

- 1 You are going to read a newspaper article about package holiday deals. For questions 1-15, choose from the speakers (A-E). The speakers may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A	Angela Harding
B	John Powell
C	Charlotte Hyde-White
D	Donna Dawson
E	Joe Brown

Which statement refers to which person(s)?

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| I felt very lonely before my holiday.                                     | 0  | D |
| It has opened up new horizons in my life.                                 | 1  |   |
| Our accommodation was too far from the sea.                               | 2  |   |
| One of my fellow travellers had health problems.                          | 3  | 4 |
| I wanted a quiet holiday destination.                                     | 5  |   |
| I had difficulty deciding on a destination.                               | 6  | 7 |
| I was slightly doubtful about the holiday suggested by HAS.               | 8  |   |
| I found the holiday deal regrettable.                                     | 9  |   |
| I experienced different traditions and met people in the local community. | 10 |   |
| We were unable to plan our holiday any earlier.                           | 11 |   |
| I was glad of the trained staff on hand during popular activities.        | 12 |   |
| We didn't know how much money we would be able to spend on a holiday.     | 13 |   |
| We got a lot of exercise during our holiday.                              | 14 |   |
| There was little to keep us occupied.                                     | 15 |   |

## 1. A New Option in Holidaymaking?

The most talked about new company in the travel business is the Holiday Advisory Service (HAS). We decided to telephone some of their first clients at random. This is what we found out.

Our first call was to **Angela Harding**, who said, "As a career woman I don't have the time or the energy to shop around for holiday deals, so I contacted HAS. The questions the advisor asked were to the point, and I was amazed to receive a faxed recommendation within a quarter of an hour. The information I gave them was that I would be travelling with my husband and mother-in-law, who was recovering from a serious illness; my holiday had to be in August; I wanted a location that was peaceful and untouched by mass tourism; and most importantly, I wanted diverse cultural activities. We had the best holiday ever in Budapest! Even my mother-in-law fell in love with Hungary and the Magyar people. HAS will revolutionise the holiday and hotel-booking industry."

We then called **John Powell**, who stated, "Our holiday for six students travelling together was planned at the last minute, as we were unsure of our finances. Also, two members of the group had to wait for exam results and were afraid they'd have to resit some subjects. Other complications were that everyone wanted to go somewhere different and one was a vegetarian, one didn't like hot climates, another suffered from asthma; I was tearing my hair out! When I contacted HAS they sorted our situation out in no time. They booked us a very flexible cycling holiday in Portugal. It included beaches, countryside, hiking and sightseeing. Everyone was happy! I'd give this agency ten out of ten."

**Charlotte Hyde-White** was also pleased with HAS. She told us that she had been at her wits' end as, after spending two weeks reading travel brochures, she was still undecided about her holiday. "I had changed

my mind so many times that I was in complete despair. The consultant I spoke with was friendly and efficient. I explained that I was travelling with my eleven-year-old daughter, as my husband, a colonel in the armed forces, was on active service and could not take leave. HAS quickly suggested a resort in the South of France. Our holiday was a huge success — the variety of supervised water-sports on offer meant that my daughter was never bored. In the evenings we ate out at traditional restaurants or walked along the seafront. It was a marvellous location."

"An unforgettable experience," said **Donna Dawson**, a retired bank teller. "When HAS recommended a ten-day cruise aboard *Cape Hope*, I thought I'd give it a try as I've been very lonely since my retirement. It was the best decision I've ever made, although I must admit I was very apprehensive about it at first. I didn't know anybody and I wasn't sure about a long trip by ship. What if I hated it and was even lonelier? I couldn't just get off in mid-ocean! But HAS was very positive about it and they were right! It was very easy to meet and talk to people. During the voyage I socialised a lot, and found a new circle of friends. We've all promised to keep in touch. I feel as if I've been given a whole new lease of life."

However, HAS does not satisfy everyone. **Mr Joe Brown** told us that he would never use the service again, or recommend it. He said, "I wanted a fun holiday for the four of us — that is, myself, my wife and our two boys, aged 15 and 16. The holiday which HAS came up with was a complete let-down. The 'seaside' accommodation was overpriced and about half a mile from the beach, the hotel staff were unfriendly, and there was hardly anything to do at the resort. We won't be using HAS in the future."

