

GEOGRAPHY AND NATURE

Vocabulary

world – the earth, especially together with the life it supports OR the universe

planet – a very large round object in space that moves around the Sun or another star

the Earth – the planet that we live on

star – a large ball of burning gas in space that can be seen at night as a point of light in the sky

season – one of the main periods into which a year is divided, each of which has a particular type of weather (spring, summer, autumn (BrE)/fall (AmE), and winter)

geography – the study of the countries, oceans, rivers, mountains, cities, etc. of the world

nature – everything in the physical world that is not controlled by humans, such as wild plants and animals, earth and rocks, and the weather

ocean – one of the very large areas of sea on the Earth's surface

sea – the large area of salty water that covers much of the Earth's surface

river – a natural and continuous flow of water in a long line across a country into the sea

lake – a large area of water surrounded by land

canal – a long passage dug into the ground and filled with water, either for boats to travel along, or to take water to a place

bay – a part of the sea that is partly enclosed by a curve in the land

coast – the area where the land meets the sea

continent – a large mass of land surrounded by sea

island – a piece of land completely surrounded by water

mountain – a very high hill

cliff – a large area of rock or a mountain with a very steep side, often at the edge of the sea or a river

desert – a large area of land where it is always very dry, there are few plants, and there is a lot of sand or rocks

dune – a hill made of sand near the sea or in the desert

meadow – a field with wild grass and flowers

park – a large open area with grass and trees, especially in a town, where people can walk, play games, etc.

forest – a large area of land that is covered with trees

jungle – a thick tropical forest with many large plants growing very close together

glacier – a large mass of ice which moves slowly down a mountain valley

land – an area of ground, especially when used for farming or building

ground – the surface of the Earth

soil – the top layer of the earth in which plants grow

grass – a very common plant with thin leaves that covers the ground in fields and gardens and is often eaten by animals

mushroom – a simple type of plant that has no leaves or flowers and that grows on plants or other surfaces

pebble – a small smooth stone found especially on a beach or on the bottom of a river

rock – the hard substance that forms the main surface of the Earth

stone – a hard solid mineral substance

smoke – white, grey, or black gas that is produced by something burning

pond – a small area of fresh water that is smaller than a lake, that is either natural or artificially made

river – a natural and continuous flow of water in a long line across a country into the sea

wave – a line of raised water that moves across the surface of the sea

sky – the space above the Earth where clouds and the Sun and stars appear

water – the clear liquid without colour, smell, or taste that falls as rain and that is used for drinking, washing, etc.

tree – a very tall plant that has branches and leaves and lives for many years

plant – a living thing that has leaves and roots and grows in earth, especially one that is smaller than a tree

moss – a very small green plant that grows in a thick soft furry mass on wet soil, trees, or rocks

flower – a coloured or white part that a plant or tree produces before fruit or seeds

bush – a plant with many thin branches growing up from the ground

sand – a substance consisting of very small pieces of rocks and minerals that forms beaches and deserts

mud – wet earth that has become soft and sticky

mine – a deep hole or holes in the ground that people dig so that they can remove coal, gold, etc.

path – a track that has been made deliberately or made by many people walking over the same ground

road – a specially prepared hard surface for cars, buses, bicycles, etc. to travel on

tunnel – a passage that has been dug under the ground for cars, trains, etc. to go through

volcano – a mountain with a large hole at the top, through which lava is sometimes forced out

cave – a large natural hole in the side of a cliff or hill or under the ground

weather – the temperature and other conditions such as sun, rain, and wind

disaster – a sudden event such as a flood, storm, or accident which causes great damage or suffering

animal – a living creature such as a dog or cat, that is not an insect, plant, bird, fish, or person

wild – living in a natural state or not changed or controlled by people

domestic – relating to or happening in one particular country and not involving any other countries

dangerous – able or likely to harm or kill you

reptile – a type of animal, such as a snake or lizard, whose body temperature changes according to the temperature around it, and that usually lays eggs to have babies

crocodile – a large reptile with a long mouth and many sharp teeth that lives in lakes and rivers in hot wet parts of the world

alligator – a large animal with a long mouth and tail and sharp teeth that lives in the hot wet parts of the US and China

tortoise – a slow-moving land animal that can pull its head and legs into the hard round shell that covers its body

turtle – a reptile that lives mainly in water and has a soft body covered by a hard shell

lizard – a type of reptile that has four legs and a long tail

iguana – a large tropical American lizard

frog – a small green animal that lives near water and has long legs for jumping

salamander – a small animal similar to a lizard, which lives on land and in the water

