

Winter holidays

reading Ski North America

1 Read the text on the opposite page quickly and choose the best title.

- A Popular ski resorts around the world
- B Where to go skiing in North America and Canada
- C Popular ski resorts in Canada
- D The ski resort of Whistler-Blackcomb

2 Read the text again and answer these questions.

- 1 The Rocky Mountains border
 - A the USA and Canada.
 - B North and South America.
 - C the USA and Mexico.
 - D New Mexico and British Columbia.
- 2 What are Vail, Aspen and Telluride?
 - A famous ski resorts in the northern Rockies
 - B famous towns in Colorado
 - C famous ski resorts in British Columbia
 - D famous ski resorts in the southern Rockies
- 3 Why are the ski slopes of Colorado difficult?
 - A because of the mixture of artificial snow
 - B because there's snowboarding and downhill skiing
 - C because many of its runs are 'advanced'
 - D because it takes a long time for skiers to get to the top
- 4 What makes Colorado's ski season so long?
 - A snowmaking machines
 - B the cold weather
 - C Mother Nature and the weather
 - D snowmaking machines and the cold weather
- 5 Which of these is not true about Whistler-Blackcomb?
 - A it has fifteen different types of chairlifts and gondolas
 - B it has the lowest temperatures in Canada
 - C it has a European-style village with lots of amenities
 - D it's one of the biggest and best-equipped resorts

3 Write the following words as numbers.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|---|
| 1 twenty percent | 20% | 5 three thousand, three hundred and fifty |
| 2 one hundred and ninety-three | | 6 seven thousand and seventy-one |
| 3 two thousand and ten | | 7 thirty thousand |
| 4 eleven million | | 8 three thousand, two hundred and twenty |



A piste of the action

The Rocky Mountains, which border the USA and Canada, are a major venue for skiers and lovers of winter sports. The ranges are huge (the peaks average 3,350 m above sea level) and they cover some 3,220 km² from central New Mexico to north-eastern British Columbia.

The southern Rockies include some of the most famous ski centres in North America such as Vail, Aspen and Telluride. Colorado ski country attracts around eleven million skiers annually – 20 percent of the total number of skiers in the USA.

The ski slopes of Colorado, a sunny state known for its powder snow, are among the most difficult in the world. Over half of Vail's 193 runs are 'advanced'. There's snowboarding here as well as downhill skiing. High-speed chairlifts for four and

a number of other lifts and gondolas can take visitors to the top in record time.

Colorado has a long season. You can usually ski from late November to mid-April, depending on the weather. Mother Nature is helped by snowmaking machines. To use them, however, temperatures must be cold enough to create the correct mixture.

At the northern end of the Rockies, 120 km north of Vancouver, is North America's number one ski resort – Whistler-Blackcomb. Whistler has 7,071 acres of skiable terrain which are served by fifteen different types of lifts and gondolas taking 30,000 skiers per hour onto the mountains. Whistler has five base stations, including a European-style village with restaurants, bars, hotels, condominium apartments and shops.

Canada has a reputation of being a cold country but because Whistler is not far from the Pacific Ocean, temperatures stay quite mild. Even in the middle of winter, temperatures don't often fall below -15 °C.



language focus **Passive forms**

4 Complete the email with the correct passive forms of the verbs in brackets.

Untitled - Message

Send Save Undo Redo Insert File... Priority Options...

This mail message has not yet been sent.

To... Julie Linden

Cc...

Subject: Entertainment programme

Monaco 9 B I U

Thank you for your enquiry about our entertainment programme. As you can see, we offer an action-packed week of winter activities and a variety of entertainment.

Programme of events:

Day 1 - Beginners (give)¹ their first ski lesson by professionally trained instructors. Guests (welcome)² by our entertainment manager in the hotel foyer at 7.00 pm. The welcome speech (follow)³ by a cocktail party at 7.30 pm.

Day 2 - Snowboarding lesson at 10.30 am, which (give)⁴ by an experienced instructor.

Day 3 - Snowshoeing at 11.00 am. Children (invite)⁵ to join in our kids' ski competition – children over twelve (not / allow).....⁶ to take part.

Day 4 - Beginner's ski race at 3.00 pm.

Day 5 - Cross-country skiing excursion with picnic stop.

Day 6 - Experienced skiers can take part in the torchlit descent of the mountain at 7.00 pm and everyone (invite)⁷ to the farewell party with live music at 9.00 pm.

Day 7 - Guests (pick)⁸ up from the hotel by our tour bus at 10.30 am.

In addition to the above events, visits (arrange)⁹ to the local health spa every day at 5.00 pm so that skiers can relax in natural spring waters after the day's activities. Special treatments such as massage, aromatherapy and mud baths (can / book)¹⁰ by appointment only.

Please contact me if you need any further information.
I look forward to hearing from you.

5 A traveller describes a ski holiday. Choose the correct option.

- 1 A We were meeting at the airport by the tour representative. **X**
B We were met at the airport by the tour representative. **✓**
- 2 A The entertainment manager gave a welcome speech.
B The entertainment manager was given a welcome speech.
- 3 A Beginners were given ski lessons by an instructor every morning.
B Beginners gave ski lessons by an instructor every morning.
- 4 A On Saturday a torchlit descent hold for experienced skiers.
B On Saturday a torchlit descent was held for experienced skiers.
- 5 A After skiing all day, the guests offered visits to the local health spa.
B After skiing all day, the guests were offered visits to the local health spa.
- 6 A We were picked up by the bus at 10.30 am and driven to the airport.
B We were picked up by the bus at 10.30 am and drove to the airport.

