

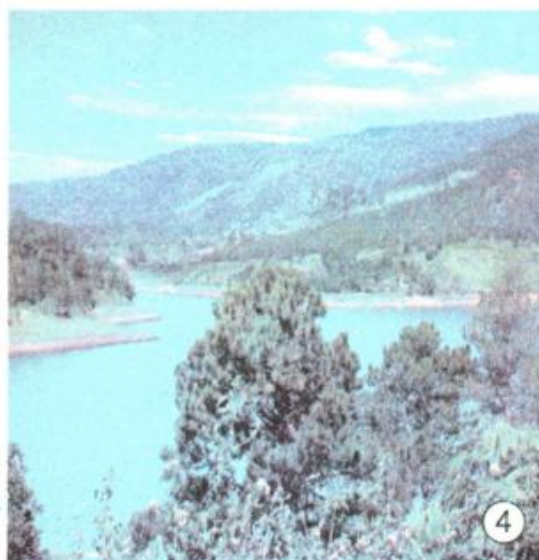
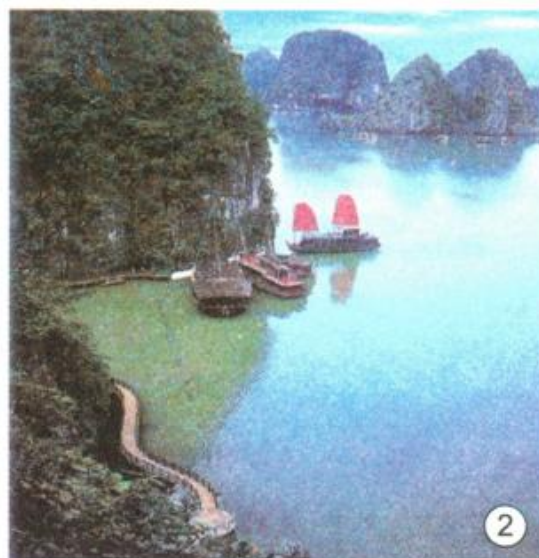


# AN EXCURSION

## A. READING

### Before you read

*Work in pairs.* Match the photos with the information below, and then tell each other which of the places you would like to visit and give reasons.



- a. Built in 1049, in the shape of a lotus
- b. Picturesque site, wonder of the world, 165 kilometres from Hanoi
- c. Mountain resort (altitude: 1,500 m) with some wonderful places to visit: Xuan Huong Lake, pine forests, waterfalls...
- d. On the left bank of the Huong River, 6 kilometres from Hue City

### While you read



Read the letter and then do the tasks that follow.

Dear Minh,

I'm writing to tell you a piece of news. The first term is coming to an end soon and my school is going to have some days off. On this occasion, my class is visiting some caves near Hanoi as we have recently studied rock formations. Besides, many of us have never been inside a cave, so I suppose the trip will be very interesting.

At first, we wanted to travel to Thay Pagoda because it is only over 20 kilometres away, and we could go on a day excursion.

However, only today have we learnt that the caves near Thay Pagoda are closed until after Tet. So we are visiting the ones near Huong Pagoda instead. A night campfire on a two-day trip will be a great event in our schooldays! To make the trip cheap, we are bringing our own food and sharing buses with some other classes.

It is much warmer now. I believe we're going to enjoy good weather with lots of sunshine.


The only problem I seem to have is getting my parents' permission. They may not want to let me stay the night away from home. I'll try to persuade them.

That's all for now. Give my love to your parents and sister.

Yours,

Lan



 **Task 1.** Choose the best answer A, B, C, or D to complete each of the sentences.

1. Lan wrote the letter to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. inform Minh of her days off
  - B. complain about her parents
  - C. tell Minh about the plan for her class trip
  - D. talk about what she and her classmates will do at Huong Pagoda

2. The students decided to go on an excursion because they wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. understand their geography lessons better
  - B. relax after work
  - C. have a campfire
  - D. A and B
3. The students have changed their destination as \_\_\_\_\_  
Thay Pagoda.
- A. it is impossible to visit the caves near
  - B. it costs them a lot to visit
  - C. they prefer Huong Pagoda to
  - D. many of them have been to

 **Task 2.** Answer the questions.

1. When are Lan and her classmates going on a trip?
2. Why are they visiting some caves?
3. How far is Thay Pagoda from their school?
4. What are the students' plans for their trip to Huong Pagoda?
5. What is Lan anxious about? Why?


