

Planning a Weekend Trip

Reading Passage, Comprehension & Practice Questions

Planning a Weekend Trip

Have you ever tried to plan a trip with friends and found it harder than you expected? Sometimes everyone has different ideas about where to go and what to do! In this passage, you will read about two friends who are organising a weekend away. **Before you read, think about these questions:** What do you usually look for when choosing a place to visit for a short trip? Do you prefer busy cities or quiet places in nature?

Reading Passage: The Perfect Weekend Away

Priya has been looking at travel websites all week. She and her friend Marcus want to go away for the weekend, but they cannot agree on a destination. Priya wants to visit the coast. She loves the smell of the sea and long walks on the beach. Marcus, however, prefers mountains. He says mountain air is fresher than sea air, and the views are more spectacular.

After a long phone call on Tuesday evening, they finally made a decision. They are going to visit Lake Windermere in the north of England. It is a beautiful lake surrounded by green hills, so both of them are happy. Priya has already booked a small guesthouse near the water. It is cheaper than a hotel but very comfortable. They are going to travel by train on Saturday morning and come back on Sunday evening.

Marcus is planning to bring his camera because he wants to take photographs of the countryside. Priya is going to pack a picnic for Saturday lunch. She checked the weather forecast, and it will be mostly sunny with a little cloud. They both feel excited. It will be their first trip together, and they cannot wait to go.

Key Vocabulary in Context

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech	Definition	Example Sentence
destination	noun	the place you are travelling to	Paris is a very popular travel destination in Europe.
coast	noun	the land next to the sea	We drove along the coast and saw beautiful cliffs.
spectacular	adjective	very impressive and exciting to look at	The view from the top of the hill was spectacular.
surrounded by	phrase	having something all around it	The old castle is surrounded by a deep forest.

guesthouse	noun	a small, private house where people can pay to sleep and have breakfast	They stayed in a friendly guesthouse near the market.
forecast	noun	information about what the weather will be like in the future	The forecast says it will rain tomorrow afternoon.
pack	verb	to put things into a bag or box before a trip	Don't forget to pack an umbrella if it looks cloudy.
countryside	noun	land outside cities, with fields, hills, and nature	The English countryside is beautiful in spring.

Reading Strategies & Comprehension Tips

Skimming the Passage

Before you read every word, skim the passage quickly. Look at the first sentence of each paragraph to get the general idea. Ask yourself: *Who is this about? What are they doing? Where are they going?* This helps you understand the structure before answering questions.

Scanning for Specific Information

When a question asks for a specific detail — for example, where they are staying or how they are travelling — do not re-read everything. Instead, scan the text quickly for key words like **guesthouse**, **train**, or **Saturday**. These signal words will take you directly to the answer.

Understanding Opinions and Preferences

Pay close attention to words like *wants*, *prefers*, *loves*, and *says*. These words tell you what a character thinks or feels. In this passage, Priya and Marcus have **different** preferences at the beginning, but they reach a **compromise**. This is an important detail for comprehension questions.

Using Context for Unknown Words

If you see a word you do not know, look at the sentence around it. For example, if you are not sure what *guesthouse* means, the sentence tells you it is *cheaper than a hotel but very comfortable*. This context helps you understand the meaning without using a dictionary.

Common Reading Pitfalls & Traps

Trap 1: Confusing Preferences with Final Decisions

At the start of the passage, Priya wants to go to the **coast** and Marcus wants to go to the **mountains**. However, they do *not* go to either of these places. Their final destination is Lake Windermere. Be careful — a question might ask *where they are going*, and the answer is not the coast or the mountains. Always read to the end before answering.

Trap 2: Who Booked What?

The passage says *Priya* booked the guesthouse and is going to pack the picnic. *Marcus* is going to bring his camera. These are different people doing different things. A question might try to confuse you by switching names. Read carefully to match the correct person to the correct action.

Trap 3: Transport Details

They are travelling **by train**. Some students guess "by car" because they are going to the countryside. However, the passage clearly states the transport method. Always look for specific words rather than making assumptions based on general knowledge.

Trap 4: The Weather

The forecast says it will be *mostly sunny with a little cloud*. This does not mean it will be completely sunny or that it will rain. If a question asks about the weather, avoid choosing an answer that says "perfect sunshine" or "rain" — both are too extreme.