chameleon – a lizard that can change its colour to match the colours around it

snake – an animal with a long thin body and no legs, that often has a poisonous bite

rattlesnake – a poisonous American snake that shakes its tail to make a noise when it is angry

cobra – a poisonous African or Asian snake that can spread the skin of its neck to make itself look bigger

python – a large tropical snake that kills animals for food by winding itself around them and crushing them

mesmerizing – very attractive, captivating

fascinating – extremely interesting

incredible – extremely great, unbelievable

paradise – a place or situation that is extremely pleasant, beautiful, or enjoyable

vegetation – plants in general

campfire – an outside fire, made and used by people who are staying outside or in tents

guru – an expert in a particular subject who gives advice

fiancé – the man who a woman is going to marry

honeymoon – a holiday taken by two people who have just got married

picturesque – a picturesque place is pretty and interesting in an old-fashioned way

brehtaking – very impressive, exciting, or surprising

Verbs

to move – to change from one place or position to another or to make something do this

to rent – to regularly pay money to live in a house or room that belongs to someone else or to use something that belongs to someone else

to discover – to find out something that you did not know about before

to explore – to discuss or think about something carefully

to travel – to go from one place to another, or to several places, especially ones that are far away

to climb – to move up, down, or across something using your feet and hands, especially when this is difficult to do

to hike – to go for a long walk in the mountains or countryside

to stick to something – to limit yourself to doing or using one particular thing and not change to anything else

to follow – to do something in the way that someone has told or advised you to do it

to spot something – to notice something

to rattle – if you rattle something, or if it rattles, it shakes and makes a quick series of short sounds

Phrases

G'Day – hello (Australian slang)

ace – very good, excellent (Australian slang)

to get accustomed to something – to become familiar with it and you no longer find it strange

love at first sight – an immediate love or affection for a particular thing or person

to feast one's eyes – to gaze upon something with joy or pleasure

to get acquainted with someone – if you are acquainted with someone, you have met them a few times but do not know them very well

to get used to something – to have experienced something so that it no longer seems surprising, difficult, strange, etc.

to get lost – if you are lost or if you get lost, you do not know where you are or are unable to find your way

neck of the woods – a particular area OR a neighborhood

to be scared to death – severely frightened or worried

couch potato – someone who spends a lot of time sitting and watching television

lack thereof – use when something that was previously mentioned is either missing or is insufficient

to soak something up – to enjoy a place by watching it or becoming involved in it

Grammar Corner

We usually use *tag questions* to check information that we think is true. *Tag questions* consist of two parts – a main clause and a *tag part* itself (an auxiliary verb and a subject pronoun).

If a main clause is an affirmative sentence, then a *tag question* is negative.

e.g. *The nature is just mesmerizing here, **isn't it?***

*You like hiking in summer, **don't you?***

*Carol has camped in the jungles, **hasn't she?***

If a main clause is a negative sentence, then a *tag question* is positive.

e.g. *We aren't happy with today's weather, **are we?***

*Lucas didn't find a campsite, **did he?***

*Peter and Emily won't be able to start a campfire in the rain, **will they?***

We can use adverbs to modify the meaning of the whole sentence. In this case, we put an adverb at the beginning of the sentence and separate it with a comma with the rest of the sentence.

e.g. ***Hopefully**, we won't get lost this time.*

*Dave is a geologist. **Ironically**, he despises hiking and camping.*

***Sadly**, it'll be raining the whole day.*

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2)

Australia is a Scary Place!

P1: Hello.

P2: G'Day, Sally!

P1: Oh, Ted, is it you?

P2: Yeah!

P1: I should have guessed it from the very beginning, who else in the world would say "g' day".

P2: Only the person who has just moved to Australia!

P1: So how's it going?

P2: Ace! I just love it! I immediately fell in love with Australian landscapes.

P1: Oh, so it was love at first sight, wasn't it? How is Sydney? Have you already got accustomed to this city?

P2: Love at first sight, exactly! Well, I rent an amazing apartment not far from the city center. I feast my eyes with mesmerizing, fascinating city views, and simply incredible nature! Sydney is definitely a place worth seeing. It is very multicultural as well. Every day I get acquainted with people from all over the world. It's interesting to find out about their background and values. Basically, I have a new perspective on this world.

P1: Wow, you seem to be really happy there! I know that the nature is incredibly beautiful over there, but what about animals? Australia is known for being home to so many dangerous reptiles.

P2: Yes, this is the only disadvantage that I can think of. And I have already experienced that myself.

P1: Oh no, did you find a snake in your bathroom?

P2: What? No.

P1: I saw it on TV, they said these things are common in Australia.

