

## SPEAKING FOCUS

### *Glossary for Backpacking*

1. **Backpack** – A large bag that is carried on your back, typically used for long-term travel.
2. **Suitcase** – A large, rectangular bag with a handle, used for carrying clothes and personal belongings on trips.
3. **Mobility** – The ability to move freely and easily, an important factor when traveling with a backpack.
4. **Flexibility** – The ability to adapt to different situations; backpacking allows travelers to change plans easily.
5. **Terrain** – The physical features of the land, important to consider when deciding between a backpack or suitcase.
6. **Public transport** – Buses, trains, or other transport options used by the general public, often relied on by backpackers.
7. **Physical strain** – The stress and fatigue experienced when carrying a heavy backpack over long periods.
8. **Safety risks** – Dangers such as theft, accidents, or other security concerns during backpacking.
9. **Budget accommodation** – Low-cost places to stay, such as hostels, common for backpackers.
10. **Map or GPS device** – Tools to help travelers navigate unfamiliar locations.
11. **First aid kit** – A set of essential medical supplies used to treat minor injuries while traveling.
12. **Multi-tool** – A compact tool that combines several functions, useful for backpackers.
13. **Minimalistic needs** – Traveling with only essential items, typical of backpacking.
14. **Adventure** – A sense of excitement and exploration that backpackers often seek.
15. **Off-the-beaten-path** – Less commonly visited destinations, preferred by many backpackers for a more authentic experience.
16. **Cultural immersion** – Fully engaging with and experiencing the local culture of a place.
17. **Rucksack** – Another word for a backpack, commonly used in British English or for hiking.
18. **Instability** – A lack of safety or political stability, which can make some countries less desirable for backpacking.
19. **Transformative experience** – A journey or experience that deeply changes a person's perspective.
20. **Hidden gems** – Lesser-known places that are worth visiting but not commonly found in tourist guides.
21. **Long-term travel** – Traveling for an extended period, typically associated with backpacking.
22. **Luxury cruise** – A trip on a large, comfortable ship, often with many amenities, contrasted with the minimalism of backpacking.
23. **Resilience** – The ability to recover quickly from difficulties, an important trait for backpackers.
24. **Budget-friendly** – Economical or affordable, often describing the nature of backpacking trips.

## THE DISCUSSION ON BACKPACKING

### *Backpacking: The Adventure of Traveling Light and Exploring Freely*

Backpacking is a form of travel that emphasizes flexibility, adventure, and cultural immersion. Unlike a traditional vacation where travelers use suitcases and stay in luxury hotels, backpackers carry all their belongings in a backpack, making it easier to explore a variety of terrains and locations. This style of travel often appeals to those seeking mobility, as they can move freely and adapt their plans according to where the journey takes them.

There are several advantages to backpacking. It offers the opportunity to experience new cultures in a more authentic way, often visiting off-the-beaten-path destinations that tourists rarely see. It's also budget-friendly, with backpackers typically staying in budget accommodations like hostels. However, backpacking does have its challenges. Carrying a heavy backpack over long distances can cause physical strain, and travelers must always be aware of safety risks, such as theft or injury.

## SPEAKING FOCUS

Backpacking requires careful planning and packing of essential items. A well-prepared backpacker will have a map or GPS device, a first aid kit, comfortable clothes, and lightweight gear, ensuring they are ready for any situation. Despite being associated with younger travelers, backpacking can be a transformative experience for anyone, regardless of age, as it encourages independence, resilience, and a deeper connection to the places visited.

Some people might ask whether it's better to go backpacking alone or with friends. Both have their benefits. Solo backpackers can enjoy a greater sense of freedom and self-discovery, while those who travel with companions share experiences and memories along the way.

Backpacking is not only about exploring foreign countries; it can be an enriching way to discover new places even in your own country. Whether you choose to backpack through the mountains, cities, or rural areas, the experience will provide a unique perspective on the world around you.

Ultimately, backpacking is about embracing the unknown, connecting with cultures, and creating lasting memories. It is often considered more of an adventure than just a trip, making it a popular choice for those who seek more than the standard tourist experience.

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## THE DISCUSSION ON BACKPACKING STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to Student B.)

- (1) Have you ever been backpacking?
- (2) What are the advantages of backpacking?
- (3) Is backpacking better than taking a package holiday?
- (4) What do you think when you see backpackers in your country?
- (5) Have you ever stayed at a backpackers' or similar budget accommodation?
- (6) Is backpacking generally something for younger people?
- (7) Do you think backpacking is done only by those with little money?
- (8) How do you think backpacking around the world would change a person?
- (9) Is it better to go backpacking alone or with friends?
- (10) Do you think backpackers are similar to hippies?



## THE DISCUSSION ON BACKPACKING

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to Student A.)

- (1) Which is better, a backpack or a suitcase?
- (2) What are the negative points or dangers of backpacking?
- (3) What are the essential items to put in a backpack?
- (4) What is your image of backpackers?
- (5) Who would you choose to go backpacking with?
- (6) Would you prefer to go on a two-week luxury cruise or go backpacking for six months?
- (7) In which countries would you most and least like to go backpacking?
- (8) Is it OK for old people to go backpacking?
- (9) Would you like to go backpacking around your own country?
- (10) Why is it called 'backpacking' and not 'rucksacking'?

