

READING AND LISTENING

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/magazine/beach>

## **A beach**

By John Russell

<b>life jacket (n.)</b>			<b>water-sport (n.)</b>		<b>cliff (n.)</b>
<b>capsize (v.)</b>		<b>paradise (n.)</b>		<b>float (v.)</b>	
	<b>sanctuary (n.)</b>		<b>refuge (n.)</b>		<b>anchor (v.)</b>
<b>rock pool (n.)</b>		<b>capture (v.)</b>		<b>tent (n.)</b>	
	<b>campsite (n.)</b>		<b>caravan (n.)</b>		<b>gulls (n.)</b>

## Glossary

<p><b>1. anchor (v.)</b></p> <p><b>2. campsite (n.)</b></p> <p><b>3. capsize (v.)</b></p> <p><b>4. capture (v.)</b></p> <p><b>5. caravan (n.)</b></p>	<p>a) to (cause a boat or ship to) turn upside down accidentally while on water</p> <p>b) to make something or someone stay in one position by fastening them firmly.</p> <p>c) to record or take a picture of something using a camera.</p> <p>d) a piece of land where people on holiday can camp, usually with toilets and places for washing.</p> <p>e) a wheeled vehicle for living or travelling in, especially for holidays, which contains beds and cooking equipment and can be pulled by a car.</p>
<p><b>6. cliff (n.)</b></p> <p><b>7. float (v.)</b></p> <p><b>8. gulls (n.)</b></p> <p><b>9. life jacket (n.)</b></p> <p><b>10. paradise (n.)</b></p>	<p>f) a place or condition of great happiness where everything is exactly as you would like it to be.</p> <p>g) a high area of rock with a very steep side, often on a coast.</p> <p>h) a sea bird with black and white or grey and white feathers.</p> <p>i) to stay on the surface of a liquid and not sink.</p> <p>j) a piece of equipment, like a jacket without sleeves, which is filled with air or light material and designed to help someone float if they fall into water.</p>
<p><b>11. refuge (n.)</b></p> <p><b>12. rock pool (n.)</b></p> <p><b>13. sanctuary (n.)</b></p> <p><b>14. tent (n.)</b></p> <p><b>15. water-sport (n.)</b></p>	<p>k) sports which take place on or in water</p> <p>l) a small area of sea water contained by the rocks around it.</p> <p>m) (a place which gives) protection or shelter from danger, trouble, unhappiness, etc. OR <i>an area where wild birds or animals are protected and encouraged to breed</i></p> <p>n) a shelter made of cloth, which you can fold up and carry with you and which is supported by poles and ropes.</p> <p>o) protection or a safe place.</p>

## **COPY THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

***After reading the questions, listen to the passage, then read the questions again and answer them.***

1. What can you hear on the beach?
2. Is it crowded?
3. What's the weather like?
4. When did they go to Gatehouse for the first time?
5. How often did they go and how long did they stay?
6. Why were the rock pools educational according to the writer?
7. Besides swimming, what activities could he do there?
8. What may happen in bad weather, when the sea is so rough?
9. Why do photographers like to go to that place?
10. Why does the the writer still like to go there?

## ***Listen to the passage again, and fill in the blanks***

Imagine a beach; a quiet place, with only the noise of the 1) \_\_\_\_\_ and the gulls in the background. There are boats floating near the shore and a few people swimming in the water next to them. It's a hot day, and there are some people lying on the sand enjoying the 2) \_\_\_\_\_ and slowly going brown. There are no shops, no people making noises, no loud music, everything is peaceful. There is just the sea, the sun, and the beach; a little 3) \_\_\_\_\_ .

### **Where is it?**

The beach is on the south coast of 4) \_\_\_\_\_ , near a little town called Gatehouse of Fleet in the county of Dumfries and Galloway. 22 years ago my family and I found this place for the first time and we have never really left it. Every year in the 5) \_\_\_\_\_ while other people go on holiday to foreign countries and exotic places, we go to our private paradise and relax. There is a little campsite with tents and caravans next to the beach, and this becomes our 6) \_\_\_\_\_ for one month every year.

