



Topic: Camping Holiday

Level: Advanced

Grammar Focus: Adjectives



Discussion:

A. Look at the picture. What do you see? Use these words to build a description:

tents trees sun camp fire cooking countryside weather peaceful



B. Read and discuss the following questions.

1. What would it be like inside a tent?
2. What happens when it rains?
3. What do people do when they go on a camping holiday?
4. There are no people in the picture but we can guess how many people are on this camping holiday? What is the clue?

C. General chat about camping holidays.

Is this the sort of holiday that appeals to you? Have you ever put up a tent? Apart from tents what else needs to be taken on a camping holiday? What makes a good place to pitch a tent? Is this an expensive holiday?

D. Word Play. Adjectives are describing words. Match these adjectives on the left with their opposites on the right.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| quiet | polluted |
| calm | ugly |
| unspoilt | noisy |
| pretty | stormy |



Story:

A. Read the following story. Take your time, pronounce words carefully and follow the punctuation.

Camping Holiday

The school term was over and it was holiday time. There was excitement in the Thompson family as they were heading off to Sandy Bay to camp for two weeks. They were packing two tents (one for Mr and Mrs Thompson and one for their sons, Sam and Ron) and enough food for the first three days. They owned an old van so there was plenty of room in the back for all their gear. Apart from the tents and the food, they were taking summer clothing, sleeping bags, fishing gear and games for the beach and the evenings. The boys helped their parents to load the van. They were all looking forward to the sea, sunshine and relaxation.

They arrived at their camping spot by the beach after four hours of driving. They were all hot and wanted a swim but Mrs Thompson insisted that they erect the tents first. She wanted to be well prepared before the evening. So it was another hour before the two tents were up and the van unloaded. By this time they were even hotter.

“Race you to the water,” yelled Ron to his brother. Off they raced across the sand and soon they were jumping about in the sea. Mr Thompson joined them and there was a lot of splashing, swimming and laughing.

Mrs Thompson was also getting ready to go for a swim. She looked around the tents. She was looking for her towel. She suddenly realised that the pile of towels had been left behind. What a shock for the swimmers. She could see the funny side. She smiled to herself as she walked to the water to tell the others. Nothing was going to spoil their holiday.



B. Testing your general understanding.

The following statements are either true or false. Read each one and decide whether it is 'true' or 'false'.

1. The family are on holiday for fourteen days.
2. Mr Thompson wants tents erected before a swim.
3. All the family go for a swim.
4. There were several towels left behind.
5. They hoped to catch fish in the sea.

C. Ultimate challenge. Read each question and the four possible answers. Which one do you think is correct?

Q.1 Why was the van such a good vehicle for the holiday?

- a. It was old and could go on the sand.
- b. It could get to Sandy Bay in four hours.
- c. It could fit in four people and two tents.
- d. It could carry all their holiday gear.



Q.2 How long did it take to put up the two tents?

- a. One hour.
- b. Two hours.
- c. All afternoon.
- d. We are not told.

Q.3 What did the boys want to do as soon as they reached the campsite?

- a. Play with their games.
- b. Put up their tent.
- c. Go for a swim in the sea.
- d. Unload the van.

Q.4 What does 'spoil' mean?

- a. Interrupt
- b. Ruin
- c. End
- d. Dampen

Q.5 Why did Mrs Thompson 'smile to herself'?

- a. She was looking forward to a swim.
- b. She was happy the tents were up.
- c. She knew the swimmers would have no towels.
- d. She was always a cheerful person.



Exploring other ideas:

- Getting away from it all. Other ways to escape from work routine.
- The inexpensive holiday destinations and options.
- How to manage without electricity and 'mod cons'.