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Exam Skills Trainer

Use of English

Strategy

Read the text quickly, ignoring the gaps, to get a general idea of what it is about. Then read it again more slowly and think of possible words to complete the text. Try out different ideas and say the sentences in your head before making a decision.

- 5 Read the **Strategy**. Complete the text with one word in each gap.

Why do people travel?

Do you enjoy travelling, or do you prefer to stay at home? Some people go on holiday in their own country with family or friends, and spend time on beaches or sightseeing in cities. They're more interested in relaxing than doing anything else. However, there are some people who love to travel all time. They give up their normal lives and have adventures such as going to Australia for a year, or travelling around Africa. They live with local people and explore deserts, rainforests and other amazing places. If they run out of money, find work in bars and restaurants, or they teach English to local people. They don't care about having careers at home or earning lots money. They only want have the experience of travelling. Often, young people go travelling before or after they go to university. Travelling is also popular with older people who want to take a break from work. So why do people love travelling so ? If you're travelling alone, it's great way to meet new and interesting people. You can learn different cultures, eat new food and practise a new language. More anything, travel gives you memories that you have forever.

Speaking

Strategy

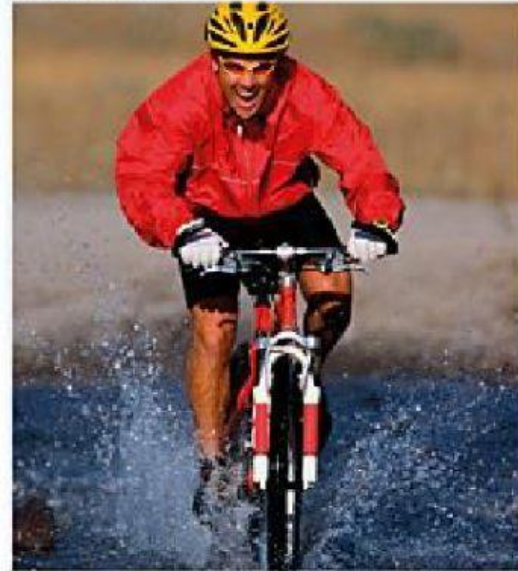
After you describe a photo in a speaking task, you often have to speculate about things such as people's feelings or the reasons why they are doing things. Use phrases which show that you are just speculating and that there is no correct answer.

- 6 Read the **Strategy** and look at the photo. Then look at phrases 1–5. Which can we use to speculate? Can you think of any other phrases?

- ☐ 1 He could be ...
☐ 2 It's clear that ...
☐ 3 He's probably ...
☐ 4 You can see that ...
☐ 5 Maybe he is ...



- 7 Describe the photo.



- 8 Answer questions 1–3.

- 1 Why is this person smiling?
- 2 Would you like to try something like this? Why? / Why not?
- 3 Talk about a situation when you or someone you know did something really enjoyable or exciting.

Writing

Strategy

You often have to make suggestions when you write an invitation. Make sure you use appropriate structures (*do something or doing something*) after, e.g. *Let's ... How about ... ?*, etc.

- 9 You are going to write an invitation to a friend asking him / her to come on a camping weekend with you and a few other friends. Read the **Strategy**. Then use some of the phrases below to write sentences suggesting things you might do.

Shall we ... ? How / What about ... ? We could always ...
Do you fancy ... ? Let's ...

- 10 Write a short email invitation to a friend, asking them to come on a camping weekend with you and a few other friends. Remember to include:

- the date, time and place of the weekend.
- suggestions for things to do.
- a request for your friend to bring something (e.g. tent, sleeping bag, cooking equipment).