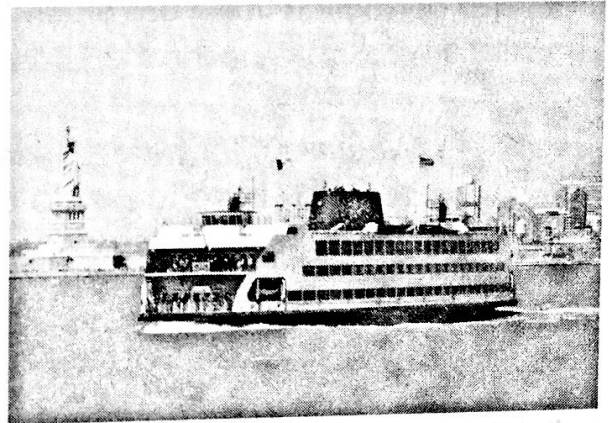




Day Tripping

You've spent all that time working out and getting into shape. You must be exhausted! It's the perfect time for a vacation. There are vacation options for any style and to **suit any pocket-book**. Give me a five-star hotel in a fancy resort. But my **buddy** prefers a small tent and a backpack full of camping gear. (Eeew! Bugs!) Let's take a look at some of the choices.



Maybe you're on a **tight budget**. (Maybe you spent too much for that gym membership!) Or you may have a crazy schedule at work, and you can't take too many days off, but you'd still like some **R&R**. There's a perfect solution, and even a new word to describe it: **staycation**. Instead of going away, you stay right at home and do fun vacation things nearby. These **day trips** can be as much fun as a fancy vacation. Consider a trip to the art museum, or attend a concert. **Pack up the kids**, pack the car, and head to the beach for a day of sun, sand, and **surf**. Places like New York City have ferries you can ride

for free. These boats will make you feel like you're on a fancy cruise—well, a fancy cruise without waiters and fancy meals . . . ha! (In New York City, the **ferry** to Staten Island gives you a **spectacular** view of the Statue of Liberty, and it's free!) Feeling seasick? Go to a nearby park where you can enjoy a nature hike through the woods. (Watch out for the **skunks**.) Many local parks have wilderness trails with signs that identify trees, plants, and animals you may see along your walk. For a day that's a bit more expensive, you might try a **kid-friendly** place like the zoo, an amusement park, or a water park. Don't forget the **sunscreen**!

DIALOGUE 1: TRACK 17

ALAN: You have a **sunburn**, Lia. I think you enjoyed your vacation a little too much.

LIA: Actually, we just stayed home. We took day trips, and we discovered places we didn't even know about right in the neighborhood. We even visited the zoo. It was great fun!

ALAN: Wow! What a great idea. I finished painting the house. It was *not* great fun.

LIA: I printed out some new recipes and cooked some interesting ethnic meals, too. After we cleaned up, we walked around the neighborhood and chatted with the neighbors. And one day we traveled to the beach and practiced our beach volleyball skills. I think that's my new favorite sport. The whole week really was a fun staycation.

TIP 1



Watch out for **hidden extras** you may not have thought about. You may have to pay to park your car or pay to go on the beach in some places.

TIP 2



Depending on how “wild” your wilderness trail is, you may have to **keep an eye open** for **critters** and bugs (eeew!). And we don't even want to think about *snakes*. AAAACKKKK!

TIP 3



If there's a fun attraction near where you live, look into a season pass. This will allow you to go as many times as you want all year. It's usually a pretty good **deal**.

- VOCABULARY**
- **buddy:** friend
 - **critter:** fun word for small animals
 - **day trips:** short trips for small distances
 - **deal:** bargain, a good price
 - **ferry:** a medium-size or large boat that carries people and things from one place to another
 - **give me:** I prefer
 - **hidden extras:** expenses that are not included in the price
 - **keep an eye open:** be alert
 - **kid-friendly:** designed to appeal to children
 - **odor:** a bad smell
 - **pack up the kids:** gather the children
 - **R&R:** Rest and Relaxation
 - **skunk:** a small black animal that has a strong odor when it's frightened
 - **spectacular:** wonderful
 - **staycation:** term for a vacation taken at home or in a nearby location
 - **suit any pocketbook:** be affordable
 - **sunburn:** Ouch! It's that redness on your skin from the sun too long
 - **sunscreen:** lotion to protect your skin from the sun
 - **surf:** waves and sea; the beach
 - **tight budget:** not a lot of money



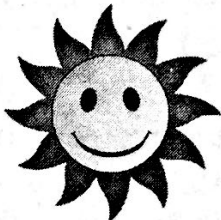
(Not Verbs)
If your dog is barking, give it a bath.