## 2. Holiday Tales

- 2 You are going to read a newspaper article about holiday tales. For questions 1-15, choose from the speakers (A-D). The speakers may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A	Julia Finch
B	Nathan Green
C	Martha Roberts
D	Flora Evans

Who suggests the following?

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| I was burgled on holiday.                                 | 0  | C |
| I didn't notice a problem until the day after my arrival. | 1  |   |
| I had a very active holiday.                              | 2  |   |
| I met someone I knew.                                     | 3  |   |
| I didn't have much money to spend.                        | 4  |   |
| I was moved to more luxurious accommodation.              | 5  |   |
| I just had to get away for a bit.                         | 6  |   |
| I booked my holiday without planning carefully.           | 7  |   |
| My problem got worse as time went by.                     | 8  |   |
| My physical condition improved a lot over the holiday.    | 9  |   |
| The staff were really nice to us.                         | 10 |   |
| The country I went to was ideal for my type of holiday.   | 11 |   |
| I had a bad experience which turned out well.             | 12 |   |
| I spent my holidays outside Europe.                       | 13 |   |
| I spent a lot of my time on the beach.                    | 14 |   |
| I had to receive medical treatment.                       | 15 |   |

Going abroad on holiday is always an exciting experience, and one which is becoming increasingly popular. There are plenty of tales told of blissful experiences but on the other side of the coin there are the disastrous coincidences which can turn a holiday into a nightmare. Here is a selection of different holiday stories I've heard.

**Julia Finch** was fed up with dull run-of-the-mill package holidays and was looking for somewhere fresh to spend her two-week leave. "I spotted a small ad for a cottage in rural France and, on the spur of the moment, decided to go. It was dark when I arrived, and I noticed an odd smell, but I thought nothing of it and went straight to bed. When I got up, the smell was more pronounced and I saw that the cottage was surrounded by fields full of yellow flowers. Then I noticed that my hands had become red and swollen overnight. As the morning wore on, the swelling and discolouration spread so I called a doctor. He rushed me straight to hospital where I was treated for an extreme allergic reaction to rape, the crops surrounding my cottage. Needless to say my holiday was ruined, and since then I've stuck to the more usual destinations."

On a more pleasant note is this account of a touring holiday in Holland. "Three of us from the local cycling club went over on the ferry," recalls **Nathan Green**. "We were all broke, so a cycling-camping holiday was the solution. The weather couldn't have been better and we made great progress. Of course, cycling in Holland is so easy. Not only is it flat, but almost everyone there owns a bicycle as well, so the whole country is geared to cyclists' needs. There were bike lanes with clearly marked routes everywhere; it was great! By the time we got home, we'd never been so fit and tanned in our lives."

Disneyworld, in Orlando, Florida, is a very popular family holiday destination and it is where **Martha Roberts'** tale is set. She arrived with her husband and two young daughters for two weeks of fun in the sun. "The kids both loved having their pictures taken with all the Disney characters who walk round the park. **Samantha** really wanted to meet Uncle Scrooge, her favourite cartoon character. One afternoon she disappeared and we were in a panic. Luckily, the park's security people found her, after an employee, dressed up as Uncle Scrooge, reported that Samantha was with him. On returning to our hotel room, we discovered that it had been broken into. Most of our clothes and all our money were gone. We were in total despair, but fortunately the hotel manager was wonderful to us. To make up for everything, he moved us into a penthouse suite and gave us \$1000 in compensation for the break-in. In the end, it turned out to be the best holiday we've ever had."

**Flora Evans** had just broken up with her boyfriend of four years. "I was feeling quite sorry for myself, so I decided I needed a change of scene. I ended up on the Greek island of Zakynthos. For days, I did nothing but swim, read and sunbathe. Eventually, I started to get bored and went to the hotel lounge for a bit of company. That's when I met David. We hadn't seen each other since leaving school years ago. We'd been good friends back then, so we started chatting immediately and discovered that we still had all the same things in common. Well, that was the start of a holiday romance which ended up in marriage, two years later."