

TRAVELLING

Why do people travel?

Some people simply like travelling. They like **visiting new places and new countries** and **meeting new people**. They **buy souvenirs** and bring them home. They **take lots of boring photos** and then they show them to all their friends. They usually want to visit as many countries as possible. When they are in the mountains, they usually go hiking. When they are on the beach, they swim, sunbathe, or play beach volleyball. When they are visiting a new city, they usually go sightseeing. They **go to museums, castles, churches, galleries and other places**. They also usually like trying local food. When they go to Italy, they order pizza. When they go to Britain, they try fish and chips. They also love **visiting festivals and other cultural events**.

Some people **travel because of education**. The best universities in the world are in Great Britain and in the USA, so lots of young people want to travel there and study there. Travelling is also important for **learning foreign languages**. If you want to get better at English, it is a good idea to travel to England or to some other English-speaking country. If you want to speak French, why not go to France?

Some people travel because they have to. For example, they get **a good job in a foreign country**. If the country is far away, they usually travel there by plane. Sometimes, they bring their families with them. If they leave their family at home, they often go back and visit them. Some people also have to travel a lot because of their job. Businessmen travel to buy and sell things. Scientists travel to do research at foreign universities and to take part in conferences. Singers often have concerts all over the world. If you travel somewhere because of your job, it is called a **business trip**.

Means of transport

There are a lot of ways to get from one place to another. Some of them are very old, like horses or ships. Others, like cars or planes, were only invented in the 19th or 20th century. Today, there are many kinds of vehicles that can travel on **land, in the air, or on water**.

Land

When you want to travel on land, the easiest way is to **walk**. If you walk as a tourist in the countryside, it is called **hiking**. Another popular and quite cheap way of travelling on land is **cycling**.

Some people **cycle to work** every day because they want to **save money and stay healthy**. Other people see cycling as a sport and want to be as fast as possible. There are cycling competitions all over the world. The most famous one is probably *Tour de France*.

Motorcycles are very similar to bicycles but they have **an engine that makes them move** so riding them will not make you healthier. They are faster than bicycles but they are also more expensive. They are more dangerous and less ecological. There are many kinds of motorcycles. One popular kind of motorcycle is **a scooter**. It has a smaller engine than a regular motorcycle and it is slower. There are also motorcycle races. The most famous motorcycle race in the Czech Republic takes place in Brno.

When people want to move somewhere, they also often use **animals**. Before the invention of trains and cars, the most important way of travelling on land (apart from walking) was probably **on horseback**. Horses can transport material as well as people. People can sit directly on the horse or the horses can be used to pull carriages. In the country, horses were used **in agriculture**.

Today, at least in Europe and the USA, they have been **replaced by tractors and other vehicles**. There are also horse-riding competitions. The most famous horse race in the United Kingdom is probably the *Grand National* which takes place in Liverpool. The most famous Czech horse race is *Velká pardubická*.

Another animal that is often used by people as a means of transport is **the camel**. This animal is very important in desert countries in Africa and Asia. The camel has a close relative in South America: **the llama**. Llamas are good for travelling in the mountains. People use them to transport things but they

do not ride them. Other animals that can be used to transport things or people are **elephants or donkeys**. In northern countries, **dogs and reindeer** are used for pulling sledges.

Trains are a relatively new means of transport. The first trains were powered by horses, but people soon started using **steam**. Today, most trains are powered by Diesel engines or by electricity. Trains are great for **transporting heavy things over long distances** but you need to build a good railway network first. The first country that built a railway network was **Great Britain**. This is not surprising because trains were invented there. Both people and things are commonly transported by trains. Today, some of the fastest passenger trains in the world are the French *TGVs* and the Japanese *Shinkansens*.

Probably the most popular way of travelling on land today is **by car**. The modern car was invented **by Karl Benz** in Germany in the 19th century. Cars became really popular during the 20th century. Today, almost every family in Europe, in the USA, and in some other countries such as Japan or South Korea has at least one car. There are many kinds of cars, for example sedans, pickups, SUVs, and so on. There are a lot of car manufacturing companies around the world, for example *Mercedes, Peugeot, Toyota* or *Ford*. The most famous Czech producer of cars is Škoda. Cars are usually **comfortable and fast**, but they are **not very good for the environment** because they use a lot of gas.

Today, there are also **electric cars and hydrogen cars**. And companies like *Tesla* or *Google* have already built cars that don't need any driver because they can drive themselves. The makers of these cars often say that they are safer than cars driven by humans. **Self-driving cars** and other vehicles may be the future of transport but they can also create some problems, especially for taxi drivers, bus drivers, truck drivers and other people who **might lose their jobs**.