GRAMMAR REMINDER
Affirmative Statement

We love the simple past tense.
Can you find all the regular verbs?

VOCABULARY

- ① **buddy**: friend
- ① **critter**: fun word for small animals
 - **day trips**: short trips that last about —you guessed it— a day
- ① **deal**: bargain, a good price
 - **ferry**: a medium-size or large boat that just goes short hops, back and forth from one place to another
- ① **give me**: I prefer
 - **hidden extras**: expenses that aren't included in the main cost
- ① **keep an eye open**: be alert
 - **kid-friendly**: designed to appeal to kids
 - **odor**: a bad smell
- ① **pack up the kids**: gather the kids and their stuff
- ① **R&R**: **R**est and **R**elaxation; a vacation
 - **skunk**: a small black animal with a white stripe that makes a *terrible* odor when it's frightened
 - **spectacular**: wonderful
- ① **staycation**: term for a vacation when you stay at home and do local things
 - **suit any pocketbook**: be a cost you can afford
 - **sunburn**: Ouch! It's that redness of the skin from being in the sun too long
 - **sunscreen**: lotion to protect skin from the sun
 - **surf**: waves and sea; the beach
- ① **tight budget**: not a lot of money to spare



(Not Very) Fun Fact!

If your dog gets sprayed by a skunk (eeew!), giving the dog a bath in tomato juice may remove the **odor**.

GRAMMAR REMINDER 1: The Past Simple Tense **Affirmative Statements, Regular Verbs**

We love the simple past tense of regular verbs; just add the letters *-ed*.
Can you find all the regular verbs in the dialogue?



PRONUNCIATION POINTER

Remember that the *-ed* ending of the simple past tense can be pronounced three different ways:

- After a voiced sound (you can feel the vibration of your vocal cords), or in verbs ending in a vowel, it's pronounced **d** (like **dog**).

Examples: called = call**d**; involved = involv**d**

- After a voiceless sound (no vibration), it's pronounced **t** (like **top**).

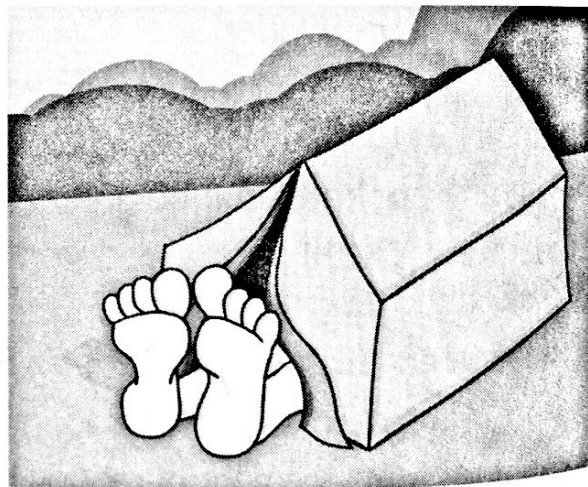
Examples: picked = pick**t**; stepped = stept**t**

- After a verb ending with the letter **d** or **t**, we hear the syllable **id**.

Examples: granted = grant **id**; started = start **id**; needed = need **id**

Going Wild

You love adventure! You love the **outdoors!** You love cooking hot dogs over an open **campfire!** We have just the vacation for you: camping! Yes, for the **brave soul** who's not afraid of critters, bad weather, and bad food, this is another fun vacation choice. Camping requires a lot of very careful **advance** planning. You'll need to have **gear** for hot weather and cold, for rain and sunshine, and for grassy fields and rocky **riverbanks.** If you're in the **middle of nowhere,** you'll need to carry your own food for all your meals, pots to cook it in, plates to serve it on, and **utensils** to eat it with. That means a big (and heavy) **knapsack.** You'll also need to carry around your own little hotel—a **tent**—and the equipment to put it up. Don't forget a **sleeping bag.** I'm exhausted just thinking about it! People who love camping say there's nothing as wonderful as sleeping **under the stars.** We don't know about you, but we're thinking that would make us bear **bait.** No, thanks! We don't want a bear to eat us for a snack before we can even eat our own **trail mix!** People tell us that camping can be fun, but we'd rather stay at a fancy hotel.



LIA: Our
ALAN: Uh-oh. Wh
LIA: Well, it started out
the right snacks. We p
boots. We **pitched** our
ALAN: That sounds go
LIA: It sounded good to
We forgot to **break in** th
Then we noticed the big
night. When we woke up
and we were lying in a h
ALAN: Ha, ha! I guess n

- TIP → Don't **overpa** whole trip!
- TIP → It's very impor acres of a Wor when a tourist
- TIP → If you bring it in camp.

