique hotel* was really good _____.
4. She also thought that the prices were *decent* _____.
5. The pass they bought meant that they were able to *hop on and off* public transport _____.
6. The tourist information center *turned them onto* a free app _____.
7. The hotel was near a lot of *tourist traps* and *tacky souvenir* shops _____.
8. They also felt that restaurants were trying to *rip them off* _____.

A. and the rooms were satisfactory

B. and they left on Friday and returned on Monday

C. and this meant they gave the experience a lower score

D. and she didn't want to fly

E. and they could go wherever they wanted

F. and they were disappointed with the location

G. and she liked the way the rooms were decorated

H. and they could choose between several options for self-guided tours

Talk about the meanings of the items in italics. You do not need to make any notes.

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5 Listening 3: Charlie

Listen to Charlie talking about his travel experience. As you listen, decide if each sentence is true or false.

1. Charlie was keen to try a cruise without committing to a long *voyage*. _____
2. He didn't think that the cruise was similar to a more traditional *package vacation*. _____
3. Charlie's *cabin* didn't have a window because he didn't want to pay a higher price. _____
4. There were some *breathtaking* views, especially at the end of the day. _____
5. Charlie couldn't *put up with* the noise from the bar and he complained. _____
6. Most of the entertainment took place inside, rather than *on deck*, due to the weather. _____
7. Natasha asked what else they *got up to* and Charlie mentioned parties and games, among other things. _____
8. Everyone had to go on *an excursion* on Sunday morning, to a cheese factory. _____
9. Charlie was very lucky that he never *suffered from seasickness*. _____

Talk about the meanings of the items in italics. You do not need to make any notes.

6 Stop and check

You encountered twenty-seven items of vocabulary in this podcast. How many can you remember? Complete the definitions below with the items in italics from the three listening activities.

Chris' vacation

1. _____ (phr. v) organize something with several elements
2. _____ (n) a comfortable and easy way to experience camping
3. _____ (v) put up a temporary sleeping structure
4. _____ (n) a device that uses fire to heat a small area
5. _____ (n) an organized trip for a particular purpose
6. _____ (v) become completely wet
7. _____ (v) make a place with a roof where you can keep dry in the rain
8. _____ (n) a place to relax in heated water, often located outside
9. _____ (n) a long walk in the mountains or countryside

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Angie's vacation

1. _____ (n) Saturday, Sunday, and either or both Friday and Monday
2. _____ (adj., about an industry) very successful, and growing or developing
3. _____ (adj., about prices) fair, reasonable, acceptable
4. _____ (phr. v) use public transport very easily
5. _____ (phr. v) suggest or advise on a good option for someone to try
6. _____ (n) an attraction for visitors to an area with high prices and little value
7. _____ (n) a cheap item that people buy to remember a place they have visited
8. _____ (v) have a negative experience with prices that are too high or service that is very poor

Charlie's vacation

1. _____ (n) a long journey especially by ship
2. _____ (n) a type of vacation with a fixed price, which includes flights, accommodation and often food and drink
3. _____ (n) very beautiful sights, for example, of natural areas or historic architecture
4. _____ (phr. v) tolerate a negative situation without complaining
5. _____ (n) the outside space on a ship where passengers can walk and sit in the fresh air
6. _____ (phr. v) take part in an activity, possibly which other people would not approve of
7. _____ (n) a short trip or visit (less than one day) for pleasure or education
8. _____ (v) feel unwell due to the movement of a ship through the water, especially in bad weather

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7 Talking point

Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups. Use vocabulary from the lesson in your answers.

1. Which of these three vacations would you enjoy the most? Why?
2. If you could write in to the "Take me away!" podcast, what kind of vacation would you ask them to put together for you?
3. In your experience, what three things make for the best vacations?
4. Natasha says that no-fly vacations are better for the environment. Think of three more advantages of this type of travel.
5. What sort of difficulties might single people face on vacation?

8 Optional extension

Play this alphabet game in pairs or small groups. Your teacher will choose one of the vacations in from the podcast. You have three minutes to complete an A-Z packing list for this vacation. After three minutes, you will stop writing and compare ideas. You can have one point for each unique item that you wrote, if your teacher agrees that it's a sensible thing to bring on this vacation.

A.	B.	C.	D.
E.	F.	G.	H.
I.	J.	K.	L.
M.	N.	O.	P.
Q.	R.	S.	T.
U.	V.	W.	XYZ.

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