

Premier Skills English

Teaching Speaking Planning a weekend trip

Introduction

Last year over 800,000 tourists to the UK went to watch a football match as part of their visit. In this lesson, learners will discuss options for a weekend trip to the UK, talking about likes and dislikes and discuss an itinerary. By the end of the lesson, students will be able to make suggestions, talk about likes and dislikes, find out about different UK cities and make a plan for a weekend trip. Learners will use a range of listening, speaking and reading skills.

Level

B1/B2 (intermediate to upper intermediate)

Age group

Teenagers and adults

Aims

1. Learn how to make suggestions.
2. Learn about cities in the UK.
3. Speak about likes and dislikes.

Approximate time

80 - 90 minutes

This lesson is flexible and can be used over two different classes or one 90-minute class. You can also extend or shorten some of the steps depending on the level and needs of your students.

Materials

- Materials Pack: Lesson plan, worksheets & city fact files

Preparation

- Read this plan, and familiarise yourself with the topic.
- Make copies of worksheets and coaching plans.

1. Lead-in

Introduce the theme of the lesson to the learners

Ask students what they like to do when they are on holiday, and write up ideas on the board. If students need help coming up with ideas, you can feed in some ideas - some suggestions could be:

Eating local food
Going shopping
Going sightseeing
Relaxing by a pool or at the beach
Doing some sport or activities
Watching a concert or going to the theatre
Going to a football match
Going to an art gallery or museum

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2. Ranking

Make sure you have 7-8 ideas on the board. Check they understand each activity on the board and then ask them to rank each activity in order from 1 (most interesting for them) to 7/8 (least interesting) individually.

3. Listening for gist

Explain to students that they are going to see that many tourists go to see football matches as part of their trip to the UK. A Premier League travel agency wants suggestions for things that these people could do in addition to watching a match. First, they are going to listen to (or read a dialogue of) two people planning a weekend trip to Manchester.

Students can listen to see which activities from the lead-in are mentioned. Alternatively, give the students the tapescript and they can do this as a reading activity.

Give feedback and see if there are any activities that weren't mentioned.

Answers: Eating local food, going shopping, going sightseeing, going to an art gallery or a museum, going to a football match.

4. Listening for detail

Go through the sentences in Activity 1 on the worksheet. Ask students to listen (or read) again, this time listening for who mentions each activity. Tell students to write K for Kerry, J for John, or N if it is not mentioned.

Answers:

Going to a local pub - K

Getting up early - J

Practising English - N

Going to independent shops - K

Going to a football museum - K

Going to see some paintings - N

Visiting a famous building - K

Doing a cooking class - N

Staying out late - J

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5. Guided Discovery (language)

Tell students to look at Activity 2 on the worksheet. In pairs, they should underline the phrases in the transcript for making suggestions, saying what you like and saying what you don't like and complete the table. Check answers.

Answers:

Making suggestions:

Shall we ..?
We should ...
Sounds like your kind of thing.
I could ...
Maybe ...
Why don't we ...
Let's ...

Saying what you like doing:

I'd like to ...
I'd definitely like to ...
I wouldn't mind that at all.
I'd be up for...

Saying what you don't like doing:

I'm not that into ...
I think I'd prefer...

Ask students if they can add any other phrases to each category and get feedback.

6. Pronunciation

Write up the following sentences from the transcript on the board:

Do you think we should get up early to make the most of the day?
Why don't we check out some of the nightlife?
I wouldn't mind that at all.
What do you think about the football museum?
What do you think?
Do you think we should go for a curry?

Practise drilling these and ask students to underline the stressed words in each sentence. Ask them to identify which words in English carry stress (verbs and nouns and words that carry meaning).

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6. Pronunciation

Draw attention to how the 'do you' questions are pronounced in connected speech. Drill the / dʒə / sound and ask students to practise the phrase 'do you think' as / dʒə'θɪŋk / and repeat the sentences.

7. Controlled Practice

Students will now practise using the phrases for talking about likes and dislikes. Write two activities on the board, and in pairs, students explain which one they prefer and why. Give students a minute to talk about it, then ask for feedback. Encourage them to use phrases from Activity 3 and say why they like one activity more - for example: I'd prefer to watch a football match because I'm not that into playing. I prefer to be in the crowd. Then erase the activities and write up the next two. Choose any activities that you think are relevant for your students. Below are some suggestions:

Would you prefer to ...

- Watch a football match or play a football match?
- Go out for dinner or cook at home?
- Watch a horror film or watch a comedy?
- Meet a famous sports person or meet a famous singer?
- Go on holiday in your own country, or go abroad?
- Eat some cake or eat some chips?

7. Main task: Planning a weekend

Write 'Itinerary' on the board. Explain what the word means (a plan for a trip, including the places you want to visit). Ask students to imagine that they are working for a Premier League Travel agency and they want to organise a weekend itinerary to a UK city. They will have to take the trip themselves first, but they have to plan their itinerary together and agree on what they would like to do.

