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## THE ENGLISH LESSON PLAN ON THE TOPIC “EXCESSIVE TOURISM: A PERIL TO THE MOST POPULAR PLACES IN THE WORLD”

*This work is an English lesson scenario which discusses the critical issue in the world today and embraces a set of various assignments for students at the B2-C1 level at English lessons. The learning materials help students boost their language skills which entail speaking, listening, and reading activities, make students become interested in talking the question of overtourism over, what triggers it and what it can lead to and how it affects society and the environment, and foster students in organizing active usage of language material as well as expand vocabulary acquisition and retention effectively. The work pays special attention to the lexis that concern the topic and its features.*

**Key words:** learning the English language; lesson plan; overtourism; destination; peril; impact; social media; overcrowding; pollution; rising prices; responsible tourism.

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### ПРАКТИЧНЕ ЗАНЯТТЯ З АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ НА ТЕМУ "НАДЛИШКОВИЙ ТУРИЗМ: ЗАГРОЗА ДЛЯ НАЙБІЛЬШ ВІДОМИХ МІСЦЬ В СВІТІ"

Пропонована робота є сценарієм практичного заняття з англійської мови, присвяченого одній з найактуальніших проблем сучасного світу, містить комплекс завдань, орієнтованих на студентів рівня B2-C1. Запропоновані форми роботи, метою яких є вдосконалення мовленнєвих навичок студентів, складаються із вправ, що передбачають вправлення в говорінні, аудіюванні, та читанні, підвищують інтерес студентів до обговорення проблеми overtourism, його причин і наслідків та його впливу на суспільство та довкілля, дають змогу активно використовувати єфективно засвоєти мовленнєвий матеріал. Особливу увагу приділено лексико-семантичним особливостям слів за даною темою.

**Ключові слова:** вивчення англійської мови; практичне заняття; overtourism; дестинація; загроза; вплив; соціальні мережі; перенаселення; забруднення; зростання цін; відповідальний туризм.

*We all like travelling. We just pack our bags to see the world. The allure of new hotspots and exploration of un-*

*charted territory make us dream. And travelling is much more affordable these days.*

*Tourism is booming. It generates a huge amount of money to the economy of countries, brings wealth to local communities, creates jobs. But everything comes at a price.*

*Waking up in the morning in your city, you just realize that it has been stolen from you. The city is drowning in tourists. It leads to overcrowding which impacts locals and tourists. Tourists are confronted with the situation when they are trapped in a queue that can take hours, unable to see famous attractions. They cause a lot of damage to the historic sites, flocking to take a selfie. They bring with them pollution and waste. Cities are swamped by rubbish. Consuming loads of water and food, they have a detrimental effect on the environment, put huge pressure on natural resources leading to their overuse and depletion.*

*What are the factors that have led to it? With the rise of low-cost airlines, travel has become cheaper and accessible to many tourists. Cruise ships also offer a great value for money. The increase in short-term housing rentals has triggered a surge in prices. The cost of living has soared and forced residents to leave their homes. The dark side of social media and influencers are to blame for the issue. They simplified the sharing of trip photos and videos which urged people to create their travel bucket lists.*

*Is there a solution? Can we tackle it? The answer is that we cannot ignore the detrimental impact of excessive tourism on the environment. In many popular cities drastic measures have been taken: restrictions imposed, new entry fees and taxes implemented, awareness campaigns against overtourism held. Staying informed about overtourism problem, making smart decisions towards travel, reducing waste, supporting local businesses, we can mitigate the negative effects. We should promote more off-season travel, limit visitor numbers where it is possible. We should be aware that we have to tailor solutions to combat overtourism to the unique place. We think this topic is essential, enables us to get interested in it and concerns students of any major.*

**TOPIC: EXCESSIVE TOURISM: A SCOURGE ON THE MOST POPULAR PLACES IN THE WORLD**

**LEVEL: B2-C1**

**OBJECTIVES**

- To broaden students' knowledge in the given topic
- To immerse students in identifying the key vocabulary and its lexical and semantic features
- To stimulate students to use the key vocabulary in the context
- To boost students' speaking, listening, and reading skills
- To get students involved in practicing thematic vocabulary when covering the topic

