



Now is the time to travel!

The way I see it, we don't receive all of our education in a classroom. There is probably no better way to learn about the world than to travel and see it with your own eyes, and every year many university students use their **breaks** between **semesters** to seek adventure in other countries.

Many universities offer school trips **abroad** for their students during the breaks, but often Japanese universities require that a **chaperone** go with the students on the trip. This might not appeal to students who want more freedom. Cost is also another **factor** when deciding a **destination**. If money was no problem, most of us would stay at tropical resorts...but money usually is a problem, isn't it?

Backpacking is an **obvious** method of travel for many students who don't have a large **budget** for their trip. It is also good for travelers



who are not part of a larger group. Backpackers usually look for cheap **accommodation** and travel methods, staying at youth hostels instead of hotels and taking buses from one city to another.

Japan is relatively close to one of the world's backpacking **hotspots**: Southeast Asia. Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia are all great, **picturesque** countries for a university backpacker to visit.

Traveling light is the key to backpacking; only pack the **essentials** before your trip. You do not need to bring a lot of clothes - just do laundry more often! Finally, don't forget to leave a little extra space in your bag for some **souvenirs**!

After graduation, most people are too busy with their jobs to do much traveling. You might not have a lot of money while you are young, but if you ask me, now is definitely the time to get out and see the world. Backpacking is a good way to do that.

A - Preparatory Reading

1. According to the author, what is the best way to learn about the world?

2. What does the author believe is the most important point about backpacking?

3. Find a word that has a similar meaning as the following:

- gifts from a trip _____
- holidays _____
- necessary goods _____
- place to stay overnight _____
- adult supervisor _____
- money you plan to spend _____

4. What words can you find that are used to describe places? Circle them.

5. Use words from the article to complete the following sentences

- I want to travel _____ on my next holiday.
- Safety is an important _____ when deciding a travel _____.
- "It's _____ to me that Iraq would not be a good vacation spot."
- The first and second _____ at my school are two months apart.
- Odaiba and Tokyo Disneyland are two dating _____.
- What a _____ village! It's so beautiful!

B - Discussion

- Describe the best holiday you've ever had.
- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to go?
- Do you prefer traveling with friends or with family?
- Would you ever try backpacking alone in a foreign country?
- What's more important when choosing a holiday destination, cost or comfort?

C - Vocabulary: Places

1. What words can you think of to describe places?

CLIMATE	GEOGRAPHY	OTHER
hot	flat, wooded	busy, expensive

2. Adjectives: Match the words with their opposite meanings:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| rural | bustling |
| deserted | ugly |
| traditional | humid |
| chilly | mountainous |
| polluted | tropical |
| picturesque | urban |
| flat | modern |
| dry | clean |

3. Nouns: Name an example for each kind of landmark:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| skyscraper | <u>Tokyo Sky Tree</u> |
| ruins | _____ |
| temple | _____ |
| museum | _____ |
| fort | _____ |
| monument | _____ |
| statue | _____ |
| theme park | _____ |

4. How would you describe your ideal vacation spot?

D - Language Practice: 2nd conditional to talk about hypothetical situations

1st conditional

If + verb + will/can + verb

We use this grammar to talk about the future when there is a possibility this will happen.

*What will you do if you go to Thailand?
If I go to Thailand, I will do some scuba diving.
I can go to Thailand if I save enough money.
If it rains tomorrow, I won't go to the ball game .*

2nd conditional

If + past tense verb + would/could + verb

We use this grammar to talk about the future, but there is not a real possibility this will happen.

*What would you do if you won the lottery?
If I won the lottery, I would travel around the world.
I could buy a house if I won the lottery.
Even if I won the lottery, I wouldn't quit my job.*

1. Look at the article *Now is the Time to Travel*. Can you find any examples of this grammar?

2. Match the sentence halves

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| If I found a wallet on the street | I would tell him to improve the economy. |
| If I could do magic | I would impress my friends. |
| If I met the Prime Minister | I wouldn't have to take the train to work. |
| If I had a helicopter | I'd hand it into the police. |

3. Complete the sentences with the correct form (1st conditional or 2nd conditional)

- a) I'm sick. If I _____ (not be) sick, I _____ (go) to the party.
- b) We're late! If the bus _____ (not come) soon, we _____ (get) a taxi.
- c) I might go to Canada this winter. If I _____ (go) to Canada I _____ (try) snowboarding.
- d) I can't go to Canada this winter. If I _____ (go) to Canada I _____ (try) snowboarding.
- e) If I _____ (be) you, I _____ (get) a new job.
- f) It's a short drive to the restaurant. If we _____ (hurry) we _____ (make) it in time for the lunch special.
- g) I _____ (buy) you a house if I _____ (have) enough money.
- h) Our teacher _____ (get angry) if he _____ (find out) we cheated on the test.

E - Speaking

1. Finish the sentences your own ideas

If I won the lottery _____

If I was the opposite sex _____

_____ if I saw a ghost.

I would study English more if _____

2. Now ask a partner what they would do in these situations.

TALKING ABOUT TRAVEL, GRAMMAR: 2ND CONDITIONAL, GIVING OPINIONS

Ask your partner(s) these questions. Don't forget to ask follow up questions to make your conversation interesting.

What would you do if...?	Student #1 _____	Student #2 _____	Student #3 _____
...you (win) a lottery?			
...you (meet) your favorite celebrity?			
...you (can) go anywhere?			
...you (find) a wallet on the street?			
...you (crash) your father's car?			
...you (have) one day to live?			
<i>your idea</i>			
<i>your idea</i>			

F - Express Yourself: Giving Opinions

Instead of using "I think...", here are some other common expressions for giving opinions.

