

Packing Light

1

Before you read **Work with a partner.**

- When was your last trip? Where did you go?

2

Vocabulary **Match the word with the correct meaning.**

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. unwind (v) | often |
| 2. frequent (adj) | abroad |
| 3. manage (v) | soap for washing clothes |
| 4. detergent (n) | be able to |
| 5. overseas (n) | relax |



3

Before you read **What advice do you think the writer gives about packing for a vacation?**

4

Reading **Read the following text:**

Everyone loves a vacation. It's a chance to forget about work or school. You can relax and unwind. However, one of the keys to a successful vacation happens before the trip. It's something that everyone has experienced – packing.

We have all seen people at train stations and airports pulling suitcases which look ready to explode. It seems that everyone packs too much. Is it really possible to pack light, and still have everything you need for a great vacation?

Frequent travelers say 'yes' – it really is unnecessary to take many things with you on vacations. Some travelers even manage to pack everything they need in one small suitcase which you can take into an aircraft cabin.

Here are some of the top recommendations from frequent travelers:

- 1) Be realistic. Do you really need a different shirt or blouse for each day? Check the weather reports carefully, and don't bring sweaters unless you're sure you'll need them.
- 2) You only need two pairs of shoes. Pack one pair, and wear the other.
- 3) Take mini-bottles of shampoo and conditioner. If you're staying at a hotel, you won't need them at all.
- 4) Take a washing line and some detergent with you. It doesn't take up much space, and you can wash some clothes during your trip.
- 5) Remember the rule: double the money, half the luggage. You can probably buy anything you need overseas.

5 Do you remember? What advice does the writer give about the following?

Useful Language

It's a good idea to...

You should...

You shouldn't

You need...

You don't need...

- how much to pack
- shampoo and conditioner
- a clothes line
- shoes
- the weather

6 Speaking #1 You are going on vacation for one week with your partner!

Location: _____.

Time of Year: _____.

Which of these will you take? Discuss with a partner, using the phrases in the 'useful language' box above.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| clothes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | passport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | money | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| a dictionary | <input type="checkbox"/> | two or three novels | <input type="checkbox"/> | scissors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| an MP3 player | <input type="checkbox"/> | a hairdryer | <input type="checkbox"/> | a bathrobe | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| travelers' checks | <input type="checkbox"/> | some teabags | <input type="checkbox"/> | an overcoat | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a portable computer | <input type="checkbox"/> | an inflatable pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> | a first-aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Write three more things you need:

7 Speaking #2

Compare with someone from another group. Did you pack the same things?

8 Discussion Ask your partner(s) these questions. Ask follow-up questions!

- When do you start packing for a vacation?
- Do you pack too much, too little, or just the right amount?
- When you travel, what kind of baggage do you take?
- Do you usually buy many things when on vacation? What do you buy?
- Do you pack any food or drink from home when you go overseas?
- Your ideas!

Packing Light: Teaching Notes

Target Structure:	Advice and Recommendations
Vocabulary:	General
Level:	Elementary to intermediate
Time:	1 hour
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

This worksheet has a reading and follow-up exercises to build your students' comprehension and speaking skills. The topic of travel is one which students are comfortable talking about, and they will be able to draw upon their own experiences.

- ① Give one worksheet to each student. Students should discuss the questions in pairs, or small groups. Don't spend too long on this section - the main discussion questions come at the end of the worksheet.
- ② Students can work alone on this exercise, and check their answers in pairs. If necessary, tell the students to find the vocabulary in the text, to allow them to guess from context.
- ③ Students can work on this prediction exercise in pairs. Elicit a few ideas from the group.
- ④ Set the reading task: checking if the predictions the students made in exercise three are correct. Students should read quickly. After reading, they can discuss their findings in pairs.

If you wish, you can go through unknown vocabulary from the reading.
- ⑤ Begin with a short presentation on the target language in the box. Elicit the answer to the first cue. (Possible answer – "You shouldn't pack too much.") Students should work in pairs, using the target language. When finished, elicit answers, and write them on the board. Accept anything that is sensible English. It's not necessary to copy the exact phrasing from the text.
- ⑥ This exercise allows students to personalize the language. Students should begin by deciding with a partner where they are going to go on vacation. They should also pick a time of year.

They should then go through the list of items, deciding which to pack, and which to leave behind. The first three (clothes, a passport and money) are already chosen. If two of an item are needed, both students should tick the box.

Finally, students should write three other things they would like to pack.

Monitor this exercise, but try not to join in. Offer help with vocabulary, as necessary.
- ⑦ Assign students new pairs. They should tell their partner where they are going, and why they have chosen to take some items, and leave others behind.
- ⑧ Students should read all the questions first, before beginning the discussion. Maximize student talking time by putting students in pairs, or small groups.

While the students are speaking, monitor the conversations, but try not to interrupt. When the discussion comes to a close, ask a few of the questions yourself, and go through any points of English you made a note of while monitoring.

Answer Key (Other answers may be possible.)**2**

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. unwind (v) | relax |
| 2. frequent (adj) | often |
| 3. manage (v) | be able to |
| 4. detergent (n) | soap for washing clothes |
| 5. overseas (n) | abroad |

5

1. You shouldn't pack too much.
2. It's a good idea to take small bottles of shampoo and conditioner.
3. You should take a clothes line.
4. You don't need more than two pairs of shoes. You should pack one pair, and wear the other.
5. It's a good idea to check the weather before you go.

How are we doing?

We are always pleased to hear your comments on our worksheets.

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