

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Vocabulary

holiday – a time of rest from work or school

the holiday season – the time from late November through January when several holidays (such as Christmas and New Year's Eve) happen

vacation – a holiday or time spent not working

workation – work remotely while doing the touristy things on weekend or after work

beach – an area of sand or small stones at the edge of the sea or a lake

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

palm – a tropical tree which grows near beaches or in deserts, with a long straight trunk and large pointed leaves at the top

deckchair – a folding chair with a long seat made of cloth, used especially on the beach

sandcastle – a small model of a castle made out of sand on the beach

pool – a hole or container that has been specially made and filled with water so that people can swim or play in it

surfboard – a long piece of plastic, wood etc that you stand on when you go surfing

canoe – a long light boat that is pointed at both ends and which you move along using a paddle

camping – the holiday activity of living in a tent

ice cream – a frozen sweet food made of milk, cream, and sugar, with fruit, nuts, chocolate, etc. sometimes added to it

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

garden – the area of land next to a house, where there are flowers, grass, and other plants, and often a place for people to sit

Father's Day – the day on which people give cards and presents to their father

Independence Day – the day every year on which a country celebrates its independence from another country that controlled it in the past

gift/present – something that you give someone, for example to thank them or because you like them, especially on a special occasion

balloon – an object made of brightly coloured thin rubber that is filled with air and used as a toy or decoration for parties

greeting card – a decorative card sent with good wishes

proud – feeling pleased about something that you have done, or something that you own, or about someone or something you are involved with or related to

sincere – a feeling, belief, or statement that is sincere is honest and true and based on what you really feel and believe

tradition – a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has existed for a long time, or these beliefs, customs, etc. in general

gift tag – a tag attached to a gift that says who it is from

party – an event when a lot of people meet together to enjoy themselves by eating, drinking, dancing

crowd – a large group of people

family reunion – an occasion when members of an extended family gather together

tip – a small amount of money given to someone who has provided you with a service, in addition to the official payment and for their personal use

Verbs

to prepare – to make a meal or a substance

to sign – to write your signature on something to show that you wrote it, agree with it, or were present

to celebrate – to take part in special enjoyable activities in order to show that a particular event or holiday is important

to search – to try to find someone or something by looking very carefully

to lose – to not win a game

to arrange – to organize or make plans for something such as a meeting, party, or trip

to devote – to give your time or effort completely to something you believe in or to a person

to relax – to rest or do something that is enjoyable, especially after you have been working

to enjoy – to get pleasure from something

to work – to do a job that you are paid for

to cook – to prepare food for eating by using heat

Phrases

that will do – said to mean that you do not want any more of something

24/7 – all the time

long time no see – said when you meet someone who you have not seen for a long period of time

to feel envy – to wish that you had someone else's possessions, abilities, etc.

sunshine and rainbows – an expression referring to a very happy, care-free life

a part-time job – someone who has a part-time job works for only part of each day or week

to stay in touch – to maintain contact with another person, especially at intervals so as to remain up to date with each other's lives

Grammar Corner

We use the *future continuous* tense if we want to describe an event that will be happening in the future for a certain period of time, i.e. we are highlighting its duration.

e.g. We'll be eating, relaxing, swimming, and doing all sorts of things. This summer will be the best!

How long will you be staying there? – For 5 days. I'm dreading it. I'll be staying in a tiny hotel room with my colleague. Who thought that having a business conference in July is a great idea?

We use "have to" to say that something is required or necessary, commonly used when we do not want to do something.

e.g. You're going to be helping me out with cooking. – Do we really have to cook? Why not just order takeout?

I'll have to work as a waiter at my parents' place this summer since they haven't found anyone to fill in the hours.

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2)

Father's Day

P1: Jordan, father's day is tomorrow. What's dad going to get from you this year?

P2: Wait, are you sure it's tomorrow?

P1: Yeah, the third Sunday of June.

P2: Oh, no! I haven't bought a present! Sis, help me out, I completely forgot about it.

P1: Well, I bought a beautiful greeting card, so maybe that will do. We can sign it and write something very touching. Maybe something along the lines of "Thank you for being our rock."

P2: A greeting card is nice and I love that line, but it's not enough. Our stepdad made so much for us and our mum, I feel like we could do more.

P1: You're the one who forgot about it altogether.

P2: I know, but now that I remembered that, why don't we go to the mall and buy something? We still have like an hour till it's closed. You know... he was really caring, he never shouted at us even when there was a reason to do that. I just want to show that I... I mean, we really appreciate him. Plus with our going away to college, I want him to have something physical, not just our words.

P1: Yeah, he's so sweet. Remember when mom got ill and he braided my hair? Everyone made fun of me at school, but I felt so proud of him.