Put students in pairs and assign each pair one Fact File (from the worksheet). Give students time to read the information about their city, and answer any questions about vocabulary. If you have internet access in class, you can give students extra time to take a look at the webpages and find out more about their city. If they do this, set a time limit (10 - 15 mins) and ask them to make notes. Tell students to look back at the table from Activity 2. Remind them to use this language to plan their itineraries. They should agree on at least five activities that they want to do over the weekend.

Monitor and give feedback on language use.

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8. Extension or homework tasks

After feedback, you could put students into new pairs and give them a different Fact File, so that they can repeat the activity for a different city. At the end of the task, ask students which city they would be most interested in visiting and why.

Another alternative is to ask students to present their itinerary to the rest of the class or to another pair / group. Ask the students listening to make notes as they listen. At the end each student can vote on which weekend itinerary they like the best.

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John: So we're getting into Manchester at around 6pm, so I suppose we'll just go straight to the hotel.

Kerry: Yes, it's pretty central, so we can take a taxi. Shall we just go to a local pub for a drink and something to eat, maybe? I think we'll be pretty tired.

John: OK, so on Saturday - we should get up early to make the most of the day. I'd like to go for a nice breakfast - a full English? What do you think?

Kerry: I need to buy a present for my sister, so I'd definitely like to go shopping - apparently the Northern Quarter is good - lots of independent shops. It shouldn't take too long. What do you think about the football museum? It says here it's free entry and there's lots of interactive games - sounds like your kind of thing.

John: Yeah, I wouldn't mind that at all - as long as the queues aren't too long. I'd also be up for going to the Whitworth Gallery - there's a good photography exhibition on at the moment. We can't just do football stuff all weekend!

Kerry: I'm not that into art, but I suppose I could go and check out the cathedral while you do that - people say it's nice- and then we could meet up later. Do you think we should go for a curry on Saturday night? - that's a very typical dish in Manchester!

John: Yep, I'd love to. If we aren't too tired, why don't we check out some of the nightlife after too - maybe one of the big clubs?

Kerry: (laughs) I'm not sure I'll still be awake after all that, I think I'd prefer an early night! We need to be up quite early on Sunday to check out of the hotel and then head to Old Trafford - let's get there early so we can enjoy the atmosphere before the match. We can get the train and have something to eat before the match starts.

John: I can't wait to see the match! I just hope Man-U win - it'll be the perfect end to the weekend before heading home on Sunday night!

Kerry: Definitely! Just make sure you pack some warm clothes and an umbrella - the weather in Manchester is awful!

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Activity 1

You are going to listen to two people, John and Kerry, planning a weekend trip to Manchester to watch a football match. Which activities do they mention on your list? Listen again and decide who suggests each activity. Write **J** for John and **K** for Kerry or **N** if the activity is not mentioned.

- Going to a local pub
- Getting up early
- Practising English
- Going to independent shops
- Going to a football museum
- Going to see some paintings
- Visiting a building
- Doing a cooking class
- Staying out late

Activity 2

In the listening you heard John and Kerry making suggestions, saying what they like and what they don't like doing. Look at the transcript and complete the table below with suitable phrases.

Making suggestions	Saying what you like doing	Saying what you don't like doing
Shall we...?	I'd like to ...	I'm not that into ...

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Work with a partner to plan your itinerary for a weekend in Liverpool. First read the information. Then together, talk about what you would like to do for the weekend, from Friday evening to Sunday. Use the language from Activity 2.

City fact file 1: Liverpool

Liverpool is in the North West of England. It's famous for being the home of The Beatles, Liverpool and Everton football clubs and has a lot of options for visitors.

Museums and culture: Two of Liverpool's most visited museums are The World Museum, where you can find out about millions of years of the Earth's history through activities and displays, and The Beatles Story, which is a museum dedicated to The Beatles and their music. You could also visit The Bluecoat, a modern arts centre with dance and music concerts and art exhibitions, or visit the Tate Liverpool, which has a huge collection of British and International modern art.

Sights: Liverpool Cathedral is the largest in the UK. You can go up the tower to get an amazing 360 degree view of the city.

Sports: Anfield Stadium is home to Liverpool Football Club. You can take a tour of the club, visit the club museum, or come and watch a home match. Fans of Everton Football Club can take a tour around Goodison Park or see their club play on match day!

Shopping: Liverpool ONE is an outdoor shopping zone with more than 170 different shops. You can also visit the Royal Albert Dock, which has a huge range of independent shops selling interesting clothes and gifts.

Food: Go for a traditional Sunday lunch at one of Liverpool's traditional pubs, or you can try 'Scouse', a traditional beef or lamb stew with vegetables, typical of this city.

Nightlife: You can hear live music concerts at The Cavern Club, the famous club where the Beatles played in the 1960s. If you prefer going to bars and dancing, then Concert Square is an exciting area to go out at night.

For more information : <https://www.visitliverpool.com/>

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Work with a partner to plan your itinerary for a weekend in London. First read the information. Then together, talk about what you would like to do for the weekend, from Friday evening to Sunday. Use the language from Activity 2.

City fact file 2: London

The UK's capital is famous for its monuments, parks, shops and restaurants, with hundreds of things to see and do.

