

7 TRAVELLING

- A) Reasons for travelling, preparations, importance and the aim of travelling (for job, holiday, business, etc.)
- B) Means of transport (comparison, advantages, disadvantages)
- C) At the railway station, at the travel agency, at the reception - information

A) Reasons for travelling, preparations, importance and the aim of travelling (for job, holiday, business, etc.)

Every day hundreds of people travel from one place to another. They travel to work, to school, or on business. Many people travel for pleasure and travelling has recently become one of the most popular hobbies. Travelling is also an interesting way of spending holidays. In every season of the year the airports, railway stations, seaports, and bus stops are full of people travelling for long or short distances. When people choose from various means of transport they usually consider various questions like: time and distance, price, comfort, safety, how much luggage they need, age of passengers and many other. Then they decide to travel by air, by land or by sea.

People are not the same and therefore they organise their holidays in different ways. Some people prefer travelling with travel agencies. They are usually people with small children, older people or people who seek comfort and relaxation during their holidays. They want everything pre-arranged so that they don't have to worry about problems with food and accommodation. Travel agencies offer different kinds of accommodation: hotels, apartments, bungalows, cottages, camps and so on. You can also choose full board or half board. The only limitation to your comfort is the quantity of money you want to spend on your holidays. The travel agency will arrange your stay at a hotel, buy a plane ticket, provide you with suitable insurance, arrange for your visa and you are all set to go.

Some people cannot afford such luxury so they prefer travelling on their own. This may cause some discomfort, but on the other hand it can be more exciting. People sometimes choose this way because they want to save money. They can make their programme very flexible and they can see a lot more than during an organised trip.

Many people like travelling because it's a good way to learn about life. They understand that there are many ways of living and that their own culture isn't better than other cultures. Through the travelling they get to know a foreign country, local traditions, history, they can practise a foreign language they have learnt in their home country, so they try to spend as much time as possible using the foreign language when talking to local people.

B) Means of transport (comparison, advantages, disadvantages)

1. Travelling by plane is very often used when people need to travel for long distance. Travelling by air is exciting, fast, comfortable, relatively safe, but on the other hand rather expensive. It requires a lot of discipline from passengers because air flights are very organised since the beginning at check-in, where passengers show their flight tickets and passports and their luggage is weighed. Also during the flight instructions of the air-crew must be respected.
2. Travelling by train is the most common way of travelling. In our country trains are used daily by many people who commute to or from work and school. Trains are relatively cheap, cause less pollution, they are safe, but not always clean and not very comfortable. Therefore you should choose fast trains if you need to travel by train for a long distance. These trains have sleeping and dining cars, which also makes journey more pleasant.

3. Travelling by bus is typical for people who commute to and from work and school. It is not very comfortable, but the prices of tickets are quite reasonable.
Buses for long distance-travelling are called coaches. They are quite fast, often very modern and therefore quite comfortable. The big advantage is that there are many regular bus lines and so it is not difficult to find another connection if you need to change.
4. Car is by many people considered the most comfortable means of travelling and seeing places. Some other think it is a necessity because it is quicker than public transport. For many people driving is a pleasure, too. But some people have negative opinions on cars. They say that the cars cause a lot of pollution; they are not safe and rather expensive.
5. Travelling by bicycle is very popular especially among young people. It is both exciting and healthy. This type of travelling depends much on weather and so summer is the best season for cycling trips. It's the most ecological way of travelling
6. Transport by water is not very typical for our country as Slovakia is an inland country. Countries with big rivers and seas offer ferry and ship transport and also exciting cruises. They are usually very adventurous but some people should avoid them if they don't want to get sea-sick.

Picture - Travel

Tasks:

- Look at the photo and speculate:
- Where and how long do you think the people in the picture are travelling,
- What mean of transport do they travel by?
- What season is it?

Tasks:

- Look at the photos showing different ways of travelling. Name the means of transport you can see in the picture.
- Choose two of the means of transportation you like the most and compare and contrast them (point out the advantages and disadvantages).

Topic:

- Give your ideas why and where people usually travel.
- List the means of public transport; compare the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of transport and then talk about your preferences.

Role-play - Travel

You want to go on holiday. Go to the travel agency and discuss the following points:

- the best type of holiday to go on
- destination you would like to go to
- how long you would like to go for
- how you would like to travel
- what type of accommodation you would like to stay
- what you would like to do while you are there
- what preparations do you need to make for the trip