- ### VOCABULARY
- **advance:** before you go
 - **bait:** a food attraction for
 - **blisters:** a sore on the foot
 - **brand-new:** very new
 - **brave soul:** someone who
 - **break in:** wear a bit to mak
 - **campfire:** a small fire made
 - **gear:** equipment; stuff you
 - **knapsack:** a large bag

DIALOGUE 2: TRACK 18

LIA: Our camping trip was sure a surprise.

ALAN: Uh-oh. What happened?

LIA: Well, it started out fine. We planned the trip carefully and found exactly the right snacks. We packed all our stuff, and we bought **brand-new** hiking boots. We **pitched** our tent right beside a small lake.

ALAN: That sounds good.

LIA: It sounded good to us, too . . . until we finished our hike the first day. We forgot to **break in** the new boots! Our feet were sore and **blistered**. Then we noticed the big black clouds, and disaster struck! It **poured** all night. When we woke up in the morning, the tent was collapsed around us, and we were lying in a huge **puddle**.

ALAN: Ha, ha! I guess next time you'll stay in a hotel!

TIP 4



Don't **overpack**! Remember you'll be **toting** that stuff for the whole trip!

TIP 5



It's very important to be careful with campfires. Thousands of acres of a World Heritage Site National Park in Chile burned when a tourist was careless with a campfire.

TIP 6



If you bring it in, bring it out! Don't leave any trash where you camp.

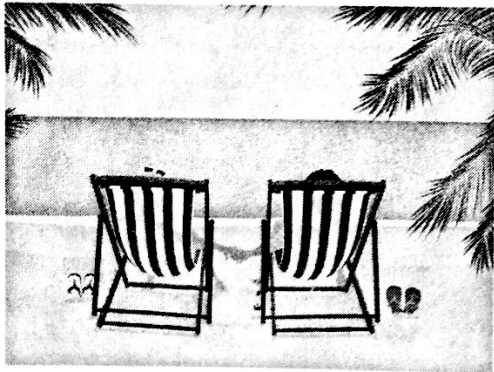
VOCABULARY

- **advance:** before you go
- **bait:** a food attraction for animals
- **blister:** a sore on the foot from rubbing against a new shoe
- **brand-new:** very new
- **brave soul:** someone who is not afraid
- ① **break in:** wear a bit to make them softer
- **campfire:** a small fire made from sticks and leaves
- **gear:** equipment; stuff you need
- **knapsack:** a large backpack

① **middle of nowhere**: a remote place far from any towns

- **outdoors**: woods, fields, wilderness; outside
- **overpack**: put too much stuff in your bag
- **pitched**: put up
- **pour**: rain very hard
- **puddle**: pool of water left by the rain
- **riverbanks**: the sides of rivers
- **sleeping bag**: a padded blanket that zips around the body for sleeping
- **tent**: a portable shelter made of cloth
- **tote**: carry
- **trail mix**: a special high-energy snack with fruit, grains, and nuts
- **under the stars**: outside
- **utensils**: cutlery: knives, spoons, and forks

Fancy-Schmancy



Now we're talking about our favorite vacation! Camping is fun if you like sleeping in a tent. In the rain. With bugs. But give us a **high-class resort** any day! These can be very expensive, but they're fun to dream about even if we can't go. The **amenities** at a **five-star** resort can make you feel like **royalty**, so even if the weather is bad, you'll have a great time. An **all-**

inclusive resort is perfect if you **can't be bothered** keeping track of your expenses. The price includes all meals, drinks, and entertainment. Golf or tennis, the **fitness center**, and children's activities are also included. The rooms are often larger, with **king-sized** beds. Some places have all **suites**, so you can really **spread out**. And the hotel usually has a **concierge** who can arrange many extra **excursions** in the local area, like **chartering** a boat to go deep-sea fishing, or planning a **parasailing** adventure. Be aware that these excursions are not included in the cost. Other amenities that may not be included are the **spa**, a **salon**, and other trips to nearby attractions. Be sure to know in advance exactly what fun activities are included. The **downside** to an all-inclusive plan is that you may decide not to explore the local town restaurants. After all, you've already paid for your meals at the hotel. **On the other hand**, if you're **in heaven**, who wants to leave anyway?

ALAN: Wow, we had a great time.
LIA: Yeah, Susan told me you had a great time.
ALAN: Yeah, it was an awesome trip and everything we wanted.
LIA: Tell me more.
ALAN: Well, the kids spent hours on the beach. It was so fun watching the ocean.
LIA: What about water sports?
ALAN: Oh, it was so cool! I went every other day. The camp counselors had a lot of cool toys—like beach balls and beach umbrellas—they thought it was fun to have.
LIA: Wow. You were busy.
ALAN: Yeah, we sure were! It's time for a diet.

