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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/01/15

A visit to Cuba

Today, let's talk about Cuba. I'm told it's a fascinating place to see. Now is the time to visit the country before it all changes...

Why? Because on the 17th December 2014 US leader President Obama announced historic changes between the US and Cuba. This includes allowing Americans to travel to the island, overhauls to commerce and lifting internet restrictions. Cuba actually opened up to mass tourism in the early 1990's. Since then the island has been the preserve of European, Latin Americans and Canadians.

What to see in Cuba? Most people go to see the famous old 1950s American Cadillac cars that are in Havana's streets. Many tourists stay in the capital or in Varadero with its fine sandy beaches.

Tourists like to try out the wonderful Cuban food, its excellent rum and its world famous cigars. They can indulge in all of these at one of the many fine restaurants in the Old Square in Havana. There is the music and of course the late night salsa to enjoy! There is also the fascinating Museum of the Revolution in Havana to visit.

Whilst in Cuba you can try a spot of deep sea fishing. Marlin fishing is popular. The famous author Ernest Hemmingway, who used to live in Cuba, spent many an hour Marlin fishing, and was the inspiration for his book 'The Old Man and the Sea'. Alternatively, there are some amazing sea turtles to see, as well as swimming with the dolphins. Get a snap taken with you and Flipper!

Whilst Cuba-US relations is good news for Cuban tourism, it is the moment the rest of the Caribbean has been dreading. Put simply, it will have a profound effect, as cruise ship visitors will now switch to Cuba.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about Cuba. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the country and capital.
- 2) Where is this country?
- 3) Name the famous cars.
- 4) What happened on the 17th December?
- 5) Who was Ernest Hemmingway?

Student B questions

- 1) What did Earnest Hemmingway write?
- 2) What is a snap?
- 3) What can you get a snap of?
- 4) What will have a profound effect?
- 5) Name the type of fish.

Category: Places to Visit / Holidays / Cuba
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

A visit to Cuba – 25th January 2015

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Cuba**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Cuba - *In pairs* choose three things you now know about Cuba. Write them below. Talk about them! Do they make you want to go there?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING

Cuba - *In pairs* – One of you has decided to go on a Salsa holiday to Cuba. Whilst out shopping in town you call in to a travel agent. One of you is the shopper, the other the travel agent. Discuss it all. *5 mins.*

WRITING

Cuba - *In pairs* – You are going to Cuba next month on a Salsa holiday! Write down what you will pack in your suitcase when you go.

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you been to Cuba before?
- 3) Will Cuba change? How?
- 4) Have you ever been sea fishing? Explain.
- 5) Have you ever tried Marlin?
- 6) Have you tried to catch a Marlin?
- 7) What do you think of Cuban cigars?
- 8) What do you think of Cuban rum?
- 9) Have you ever swum with dolphins or sea turtles?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion Room* at the Radio London studio. Today's interview is about: *A visit to Cuba.*

- 1) An American tourist.
- 2) A journalist.
- 3) A tourist.
- 4) A Cuban worker from Cuba via a social network.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in an internet cafe. Start a conversation on a social network about Cuba. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY

In pairs – *Student A* likes to visit places like Cuba, Burma, and the South Pole. *Student B* prefers Spain, France and Greece. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Cuba today, Cuba tomorrow

Just how will it change?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Can you dance the salsa?
- 3) Would you like to visit Cuba on a Salsa holiday?
- 4) Where would you stay in Cuba if you visited the island?
- 5) Would you like to take a trip in Cuba in an old American Cadillac?
- 6) What makes Cuba special?
- 7) Have you ever read any Ernest Hemmingway books?
- 8) Will the Americans return to Cuba now en mass?
- 9) What do you think Cubans think of the changes that have happened and will happen?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

A visit to Cuba

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Why? Because on the 17th December 2014 US leader President Obama announced historic changes between the US and Cuba. This includes allowing Americans to travel to the island, (1)___ to commerce and lifting internet restrictions.

Cuba (2)___ opened up to (3)___ tourism in the early 1990's. Since then the island has been the (4)___ of European, Latin Americans and Canadians.

What to see in (5)___? Most people go to see the famous old 1950s American (6)___ cars that are in Havana's streets. Many (7)___ stay in the capital or in Varadero with its fine (8)___ beaches.

Cuba / overhauls / tourists / actually / sandy / preserve / Cadillac / mass

Tourists like to try out the wonderful Cuban food, its excellent rum and its world famous (1)___ . They can indulge in all of these at one of the many fine restaurants in the Old Square in Havana. There is the music and of course the late night (2)___ to enjoy! There is also the fascinating Museum of the Revolution in Havana to visit.

