

# Unit 59 Holidays

## 1: A whale of a time

Match these four expressions with their meanings:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. I had a whale of a time.             | a. It was exactly what I needed.             |
| 2. I recharged my batteries.            | b. I like going to quiet and unusual places. |
| 3. I like places off the beaten track.  | c. I had a wonderful time.                   |
| 4. It was just what the doctor ordered. | d. I'm ready to come back to work.           |

## 2: Just what the doctor ordered

Fill in the following expressions in the dialogues below:

- a. *A change is as good as a rest.*
- b. *We had a whale of a time.*
- c. *We've packed everything except the kitchen sink.*
- d. *There's no place like home.*
- e. *It was like home from home.*
- f. *I always travel light.*
- g. *It was just what the doctor ordered.*
- h. *We're going to recharge the batteries.*

1. Welcome back, Chris. You look well. Did you have a good time?  
> Fantastic. Sun, sea and excellent food . . . . .
2. Are you having a holiday this year, Kathy?  
> I'm going to look after my brother's children for a week. It's not exactly a holiday but you know what they say - . . . . .
3. Are you glad to be back?  
> Very much! We had a wonderful holiday, but you know what they say - . . . . .  
. . . . . t
4. But there's nothing to do in the middle of the forest! How will you fill your days?  
> You don't go to Sweden for a wild time! . . . . .
5. Would you like to borrow my suitcase or have you got one of your own?  
> It's OK, thanks. I don't need it . . . . .
6. Are you sure everything's in the cases?  
> Yes, positive . . . . .
7. You've been on a skiing holiday, haven't you? What was it like?  
> Yes, I went with some friends. It was great . . . . .
8. Did you stay in a hotel or an apartment?  
> An apartment. It had everything - fridge, microwave, colour TV, even a washing machine . . . . .

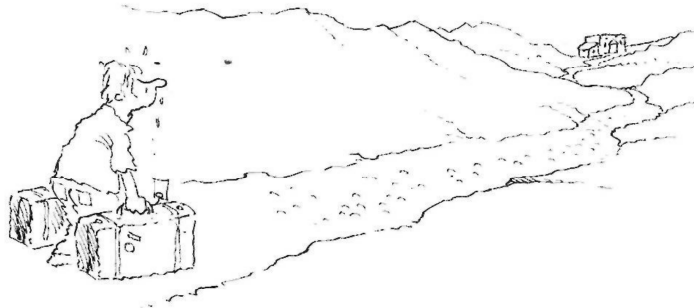
**Note:** We sometimes forget how many small idioms are used in ordinary everyday language. We go on a 'package' holiday - perhaps fly on a 'jumbo' jet on a 'long-haul' flight to 'down-under'! Or you may go to a place which is ideal for windsurfers - a windsurfers' 'paradise'.

### 3: Getting away from it all

Use the following idiomatic expressions in the situations below:

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. <i>getting away from, it all</i> | e. <i>the time of our lives</i> |
| b. <i>in the middle of nowhere</i>  | f. <i>let your hair down</i>    |
| c. <i>a short break</i>             | g. <i>make a nice change</i>    |
| d. <i>watching the world go by</i>  | h. <i>off the beaten track</i>  |

1. When are you off on holiday?  
> Tomorrow. I can't wait. I'm really looking forward to .....
2. Did I hear you were off on holiday next week?  
> Yes, we're just having ..... - I'm back in again on Wednesday.
3. The best thing about the town was it was so quiet. We were the only tourists.  
> Yes, I'm like you. I prefer places .....
4. Why do you always go to Ibiza?  
> You've never been? It's the best place to really .....
5. Have you been to Paris?  
> Yes, I love Paris. I love sitting in a cafe .....
6. How was your holiday, Mike?  
> Fabulous! We had .....
7. You normally go to Corfu in the summer, don't you?  
> Yes, but this year we're going cycling in the Alps. It'll .....
8. Where's this cottage you're renting in Portugal?  
> Oh, it's miles from anywhere .....



*"Bernard likes places off the beaten track, but this time he was beginning to think he'd gone too far!"*

### 4: Revision

Put the following pairs of words into the sentences below:

- |                     |                  |                    |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>change, rest</i> | <i>away, all</i> | <i>time, lives</i> |
| <i>just, doctor</i> | <i>no, home</i>  | <i>whale, time</i> |

1. A ..... is as good as a .....
2. I need to get ..... from it .....
3. There's ..... place like .....
4. We had a ..... of a .....
5. It was ..... what the ..... ordered.
6. We had the ..... of our .....

Where do you go to recharge your batteries?