If you ask me...	I've always thought (that)...
The way I see it...	It seems to me (that)...
In my opinion...	I honestly feel (that)...

1. Look at the article *Now is the Time to Travel*. Can you find any examples of this language?

2. Arrange the words to make grammatically correct sentences

you fun backpacking is ask If me. _____

important honestly is I very traveling feel. _____

see the important school I way isn't it. _____

it me alone traveling to dangerous is seems. _____

3. Use the language above to give three opinions of your own.

G - Conversation

SARAH: Hey Izumi, the _____ is almost finished! What are you doing for spring vacation?

IZUMI: Well, I haven't decided yet. If I had enough money, I'd love to go to a tropical resort, but I can't really _____ go on an expensive holiday.

SARAH: Why don't you come _____ in Europe with Ben and I?

IZUMI: Hmm...I'm not sure. I've always thought that a holiday should be as comfortable as possible, and if you ask me, that _____ of traveling sounds pretty uncomfortable.

SARAH: No, it'll be fun! It's a great way to travel if you don't have a big _____ for accommodation.

IZUMI: Where are you guys planning to go exactly?

SARAH: Our final _____ is Rome. I've

heard the _____ are so picturesque. On the way we want to visit Madrid, Paris and Amsterdam.

IZUMI: Sounds really nice. I went to Paris on a school trip when I was a high school student. It was fun, but I really didn't like our _____. She was too strict.

SARAH: You wouldn't have that problem on this trip. If you came with us, you would have all the freedom you wanted.

IZUMI: It seems to me that it might still be too expensive.

SARAH: Of course the airfare will be the most expensive part of the trip. Accommodation and travel there should be pretty cheap, though.

IZUMI: Well, I'll think about it...

1. Use this vocabulary to complete the conversation:

afford to budget semester chaperone ruins method destination backpacking

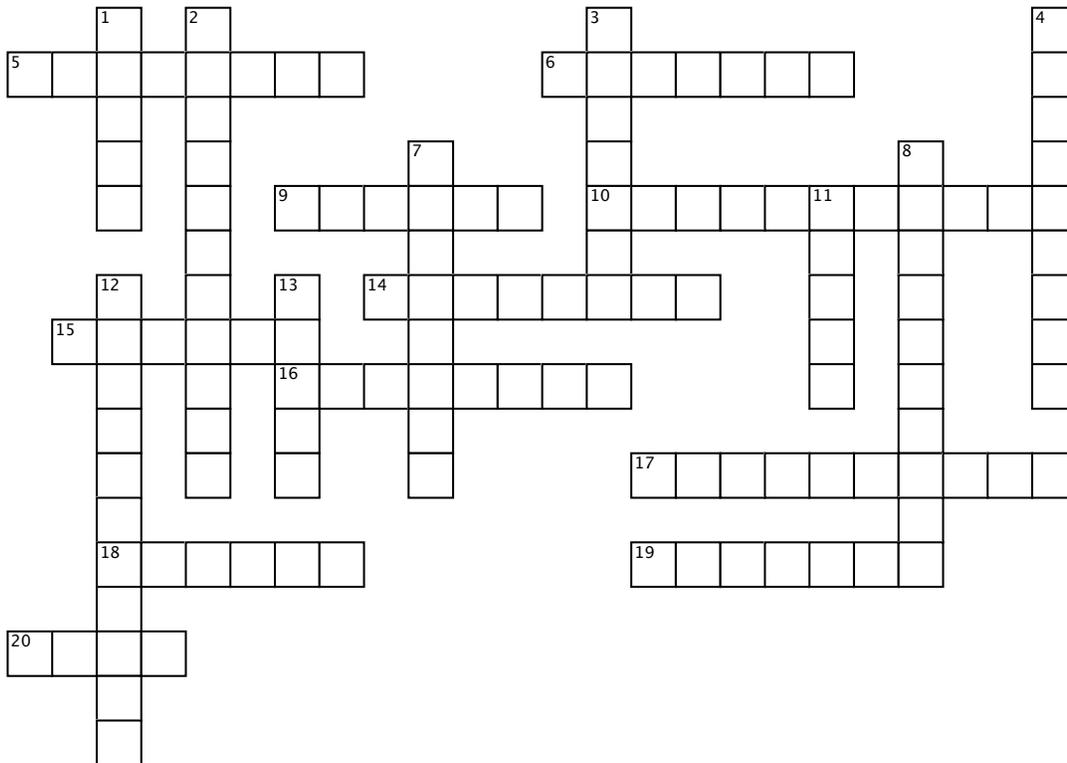
2. What expressions are used to give an opinion?

3. Circle the adjectives used to describe places in the conversation. How many can you find?

4. Do you think Izumi should join Sarah and Ben? Why or why not?

H - Review

Complete the crossword puzzle below using language found in this unit.



Across

- 5. a gift brought back from a trip
- 6. a gambling game in which a numbered ticket is chosen as a winner
- 9. I can't _____ to buy a new car.
- 10. pretty (for places)
- 14. a place with no people is _____
- 15. a point used when making a decision
- 16. busy (used to describe places)
- 17. a very tall building in a city
- 18. cool; cold
- 19. easy to see or understand
- 20. Southeast _____ is a popular area for scuba divers.

Down

- 1. this word is used to describe a hot, wet climate
- 2. a place you are traveling to
- 3. a popular place
- 4. an adult who looks after young people on a trip
- 7. I _____ feel that...
- 8. things that are necessary
- 11. what is left after a building has been destroyed
- 12. a cheap way of traveling
- 13. the opposite of rural

In this unit we:

- 1. talked about travel
- 2. reviewed using the second conditional to talk about hypothetical situations
- 3. practiced giving opinions

On the College English Magazine website, you can find plenty more exercises and activities to practice this English.