Whilst in Cuba you can try a spot of deep sea fishing. Marlin fishing is popular. The famous (3)___ Ernest Hemmingway, who used to live in Cuba, spent many an hour Marlin fishing, and was the (4)___ for his book 'The Old Man and the Sea'. Alternatively, there are some amazing sea turtles to see, as well as swimming with the (5)___ . Get a (6)___ taken with you and Flipper!

Whilst Cuba-US relations is good news for Cuban (7)___ , it is the moment the rest of the Caribbean has been dreading. Put simply, it will have a (8)___ effect, as cruise ship visitors will now switch to Cuba.

dolphins / salsa / tourism / snap / author / profound / cigars / inspiration /

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

A visit to Cuba

Today, let's talk about Cuba. I'm told it's (1)___ fascinating place to see. Now is the time to visit the country before (2)___ all changes...

(3)___? Because on the 17th December 2014 US leader President Obama announced historic changes between the US and Cuba. This includes allowing Americans to travel to the island, overhauls to commerce (4)___ lifting internet restrictions.

Cuba actually opened up to mass tourism (5)___ the early 1990's. Since then the island has been the preserve (6)___ European, Latin Americans and Canadians.

What to see in Cuba? Most people go to see the famous old 1950s American Cadillac cars that are in Havana's streets. Many tourists stay in the capital (7)___ in Varadero with (8)___ fine sandy beaches.

its / why / and / in / or / of / a / it

Tourists like to try out the wonderful Cuban food, its excellent rum and its world famous cigars. (1)___ can indulge in all of (2)___ at one of the many fine restaurants in the Old Square in Havana. There is the music and of course the late night salsa to enjoy! There is (3)___ the fascinating Museum of the Revolution in Havana to visit.

Whilst in Cuba you can try a spot of deep sea fishing. Marlin fishing is popular. The famous author Ernest Hemmingway, who used to live in Cuba, spent (4)___ an hour Marlin fishing, and was the inspiration for his book 'The Old Man and the Sea'. Alternatively, there are (5)___ amazing sea turtles to see, (6)___ swimming (7)___ the dolphins. Get a snap taken with you and Flipper!

(8)___ Cuba-US relations is good news for Cuban tourism, it is the moment the rest of the Caribbean has been dreading. Put simply, it will have a profound effect, as cruise ship visitors will now switch to Cuba.

whilst / with / also / these / many / some / they / as well as /

GAP FILL: LISTENING

A visit to Cuba

Today, let's talk about Cuba. I'm told it's a _____ see. Now is the time to visit the country before it all changes...

Why? Because on the 17th December 2014 US leader _____ announced historic changes between the US and Cuba. This includes allowing Americans to travel to the island, overhauls to commerce and lifting _____.

Cuba actually opened up to mass tourism in the early 1990's. Since then the island has been the preserve of European, Latin Americans and Canadians.

What to see in Cuba? Most people go to see the famous old 1950s _____ that are in Havana's streets. Many tourists stay in the capital or in Varadero with its _____.

Tourists like to try out the wonderful Cuban food, its excellent rum and its _____. They can indulge in all of these at one of the many fine restaurants in the Old Square in Havana. There is the music and of course the late night salsa to enjoy! There is also the fascinating _____ in Havana to visit.

Whilst in Cuba you can try a spot of deep sea fishing. Marlin fishing is popular. The famous author Ernest Hemmingway, who used to live in Cuba, spent many an hour Marlin fishing, and was the inspiration for his book '_____'. Alternatively, there are some amazing sea turtles to see, as well as swimming with the dolphins. _____ with you and Flipper! Whilst Cuba-US relations is good news for Cuban tourism, it is the moment the rest of the Caribbean has been dreading. Put simply, it will have a profound effect, as _____ will now switch to Cuba.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 20 things about Cuba. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Cuba _____
- 2) The island _____
- 3) Cigars and _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **A visit to Cuba.** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) especially
- 2) actually
- 3) mass
- 4) preserve
- 5) Cuba
- 6) Cadillac
- 7) tourists
- 8) sandy

ANSWERS

- 1) cigars
- 2) salsa
- 3) author
- 4) inspiration
- 5) dolphins
- 6) snap
- 7) tourism
- 8) profound

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) historic
- 2) Cadillac
- 3) famous
- 4) tourists
- 5) wonderful
- 6) excellent
- 7) indulge
- 8) these
- 9) restaurants
- 10) salsa

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) whilst
- 12) inspiration
- 13) alternatively
- 14) snap
- 15) dolphins
- 16) Caribbean
- 17) profound
- 18) effect
- 19) fascination
- 20) especially

A visit to Cuba – 25th January 2015