3f Writing — A description of a visit to a place

Model analysis

1 **Read the rubric, then the model.**

> Your teacher has asked you to write a description (140-190 words) about a place you visited on holiday last year. Describe the place and say what you saw and did there.

Which paragraph mentions: CHECK

- A ☐ the writer's comments about the place?
- B ☐ what the writer saw and did there?
- C ☐ the name of the place and the reason for going there?
- D ☐ what the place was like?



A Perfect City Break

1 Last October my best friend and I booked a short break in the famous city of Edinburgh on Scotland's east coast. We stayed at a small hotel near the city centre. When we arrived, a cold wind was blowing and there was a thick mist, but that just made the atmosphere more exciting and mysterious!

2 Edinburgh is an amazing city. Apart from the modern areas, it is full of beautiful historic buildings and narrow cobbled streets which add to its magic.

3 We didn't have time to see and do everything. We visited Edinburgh Castle and saw the Scottish Crown Jewels. Then, we explored Mary King's Close with its creepy hidden underground streets and houses. The city's poor lived there in the 17th century. There were also several traditional restaurants where they served the Scottish speciality, haggis. It looked weird but was surprisingly tasty.

4 We enjoyed every minute of our visit. Edinburgh is so fascinating that I definitely plan to go back one day.



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2 **Replace the adjectives in bold in the model using adjectives from the list.** CHECK

- ***attractive***
- ***well-known***
- ***thrilling***
- ***chilly***
- ***scary***
- ***interesting***
- ***delicious***
- ***strange***

STUDY SKILLS

Making a description interesting

Using a variety of adjectives (*huge, amazing, etc*) **and adverbs** (*horribly, astonishingly, etc*) **makes a description more interesting.**



A Perfect City Break

1 Last October my best friend and I booked a short break in the **famous** ☐ city of Edinburgh on Scotland's east coast. We stayed at a small hotel near the city centre. When we arrived, a **cold** ☐ wind was blowing and there was a thick mist, but that just made the atmosphere more **exciting** ☐ and mysterious!

2 Edinburgh is an amazing city. Apart from the modern areas, it is full of **beautiful** ☐ historic buildings and narrow cobbled streets which add to its magic.

3 We didn't have time to see and do everything. We visited Edinburgh Castle and saw the Scottish Crown Jewels. Then, we explored Mary King's Close with its **creepy** ☐ hidden underground streets and houses. The city's poor lived there in the 17th century. There were also several traditional restaurants where they served the Scottish speciality, haggis. It looked **weird** ☐ but was surprisingly **tasty** ☐ .

4 We enjoyed every minute of our visit. Edinburgh is so **fascinating** ☐ that I definitely plan to go back one day.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

3f Writing A description of a visit to a place

3 Replace the adjectives in bold with other appropriate ones from the list. CHECK

- *delicious* • *warm* • *picturesque* • *cosy*
- *enjoyable* • *freezing cold* • *friendly*

A

We stayed in a **1) nice** _____ chalet in the **2) nice** _____ mountains in Bulgaria. The people were **3) good** _____ and **4) nice** _____. The weather was **5) bad** _____, but we didn't mind. The home-cooked food was **6) good** _____ and we had a(n) **7) nice** _____ time skiing every day. I can't wait to go back again next year.

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3 Replace the adjectives in bold with other appropriate ones from the list. CHECK

- *exciting* • *fantastic* • *5-star*
- *interesting* • *traditional* • *beautiful*

B

We had a **1) nice** _____ time in Barcelona. It's a **2) nice** _____ place. We stayed in a **3) nice** _____ hotel in the heart of the city and we saw lots of **4) nice** _____ tourist attractions. In the evenings we tasted local dishes at **5) nice** _____ restaurants and enjoyed some of the **6) good** _____ nightlife.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Replace the adjectives in bold with other appropriate ones from the list. CHECK

- ***relaxing*** • ***beautiful*** • ***stunning***
- ***narrow*** • ***traditional*** • ***peaceful***

C

Clovelly is a **1) nice** [ ] seaside village with **2) nice** [ ] views of the Devon coast. It is **3) nice** [ ] and tranquil and it is famous for its donkeys that carry goods up and down the **4) small** [ ] streets. We stayed in a **5) nice** [ ] cottage and we went for walks along the beach every day. We got to know the locals and had a very **6) nice** [ ] holiday.

