

UNIT 2. DESCRIBING PLACES

Objectives:

At the end of this unit, students are expected to:

- talk about their travel experience;
- describe a place that they visited before;
- ask questions using W/H; and
- read a dialogue with a partner.

A. VOCABULARY PRACTICE: With your seatmate, discuss the meaning of the following phrases and words:

1. alluring coastline
2. historic forbidden kingdom
3. over the water bungalows
4. wildlife rich natural park
5. endless numbers of historic pagodas and temples
6. spectacular underwater world
7. colorful festivals
8. stunningly beautiful landscapes
9. lush mountains and jungles
10. world-class diving experiences

A.1. Pair Work: Look at the 2 pictures below. Choose a partner and take turns describing each picture.



A.2. Watch and Listen: Watch the video on YouTube about 10 best places to visit in Asia. Underline the following countries if the descriptions refer to one of them.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. alluring coastline | Thailand | Sri Lanka | Vietnam |
| 2. historic forbidden kingdom | Singapore | India | China |
| 3. over the water bungalows | Sri Lanka | Maldives | Japan |
| 4. wildlife rich natural park | India | Myanmar | Sri Lanka |
| 5. endless numbers of historic pagodas and temples | Myanmar | India | China |
| 6. spectacular underwater world | Maldives | Singapore | Indonesia |
| 7. colorful festivals | Indonesia | Thailand | Vietnam |
| 8. stunningly beautiful landscapes | Japan | Maldives | India |
| 9. lush mountains and jungles | Thailand | China | Sri Lanka |
| 10. world-class diving experiences | Indonesia | Singapore | Maldives |

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZ9nkDBOs44&t=415s>

B. PRONUNCIATION: Pronounce the words in Vocabulary with your teacher.

1. alluring coastline
2. historic forbidden kingdom
3. over the water bungalows
4. wildlife rich natural park
5. endless numbers of historic pagodas and temples
6. spectacular underwater world
7. colorful festivals
8. stunningly beautiful landscapes
9. lush mountains and jungles
10. world-class diving experiences

C. DIALOGUE: Read the following dialogue with a partner.

My trip to AoNang, Krabi

Noi: Hey, Adi! How's it going?

Adi: Everything is fine. I have just returned from a trip to Ao Nang, Krabi, Thailand and I am already missing the place.

Noi: Wow! You must have enjoyed it there. When did you go there? Who did you go with?

Adi: I really had a good time in Ao Nang. I went there on Thursday last week, by myself.

Noi: Seriously? You went there alone? Wasn't it boring? What did you enjoy most?

Adi: No, I never felt bored. Ao Nong is an amazing place with beautiful beach resorts, modern and comfortable hotels, dining places, vibrant nightlife, and a relaxing atmosphere. No one would feel lonely there.

Noi: Right. Did you go on an island tour? Did you do water activities?

Adi: I did. I bought this island tour from a travel agent just along the street of AoNang. All the islands were fantastic and awesome.

Noi: Great. I guess I have to see them myself.

D. LANGUAGE FOCUS: W/H Questions. Read the following questions from the dialogue;

1. **How's it going?**
2. **When did you go there?**
3. **Who did you go with?**
4. **What did you enjoy the most?**

Now, consider the following questions:

1. **What kind of questions are they?**
2. **How do these questions start?**
3. **What is the structure of the question?**

Forming the W/H questions:

- a. With an auxiliary verb

W/H questions are formed with Wh/H + an auxiliary verb (be, do or have) + subject + main verb

Examples:

1. She is leaving **tomorrow**. When is she leaving?
2. I went with **my parents**. Who did you go with?
3. I have done the **planning**. What have you done now?

- b. With modal verbs

W/H questions are formed with Wh/H + a modal verb + subject + main verb:

Examples:

1. She would stay with **her friends**. Who would she stay with?
2. Where should you go next? I should go **to Hong Kong** next.

