

# Test Your Speaking & Listening Skills

## Discussion Questions

### Summer

*Ask and answer the questions with a partner or small group:*

1. How many seasons are there in your country? What is your favourite / least favourite? Why? Do you like summer? Why? / Why not? How is summer different from other seasons in your country? Compare them. What do you do in summer that you don't do the rest of the year? Do you change your habits?
2. How many days of holiday do you normally have in summer? Is it enough? Are you able to switch off and relax on holiday, or do you take your work with you, e.g. emailing? Do you prefer to have a long summer holiday, or several shorter breaks during the year? Do you think school holidays are too long in your country?
3. What kind of summer holiday do you prefer: seaside, lake, mountain, cruise, camping, fishing, city break, cultural break, adventure, desert, jungle, safari, etc.? Have you ever been on this kind of holiday? What did you think of it? Are there any that you wouldn't like to try? Why not? Do you prefer to stay in your own country or go abroad? Why? Are you an "outdoorsy" person? Do you like to camp? Could you survive "in the wild" for two weeks without access to a cashpoint, shops, and restaurants? How would you cope if you got lost without a mobile phone?
4. What is the best summer holiday you have ever had? What has been the most memorable place you have ever visited? Why was it? Have you ever spent the night in a tent, yurt, cruise ship, ferry, train, B & B, motel, or five-star hotel? Tell me a story about each place. Which hotel or resort would you recommend? Have you ever made friends with people on holiday, but not kept in touch? Tell me about them. Have you ever had any disasters on holiday? What went wrong?
5. What special events happen in your town / country in summer (e.g. cultural or sporting)? Do you usually attend / take part? If yes, describe each event. If not, why not? What effect does summer have on your... a) mood, b) attitude, c) health, d) motivation, e) weight, f) relationships with those around you?
6. What do you like to wear in summer? How does it make you feel? What kind of food and drink do you enjoy in summer? Is there anything you don't eat or drink in summer? Why not? Are you a good cook? Do you like to cook up a storm on the barbecue with friends, or avoid the hot weather altogether by staying indoors?
7. What was summer like when you were a child? What can you remember? How was summer different to now? How did you fill the long summer holidays? How hot is too hot for you? When was the hottest / coldest summer you can remember? Is summer weather changing for better or worse? Is climate change having an effect?
8. What is the best kind of summer music? Why do you like it? Have you ever been to a festival in summer? Have you ever been on a summer camp or a school exchange? Have you ever been travelling, hitchhiking, or worked your way around the world during summer? Why? / Why not? What is your dream trip? What are you planning for next summer?