

2.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Understand North American and British accents ■ Understand North American English

Listening understanding North American and British accents

- 1 Read the article about learning holidays and discuss the questions with a partner.
- 1 What benefits of a learning holiday are mentioned in the article?
 - 2 Would you be interested in going on any of the learning holidays listed in the article?
 - 3 Does the idea of learning holidays in general appeal to you? If not, why not? If so, what skill would you like to learn?

Go on holiday, bring back a skill

TRAVEL



Have you ever wanted to come home from a holiday with something more lasting than a suntan? Something more useful than a suitcase full of souvenirs? What if you could come back with a new skill instead?

Learning holidays, which combine travel and learning, have become one of the latest new trends in travel. They can give you the opportunity to do something you've always wanted to do, while at the same time truly discovering a country's culture – and they can enrich your life long after the trip is over. These days, travellers can learn how to make chocolates in Italy, how to dance the tango in Argentina or even learn Maasai warrior survival skills in Kenya.

- 2 2.4))) Listen to the first part of an interview on a travel programme and answer the questions.
- 1 What does the guest on the programme do for a living?
 - 2 Why has she been invited to speak on the programme?
 - 3 Can you identify the accent of a) the presenter b) the guest?

- 3a 2.5))) Before you listen to the rest of the interview, read and listen to the information in the Unlock the code box.



UNLOCK THE CODE

understanding different accents

There are many regional accents in both North America and Britain. Below are some of the most important general differences between standard North American English (NAmE) and standard British English (BrE):

- One of the most noticeable differences is the pronunciation of 'o'. In NAmE, 'o' often sounds like /ɑː/ or /ɔː/, for example, *not* /nɑːt/ and *strong* /strɔːŋ/ (in contrast to BrE: *not* /nɒt/ and *strong* /strɒŋ/).
- Some words with /ɑː/ in standard BrE are pronounced with /æ/ in NAmE, for example: *ask* /æsk/ and *aunt* /ænt/ (in contrast to BrE: *ask* /ɑːsk/ and *aunt* /ɑːnt/).
- In NAmE, 't' often sounds like /d/ in the middle of words, for example, *water* /'wɔːdər/ and *writer* /raɪdər/.
- In NAmE, 'r' is always pronounced, for example *car* /kɑr/. In standard BrE, it is generally pronounced before a vowel, for example: *career* /kə'rɪə/.

- b 2.6))) Listen to the words. Circle the sound you hear.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 castle /ɑː/ /æ/ | 5 matter /t/ /d/ |
| 2 arm /ɑː/ /ɑːr/ | 6 got /ɒ/ /æ/ |
| 3 rocket /ɒ/ /æ/ | 7 falconry /ɒ/ /ɑː/ |
| 4 learning /ɜː/ /ɜːr/ | |

- c 2.7))) You will hear the following phrases spoken twice, once with a British accent and once with a North American accent. Write *B* or *NA*.

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 No, not at all. | 1 ___ | 2 ___ |
| 2 You've got a chance to train. | 1 ___ | 2 ___ |
| 3 What an incredible opportunity! | 1 ___ | 2 ___ |
| 4 Have you ever wanted to go to space camp? | 1 ___ | 2 ___ |
| 5 I'm more of a water person. | 1 ___ | 2 ___ |

- d 2.8))) Listen and complete the sentences you hear. Are the accents British or American? Write *B* or *NA*.

- 1 You _____.
- 2 One of _____.
- 3 Where _____?
- 4 I _____.

- 4 Look at the photos of three learning holidays. What skills are the people practising?



- 5 2.9))) Listen to the rest of the radio interview. Number the photos in the order you hear them and write the country.
- 6 2.9))) Listen again and complete the sentences with 1-3 of your own words.
- The castle was built in _____.
 - Walking in the castle grounds with a falcon reminded Ilana of a/an _____.
 - At the Adult Space Academy, you learn how to _____ a space shuttle.
 - Using a flight simulator you can find out what it feels like to walk _____.
 - Gladiator skills lessons are given by members of 'The _____ Rome'.
 - At the end of the gladiator course, each participant receives a/an _____.

Vocabulary & Speaking North American English

- 7 The following two extracts from the listening each contain one North American word (underlined). Do you know the British English equivalents?
... there are so many interesting learning vacations.
Last fall, I did a falconry course ...
- 8 Read the information in the Vocabulary focus box about North American English.

VOCABULARY FOCUS North American English

- British English (BrE) and North American English (NAE) sometimes use different words to describe the same thing:
car park (BrE) → *parking lot* (NAE)
motorway (BrE) → *expressway/freeway/highway* (NAE)
- In some cases they use the same word to describe different things. For example, *pants* means 'trousers' in North American English and 'underpants' in British English.

- 9 Replace the North American words in bold in the sentences with British words from the box.

boot caravan central holiday lorry luggage
 motorway pavement petrol queue return rubbish
 single toilet Underground

- Put the **baggage** in the **trunk**.
 - There was a lot of **garbage** on the **sidewalk**.
 - There was a very long **line** for the **restroom** at the **gas** station.
 - We took the **subway** to **downtown** New York.
 - The **freeway** was closed because a **truck** was on fire.
 - Would you like a **one-way** or a **round-trip** bus ticket?
 - For our last **vacation** we rented a **travel trailer** and drove to the west coast.
- 10a Write five sentences using a North American word from exercise 9.
- b Work with a partner. Take it in turns to say a sentence to each other. You are in the UK and your partner questions the American word, as in the example.
- A *Shall we take the subway?*
 B *The subway? Ah ... here we call it the Underground.*