EXERCISE: Transform the following sentences to W/H questions based on the following underlined words.

1. I went to **Chiang Mai** last week.

_____.

2. I did **some water activities** in Koh Samui.

_____.

3. **My friends** and I traveled together to Bagan in Myanmar.

_____.

4. We went to Phuket **by plane and by bus**.

_____.

5. We saw **different golden and majestic temples** in Ayutthaya.

_____.

E. LANGUAGE PRACTICE: With your seatmate or with a partner, talk about a place that you have recently visited. Describe that place and the things that you love about it. After you share with each other, be able to report it to the class.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY: Interview a classmate about a place that they want to visit soon. Ask about what they love about it.

F. HOMEWORK (WRITING): Write a short essay of 2 paragraphs about your province, city, or your birthplace. Tell us about where that place is, some interesting things about it, places that should be seen, and other notable activities.

G. SUPPLEMENTAL SELF-LEARNING ACTIVITY (VOCABULARY)

A. **PLACES IN THE CITY:** Identify the following places and the things and or people associated with them. Choose from the pool of words below.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| a. train station | e. library | i. café |
| b. school | f. cinema | j. sports center |
| c. post office | g. bank | k. factory |
| d. bus stop | h. supermarket | l. department store |

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| _____1. deposit/withdraw money | _____7. drinks/eat snacks. |
| _____2. students/teachers/classrooms | _____8. train |
| _____3. Bus | _____9. films/movies |
| _____4. read/borrow books | _____10. basketball/ volleyball/badminton |
| _____5. send/ receive letters/parcels | _____11.groceries |
| _____6. Workers/production | _____12 clothes/jewelry/shoes |

B. Fill in the following blanks the right word from the choices below to complete the sentences.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ancient | beautiful | boring | bustling | expensive |
| famous | huge | lively | polluted | touristy |

1. Pattaya is _____. It is visited by lots of tourists.
2. Some parts of Pattaya beach are _____. They are dirty and contaminated.
3. Ayutthaya is a/n _____ city. It was founded thousands of years ago.
4. But Koh Samui's beach is _____. It is very lovely and attractive.
5. Bangkok is a _____ city. There are so many things to do in daytime and at night time.
6. Living in the province can be very _____ sometimes. You see nothing and everything is dull.
7. However, if you want to escape from the _____ and crowded city, provincial life is ideal.
8. Everything in the city is _____. For example, a bottled water costs 25 bht.
9. Koh Phangan is one of the most _____ islands in Thailand. It is well known of its Full Moon Party.
10. Walailak University is a _____ university, with over 15 thousand faculty, staff, and students.

C. **WORD SEARCH:** Look for the following words from the table below:

E	D	U	C	I	P	C	D	L	P	U	M
H	H	Y	S	Y	K	R	X	E	G	G	X
X	U	H	R	S	E	N	E	R	E	S	Q
F	E	L	Q	P	W	C	H	J	R	I	V
Y	V	U	N	T	O	U	C	H	E	D	Z
G	E	F	L	A	E	N	Z	U	W	Y	S
N	R	V	O	B	T	R	B	L	F	C	G
E	D	E	P	V	I	B	R	A	N	T	V
D	A	B	E	L	O	V	Y	S	I	O	N
L	N	Q	M	N	D	E	R	O	V	A	F
O	T	X	X	U	F	N	S	S	K	C	O
G	L	I	V	E	L	Y	S	Z	U	X	E

golden, untouched, green, noisy, blue, vibrant, lively, serene, verdant, favored

D. Look for the meaning of the following words and their correct pronunciation in your dictionary.

1. Charming _____
2. Cosmopolitan _____
3. Fantastic _____
4. Favored _____
5. Golden _____
6. Lively _____
7. Panoramic _____
8. Peaceful _____
9. Picturesque _____
10. Serene _____
11. Tranquil _____
12. Unspoiled _____
13. Untouched _____
14. Verdant _____
15. Vibrant _____

E. Write/make, or copy/paste a sentence from a magazine, newspaper, etc. that includes the words in vocabulary letter D. Write them below:

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.
6. _____.
7. _____.
8. _____.
9. _____.
10. _____.
11. _____.
12. _____.
13. _____.
14. _____.
15. _____.