**After you read**

Fill each blank in the summary of the letter with a suitable group of words from the box below.

her classmates    want to see    their trip    is going to go on  
 have learnt    to persuade them    some caves    only problem

Lan's class (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a two-day excursion to visit (2) \_\_\_\_\_ near Huong Pagoda. They (3) \_\_\_\_\_ with their own eyes what they (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in their geography lessons recently and relax after their hard work, as well. They have planned (5) \_\_\_\_\_ carefully. For Lan, the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ is getting her parents' permission. She will try (7) \_\_\_\_\_ so that she will be able to join (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on the excursion.

## B. SPEAKING

 **Task 1.** Tim's class is going on a boat trip on Lake Michigan in Chicago. Read the information about some of the participants.



I don't want to sit on the sundeck. Besides, I need to see all the students.



Mrs. Andrews

I want to be near Mary. I don't want to get sunburnt.



Susan

I often suffer from travel sickness, so I need plenty of fresh air.



Mary

I like to sit in the sun and I want to be by myself.



Tim

I don't like air-conditioning. I would like to take photographs.



John

I have never been on a boat before. I want a good view.



Sam

**Task 2.** *Work in groups.*  
Read the seat plan. Decide the best seat for each person, using the information in Task 1.

Conduct a conversation like this:

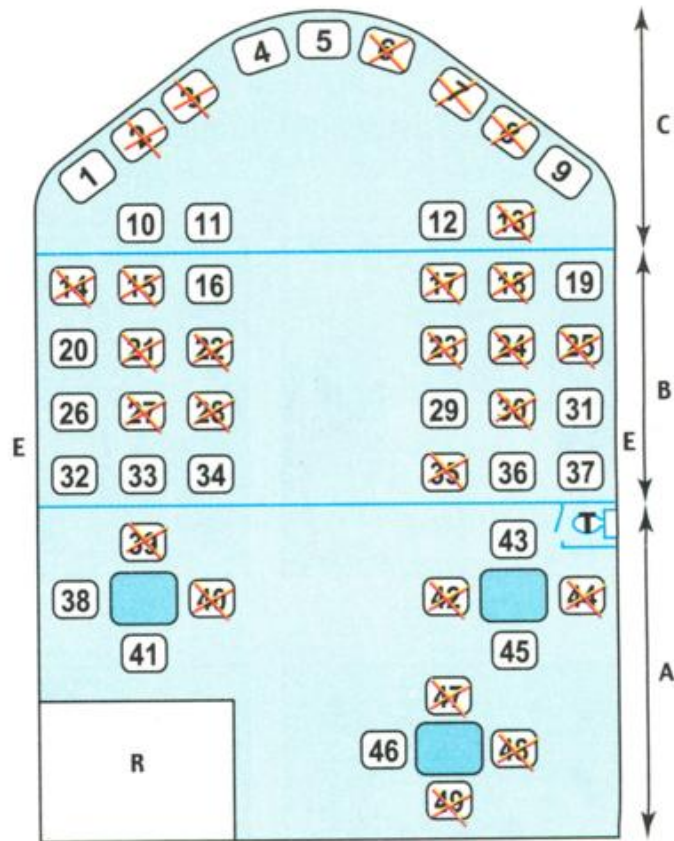
A: *I think Mary should sit in section B.*

B: *Yes. Put her in seat 16.*

...: *No. That's not a good idea because Susan wants to sit near her.*

...: *OK. Seat 37 would be better.*

.....



**Key:**  
 A air-conditioned  
 B non air-conditioned  
 C sundeck  
 E exit  
 R refreshments  
 T toilet  
 X occupied

**Task 3.** *Work in pairs.* Which seat do you think is the most suitable for you? Why? Use the information in Task 1 as suggestions.

## C. LISTENING

### Before you listen


• Answer the questions.

