

SPEAKING PART 3: RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

In Part 3 of the Speaking test, the examiner asks further questions connected to the topic of Part 2. These questions explore more abstract ideas and issues.

Try it first!

1 Before you study this section, try developing the theme of the previous section into the more abstract area of travel and tourism in general. Work in pairs. One person is the examiner, the other is the candidate. Here are some suggestions for questions from the examiner.

- Why do you think tourism is so popular and still increasing in popularity?
- Do you think people always get what they were hoping for on holiday?
- Why is tourism so important to some economies?
- What environmental problems can be caused by tourism?
- What can be done to reduce these environmental problems?

2 Now reverse roles and discuss these questions.

- Millions of Western tourists visit holiday resorts in developing countries. What do you think attracts them?
- What difficulties can Western visitors experience in developing countries?
- How can large numbers of Western visitors affect the lives of ordinary people in developing countries?
- What do you understand by the phrase *responsible tourism*?
- What can visitors do to ensure they are responsible tourists?



Spotlight 2

Useful language for talking about the past and generalizing

Expressions for referring to times in the past

1 There are lots of words and phrases for expressing approximately when in the past an event occurred. Complete the sentences below using the words in the box.

couple few just long other recently while

- 1 I was on a camping holiday
- 2 I was on a camping holiday a ago.
- 3 I was on a camping holiday a months ago.
- 4 The day, I was looking at a holiday brochure.
- 5 I was looking at a holiday brochure a of weeks ago.
- 6 I was looking at a holiday brochure a day or two ago.
- 7 I was looking at a holiday brochure not very ago.

Tip
Show the examiner your ability to be specific and accurate when referring to past time.

The impersonal you

When describing typical experiences, it's often a good idea to use the impersonal *you*. For example, when talking about hotels:

*In most hotels, **you** can't check in until the early afternoon, and **you** usually have to check out by around 11 a.m.*

Some older grammar books suggest *one* as an alternative to the impersonal *you* (e.g. *One doesn't usually need to make a reservation.*). This is now considered very old-fashioned and is seldom used in spoken English.

2 Rewrite these sentences using the impersonal you.

- 1 It's possible to eat cheaply and very well in the local restaurants.
you can eat cheaply and very well in the local restaurants.
- 2 It's necessary to book accommodation a long time in advance.
- 3 It's not a good idea to take a car into the city centre.
- 4 It's possible to use an international credit card to pay for most things.

Reported speech

If you want to include something somebody said to you, remember the rules of reported speech. Verbs usually go into the past. However, for something which is obviously still true, putting the verb into the past can be optional.

We had a great time.

They said (that) they (had) had a great time.

The sea's freezing!

She said (that) the sea was freezing.

We love it here.

They said (that) they loved it there. / They said (that) they love it here/there.

I hate flying.

He said (that) he hated flying. / He said (that) he hates flying.

If in doubt, change the verb to the past!

3 Change these sentences into reported speech.

- 1 'I'm not very happy with the hotel.'
She said ...
- 2 'I can read a bit of the local language, but I can't communicate.'
He said ...
- 3 'I don't want to eat in international chain restaurants.'
She said ...
- 4 'We come here every year.'
They said ...
- 5 'We've been coming here for the last ten years.'
They said ...
- 6 'We've never been here before.'
They told me ...