

People like travelling. They travel for pleasure, on business or for other reasons. It is good to travel on business because your company pays for everything. Unfortunately, I have never been on a business trip. I have been on a study trip to England but I had to pay the expenses. Sometimes people travel for health reasons. If you have an illness and the doctors cannot cure you in your hometown, you can travel to a different town or even a different country. Many people do this.

People travel most when they are on holiday. If you want to travel, you have two basic options: You can organize everything or you can buy a package holiday at a travel agency. In this case the travel agency organizes everything, including accommodation, food, travel and visas if necessary, and also prepares a detailed programme for the holiday, which includes everything the group will do. Travel agencies organize holidays for groups. It may be good to travel with a group of unknown people because you can meet new people. Some people meet their future girlfriend or boyfriend on a package tour. I have never been on a package holiday but my mother has been on one.

When you organize your holiday yourself, it is cheaper because you don't have to pay the travel agency. You don't have a fixed programme; you can change your plans during the holiday. It is, of course, more complicated because you have to organize everything yourself. It is more tiring but cheaper and more flexible. And you can travel with the people you want. You don't have to travel with strangers and you can decide where you want to go, what you want to see. Nowadays it is easier because you have the Internet and you can book flights, hotel rooms and restaurants from the comfort of your home. I don't like package tours; I like to travel with my family and I don't mind organizing the trip. If you are on a package holiday, you can't see everything you want because there is a fixed programme. If one or more people in your group are annoying, you can't do anything about it. And if the guide is bad, it's even worse, it can spoil the whole holiday.

I have travelled to some countries on holiday, for example England, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Romania and Croatia, but I don't travel much; I spend most of my holidays at home. My most memorable trip abroad was a trip to England in 1986. I was there for a month (26 days, to be exact). I spent most of my time in Hastings because I attended an English course there, but I visited London, too.

If you travel within the EU, you don't need a visa, you don't even need a passport; you can use your personal ID card. If you travel abroad, you need to change some money into the currency of the country you go to. You can also take your bank card. If you have the right card, you can take money out of ATMs abroad and pay in shops abroad, too.

It is not easy to pack for a holiday. You have to take some clothes and other things with you. A good idea is to travel light. It means you take as few things as possible with you. For example, you can buy food, soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste on your holiday; you don't have to take them with you. Of course, if you travel by car, it is not such a big problem if you take a few more things but even then, it is a good idea to travel light. It is very comfortable to travel by car because you can take a lot of luggage with you more easily but it is more dangerous because you can have an accident or your car may break down or somebody may steal it. When you cross the border, customs officers ask you if you have anything to declare (valami elvámolnivaló). When you travel within the EU, customs officers don't ask you because you don't have to pay customs duty within the EU. Of course, if you behave

suspiciously, the customs officers ask you to open your bags and they look for drugs or weapons or other illegal things. If you try to smuggle something illegal, the customs officers detain you and call the police and you are taken to court and you have to go to prison. Fortunately, I have never smuggled heroin, crack, crocodile, grass or speed and I have never had a problem with customs.

When you are on holiday, you can sleep in a tent, in a hotel, or in a guesthouse. If you like the open air and don't need five-star comfort, camping may be ideal for you. You can go to a campsite with a tent or with a caravan. In some campsites there are little wooden houses, too. They are nicer than tents. A guesthouse is even more comfortable than a little wooden house. Some people make a contract with travel agencies and let out their houses or flats. These are called guesthouses. Of course, if you like comfort a lot, you can go to a hotel but it is the most expensive. You can book a hotel room on the phone, but nowadays it is much more common to book hotel rooms on the Internet. When I was younger, I liked camping but now I prefer guesthouses or little wooden houses.

When you go on holiday, you can travel in different ways. You can travel by train, by car, by plane or by coach (távolsági busz).

Travelling by train is more comfortable and faster than travelling by coach. IC trains are the most comfortable trains. I like IC trains but I don't like ordinary trains in Hungary. You can buy train tickets at railway stations but you can also book tickets on the Internet. It is not good to buy tickets at a big railway station because there is always a long queue. There are some discounts, for example for families, and for children and young people. In western countries trains are much better than in Hungary. I like travelling on a fast and comfortable train.

The most comfortable way to travel is by plane because it is very fast and also relatively safe. In fact it's the best way to travel very long distances, especially across oceans. You can, of course travel by ship across oceans but it takes so long, it takes your whole holiday. This is why when people travel on ships on the ocean, the voyage is the holiday itself. In this case the ship is a big luxury liner (like the Titanic was). Otherwise people travel only short distances by ship, for example across the English Channel, or across Lake Balaton. There used to be a hydrofoil service between Budapest and Vienna but I don't know if it is still there. I have crossed the English Channel by boat four times and once I felt seasick but fortunately, I didn't throw up.

When you travel by plane, you usually have to get to the airport two hours before the plane leaves. This is called check-in. You cannot carry too much luggage on board. According to statistics, air travel is the safest way to travel but many people are still afraid of flying.

Unfortunately, planes are sometimes hijacked by terrorists. I have travelled by plane twice in my life, and I enjoyed it very much. I travelled on old Russian TU-134 planes.

You can't travel everywhere by train because there aren't rails everywhere. You can go to more places by coach because there are roads to more places. Travelling by coach is less comfortable than travelling by train but modern coaches are nicer than coaches 30 or 40 years ago. I have often travelled by coach but I hate it because I am a big man and there isn't enough legroom on most coaches so they are not comfortable for me.