aimlessly (adv): without purpose
e.g. *Amy and Mark are walking* ***aimlessly*** *along the beach.*

comfortably (adv): in a relaxed way
e.g. *I like sitting* ***comfortably*** *on my sofa and watching my favourite TV programme in the evenings.*

gracefully (adv): moving in a smooth and controlled way; elegantly
e.g. *Ballerinas dance* ***gracefully****.*

increasingly (adv): more and more
e.g. *The city streets are becoming* ***increasingly*** *crowded because of the festival.*

lazily (adv): unwilling to work or make an effort
e.g. *I sat* ***lazily*** *in my armchair and watched TV all evening yesterday.*

luxuriously (adv): comfortably and expensively
e.g. *The rooms in the five-star hotel were* ***luxuriously*** *furnished.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 **Fill in the appropriate adverbs.** CHECK

increasingly | gracefully | comfortably
luxuriously | lazily | aimlessly

1 We sunbathed _____ on the beach every day.

2 I sat _____ in a café and enjoyed the amazing view across the city.

3 The city is becoming _____ popular with young people.

4 She danced _____ to the music with the other festival-goers.

5 The palace was _____ decorated.

6 I wandered _____ through the cobbled streets looking in the shop windows.

Using modifiers *(adverbs of degree)*

Read the examples.

*The beach was **a bit** crowded.*
*It was **rather** expensive.*
*The hotel was quiet, peaceful and **fairly** close to the city centre.*
*We had a **really** good time.*

+	*a little, slightly, a bit*
++	*rather, pretty, quite, fairly*
+++	*very, really, extremely*

Choose the correct word.

+	*a little, slightly, a bit*
++	*rather, pretty, quite, fairly*
+++	*very, really, extremely*

1 There were **rather/quite** a number of cosy cafés and quaint tearooms.

2 The hotel was **extremely/rather** expensive, but not beyond our budget.

3 The weather was **slightly/pretty** worse than we expected, but it didn't spoil our trip.

4 The boat trip was a **little/really** disappointing, but enjoyable nonetheless.

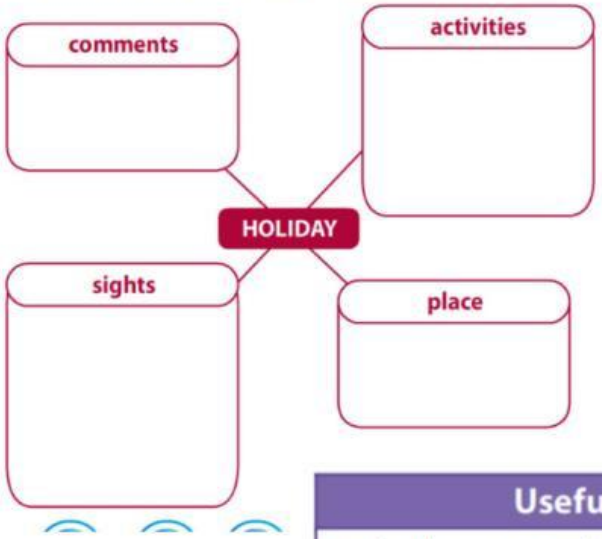
5 The museum was **very/fairly** interesting. In fact, it was one of the best I've been to.

6 The town centre was a **bit/really** busy, but not crowded.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Your turn

Your teacher has asked you to write a description of a place you visited on holiday last year. List words/phrases related to the topic under the headings.



STUDY SKILLS

Brainstorming

Before you start writing, think of the topics you are going to write about e.g. activities, sights, etc. Write as many ideas as you can under each topic. Then decide which ones to use in your piece of writing.

Useful Language

- is a large town/a small seaside village/on the north/south (coast) of …
- … perfect holiday destination
- has a lot of tourist attractions
- visited beautiful/historic palaces
- had lunch/dinner at cosy/trendy restaurants/cafés
- stayed at a 5-star luxurious hotel
- went shopping at modern shopping centres
- walked down narrow/cobbled/quiet streets
- had exciting nightlife
- danced in clubs popular with the locals
- has something for everyone
- is the best place for a short break
- It was the best holiday ever



LIVEWORKSHEETS