TIP → Check to see if the resort has a gift shop. Tips could be a helpful way to get a souvenir.
TIPS → You can request in-room service. Usually have either a roll-up or a roll-out mattress.

VOCABULARY

- **all-inclusive**: (almost) all activities and services included in the price
- **amenities**: things the hotel provides for guests
- **arcade**: a special area for games
- **awesome**: great! fantastic! fantastic!
- **can't be bothered**: not wanting to do something
- **chartering**: renting a boat or plane

DIALOGUE 3: TRACK 19

ALAN: Wow, we had a great time on vacation!

LIA: Yeah, Susan told me you went to a really cool place.

ALAN: Yeah, it was an **awesome**, all-inclusive resort. We paid for the hotel, and everything we wanted to do was included.

LIA: Tell me more.

ALAN: Well, the kids spent lots of time in the **arcade**. Susan and I were happy because they had a beautiful golf course. And of course we spent hours on the beach. It was heaven—just sitting in beach chairs and watching the ocean.

LIA: What about water sports?

ALAN: Oh, it was so cool! We dove for shells one day and water-skied another day. The camp **counselors** taught the kids how to make paper boats—they thought it was awesome! We even brought some little boats home for **souvenirs**.

LIA: Wow. You were busy.

ALAN: Yeah, we sure were! But I think we ate and drank a little too much. It's time for a diet.

TIP 7



Check to see if the **gratuity** is included in the cost. Tips could be a hidden extra!

TIP 8



You can request **in advance** the type of bed you'd like. A room will usually have either one king-sized bed or two **queen-sized**. You can request a **roll-away cot** if you need an extra bed for the kids.

VOCABULARY

- **all-inclusive:** (almost) all activities and food are included in the price
- **amenities:** things the hotel provides
- **arcade:** a special area for games and prizes
- ① **awesome:** great! fantastic! fabulous!
- ① **can't be bothered:** not wanting to waste time doing something
- **chartering:** renting a boat or bus for a special trip

- **conciierge**: a worker in a fancy hotel who helps you make plans
- **counselor**: a person in charge of fun activities at a camp
- ① **downside**: disadvantage
- **excursion**: special trip
- **fancy**: a little extra special, nicer than usual
- **fancy-schmancy**: funny way to describe something fancy
- **fitness center** (also called a **gym**): a place to exercise
- **five-star**: top rated
- **gratuity**: tip
- ① **high-class**: deluxe, very special
- **in advance**: before you go
- ① **in heaven**: in a perfect situation
- **king-sized**: an extra-large bed
- **on the other hand**: thinking about the other side of an issue
- **parasailing**: soaring in a parachute that is pulled by a fast boat
- **queen-sized**: a large bed (smaller than a king)
- **resort**: a special hotel with restaurants and fancy attractions
- **roll-away cot**: a small bed that can be brought into a hotel room
- **royalty**: kings and queens
- **salon**: a business providing hair and nail care services
- **souvenir**: something special you buy to remind you of your vacation
- **spa**: a place for massages and skin treatments; a sauna; a steam bath
- ① **spread out**: enjoy lots of extra space
- **suite**: a small group of rooms

GRAMMAR REMINDER 2: The Past Simple Tense

Affirmative Statements, Irregular Verbs

Maybe they aren't so lovable or easy, but "irregular" past tense verbs aren't so bad, once you practice with them. How many irregular past tense verbs can you spot in the dialogue? (See appendix B for a list of some commonly used irregular verbs.)

MORE

- a happy c
When Mic
was a hap
- the boonie
They loved
move to th
- travel light:
Because the
travel light :
- on vacation.
She couldn't
on vacation.
- a last resort:
He tried to col
resort, he wer

MORE FUN WITH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS: Vacations

- **a happy camper:** content with a situation
*When Michael heard that he could leave work early, he was a **happy camper**.*
- **the boonies:** a very rural (country) location, far away from everything
*They loved the city, so they were not happy campers when they had to move to **the boonies**.*
- **travel light:** pack very few things when you travel
*Because they knew they'd need space in the car for gifts, they decided to **travel light** and bring only one suitcase.*
- **on vacation:** away from work
*She couldn't get an answer about her application because the boss was **on vacation**.*
- **a last resort:** a last choice
*He tried to contact the company by letter, phone, and e-mail. As **a last resort**, he went to the office in person.*

on
bath

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e verbs
nmonly