

12.2 Solo travel vs. tours

Aim: Develop reading skills such as understanding vocabulary in context and making inferences

Preparation: Make one copy of Worksheet 12.2 for every S.

Comment: Use after or in place of the reading on page 103.

A

- Give each S a copy of the reading. Ask Ss if they usually travel solo or with a tour group. Elicit answers.
- Explain the task. Ss work individually to check the statements and read the online discussion.
- Go over the answers as a class.

Answers

Traveling solo forces you to start conversations with local people.
You don't have to try to coordinate everyone's different travel preferences.

B Pair work

- Explain the task. Tell Ss to look back at the article to find the information.
- Ss work in pairs to answer the questions.
- Go over the answers as a class.

Answers

Completely in favor of solo travel: ScorpioMR, SilkGypsy
Completely in favor of tours: CandiceM
Provides the pros and cons of both: Mardee1000, Speedracer65, LSMoon

C Group work

- Explain the task. Read the question aloud.
- Ss work in small groups to answer the question.
- Have groups share their answers with the class.

A Choose the statements you think were made by people who enjoy traveling solo. Then read the online discussion to check your answers.

- ☐ Single rooms cost more than sharing a double room.
- ☐ Traveling solo forces you to start conversations with local people.
- ☐ It's less stressful to let tour guides take care of arranging things.
- ☐ Some people really need to share their experiences with other people.
- ☐ You don't have to try to coordinate everyone's different travel preferences.

Travelers' Debate: Solo Travel vs. Tours

Traveler101 I'm planning a trip to Europe soon. Do you think I should take a tour or go solo?

Mardee1000 I backpacked around Italy and Greece for a month and never had any problems. Traveling solo forces you to start conversations with the locals and meet people you wouldn't have met otherwise. I carried a journal to write in when I ate alone in restaurants, but I usually wound up talking to someone at the next table. Traveling solo gives you total freedom to go anywhere and do anything you want, whenever you want. Still, there are a few drawbacks. It's more expensive – single rooms cost more than sharing a double room – and at times it can be a little lonely.

CandiceM My mother and I recently took a tour of France and were impressed by the variety of ages in our tour group. Approximately half were in their 60s or 70s, but the others ranged from 20 to 50. I enjoyed the tour because it was less stressful to let the tour guides take care of the hotels, transportation, breakfasts, and dinners, so I could just relax and enjoy the sights.

ScorpioMR I'd definitely suggest traveling solo. Taking trains on my own is where I had the best conversations and how I met the most interesting people.

Speedracer65 I think traveling alone is great, but I also know it's not for everyone. Some people really need to be able to share their experiences with other people in order to enjoy them more.

LSMoon It depends on how independent you are. If you are a "group" person, you probably won't be happy traveling alone. If you are not a group person, you will probably find solo travel a wonderful experience.

SilkGypsy When you travel alone, you are more open to adventure. Find some good travel guides and maps and explore. It is more exciting than sticking with a group, and you don't have to coordinate everyone's different travel preferences. Trust your judgment, smile, be friendly, and let the magic happen.

B Pair work Which travelers from part A are completely in favor of solo travel? Which traveler is completely in favor of taking a tour? Who provides the pros and cons of both types of travel?

C Group work Would you rather be free to do what you want when traveling or let tour guides take care of everything? Discuss your ideas.