



0'00

Hello everyone! It's Hannah here from Virtually Fluent. Welcome to Hannah's conversation corner, where I select one topic that we can talk about. My wonderful partner will ask me some questions so you can hear how this topic is used in everyday conversation. Don't forget to follow us on our brand new Instagram account, the username is @virtuallyfluent. There's a brand new word of the day, some photos and videos of everyday life in the UK and lots of vocabulary, grammar tips too. So let's get started with the very first question. Today's topic is holidays. What is the first question?

0'50

Hi Hannah! OK, the first question is what is your favourite type of holiday?

0'55

Very good question! My favourite type without a doubt is a beach holiday. I love going to the beach. We have quite miserable weather let's say in, well certainly now in February in the UK, so it's lovely to the Caribbean, to go to an island, somewhere nice on the beach.

1'13

OK and which one is your favourite beach from all the ones that you have visited?

1'18

Oh! I've visited so many! I really liked over in, was it near Cancún, Playa del Carmen, I think that was really pretty and Tulum, that was really nice, the Tulum beach. I like going to the beach, I hate the sea, I'm really scared of the sea so I don't go in there but I like just looking at nice clean beaches with sand.

1'41

And what about here in your country? Have you ever been on a holiday in your own country?

1'45

I have been on various holidays here travelling around the UK. I wouldn't say beach holiday is really the right word, it's more tourist attractions here in the UK, going to the big cities, going to London of course, I've travelled to lots of cities but definitely not beach holidays here in the UK.

2'12

Yeah, that would be weird with the weather! What is your favourite tourist attraction here in the UK?

2'22

I'll go with London because that's what most people know. I think my favourite attraction, it's not the typical tourist attraction, is going up the Walkie Talkie building, it's the one that looks like a walkie talkie in London. It was free to go up when we were there, you just had to book tickets online but you can see all of the outline/the skyline of London and it's so beautiful. We went up at night, had a few drinks up there. I think I really enjoyed that, it was really pretty! In terms of typical attractions, I mean any of them- Tower Bridge, London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament, I mean there's way too many to list in London.

3'06

You know a lot about your country and every time that we were visiting the tourist attractions, you always have some facts, fun facts, and all that stuff.

3'15

That's true!

3'17

So, have you ever wanted to be a tour guide before?

3'21

Yeah, I think it'd be quite interesting because you meet people from so many different countries, different languages, different backgrounds. Obviously you'd need to do a lot of research, which I actually quite enjoy learning about places, so it would be quite fun, yeah. Obviously you'd need to learn some other languages, I do speak a couple but in English no problem at all! I'd really love that yeah!

3'46

OK, that's good! Moving to another type of holiday, have you ever been to countries to do some kind of adventure, skiing, camping, I don't know, something extreme?

4'02

Yes and no. So I've been skiing before, we've been to France and Italy just a couple of times with my family. I enjoyed it because I was with my family, it was a good holiday, I'm not the most fantastic skier but that was good fun. I have been camping not as a holiday though, that's Duke of Edinburgh, which is, it's like an award that you can get here in the UK. You go walking, well hiking and camping for a few days, so it wasn't really a holiday it was more to pass the test as such. In terms of extreme holidays, I'm not really into adventure stuff, I don't do skydiving or parachuting, paragliding. I think the most adventurous for me is probably zip wiring across the Amazon when we were in Ecuador, yeah that was nice.

4'53

That's great. With whom do you usually go on holiday?

4'59

With you, my dearest partner. Sometimes with family, certainly when I was younger, that was, obviously I went with my family. I've been on a few holidays with friends before, mostly girlfriends but yeah that's mostly it. I like going with someone, I don't like going on holidays alone, I know there's a lot of people who enjoy that but for me I enjoy taking the people I love with me.

5'27

That's a good answer! Have you ever had a really bad holiday?

5'34

Not really really bad as in an accident or emergency or something like that has happened. Although when we were skiing my sister did break her wrist I think it was, which didn't turn out too well but I think the "worst" (let's say) experience was when we went to Disneyland Paris, I was quite young. Me and my sister were little girls really excited to go see all the princesses in Disneyland and we had everything reserved with my parents, the big hotel you know the one with all the characters that walk around and we were so excited you know for days we'd been thinking about this. We got the transfer from one of the airports in Paris on the coach and they took us to the wrong hotel, they said they didn't have the reservation we ended up in a not-so-great hotel for a couple of nights, they overcharged for food and everything, it was just a bad couple of days but they did rectify it eventually and we were, we finished the weekend off at the correct place that we'd booked and that was good fun.

6'40

That's great! So now, of course, we are living in some unusual days with all this pandemic and most people are just waiting to finish the pandemic, to be able to travel to different countries to have the holidays they couldn't have. So tell me, where would you like to go travelling after COVID?

7'01

Top of my bucket list is most of the Latin American countries, you're obviously from Latin America yourself. Yeah, I just really love to travel, I've watched a lot of documentaries and here in the UK there's lots of things on the television about travelling around Latin America. It's quite a popular thing to do especially in a gap year/ year abroad. So I'd really love to travel there, go back to the Caribbean, I've had some amazing experiences there and I don't know why but The Seychelles has always appealed to me.

7'32

Which part of Latin America do you want to visit most?

7'38

OK, well I would like to go down to Argentina, I think, right (is it Patagonia?) right at the very bottom, it looks so beautiful all the mountains and snow, it looks gorgeous! But mostly all the capital cities of the big countries, Santiago and Lima, I think it would be really nice to kind of see the different cultures that you have in all of those places and I have a lot of students from Latin America as well and they tell me so many things about being there. So that would be really nice, yeah.

8'10

Yeah, and how is your Spanish to travel there? Do you practise the language before travelling to a country or is it just adventure there?

8'20

No! I like learning a language or at least the base of a language before you go on holiday. I speak Spanish relatively well, I've learnt it, lived in Barcelona for a while obviously my other half is Spanish-speaking. I think it's important that you do learn a language, so if I was in Latin America I don't think I'd have a problem communicating there. But I have had situations, for example when I went over to Poland, I speak basically no Polish just the yes, no, please, thank you, which you learn specifically for the trip. So, you know, you can always have difficulties there but I'm really lucky to have English as my mother tongue because the majority of people are able to communicate at tourist attractions, at hotels, transport in English. That's quite lucky!

9'11

Yes, that's why it's important that language!

9'13

Of course!

9'15

OK, so that's everything from me, thank you Hannah.

9'19

Thank you for the questions. So that is everything about the topic of holidays. If you would like to access the transcript, so everything I said in this video and test your understanding, exactly what I said, you can take our listening comprehension quiz. I've left the link to this in the description below. This is part of our holidays course. But from Hannah's conversation corner that is everything today. This is Hannah, bringing English to life.