**MATERIAL**

Article "Overtourism – what is it, and how can we avoid it?" (available at <https://www.responsibletravel.com/copy/what-is-overtourism>); video "Too many people want to travel" (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTiRajt-ZnM>); video "Venetians say tourists are damaging their city" (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VVHeOAiKzE>)

**1. "Warm-up":** introducing the issue by focusing on the key words. The discussion between the teacher and students.

**T:** *Look at the words and phrases given below and tell what they have in common.*

social media; overcrowding; destination; pollution; hazard; degradation.

**T:** *Name the words mentioned above using the definitions given below.*

- 1) the place that someone or something is going to
- 2) ways of sharing information, opinions, images, videos using the Internet
- 3) something that is dangerous and likely to cause damage
- 4) a situation when a place contains too many people or things
- 5) the introduction of harmful materials into the environment
- 6) the process in which the beauty or quality of something is destroyed or spoiled

**T:** *Complete the sentences with missing words given in the previous exercise.*

1 When too many visitors converge on the same destination, it can lead to severe \_\_\_, degrading the visitor and resident experience.

2 The large influx of tourists can lead to the \_\_\_ of natural resources.

3 In Venice, another iconic \_\_\_, the situation has become so critical that authorities have had to implement entry quotas for daily tourists.

4 \_\_\_ has heightened younger generations' desire for travel experiences by simplifying the sharing of trip photos and videos.

5 Polluted water sources are a \_\_\_ to wildlife.

6 The manifesto includes tough measures to tackle road congestion and environmental \_\_\_.

**2. Watching video 1.**

**T:** *Watch the video "Too many people want to travel" (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTiRajt-ZnM>); and answer these questions:*

1 What does Annie Lowrey call the 'the essential condition of overtourism'?

2 Who was historically tourism for? How did it change in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

3 What has happened in the last thirty years?

4 How many trips have we reached globally today? What are the key factors?

5 What has led to injury and death?

6 What is being done in response to overtourism?

7 How did Robinson Meyer finish his statement saying that 'ships are one of the most efficient ways you could move across the surface of the earth, but ...'?

8 What did Annie Lowrey say when she mentioned 'tourism'?

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTiRajt-ZnM>)

**3. Discussing video 1.**

**T:** *Give your answers.*

**4. After watching activities.**

**T:** *Match the first part of the sentences with their halves.*

1. The crowds around the Mona Lisa are so bad that museum workers walked out recently ...

2. This phenomenon is known as overtourism, ...

3. As Western societies gained a middle-class, ...

4. Social media has provided a way for people ...

5. In response to overtourism, ...

6. It is not the inherent fault of individuals ...

a) many cities are starting to tax tourists more heavily, put daily limits on cruise ship visitors, and regulating Airbnbs.

b) to find out places to go to, things to do, things to see.

c) that the planet is warming.

d) claiming the working conditions were too dangerous.

e) tens of millions of people could suddenly afford to travel and mass tourism began.

f) and it's affecting the planet in unprecedented ways.

**5. Pre-reading activities.**

**T:** *Discuss these questions. Give reasons for your answers.*

1 Do you like travelling? Have you ever been abroad?

2 Do you think mass tourism is a good idea?

3 How can tourism impact the environment? Can you share any examples?

4 Do you feel a sense of responsibility? Are there someone to blame?

5. What can you personally do to cope with it?

**6. Reading comprehension. Understanding the main points.**

**T:** Read the article “Overtourism – what is it, and how can we avoid it?” and answer the following questions:

- 1 What do we understand by the word ‘overtourism’?
- 2 Why is it hitting the headlines? What is the problem with it?
- 3 What causes overtourism?
- 4 Can we tackle excessive tourism? What can be done?
- 5 Why is overtourism a big threat?

