

# 3

# Places

## Section A: Building Your Vocabulary and Skills

### WARM-UP

1  Discuss the following questions in groups.

- 1 Do you enjoy traveling?
- 2 Is it important to find the right accommodations when you travel?
- 3 What are the advantages and disadvantages of the following accommodation options?

- tent • caravan • youth hostel
- five star hotel • rural cottage

2 Report your group results to the class.

### VOCABULARY

3 a. Peter lives in London. He has been offered a job on a computer programming project for a company located in New York City. He is looking for a place to stay, and is considering two options.

Look at the pictures below.  
How are the two homes different?




**Suggested answer:** The first apartment is located in a quiet neighborhood in the suburbs, whereas the second one is in a skyscraper in the city center.

b.  (Trk 06) Listen to Peter talking to the estate agent and answer the following questions.

*See Teacher's Notes, page 72*

- Which apartment does Peter choose?
- What influenced his choice?
- Which features do you consider important in choosing a place to stay?

4  You and your partner are relocating to New York for work and you want to rent an apartment together. You both work in the city center, near Union Square. You are deciding between two apartments. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of each, and agree on one. Then, present your decision to the class and give reasons for your choice.



**Apartment 1**  
This two-bedroom apartment is located in a red brick townhouse in Brooklyn, New York, six blocks from the subway station. 30 minutes traveling time to Manhattan City Center.

It has hardwood flooring, high ceilings, a fully equipped open kitchen, a fireplace, Queen size beds in the bedrooms, and large closets. There is access to a garden. Windows in every room allow for lots of natural light.  
Price: \$2.100 pcm



**Apartment 2**  
This modern one-bedroom apartment is located on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of a residential skyscraper one block from Union Square, Manhattan, New York. It features a fully fitted kitchen, marble bathroom, hardwood floors and a sofa bed in the living room. It is in the heart of the city.  
Price: \$2.800 pcm

### Language focus: Talking about places

Some uses of prepositions of place include:

**at:** for a specific point

**in:** for an enclosed space

**on:** for a surface

**At, in and on** are also used in standard expressions like:

**at:** *at home, at work, at school, at the top, at reception, etc.*

**in:** *in a taxi, in an elevator, in Main Street, in a row, in a news article, etc.*

**on:** *on a bus, on a plane, on a ship, on a motorbike, on the left / right, etc.*

#### 5 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions. Sometimes more than one answer may be possible.

- 1 There is someone ..... **at** ..... the door; can you see who it is?
- 2 I waited for twenty minutes ..... **at** ..... the bus stop this morning.
- 3 There is a dining compartment ..... **on** ..... the train where we can eat if we get hungry.
- 4 Bob is still ..... **at** ..... the office and won't be home until much later.
- 5 My family bought a new house ..... **in** ..... the suburbs.
- 6 Don't park your car ..... **on** ..... the sidewalk.
- 7 I plan to spend the weekend ..... **at** ..... the beach.
- 8 The office is located ..... **at** ..... 1324 Main Street.
- 9 My office is ..... **in / on** ..... Main Street.
- 10 We are meeting ..... **at / in** ..... the Hyatt Hotel.

### Language focus: Making a choice

**Rather** and **prefer** can be used when stating a preference and making a choice.

**Subject + would + rather + base verb**

*I would rather (‘d rather) go to a warm country.*

**Subject + would + prefer + to-infinitive**

*I would prefer to go to a warm country.*

#### 6 Discuss the following questions with a partner. Remember to give reasons for your preference.

When you go on holiday do you prefer to:

- travel by boat or by plane?
- go to an all-inclusive hotel or rent a room?
- cook for yourself or go out for a meal?
- go to the beach or to a mountain?
- lie in the sun or explore new places?

### Language focus: Making suggestions

The first conditional (if + present, will / modal + verb) can be used to make suggestions or give advice.

**A:** *I don't want to sleep in a tent! First of all, I don't know how to put up a tent and secondly, the idea of sleeping on the ground is not appealing at all.*

**B:** *If you don't want to sleep in a tent, a youth hostel might be a good idea.*

#### 7 What do you need to take with you on the following vacations? Use the first conditional in your responses. **Students' own answers**

- safari • cruise • package holiday
- cycling • sailing • camping

*If you go on a cruise, you should take some pills with you in case you get seasick.*



## Section B: Getting Ready for the Speaking Test

### HELPING SOMEONE MAKE A DECISION

In **Part 3** of the speaking test, you may have to share an opinion on the given options and help someone make a decision. Use the information you hear and give reasons and details for your decision, and, where possible, give examples from your own life or personal experience. Explain why you didn't choose the other option.

**1 a.** Look at the pictures below and ask your teacher the following questions about a situation. While they are giving you the information, listen carefully and connect the information to what you see.