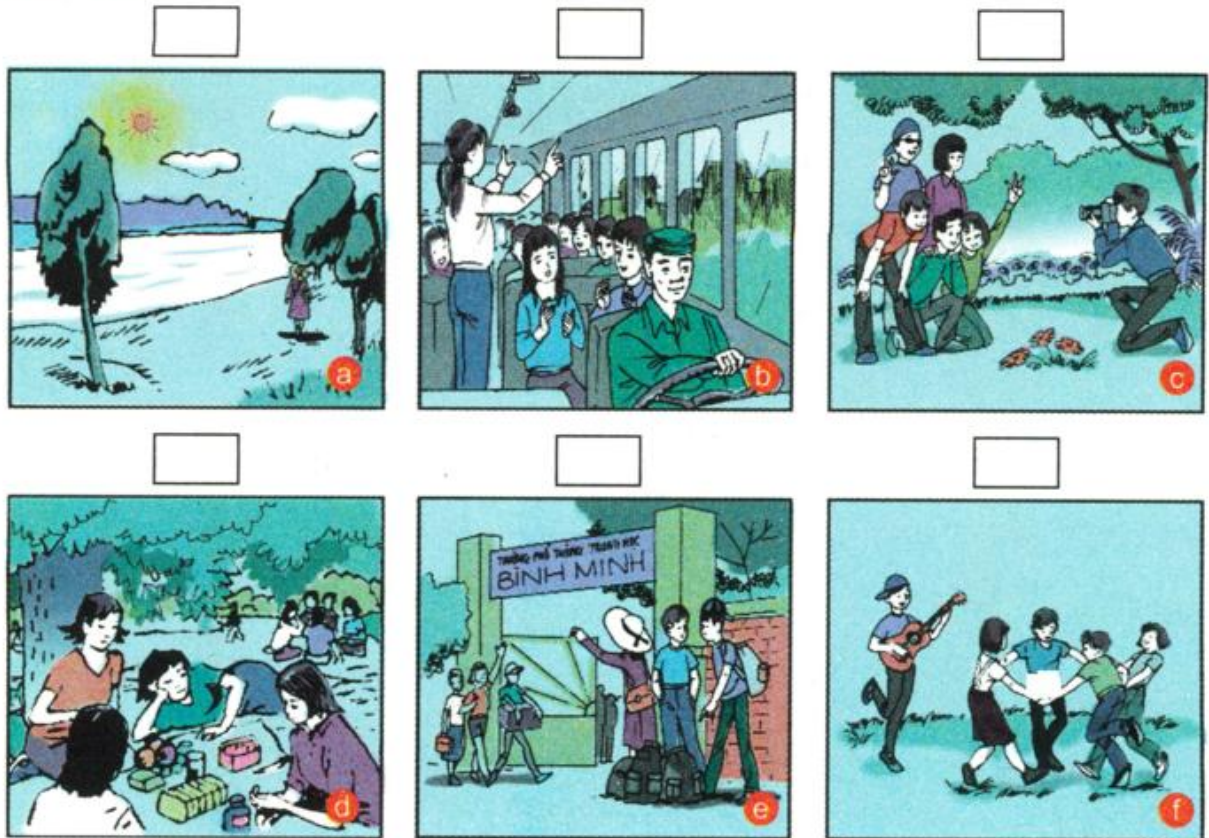
1. Do you often go for a picnic?
2. When is the best time for a picnic?
3. Why do people go for picnics?


• Listen and repeat.

glorious	destination	tour	delicious
spacious	guitar	left-overs	Botanical Garden


## While you listen

 **Task 1.** Listen and number the pictures in the order you hear.



 **Task 2.** Listen again and fill in the blanks with the exact words you hear.

1. The weekend picnic I enjoyed most \_\_\_\_\_ weeks ago.
2. My class decided \_\_\_\_\_ to the Botanical Garden.
3. We met \_\_\_\_\_ on time.
4. We made \_\_\_\_\_ round the garden.
5. In the afternoon, we went on \_\_\_\_\_ games.

 **Task 3.** Answer the questions.


1. What was the weather like that day?
2. Was the Botanical Garden far from the school?
3. How was the garden?
4. Why did some of the students sleep soundly?
5. What did the students do in the garden?

## After you listen

Work in groups. If your class could go for a picnic this weekend, what would your plan be?

## D. WRITING


### A confirmation letter

 **Task 1.** Work in pairs. Read the two letters below and find the requests in Nga's letter and the confirmation in Hoa's.

Dear Hoa,  
My class is going to have a picnic at Ao Vua this weekend. This is the first time I go for a picnic. Can you go shopping with me to buy the things we need for the trip? I will pick you up at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow. Is the time convenient for you? Please let me know as soon as possible.  
Yours,  
Nga



Dear Nga,  
I'm glad to hear that you are going to have your first picnic with your classmates. Certainly, I will help you to prepare everything you need for the trip. Fortunately, I'm having a day off tomorrow. So, I'm free in the afternoon. I'll be waiting for you at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow.  
Love,  
Hoa

 **Task 2.** Read the situations and write a confirmation letter responding to each of them.

1. Lan is going to have a birthday party at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. She asks you to buy her two bunches of bananas, three kilos of oranges, ten mangoes, and bring them to her house an hour before the party. You agree to help her.
2. Minh wants to borrow a book about wildlife. He is coming for the book at 9:00 a.m. this Saturday. You accept his request but suggest a later time.