#### **Overtourism – what is it, and how can we avoid it?**

1) Since its inception, tourism has been considered a benign activity. This is hardly surprising; the holiday industry’s USP is leisure, enjoyment, a break from all responsibility. It has brought wealth to forgotten rural communities, cushioned the blow of financial crashes, conserved critically endangered species and restored crumbling, historic cities. Tourism’s potential benefits are clear. However, the mistake is to think that it can only bring good. Many of us do not believe this myth, and have been speaking out against it for decades. The media and the travel industry have now finally begun to turn their gaze to the negative impacts of the holiday industry, and the term ‘overtourism’ has been coined.

#### **What is overtourism?**

2) In short, overtourism occurs when there are too many visitors to a particular destination. “Too many” is a subjective term, of course, but it is defined in each destination by local residents, hosts, business owners and tourists. When rent prices push out local tenants to make way for holiday rentals, that is overtourism. When narrow roads become jammed with tourist vehicles, that is overtourism. When wildlife is scared away, when tourists cannot view landmarks because of the crowds, when fragile environments become degraded – these are all signs of overtourism.

#### **Why is it happening?**

3) The travel industry, like many others, focuses almost exclusively on growth, with little or no concern for the impacts. After decades of virtually uncontrolled growth, it has crossed a threshold: in many destinations, tourism now demonstrably creates more problems than benefits. ...

#### **Why is this in the news now?**

4) Visitor numbers have been rising steadily for decades, as anyone who lives in a popular tourist city, or who has visited certain beaches or landmarks, will attest. Billions of people travel every year – for day-trips or longer stays, and as the rate of tourist arrivals steadily increases, it means more and more places become crowded. Overtourism is, therefore, not a new problem. But it is rarely far from the headlines nowadays, and this is not because of the increase in tourist numbers, which has not been particularly dramatic. What makes the news is the backlash from local residents, which is growing in scale. ...

#### **What are the key causes of overtourism?**

5) There are many contributing factors to overtourism, and of course these will vary from place to place. Airbnb has been used as something of a scapegoat, as it means thousands of beds are available in towns and cities around the world, without being subject to any kind of planning, permits or – in many cases – taxes. ... But while Airbnb may have a supporting role, it is far from the leading player. If anything, it is more of a symptom of overtourism than one of the main causes. Local and national governments and tourist boards have long believed that more is better. A “successful” year in tourism is generally considered to be one in which numbers have increased substantially. Never mind whether these numbers are of cruise ship passengers, duty free shoppers, resort guests, backpackers or high end visitors; the number is all that counts. This has resulted in a reluctance – or often outright refusal – to cap numbers in any way, to increase (or introduce) daily tourist taxes, to charge cruise lines for docking, or to try and ensure that tourists’ behaviour is beneficial – or at the very least, not damaging – to local lifestyles and landscapes.

6) Another issue is the availability of cheap flights, which have saturated Europe in particular in recent years. When it is cheaper to fly from London to Morocco, than to take a train from London to Manchester – then we have a problem. These artificially low fares are only possible thanks to tax and VAT not being charged on aviation fuel, a “subsidy” which saves the industry billions of pounds per year in the UK alone. Cruise ships, too, are allowed to burn a particularly cheap and polluting type of fuel, which also allows them to keep costs low. And giant cruise ships are another contributing factor when it comes to overtourism. Thousands of passengers spill out into port cities each day, returning to the ship in time for dinner. Passengers often spend very little in the destinations, yet ensure that historic streets, monuments, cafes and shops are rammed with people, creating an unpleasant experience for residents as well as for visitors who may be staying on land and spending money locally.

#### **What can tourists do to avoid overtourism?**

7) ... Overtourism is sometimes simply a case of numbers: there are too many people in a particular place at a particular time. But in some cases, taking a more responsible approach to tourism can mitigate the negative effects. In these cases, the solution can be to travel as a responsible tourist; to travel in ways which maximise positive impacts and minimise the negative ones. Two things to think about are the place, and the time. Spain, Italy, Iceland and Croatia have all been in the news as victims of overtourism, but in each case, this is extremely localised. Barcelona is rammed, and many of its residents are understandably fed up, but Spain is a surprisingly large country, and many of its cities are not at all crowded with tourists. Better still, head out into the

villages and mountains for a real glimpse of the country away from the mainstream hordes. ...