P2: Haha, yeah, he did it so awkwardly! That was so sweet. See, these little moments make it worth it. Let's hurry up and go now.

P1: You know, I have another idea actually. What if we set up a romantic dinner just for him and mom? I bet they're tired of taking care of us 24/7, plus this year with college applications has been really stressful.

P2: Perfect! This is what they need right now – some time together away from their kids.

P1: I think we should get him something anyway, though.

P2: OK, let me brainstorm ideas.

P1: Mmm, we don't exactly have time for that, Jordan.

P2: Just a second. A shirt? Pants? A watch?

P1: Are you listing everything he doesn't like wearing?

P2: I thought he could dress up for this occasion with mom?

P1: Let's skip the we-don't-like-your-style-please-dress-up part. Let's get him something he will actually like. How about a BBQ set?

P2: That's a great idea! You're smarter than I am.

P1: Duh, I didn't forget about Father's Day in the first place.

Summer Holidays

P1: Hey, Sam! Long time no see.

P2: Hi, man! What's up?

P1: I have finally passed all my exams and can relax a little for a week before going home.

P2: Congrats, man! I have one more exam left before I can fully enjoy the summer holidays. Your parents live at the seaside, don't they?

P1: Yeah, I can see the sea from my bedroom window.

P2: Oh, you're so lucky! I feel kind of envious. I am planning a trip with my groupmates to Bali, Indonesia for a couple of weeks, and it is so expensive and complicated at the same time. And you'll have all the same things for free: the ocean, beach, sand. Perfect!

P1: I mean, yeah, this is what I'll have, but it's not all sunshine and rainbows. I'm not going to be tanning or surfing this summer. I'll be helping out my parents in our café at the beach. We are open pretty much every day, so it's going to be challenging.

P2: Is it a family business?

P1: Yes, my parents own a café and two small shops in our town. Lots of tourists every year, so there's always a lot of work to do.

P2: Will it be like a part-job for you?

P1: No, not really. I am going to work as a waiter, and I will have to work 6 days per week, 12 hours a day.

P2: Wow, that's crazy! At least, you will earn money and will be able to make some savings.

P1: Kind of. It's nice cause I won't be spending money on rent and food these months, but that's also why I want to work these crazy hours. The more, the better!

P2: I feel awkward now cause I'm traveling to another country to relax and sip drinks by the pool.

P1: You don't have to feel awkward. I have my own life, you have yours. Where will you be staying, by the way?

P2: We will stay in a villa as we are traveling with a big crowd. There will be 8 of us. The villa is located right in the jungles, so to get to the nearest town, we will have to ride motorbikes.

P1: Interesting! I hope you enjoy this vacation. Make sure to chill out and have fun before the new semester starts.

P2: Yeah, I feel so exhausted that I am dreaming about sitting in a deckchair under the palm trees and eating ice cream. But you're really cool – you still want to work after an exhausting semester.

P1: I am okay with it. It's not as bad as it sounds. I'll still have some free time here and there, so it's fine.

P2: Yeah, it makes sense. No pain, no gain.

P1: Exactly. Don't forget to send me a postcard from Bali or something.

P2: Haha, I'll definitely send you a postcard. We'll stay in touch. And have a nice workation?

P1: Haha, thank you! Hoping to get these generous tips!

4th of July

P1: Gaby, don't plan anything for the 4th of July. I want our family to gather together at least for Independence Day this year.

P2: Oh, but I have already promised Mark to go on a picnic together.

P1: You spend all holidays with him and his family. Could you please make an exception for the 4th of July? You know, your father has been recently promoted at work, so there is one more reason to celebrate. We want to have some family time, with BBQ, canoeing down the river, and spending a night in one of those campsites in the woods.

P2: Oh, no... Mom, not camping, please! I'm going to be bitten by mosquitoes.

P1: It is not my idea, honey. You know that your father likes active holidays. Every year he comes up with new crazy ideas. This year he decided that we will go canoeing and camping, so it means we will do both. It is not a point to be discussed, you don't want to upset your father, do you? He has been working so hard, we almost don't see him. It is a wonderful opportunity to have a small family reunion, your uncle Fred and aunt Liz will join us too. And I'll give you some spray to keep mosquitoes away from you.

P2: Oh, last time we were climbing the mountains after watching the parade for 4 hours under the sun. And this year canoeing after eating steaks and hamburgers... I'm so thrilled.

P1: Stop complaining. If you want, you can invite Mark to celebrate with us.

P2: I will try, but we wanted to stay home, order some food, and watch fireworks on TV. Not everyone is so active as our daddy.

P1: To watch fireworks on TV? Why not do that in person? That's decided – you're inviting Max, and we're celebrating Independence Day together as one family.

P2: I hope he accepts the invitation.