Museums and culture: Most museums in London are free. The British Museum has a huge collection of art and historical objects from around the world. The Science museum is a great place to see, touch and experience science for yourself with exhibitions, interactive activities and an IMAX cinema. Art lovers will enjoy the Tate Modern, which shows work from world famous artists. You can also visit The Globe Theatre and take a tour of Shakespeare's theatre in London, or go to see a play.

Sights: You can see the famous 'Big Ben' from Westminster, or you can take a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament to see where the big decisions are made. Another option is to take a 30 minute trip on the London Eye and get great views of the whole of London from the top! If you prefer seeing how the Royal family live, you can visit Buckingham Palace and take a tour inside.

Sports: Choose from six Premier League clubs to go and watch a match in London: Arsenal, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Fulham, Tottenham Hotspur or West Ham United. Chelsea have a new hi-tech museum at their Stamford Bridge Stadium.

Shopping: Covent Garden is a great area for clothes and fashion shops, with big international brands and independent stores. Around Oxford Street you can visit all the famous international stores, including famous department stores like Selfridges and Liberty. If you are looking for original gifts or souvenirs, visit Spitalfields market, a big indoor and outdoor market for food, clothes, furniture and design.

Food: Go to a traditional pub for a pub lunch, or try food from around the world at Borough market, or have some authentic Chinese food in China town.

Nightlife: Cheap last-minute tickets are available for theatre shows, or you could check out the hundreds of bars and pubs. Go to East London for trendy pubs and bars or to South London for clubs.

For more information: <https://www.visitlondon.com/>

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Work with a partner to plan your itinerary for a weekend in Brighton. First read the information. Then together, talk about what you would like to do for the weekend, from Friday evening to Sunday. Use the language from Activity 2.

City fact file 3: Brighton

Brighton, on the South-East coast of the UK, is famous for its beach, nightlife and unusual shops.

Museums and culture: Brighton Museum and Art Gallery - This museum has a great collection of 20th century art and fashion. Visit the Brighton Royal Pavilion to see an amazing Indian-style palace by the sea. It was built in the 19th century for Prince George. If you like live concerts, go to the Brighton Centre where you can listen to pop, rock or jazz music or watch dance performances.

Sights: If the weather is good, take a swim or sunbathe at Brighton Beach. You can also go to the pier, where you can play games, ride attractions, eat traditional fish and chips and enjoy a real British seaside experience. Another option is the British Airways i360. You can 'fly' to 162 metres on this attraction to see a spectacular view of Brighton and the surrounding area.

Sports: Go and see Brighton & Hove Albion play at home at Falmer stadium, just outside the city. They have been in the Premier League since 2017/18.

Shopping: Visit the Lanes in the city centre for different independent shops selling clothes, jewellery and antiques. Or, if you prefer big-name shops and cinemas, you can get the bus to Brighton Marina.

Food: Brighton is famous for its fresh fish and seafood, from fish and chips to lobster. It is also famous for vegetarian-friendly restaurants and cafes, and cafes serving teas, coffees and fantastic cakes.

Nightlife: Check out the programme for live concerts and events at the Brighton Dome. Or, go to Marine Parade, an area full of clubs, bars and restaurants right by the sea.

For more information: <https://www.visitbrighton.com/>

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Work with a partner to plan your itinerary for a weekend in Newcastle. First read the information. Then together, talk about what you would like to do for the weekend, from Friday evening to Sunday. Use the language from Activity 2.

City fact file 4: Newcastle

Newcastle, in the North East of England on the River Tyne is famous for its industrial past, its popular nightlife and friendly local people (known as 'Geordies').

Museums and culture: The Victoria Tunnel - this tunnel runs below the city to the river and you can take a tour with sound and visual effects which recreate what it was like during the war. If you like modern art, visit The BALTIC centre for Contemporary Art, which has exhibitions from international modern artists.

Sights: Of course there is a castle in Newcastle! It was built in the 12th century and is in the city centre. You can take a tour and see amazing views from the top or go to one of the exhibitions there. At The Life Science Centre you can take a ride on a 4D simulator, or visit the planetarium, which is great for children and adults. Take a trip to see The Angel of the North, a world famous sculpture that is 20 metres high and 54 metres wide.

Sports: Visit St. James' Park, home to Newcastle United and one of the most visited attractions in the city. You can take a tour of the club and of course, go and see a match.

Shopping: The Metro Centre is Europe's largest indoor shopping centre and is full of all kinds of shops where you can find anything and everything that you want to buy. Grainger Market has shops selling food and drink, sweets and cakes, as well as clothes and gifts.

Food: There are hundreds of restaurants serving all types of food in Newcastle, from traditional pubs to expensive international restaurants. Why not try a local dish like pease pudding, which is mashed up peas often served with meat, or a stottie, a traditional round bread from Newcastle.

Nightlife: For a night of comedy or music, go to the Mill Volvo Tyne Theatre. For clubs, bars and pubs, you can go to the Quayside area or the Bigg market for a fun night out.

For more information: <https://www.newcastlegateshead.com/>