Travelling responsibly, in smaller numbers, not only helps avoid overtourism. It will give you a greater connection with local people and ways of life: a far more authentic holiday experience.

#### What else can be done?

8) As tourists we can ensure our own behaviour is as beneficial as possible, but to really effect change across the industry, and around the world, things need to happen at a much higher level. Governments and local authorities need to look at ways to control tourist numbers – whether by raising prices, issuing permits to certain attractions, banning cruise ships over a certain size, or having greater control over which businesses open and where.

All the while that increasing numbers remains the goal of tourist boards and other tourism bodies such as the UNWTO, this will not happen. But as soon as the focus shifts away from this, we can really start to tackle some of the industry's greatest challenges. Overtourism may seem like a new concept, but there are many examples around the world of how it has been successfully avoided, dating back years. ...

(<https://www.responsibletravel.com/copy/what-is-overtourism>)

#### 7. Learning the vocabulary

##### Definitions

T: Match these words (1-10) from the article with their meanings (a-j).

- 1 inception a) collapsing
- 2 saturated b) a strong negative reaction
- 3 jammed c) limit
- 4 reluctance d) beginning
- 5 crumbling e) clear and direct
- 6 steadily f) provided more of a product or service than people want to buy
- 7 outright g) an unwillingness to do something
- 8 backlash h) packed, full of
- 9 fragile i) easily destroyed
- 10 cap j) gradually

##### Word search

T: Read the article and find words and expressions in the article which fit these meanings.

1) there is one primary factor to consider in a situation (paragraph 5)

2) make a situation or something less unpleasant, harmful, or serious (paragraph 7)

3) pass from one stage or level to another (paragraph 3)

4) provide an opportunity for something else (paragraph 2)

5) very full or crowded (paragraph 7)

6) large groups of people (paragraph 7)

7) a person who is blamed for something that someone else has done (paragraph 5)

8) an unexpected event that has a damaging effect on someone or something (paragraph 1)

9) flow (paragraph 6)

10) try to deal with a difficult problem (paragraph 8)

##### Word partnerships

T: Match the words to make the following partnerships from the text.

- 1 benign a) effects
- 2 potential b) refusal
- 3 endangered c) activity
- 4 local d) ships
- 5 particular e) benefits
- 6 outright f) numbers
- 7 unpleasant g) species
- 8 negative i) tenets
- 9 cruise j) effects
- 10 tourism k) experience

##### Sentence completion

T: Complete the gaps in the sentences with one or two words and expressions from the article.

1 The 1970s saw the first \_\_\_ against the women's movement.

2 Within a few years of its \_\_\_, the charity was involved in aid projects all around the world.

3 The place was already \_\_\_ an hour before the game.

4 Such a person has sufficiently crossed the \_\_\_ of criminality to justify punishment.

5 Our mortgage is \_\_\_ at 8.75 percent for five years.

6 Our culture is \_\_\_ with television and advertising.

7 It is unclear how to \_\_\_ the effects of tourism on the island.

8 Losing his job was a severe \_\_\_ to his confidence.

9 There is a great deal of indecision over how to \_\_\_ the problem.

10 Seasonal illnesses expose how \_\_\_ the region's healthcare infrastructure is.

##### Word-building

T: Use the words in the bold to form one word that fits in the text.

Since its inception, tourism has been considered a benign activity. This is 1) \_\_\_ (hard) surprising; the holiday industry's USP is leisure, 2) \_\_\_ (enjoy), a break from all 3) \_\_\_ (responsible). It has brought wealth to forgotten rural communities, cushioned the blow of 4) \_\_\_ (finance) crashes, conserved critically 5) \_\_\_ (danger) species and restored crumbling, historic cities.

... The travel industry, like many others, focuses almost exclusively on 6) \_\_\_ (grow), with little or no concern for the impacts. After decades of virtually uncontrolled growth, it has crossed a threshold: in many destinations, tourism now 7) \_\_\_ (demonstrate) creates more problems than benefits. ...

