The pros and cons of tourism

Sport and free time are wonderful things. They keep us fit, healthy and happy. So it is hard to believe that a sport or holiday can damage the environment. Unfortunately, they can, and they do.

Skiing, for example, is a great sport – snow, fresh air and lots of fun. But think: we often cut down trees for the ski slopes. Every year, kilometers of forests are destroyed so that people can ski. Also, people often travel to the ski slopes by car and tonnes of CO2 are produced by these cars in some of the cleanest and most beautiful places in Europe.

What about holidays? How can they be a problem? Well, it is great that people can visit exotic countries and see the Pyramids, for example. The problem is that now there are too many tourists. Since the last century, travelling has become a lot cheaper, faster and easier. If tourism had been as popular and cheap one hundred years ago as it is today, many old buildings and beautiful places around the world would have been destroyed a long time ago.

The biggest problem, however, is air travel. Peter Reynolds, an expert on the environment, says: “Today millions of people fly millions of miles every year on holiday. And in a modern plane, around 3.5 litres of fuel are used every second – about 12,600 litres every hour. That produces a lot of greenhouse gases and causes global warming.”

So what can we do? In London, England, Deborah Marks is the boss of an eco-tourism company called Greenworld Holidays. They specialize in organizing holidays for small groups of people. The people in the groups travel together and visit beautiful and exotic places. The holidays last a week or ten days. However, Greenworld holidays are different from “normal” holidays. On many holidays, for example, people walk or bike – they don’t travel by car. And second, ten per cent of the cost of the holiday go to organizations in the countries which they visit. The organizations use the money to repair buildings and to protect birds and other animals.

According to Deborah Marks, the people who book their holidays are different, too. She says: “The people who come on our holidays are interested in the environment. They don’t mind paying extra because they know that our holidays are also good for the environment.”

We asked Deborah Marks about the early days of her company, whether it was successful from the start. “I started it ten years ago. It was a very slow start, it took a good five years before anyone took notice. But I learnt a lot during those five years. Of course, if I’d known then what I know now, life would have been a lot easier. Also, if I’d known it would take this long to make a profit, I might have given up a long time ago.”
Are the following statements on the text true or false? Mark them accordingly.

1. Flying on holiday is bad for the environment because it causes global warming.
2. Going on holiday with Greenworld Holidays is cheaper than "normal" holidays.
3. Greenworld Holiday has always been a successful company.

Answer the following questions on the text.

1. What is good and bad about sport and free time?
2. In what way are Greenworld holidays different from "normal" holidays? Name two items.
3. What makes people who book their holidays with Greenworld Holidays different from other people? (two items)

Fill in the correct forms and tenses of the verbs in brackets

1. Usually I ______________________ (start) work at eight o’clock. This week I ______________________ (start) at seven because we are very busy.
2. Many retailers ______________________ (extend) their opening hours recently and some are now even ______________________ (do) business on Sundays.
3. A customer ______________________ (just/make) a complaint about the poor quality of some frozen foods on sale at our store.
4. We ______________________ (make) a profit of approximately € 50,000 last year.
5. ______________________ (you/see) our new sales brochure yet? – You ______________________ (send) me a copy last week. But I ______________________ (not/study) it yet.
6. For some months now, we ______________________ (look) for premises large enough to display all our goods, but we ______________________ (not/be) successful so far.
7. The company ______________________ (be) in existence since 1878.
8. ______________________ (she/still/buy) clothes?
9. Last week Tom ______________________ (be) ill, so ______________________ (not/go) to school.
10. While Sarah ______________________ (write) her essay, the children ______________________ (play) outside.
11. When Mary ______________________ (hear) the noise, she ______________________ (clean) her teeth.
12. When Andrew saw the problem, he ______________________ (take) a hammer and ______________________ (repair) it.
13. Where have you been? We ______________________ (wait) for you since 8 o’clock this morning.
14. I __________________________ (know) Mr Black since I
____________________________ (be) a child.

15. I hope my students __________________________ (not/forget) their English
homework.

Adverb or adjective. Find the correct form of the words in brackets

1. Our junior clerk is an __________________________ (intelligent) boy. He can
translate __________________________ (brilliant),
____________________________ (particular) from German into English.
Furthermore, he can negotiate __________________________ (patient) for hours.
2. We must always treat our customers __________________________ (friendly).
3. The decision was __________________________ (quick) made.
4. Market penetration is __________________________ (approximate) 10 per cent.
5. It is __________________________ (obvious) that he doesn’t
understand what you are telling him.
6. What is __________________________ (important) is that you read the instructions
____________________________ (careful).
7. The system works __________________________ (full/automatic).
8. The cake smelled __________________________ (wonderful) and tasted
____________________________ (fantastic).
9. The snow felt __________________________ (cold).
10. Britney became very __________________________ (popular) in the 90s.
11. Your teacher will get __________________________ (angry) if you are
____________________________ (late) again.

1. So far we have succeeded __________ keeping our prices stable, but due
__________ increases __________ wages, we are now compelled to raise them
__________ 10%.
2. We are interested ________ your latest products.

Fill in the correct forms: some or any or their compounds

1. Do you have ____________________ oranges today? – I need __________________
for my special marmalade.
2. Can I offer you ____________________ to drink?
3. Are ____________________ journalists coming to the reception?
4. Have you seen Michael ____________________ ?
5. Have we had Michael ____________________ replies to our ad yet?
6. May I have ____________________ sugar, please?
7. Michael has been going to the fitness centre for three months now but he hasn’t lost
____________________________ weight.

Transform the following sentences into the passive voice. Leave out the agent if possible

1. You must submit your application by 19 January.
2. The board of directors has taken a number of important decisions this morning.
3. They are interviewing candidates for the new job at the moment.
4. The Minister for Trade and Industry opened the conference.
5. In our manufacturing process we reject 9% of the finished articles as substandard.
6. They built the factory in 1986.
7. Somebody will tell us when to go.
8. The applicant must sign the form.
9. A thief has stolen my briefcase.
10. Have they paid the invoice yet?
11. He explained everything to me.
12. The carrier has just delivered the goods.
13. They employ 25 people in the new branch office.
14. We will display our new product at the London Exhibition Centre.
15. My secretary has enclosed several complimentary tickets for the exhibition.
16. We authorized Mr Smith to act on behalf of the firm.
17. I can assure you that we will arrange everything in time.
18. We will accept your products only if you deliver them immediately.
19. We deliver all our products with full operating instructions and pack them in waterproof cases.

20. We have packed the goods according to your instructions.

21. We need the above order urgently and so you must dispatch it without delay.

22. We guarantee each item for two years from the date of purchase.

23. We do not guarantee the goods unless you purchase them from an authorized dealer.

24. He withdrew his application.

25. This company makes racing cars.

26. You delivered the consignment on time.

27. The union representatives accepted most of the manager’s suggestions.