Quick Summary

In this passage, two friends — Priya and Marcus — plan a weekend trip together. They have different ideas at first, but they compromise and choose Lake Windermere. Priya books the accommodation, checks the weather, and plans a picnic. Marcus wants to take photographs. They are both excited about their first trip together. The text uses *going to* for plans, comparatives for opinions, and past simple for decisions that were already made.

Now read the passage carefully and complete Exercise 1 (Multiple Choice) and Exercise 2 (Fill-in-the-gap dropdown) below.

Planning a Weekend Trip – Practice Test

A2 | Reading Comprehension Exercises: Multiple Choice & Fill-in-the-Gap Dropdown (20 Questions)

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 What is the main idea of the passage?

- ☐ A Priya and Marcus disagree about everything and cancel their trip.
- ☐ B Priya and Marcus plan a weekend trip together to Lake Windermere.
- ☐ C Marcus teaches Priya how to take photographs in the countryside.
- ☐ D Priya books an expensive hotel near the mountains.

2 Where does Priya want to go for the weekend?

- ☐ A The mountains
- ☐ B A lake in the north
- ☐ C The coast
- ☐ D A city in England

3 What does Marcus say about mountain air?

- ☐ A It is colder than sea air.
- ☐ B It is fresher than sea air.
- ☐ C It is more dangerous than sea air.
- ☐ D It smells better than city air.

4 When did Priya and Marcus make their final decision about the trip?

- ☐ A On Saturday morning
- ☐ B After checking the weather forecast
- ☐ C During a long phone call on Tuesday evening
- ☐ D When Priya booked the guesthouse online

5 Why are both Priya and Marcus happy with the choice of Lake Windermere?

- ☐ A Because it has a famous hotel and a big city nearby.
- ☐ B Because it is near the coast and has mountains around it.
- ☐ C Because it is a beautiful lake surrounded by green hills.
- ☐ D Because the train ticket is very cheap.

6 Where did Priya book their accommodation?

- A** A large hotel near the train station
- B** A small guesthouse near the water
- C** A campsite in the hills
- D** A holiday apartment in the city centre

7 How are Priya and Marcus going to travel to Lake Windermere?

- A** By car on Friday night
- B** By bus on Saturday afternoon
- C** By train on Saturday morning
- D** By train on Sunday morning

8 What is Marcus planning to bring on the trip, and why?

- A** A map, because he wants to find new hiking trails.
- B** A camera, because he wants to take photographs of the countryside.
- C** A picnic basket, because he loves outdoor meals.
- D** A guidebook, because he has never visited England before.

9 What does the weather forecast say about Saturday?

- A** It will be very cold and windy.
- B** It will rain heavily in the afternoon.
- C** It will be mostly sunny with a little cloud.
- D** It will be cloudy but warm.

10 Why do Priya and Marcus feel especially excited about this trip?

- A** Because Lake Windermere is the most famous lake in the world.
- B** Because it is their first trip together.
- C** Because they got a very big discount on the train tickets.
- D** Because the guesthouse is the most comfortable place they have ever stayed.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap Dropdown (Questions 11–20)