F. **VOCABULARY WORDS:** Find and study the meaning of the following words.

apartment block	lift
Area	mountain
bay	museum
Beach	ocean
bookshop	office
bookstore	palace
campsite	path
Canal	police station
castle	port
cinema	post office
cliff	prison
clinic	railway
club	railway station
college	rainforest
cottage	region
Desert	river
disco	rock

Earth	ruin
elevator	sand
entrance	scenery
Exit	school
Farm	sea
Field	seaside
flat	shop
forest	sky
gallery	stadium
garage	stream
guest-house	supermarket
Harbor	swimming pool
Hill	theatre
hospital	tourist
hotel	tower
island	university
lake	valley
Land	village
library	waterfall

SOME COMMON AND USEFUL EXPRESSIONS FOR DESCRIBING PLACES

- covered with e.g. on a hillside covered with trees
 e.g. a wooded hillside covered with trees
- fed by e.g. a secluded lake fed by a high waterfall and disturbed only by birdsong
 + secluded: quiet and private; not used or disturbed by other people
- overlooking e.g. on a cliff top overlooking the sea
 e.g. a rugged mountain overlooking the sea
- surrounded by e.g. on a hillside surrounded by trees
 e.g. a secluded lake surrounded by trees
- stretching into the distance e.g. a sandy beach stretching into the distance and pounded by
 the Pacific Ocean
- teeming with e.g. a temperate zone teeming with wildlife
 e.g. a secluded lake teeming with wildlife
 + temperate: having a mild temperature without extremes of heat or
 cold
 + teem with sth: to be full of people, animals, etc. moving around

How you can ask for directions

Say "Excuse me" before you ask a person. To make it sound like a question, make your voice go up on "me".

"Excuse me. How do I get to (the railway station) please?"

"Excuse me. Where's the nearest (post office) please?"

"Excuse me. I'm looking for the Number 6 bus stop."

Giving directions

The person who helps you often says how near or far the place is:

"It's about five minutes from here."

"It's about a ten-minute walk."

"It's easier if I can show you on the map..."

Specific instructions. Some useful words and phrases for giving directions on the street.

"Turn left / right."

"Go straight on at the lights / when you come to the crossroads." (Lights = traffic lights; crossroads = where two roads cross)

"Go across the roundabout." (Roundabout = where all the cars go round a circle in the middle of the road)

"Take the first turning / road / street on your left / right." (Turning = road that goes left or right)

"You'll see / You'll come to a (bank). Then ..."

"Don't take the first road."

"Go on for about (2 minutes / 100 metres)."

Landmarks. Some common terms:

taxi rank = a place where taxis queue for passengers

level crossing = where the road and railway meet. There are barriers that go up and down to signal when a train is coming

underpass = a walkway that goes under a busy road so pedestrians can get to the other side safely

overpass / flyover = a road that goes over another road (or railway)

zebra crossing = black and white markings in the road for pedestrians to cross the road (the markings look like a zebra's stripes)

pedestrian crossing = a place in the road where pedestrians can cross. Often there are traffic lights.

tunnel = a road under (or through) mountains

crossroads = where two roads cross each other

junction = where one road meets another, and you can either go left or right

fork in the road = where the road divides, and you decide to go left or right

turning = a road off to your left or right

main road = a big road where there is lots of traffic

lane = a small road, or a part of a road (the left-hand lane / the right-hand lane; the bus lane)

Typical English conversations

"Excuse me. I'm looking for the post office."

"OK. Go straight on, then turn left at the crossroads. It's about 100 meters on your left.

You can't miss it!"

"Thanks!"

"You're welcome."