## E. LANGUAGE FOCUS

● **Pronunciation:** / ə / - / ɜ: /

● **Grammar:**

The present progressive (with a future meaning) and *be going to*

### Pronunciation

- Listen and repeat.

/ ə /		/ ɜ: /	
teacher	other	bird	term
together	pagoda	work	shirt
about	today	church	early

- Practise these sentences.

1. Have you heard about our excursion to Thay Pagoda?
2. Her father is learning German with a teacher.
3. Last year the birds returned to the river earlier than this year.
4. The girls work in the church on Thursdays.
5. Was it Barbara's camera?
6. I'm thirsty, Nurse. I want a glass of water.

### Grammar

**The present progressive (with a future meaning) and *be going to*.**

**Examples:**

- *The first term is coming to an end soon.*
- *We are going to enjoy good weather with lots of sunshine.*

**Exercise 1.** Choose the correct option in brackets.

1. Tell me your plan, Lan. What (are you doing / will you do) this Saturday evening?
2. Mary (will get married / is getting married) next week.

3. There's a good play on TV tonight. (Will you / Are you going to) watch it?
4. I feel terrible. I think I (will be / am going to be) sick.
5. There are a lot of black clouds in the sky. It (will / is going to) rain.

**Exercise 2.** Put the verbs in brackets in the present progressive or *be going to*.

1. The Browns (go) to the cinema this evening.
2. We (have) an English-speaking club meeting next week. Would you like to come?
3. The cat is just behind the rat. It (catch) the latter.
4. Where you (put) this new bookcase?
5. Smoking is very bad for his health, but he (not give) it up.

**Exercise 3.** Complete the exchanges, using the present progressive or *be going to*.

1. There's a football match on TV this afternoon. \_\_\_\_\_?  
No, I'm busy. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Can you come next weekend?  
Sorry, we'd love to, but \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I hear Tim has won a lot of money. What \_\_\_\_\_?  
He says \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Should I leave the umbrella at home?  
It's cloudy and windy. \_\_\_\_\_. Take it along.
5. Do you think the windows are so dirty?  
Oh, yes. I \_\_\_\_\_ later.

## TEST YOURSELF B

**I. Listening (2.5 points).** Listen and complete the table below.

	Reading	Oxford
Location	(1) _____	(6) _____
Population	(2) _____	(7) _____
Noted for	(3) _____	(8) _____
	(4) _____	(9) _____
	(5) _____	(10) _____

**II. Reading (2.5 points)**

Read the passage and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

Many people in America now think that teachers give students too much homework. They say that it is unnecessary for children to work at home in their free time. Moreover, they agree that most teachers do not properly plan the homework tasks they give to students. The result is that students have to repeat tasks which they have already done at school.

Most people agree that homework is unfair. A student who can do his homework in a quiet and comfortable room is in a much better position than a student who does his homework in a small noisy room with the TV on.

**T F**

1. Students are not given much homework to do at home.
2. It is necessary for students to work at home in their free time.
3. Students' homework is not properly prepared by teachers.
4. Students do not have to repeat tasks they have already done at school.
5. Most people think that homework is not fair.

### III. Grammar (2.5 points)

Read the following paragraph. One word is missing from each line. Put a stroke (/) where the word has been omitted and write the missing word in the space provided.

Today a lot of important inventions/carried	0	<u>are</u>
out scientists working for large industrial firms.	1	_____
However, there are still opportunities other people	2	_____
to invent various things. In Britain, is a weekly	3	_____
television programme attempts to show	4	_____
all various devices which people have recently	5	_____
invented. The people organizing programme	6	_____
receive information about 700 inventions year.	7	_____
New ideas can still be developed private inventors.	8	_____
However, is important to consider these questions:	9	_____
Will it work? Will it wanted? Is it new?	10	_____

### IV. Writing (2.5 points)

Your class would like to visit your uncle's computer factory which is located near your school. Write to him and ask for permission to visit. The following suggestions may help you.

#### Outline

**Introduction:** plan / visit / computer factory (give date / number of students / means of transportation / purpose ...)

**Request:** time staying in the factory / places to visit / guide for the visit / meeting with the workers .....

**Conclusion:** confirm the visit / ask for a reply letter