11 Priya loves the smell of the sea and long walks on the ____.

- A** beach
- B** mountain
- C** road

12 Marcus says mountain air is ____ than sea air.

- A** fresher
- B** warmer
- C** quieter

13 After a long phone call on Tuesday evening, they finally made a ____.

- A** decision
- B** plan
- C** booking

14 Lake Windermere is a beautiful lake surrounded by green ____.

- A** hills
- B** forests
- C** fields

15 Priya has already booked a small ____ near the water.

- A** guesthouse
- B** hotel
- C** apartment

16 The guesthouse is cheaper than a hotel but very ____.

- A** comfortable
- B** modern
- C** popular

17 They are going to travel by ____ on Saturday morning.

- A** train
- B** bus
- C** car

18 Marcus is planning to bring his camera because he wants to take ____ of the countryside.

- A** photographs
- B** videos
- C** notes

19 Priya checked the weather forecast, and it will be mostly ____ with a little cloud.

- A** sunny
- B** windy
- C** dry

20 It will be their first trip together, and they cannot wait to ____.

- A** go
- B** leave
- C** travel

Answer Key & Explanations

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Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** **Correct Answer: Priya and Marcus plan a weekend trip together to Lake Windermere.**
✓ **Explanation:** The whole passage is about **Priya and Marcus** planning a **weekend trip**. They disagree at first, but they **agree on Lake Windermere** and make all their plans together. *They are going to visit Lake Windermere in the north of England.*
2. **C** **Correct Answer: The coast**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says **Priya wants to visit the coast** because she loves **the smell of the sea** and long walks on the beach. *She loves the smell of the sea and long walks on the beach.*
3. **B** **Correct Answer: It is fresher than sea air.**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Marcus believes **mountain air is fresher than sea air**. This is his opinion and one reason he prefers mountains. *He says mountain air is fresher than sea air, and the views are more spectacular.*
4. **C** **Correct Answer: During a long phone call on Tuesday evening**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says *After a long phone call on Tuesday evening, they finally made a decision.* This tells us exactly **when** they agreed on their destination.
5. **C** **Correct Answer: Because it is a beautiful lake surrounded by green hills.**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Lake Windermere is **surrounded by green hills**, so it satisfies both of them. *It is a beautiful lake surrounded by green hills, so both of them are happy.*
6. **B** **Correct Answer: A small guesthouse near the water**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says **Priya has already booked a small guesthouse near the water**. It is cheaper than a hotel but still comfortable. *Priya has already booked a small guesthouse near the water.*
7. **C** **Correct Answer: By train on Saturday morning**
✓ **Explanation:** The text clearly states they are going to **travel by train on Saturday morning** and return on Sunday evening. *They are going to travel by train on Saturday morning and come back on Sunday evening.*
8. **B** **Correct Answer: A camera, because he wants to take photographs of the countryside.**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says **Marcus is planning to bring his camera** because he wants to **take photographs of the countryside**. *Marcus is planning to bring his camera because he wants to take photographs of the countryside.*
9. **C** **Correct Answer: It will be mostly sunny with a little cloud.**
✓ **Explanation:** Priya checked the weather forecast and the text says **it will be mostly sunny with a little cloud**. *She checked the weather forecast, and it will be mostly sunny with a little cloud.*

10. **B** **Correct Answer: Because it is their first trip together.**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage ends by saying **it will be their first trip together**, and they cannot wait to go. This is the reason given for their **excitement**. *It will be their first trip together, and they cannot wait to go.*

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** **Correct Answer: beach**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Priya enjoys **long walks on the beach** because she loves the sea. *She walked along the beach all morning.*
12. **A** **Correct Answer: fresher**
✓ **Explanation:** Marcus uses the comparative **fresher** to say mountain air is better quality than sea air. *The air in the countryside is fresher than in the city.*
13. **A** **Correct Answer: decision**
✓ **Explanation:** After talking for a long time, they **made a decision**, meaning they agreed on a choice. *It was a difficult decision, but we made it together.*
14. **A** **Correct Answer: hills**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage describes the lake as being **surrounded by green hills**. *We could see the green hills from our window.*
15. **A** **Correct Answer: guesthouse**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Priya booked a **guesthouse**, which is a small, affordable place to stay. *The guesthouse was cosy and close to the lake.*
16. **A** **Correct Answer: comfortable**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says the guesthouse is cheaper but still **comfortable**, meaning it is pleasant and easy to relax in. *The bed was comfortable and I slept very well.*
17. **A** **Correct Answer: train**
✓ **Explanation:** The text clearly states they will **travel by train** on Saturday morning to reach their destination. *We took the train to the city centre.*
18. **A** **Correct Answer: photographs**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Marcus wants to **take photographs** of the countryside with his camera. *She took beautiful photographs of the mountains.*
19. **A** **Correct Answer: sunny**
✓ **Explanation:** According to the forecast in the passage, the weather will be **mostly sunny** with only a little cloud. *It was a sunny day, perfect for a walk.*
20. **A** **Correct Answer: go**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage ends with **cannot wait to go**, which shows they are very excited about their trip. *We are so excited — we cannot wait to go!*

Score Guide

18–20 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
15–17 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
12–14 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–11 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.