Giving instructions

6 Complete the instructions with verbs from the box.

watch turn go board transfer hold
wait try don't go go through



- 1 The complimentary cocktail is in the hotel lounge. Just go through the double doors and it's on your right, past reception.
- 2 The health spa? out of the hotel and left. You can't miss it, it's opposite the ski shop.
- 3 on these boots, sir. They're a size bigger.
- 4 I'm afraid you can't go on the slope without a ski pass, madam. Please in the queue over there.
- 5 skiing if you've got trouble with your knees. It's not a good idea.
- 6 Be careful you don't let go of the drag lift because you can cause an accident. And on to your ski poles!
- 7 Would all guests going to the airport, now the coach in the hotel car park.
- 8 Remember, to turn right, weight to your left ski. Look, me, like this.

Now match the jobs in the box with the instructions above.

ski instructor fitness instructor ski resort representative
ski hire shop assistant drag lift attendant

pronunciation The th sounds

7 Which th sound is the odd one out?

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| 1 thirteen | thousand | three | <u>further</u> |
| 2 weather | thanks | thirty | fifth |
| 3 other | that | the | length |
| 4 southern | weather | think | this |
| 5 northern | bathroom | thought | south |
| 6 then | there | tenth | these |
| 7 health | thin | through | other |
| 8 clothes | thanks | fifth | thirteenth |

Land of smiles

reading **Trekking in Thailand**

1 Read the tour guide extract on the opposite page quickly. What is its main aim?

- A to describe the region of northern Thailand
- B to explain the potential dangers of trekking in Thailand
- C to prepare travellers for going on a trek in Thailand

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 What three activities are included in a typical trek?
- 2 What are Chang Dao, Phrao and Mae Taeng?
- 3 What should a competent guide know?
- 4 What should be the maximum number of trekkers in a group?
- 5 What form of transport should not be used by the trekking group?
- 6 How long are most treks?
- 7 When is it most important to wear dry clothes?
- 8 What should you wear on your feet?

vocabulary **Meaning from context**

3 Match these words from the text with their definitions.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 incorporate | a) high mountainous areas |
| 2 stunning | b) include |
| 3 lowlands | c) extremely beautiful |
| 4 uplands | d) not new but already used |
| 5 tips | e) material that keeps warmth in |
| 6 damp | f) moisture in the atmosphere |
| 7 leeches | g) chemical to keep insects away |
| 8 worn-in | h) helpful information |
| 9 repellent | i) areas that are not high up |
| 10 thermal | j) insects that suck blood |

language focus **Defining relative pronouns**

5 Who or what is being described?

- 1 people who go walking in the mountains
- 2 things that are not wanted any more
- 3 a person who leads a group of walkers
- 4 a forest area which is in a hot part of the world
- 5 people who try to protect the environment
- 6 a place which is built especially for tourists
- 7 a man who serves food and drink
- 8 an instrument which tells a person's temperature
- 9 a person who sells you a holiday
- 10 a thing which protects a cut

language focus **Non-defining relative pronouns**

6 Make the two sentences into one by using *which* or *who*. Remember to use commas.

- 1 The Thais celebrate many different festivals. They are Buddhists.
The Thais, who are Buddhists, celebrate many different festivals.
- 2 Thailand has a population of sixty million. It covers 513,000 km².
.....
- 3 Bo Sang is famous for its hand-painted umbrellas. It is in northern Thailand.
.....
- 4 The Padaung women are from the Kayan tribe. They wear brass rings around their necks.
.....
- 5 Bangkok has a population of seven million. It is one of the world's most congested cities.
.....
- 6 Forests now cover less than 20 percent of Thailand. They used to cover 70 percent of the country.
.....
- 7 Professional Thai boxers often retire at twenty-five. They start training as young as six.
.....

vocabulary **Medical kit**

7 Rearrange the letters to identify the items from a medical kit.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------|
| 1 ssirosc | scissors | 5 rpsini | |
| 2 zrwteese | | 6 rpstesla | |
| 3 isnetc pnelleret | | 7 catntispei | |
| 4 badgane | | 8 usn kbolc | |

writing **Giving health advice****8 Write the advice again using the word or phrase in brackets.**

- 1 It's vital to have the right vaccinations before you go.
(make sure) Make sure you have the right vaccinations before you go.
- 2 It's best to avoid spicy curries if your stomach is delicate.
(should)
- 3 You must drink lots of bottled water.
(essential to)
- 4 I recommend you put talcum powder in your medical kit.
(advisable to)
- 5 Don't swim in rivers and lakes.
(avoid)

vocabulary **Selling to customers****9 Choose the best response to each question.**

- 1 Would you like to get some travel insurance?
A All my documents were stolen so I lost it.
B Yes, last week I got the insurance for the holiday.
C I don't know. Is it worth it?
- 2 Where can I get some insurance for my trekking holiday?
A Yes, Thailand is a beautiful country to go trekking in.
B We can provide special insurance that meets all your needs.
C It's ten minutes down the street next to the bank.
- 3 What sort of insurance should I get?
A I'd recommend full health and travel insurance in your case.
B The cost is only twenty-three euros. It's well worth it.
C I'm not sure. I think we have some information here somewhere.
- 4 Will the insurance pay my medical bills directly or refund me later?
A Would you like to pay by cash or credit card?
B If you're going for three weeks, it costs \$19.50.
C It will cover all your medical costs immediately.
- 5 What else does the insurance cover?
A It also includes stolen or lost money, credit cards and luggage.
B It's not clear. You'll have to read the information on this form.
C You might have to pay for any medical costs yourself.
- 6 What sort of cover does the policy give?
A It costs £36 for two weeks.
B It includes cancellations, injury and lost or stolen luggage.
C It is with one of the best-known insurance companies.