Cars are usually used to transport people. Big cars that are used to transport things are called **lorries** in Britain and **trucks** in the USA. Very small lorries are called **vans**. There are also **buses**. These are big cars too, but they are not used for transporting things but for transporting people. Many people earn their money by driving these vehicles.

A very cheap but possibly dangerous way of travelling is **hitchhiking**. Hitchhikers ask other people, usually strangers, to give them a ride in their car or truck. They usually do not pay anything.

water

People have travelled on water for thousands of years. A vehicle for travelling on water is called **a ship**. The first ships were probably just **simple rafts**. Later, people invented oars and sails and they could travel farther and farther. Ships can travel **on rivers, seas, lakes and oceans**. The most famous ship ever built is probably the *Titanic*. When it was built, it was the largest ship in the world. But it wasn't very lucky. It **hit an iceberg** on its first journey from Europe to America and sank.

Ships are used for **transporting things as well as people**. They are especially important for transporting things between different continents and for transporting heavy things over long distances. Transporting things by water is cheaper than transporting them by land or air. The largest ships ever built are **oil supertankers**.

Ships are also very important in wars. **Battleships** are very heavy ships with lots of guns. **Aircraft carriers** are large ships that carry a lot of planes. **Submarines** are ships that travel underwater.

air

People have always dreamed of flying. In 1903, the Wright brothers (Orville and Wilbur) built **the first successful plane**. The first flight was about 12 seconds long.

Today, millions of people fly every day and there is at least one airport in every large city. A flight from London to New York takes about seven hours. Flying is **the fastest** way to travel but it is usually also **the most expensive** one.

There are **many kinds of airplanes**. The two largest producers of passenger airplanes are *Boeing* from the United States and *Airbus* from Europe. The largest passenger airplane in the world is *Airbus A380*. The largest Boeing is *Boeing 747-8*.

There are also **many kinds of warplanes**. The most famous fighter jets today are probably the American *F16* and the Russian *Mig*. The American bomber *B52* played a very important role during World War Two. One of the most famous warplanes in history is the British *Spitfire*.

Helicopters are a special type of aircraft which can take off and land vertically and stay in the air in one place. Leonardo da Vinci made a design of a helicopter in the early 1480s, but functional helicopters were only built in the 20th century. They are usually used **by firefighters, doctors, soldiers and the police**.

Going on holiday

Some people spend their holiday (in American English vacation) at home, but most people probably travel somewhere. Some of them **travel abroad** while others visit interesting places **in their own country**. Some people like **travelling alone** while others prefer to **travel with their families or friends**. There are several types of holidays. You can **organize the whole holiday yourself** or you can buy a **package holiday** from a **travel agency**.

Before you start your **journey**, you have to do a few things. First of all, you have to **pack your luggage**. Some people take a lot of things with them so they need to take a lot of luggage. Other people do not take so many things, so one **bag or suitcase** is enough for them. If you are travelling by plane, it is important to **buy the tickets in advance**. It is also a good idea to get some **travel insurance**. If you are travelling abroad, it is important to **take your passport**. For some countries, you may need a **visa**.

Many people like to spend their holiday **at the seaside**. When you are travelling to the seaside, do not forget to pack a **swimsuit, swimming trunks and towels**. A rubber duck is also a must – without it, you will have no fun at all. If you are planning to do some **sunbathing**, you will need a good **sunscreen**.

Some people think that lying on the beach is boring and like to spend their holiday in a **more active way**. For these people, a **holiday in the mountains** is the perfect choice. They can **go hiking** every day and **breathe the fresh and healthy mountain air**. The highest mountains in the Czech Republic are **the Krkonoše Mountains**. There are a lot of guesthouses where you can stay. The highest mountains in Europe are **the Alps**.

Some people aren't interested in either mountains or beaches. They are more into **culture** and prefer a **sightseeing holiday**. When they go somewhere, they prefer to stay in a **historic city** and see all the churches and other important buildings there. If you go on a sightseeing holiday, it may be important to find a **good guide** – a local person who can show you the interesting places and tell you something about their history.

Accommodation

When you go on holiday or on a business trip, it is important to choose the right type of accommodation.

Staying in a **hotel** is probably the most comfortable kind of accommodation but it is also the most expensive one. And it can sometimes be really hard to find a good hotel.

Young people sometimes prefer **hostels** to hotels. Hostels are much cheaper than hotels but they are less comfortable and sometimes, you may have to **share your room with other people**.

If you are travelling in the summer, you can stay in a **tent**. This is quite cheap.

If you have some **friends** who live in your destination, you can also sleep **on their couch**. However, you should ask them first.