### **Growing up**

For a child a beach is a wonderful place. Here I found lots of space to 7) \_\_\_\_\_ on the sand or to swim in the water. Being a campsite there were always lots of other families with children to play with. Another of my favourite activities was climbing on the rocks and cliffs around the beach. Rock pools were very educational places where I used to study the little fish and sea animals. Silence was also important; at school I was always surrounded by people and noise but the beach gave me the chance to be on my own and 8) \_\_\_\_\_ , or read, away from anyone else.

### **Storms**

Although the sea can be 9) \_\_\_\_\_ , this beach is sometimes a dangerous place to be. When the weather is bad there are often storms with strong winds. When this happens the waves can get up to 2-3 metres high – definitely not weather for swimming. Every year some of the boats anchored on the beach are lost because the sea is so rough. I remember holding down our tent to stop the wind blowing it away on many occasions! However, if the waves weren't too

high all the 10) \_\_\_\_\_ (and some adults) used to go swimming in life jackets, as it was very exciting.

## **An interesting hobby**

Sailing is a very serious activity 11) \_\_\_\_\_ , and this beach is no different. There are large racing boats for three or more people, smaller boats (such as the Topper) for just one or two people, fishing boats and windsurfers. In fact people on this beach are willing to try any type of 12) \_\_\_\_\_ ; water skiing, speed boating, even the recent sport of sail surfing is becoming popular. Over the years my family has had 4 different boats, from a small Topper to a large Caprice for racing. We have sailed, raced, and fished off the boats, and have even capsized in bad weather a few times.

## **Surroundings**

If this beach had been next to a town or near a popular tourist area I don't think we would have continued going there. But its 13) \_\_\_\_\_ is very beautiful indeed. It's in the middle of green countryside with many different types of plants and flowers , and in the background the hills of Galloway can be seen. Lots of 14) \_\_\_\_\_ and artists come to the area (also known as the Solway) because they can capture such beautiful scenery.

## **A refuge**

Even after 15) \_\_\_\_\_ years, the beach is still a sanctuary for me. It's a place away from the rest of the world where I can forget about life's problems, and just 16) \_\_\_\_\_. In today's modern, busy world, everyone should have a place like this.

## MATCHING

1. There are some people	<b>a)</b> run and play on the sand or to swim in the water.
2. 22 years ago my family and I	b) was climbing on the rocks and cliffs
3. I found lots of space to	c) all the children used to go swimming in life jackets
4. There are boats	<b>d)</b> in bad weather a few times
5. Every year in the summer	<b>e)</b> lying on the sand enjoying the sunshine
6. One of my favourite activities	f) there are often storms with strong winds
7. When the weather is bad	g) floating near the shore
8. If the waves weren't too high	h) we go to our private paradise and relax
9. We have even capsized	i) found this place and we have never really left it

## Correct the false sentences

- a) The weather is never bad on the south of Scotland
- b) The writer didn't like to be on his own
- c) The writer continues going to the beach because he can relax and forget about life's problems there
- d) There's nothing to learn for a child on a beach
- e) Very few people go sailing in the UK
- f) The writer's family have been going sailing for years
- g) Lying on the beach people can enjoy the sight of the hills of Galloway
- h) The people on the beach never try any other sports besides sailing
- i) The beach is not far from a lively town in a popular tourist area

## Write suitable questions

- a) Sailing is a very serious activity **in the UK**.
- b) **Water skiing, speed boating**, even the recent sport of **sail surfing** is becoming popular
- c) There is a little town called **Gatehouse of Fleet** in the county of Dumfries and Galloway.
- d) **Every year** in the summer we go to our private paradise and relax.
- e) The beach gave me **the chance to be on my own** and think, or read, away from anyone else.
- f) When the weather is bad the waves can get up to **2-3 metres high**