... Visitor numbers have been rising 8) \_\_\_ (steady) for decades, as anyone who lives in a popular tourist city, or who has visited certain beaches or landmarks, will attest.

... This has resulted in a reluctance – or often outright 9) \_\_\_ (refuse) – to cap numbers in any way, to increase

(or introduce) daily tourist taxes, to charge cruise lines for docking, or to try and ensure that tourists' behaviour is beneficial – or at the very least, not damaging – to local lifestyles and landscapes.

... Another issue is the 10) \_\_ (available) of cheap flights, which have saturated Europe in particular in recent years. When it is cheaper to fly from London to Morocco, than to take a train from London to Manchester – then we have a problem. These artificially low fares are only possible thanks to tax and VAT not being charged on aviation fuel, a “subsidy” which saves the industry billions of pounds per year in the UK alone. Cruise ships, too, are allowed to burn a particularly cheap and 11) \_\_ (pollute) type of fuel, which also allows them to keep costs low. And giant cruise ships are another 12) \_\_ (contribute) factor when it comes to overtourism. Thousands of passengers spill out into port cities each day, returning to the ship in time for dinner. Passengers often spend very little in the destinations, yet ensure that historic streets, monuments, cafes and shops are rammed with people, creating an 13) \_\_ (please) experience for residents as well as for visitors who may be staying on land and spending money 14) \_\_ (local).

... Overtourism is sometimes simply a case of numbers: there are too many people in a particular place at a particular time. But in some cases, taking a more responsible approach to tourism can mitigate the negative effects. In these cases, the 15) \_\_ (solve) can be to travel as a responsible tourist; to travel in ways which maximise positive impacts and minimise the negative ones. Two things to think about are the place, and the time. Spain, Italy, Iceland and Croatia have all been in the news as victims of overtourism, but in each case, this is extremely localised. Barcelona is rammed, and many of its residents are 16) \_\_ (understand) fed up, but Spain is a 17) \_\_ (surprise) large country, and many of its cities are not at all crowded with tourists.

... Overtourism may seem like a new concept, but there are many examples around the world of how it has been 18) \_\_ (success) avoided, dating back years. ...

## 8. Watching video 2.

**T:** Watch the video “Venetians say tourists are damaging their city”. Look at the words and think about their meanings.

influx; plummet; quaint; vulnerable; draw; cater ; backdrop ; wind up

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VVHeOAiKzE>)

**T:** Name the words mentioned above using the definitions given below.

1) unusual and attractive, especially in an old-fashioned way

- 2) provide and serve food and drinks at a party, meeting etc., usually as a business
- 3) the arrival of large numbers of people
- 4) bring an activity, meeting etc. to an end
- 5) the scenery behind something that you are looking at
- 6) to suddenly and quickly decrease in value or amount

- 7) can be easily harmed or hurt
- 8) attract someone

## 9. Discussing video 2.

**T:** Watch the video 2 and answer the questions.

- 1 How has tourism threatened Venice in recent years?
- 2 What did UNESCO tell the city authorities concerning the issue?
- 3 Are cruise ships a main factor that makes a situation in Venice worse?

- 4 Why did residents carry luggage when protesting?

**T:** Choose the correct option.

- 1) Not all popular destinations are \_\_ by overtourism.
  - a) effected b) touched c) affected
- 2) With visitor \_\_ around the world increasing again, the issue of overtourism has become a real concern.
  - a) figures b) numbers c) values
- 3) Residents of the city fought long and fiercely for a \_\_ on cruise ships.
  - a) ban b) fine c) impact
- 4) The government has measures in place to \_\_ tourist crowds.
  - a) mitigate b) soar c) plummet
- 5) Overtourism is not going away – we have to \_\_ with it.
  - a) combat b) fight c) cope

## 10. Summary

**T:** As we can see, overtourism poses a potential peril to popular destinations round the world as well as it has negative effects on the environment. There is too much tourism ad we need to control it, not to eliminate it. We need more sensitive tourism. We need tourism that respects residents. But it is really important to be a responsible tourist, respect other cultures and the environment.

Do you think we deeply looked into the issue? Did we learn the lessons from it? Give your answers.

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