See Teacher's Notes, page 72

- What is the problem?
- What are the options?
- What are the advantages of each option?
- What are the disadvantages of each option?

Option 1



Option 2



**b.** Now, discuss the following questions.

See Teacher's Notes, page 72

- 1 Who is the situation about?
- 2 What is the main issue?
- 3 What are the options?
- 4 Which is the better option and why?
- 5 Why didn't you choose the other option?

### EXAM TIP

#### Relying on personal experience

When looking for things to say to try and keep the conversation going, remember that you can rely on your personal experience and relate it to the topic. For example, if you were given the topic in activity 1, you could add to the information by saying something like:

*My mother commutes over an hour to work every day. It is tiring for her, but she prefers to do that than to move to another suburb. She wants us to be close to our friends and family.*

**2** 🎧 (Trk 07) Listen to what three candidates said about the situation in activity 1, and choose which candidate gives the best answer. Explain why you think it is the best answer.

Candidate 1

Candidate 2

Candidate 3


**Suggested answer:**

The answer is clearly stated. It is to the point, uses the information the examiner gave to add supporting details and complexity, and shows a range of vocabulary. The candidate uses personal experience to support their choice.



## Role play: Examiner - Candidate

- 3**  **Look at the pictures. In this activity you will work in pairs. Student A will be the examiner and Student B will be the candidate. There are two examiner's prompts on page 58. Take turns in being the examiner.**

See Examiner's Information, page 58

### Instructions

#### Student A (examiner)

- You must read the information about the problem on page 58 to the candidate when they ask you each question.
- You must ask the candidate to explain why they didn't choose the other option.

#### Student B (candidate)

Candidate, you should look at the pictures below for your prompt, and ask:

- What is the problem?
- What are the options?
- What are the advantages of each option?
- What are the disadvantages of each option?

When you have all the information you need, explain which option you think is best and why. Be ready to explain why you didn't choose the other option. Remember to use information you learn from asking questions to explain your final choice.

### Prompt A

#### Option 1



#### Option 2



### Prompt B

#### Option 1



#### Option 2



### FOLLOW-UP

- 4** When you have completed the speaking activity, evaluate each other's performance by using the following checklist.

Is the candidate's answer clear?

Does the answer include some supporting details and complexities?

Does the answer include examples from the candidate's own experiences?

Does the candidate explain why they didn't choose the other option?

## Section C: Getting Ready for the Speaking Test

### EXTENSION, ELABORATION QUESTIONS

In **Part 4** of the speaking test the examiner will say something like:

*Now I'm going to ask you some more questions about this topic.*

In this stage of the test the examiner will ask you to elaborate on the topic. Some of these questions will ask you to express your views on the topic in more general terms. These questions will be *heard* only, not read.

### EXAM TIP

Listen carefully to the question and make sure you have fully understood what you are being asked to comment on. The question may have more than one part to it. Remember to ask for clarifications if you need to.

**Read the examiner's questions below and the suggested answers. Then, use the points given for each to answer the questions in your own words.**

**Question 1:** Some people say renting a house is preferable to owning a house. What do you think?

**Suggested answer:** *It depends on what you can afford. It also depends on whether you need to stay in a place for a few months or a couple of years or you think that this is a place you might like to have for the rest of your life. I think I would prefer to rent a place rather than buy. I think I would have fewer responsibilities.*

Now use your own ideas to respond to this question.

Consider the following points and use them to formulate your answer, if you wish. **Students' own answers**

#### Renting

- Fewer maintenance costs
- Flexibility
- Standard cost every month

#### Buying

- Choice of building
- Pets
- Neighbors

**Question 2:** What is the difference between a vacation with family and one with friends? Would you prefer to go on vacation with family, friends, or alone?

**Suggested answer:** *Vacationing with family can be nice because you are with people you love but it can also be hard because family members often argue about little things. With friends, money plays a role because everyone is on a different budget so again there might be disagreements. I would never choose to go on vacation alone. I need to be with people I care for. I'd rather go with family.*

Now use your own ideas to respond to this question.

Consider the following points and use them to formulate your answer, if you wish. **Students' own answers**

#### Family

- Comfort
- Sharing experiences
- Conversations

#### Friends

- Incredible fun
- Strengthening a friendship
- Choosing accommodation

**Question 3:** Relocating to a new place is never an easy decision. What are some of the factors that one should consider before deciding to relocate?

**Suggested answer:** *I think I would consider carefully the benefits of moving. Quality of life is very important to me. I would check the cost of living and compare it with my salary to see how that works out. Of course the location would be important. I think it's different if the city has a lot to offer.*

Now use your own ideas to respond to this question.

Consider the following points and use them to formulate your answer, if you wish. **Students' own answers**

- Language and culture
- Job stability
- Rent
- Social life