P2: Well, maybe I'll get a taste of it later, but so far no snakes were found in my bathroom.

P1: So what happened then?

P2: I found two huge spiders under my bed yesterday, two lizards sunbathing on the terrace, and a turtle crossing the road on my way to work yesterday.

P1: So you've got neighbors!

P2: Yeah, hopefully, I won't find any new ones or, at least, they won't be dangerous. But this is what I really like about Australia. It's nature. Wilderness. You can go to the beach, and you'll be the only person there. You can go to the jungles, you can go to a desert, and you can climb to the mountains or swim in the ocean... Australia has everything! If there is a paradise in this world, it is in Australia. This is a place where I feel alive, so I think I'll get used to this tiny issue.

P1: Wow, I feel like I should visit you someday. Will you host me if I come to Sydney?

P2: Sure, no problem! You're my best friend, I would love to share these captivating landscapes with you.

P1: Perfect! Or is it better to say "Ace"?

Hiking

P1: Look, I think we're finally here!

P2: Hmm, I wanted to say that we probably got lost again.

P1: No, I'm 100% percent sure we're not. Can you see that beautiful meadow beside the river over there? I think we can settle there and have lunch.

P2: Okay, you seem to know a lot about nature and stuff, I'll trust you.

P1: I majored in geography, I definitely have some basic knowledge.

P2: Have you done hiking before? Maybe, during your college years?

P1: Yeah, hiking has been my hobby since early childhood. My father would take me with him whenever he went hiking or camping. So by the time I turned 18, I've done pretty much everything. I'm a professional.

P2: Professional at hiking? That sounds odd to me. How is it possible to become professional at hiking? You are simply going through the hiking trails or climbing the mountains. That's it. I don't think that you should have any professional skills to go hiking.

P1: Well, believe me, hiking requires certain skills. First of all, you should know the neck of the woods so you won't get lost. There are also some rules that you should stick to.

P2: The only rule I always follow is bringing more water and food than is necessary for the amount of time you will spend. I learned it when I was a scout.

P1: That's a good rule too. You should also think about a place to sleep in. Some of the routes are too long to be finished in one day or you can simply get lost, so it is better to do some research on camping areas in parks. These places are usually very safe and have all the necessary facilities like a place to start a campfire, picnic tables, and sometimes even restrooms.

P2: Will we stay at a place like that tonight?

P1: No, our route is not on the lengthy side, but I highlighted the camping areas on my map just in case.

P2: Wow, you're really a camping guru.

P1: Safety is another major concern. For example, in the West and the Appalachian Mountains, there are snakes, mountain lions, and bears; in the Southern part of the U.S., snakes, and alligators are the main problem. Some snakes are very small and can be invisible on the ground – you won't be able to spot them. That's why you'd better avoid places near water bodies, where they usually live.

P2: And you're telling me this while we are sitting next to a river? Oh my gosh, I think I've just seen a snake rattling over there!

P1: It's just a frog.

P2: Phew! You scared me to death with your hiking rules.

P1: These rules can save your life. Anyway, calm down and let's go.

P2: Yeah, let's go faster, I don't want to be eaten by a grizzly bear or something.

Honeymoon

P1: Hello!

P2: Hello, how can I help you?

P1: My fiancé and I are planning our honeymoon. We want to do something extraordinary, unusual, you know, not just to fly to the islands and spend 10 days lying under the sun and staying in a hotel room like couch potatoes!

P2: I see. It means that you'd like to have an active vacation, wouldn't you?

P1: Yes! We lead a very active lifestyle, so our honeymoon should also be active and full of adventures. The only problem is a destination. Or lack thereof. I don't know where we'd like to travel to. Maybe Europe? However, I'm open to other ideas.

P2: What about going to the mountains? The Alps and Pyrenees are the most famous mountain ranges in the world.

P1: We don't have climbing experience though.

P2: It is not necessary to climb them, you can stay in a cottage house or in a hotel somewhere in Switzerland. A picturesque view from your window, being able to breathe incredibly fresh air every day and have long romantic walks in beautiful parks – what's there not to like? It sounds like a perfect honeymoon idea, doesn't it? You can make a romantic picnic on a green meadow or gather a bouquet of bright spring flowers in a forest.

P1: Sounds great in theory, but where's the active part?

P2: No worries! You can rent a yacht and go on a small cruise across Lake Geneva. You can soak up the scenery on a Lake Geneva cruise, then hop on a train and get right into the Swiss Alps, or cross the French border and explore Mont Blanc.

P1: Hmm, a cruise. This is something we've never tried before. Sounds very romantic, indeed. Switzerland could be a perfect place for our honeymoon.