**Vacation or holiday?**

"Vacation" and "holiday" are words with similar meanings. They both describe days when you don't go to work or school. There are differences between them, but they can be a little difficult to discover on your own.

**Holidays are for everyone -** One big difference between "vacation" and "holiday" is that we use the word 'holiday' to talk about days that are celebrated by a lot of people. They include religious holidays:Christmas**,** Rosh Hashanah**,** Ramadan

They also include national holidays. An example of a national holiday for the United States is Independence Day.

If everyone that you work with is out of work on the same day, it's not a "vacation".

**Vacations often involve travel**

If you tell someone about your "vacation" the conversation might go like this:

A: I took a vacation last week.

B: Where did you go?

That's because vacations often involve traveling somewhere.

A new word that's become a bit popular in the last 10 years is "staycation". A "staycation" is a holiday that you spend at home.

**British and other English varieties**

The rules above are for American English. British English uses "holiday" in both cases:

Monday is a holiday.

I'm going on holiday next week.

**What about other days?**

There are some days when you don't work that are neither "holidays" nor "vacations". For example, if you stay at home one day just to relax, what do you call it? It's not a general "holiday" but you're not going anywhere so it's not a "vacation" either. You can call such a situation a **"day off":**

I'm going to take a day off this week.

If you're in school, you also have weeks or months when there are no classes. Those are called **"breaks":**

What did you do over summer break?

Which sentence best describes your feelings towards vacations? Why?

My idea of a good vacation is staying at home.

My idea of a good vacation is to visit a number of important cities and explore the culture.

My idea of a good vacation is to travel to an exotic beach in a foreign country and then relax for two weeks.

My idea of a good vacation is to put on my backpack and disappear into the hills for a few weeks.

Which type of travel do you think you would like the best? Why?

A long road trip in the car.

A twelve hour flight to a foreign country.

A train ride across the country.

A luxury cruise through the Mediterranean.

How often do you take short trips (two or three days)?

I take a short trip at least once a month.

I take short trips a few times a year.

I take a short trip once a year.

I never take short trips.

If you had the chance, would you ...

... take a week trip to an exciting city.

... spend a week at a meditation retreat.

... visit family that you haven't seen for a long time.

... go white water rafting for a week.

Who do you prefer to take vacations with? Why?

I prefer taking vacations with my close family.

I prefer taking vacations with my extended family.

I prefer taking vacations by myself.

I prefer taking vacations with a good friend.

What type of vacation activity sounds like the most fun? Why?

Lying on the beach

Hanging out at a night club

Visiting a museum

Skiing down a mountain

How important is eating well to you when you are on vacation?

It's the most important thing!

It's important, but not for every meal.

A good meal is nice, but not that important.

Just give me food, so I can keep going!

What type of accommodations do you prefer on vacation?

I'd like a luxury suite, please.

I'd prefer something close to the beach.

I need a clean room, but it should be economical.

I'd prefer a tent and my sleeping bag.

**Dream Vacations**

**Dream Vacation I: Touring the Capitals of Europe**

On this two week vacation, you'll visit the capitals of [Europe](https://www.thoughtco.com/grand-tour-of-europe-1435014) including: Vienna, Paris, Milan, Berlin and London. This inclusive vacation in includes tickets to a concert, play or opera in each capital, as well as tours of the most important museums such as The Louvre in Paris and The National Gallery in London, as well as tours to castles, national monuments and other sights.

**Dream Vacation II: Hanging on the Beach in Hawaii**

Two weeks of sun and fun on the beach on Hawaii's dream island of Maui. You'll have a deluxe room at one of Maui's finest hotels directly on the beach. This inclusive vacation includes fine dining at some of Maui's best restaurants. During your stay, you can take scuba diving lessons, go snorkelling with thousands of tropical fish, or go whale watching in the bay. It's a dream come true!

**Dream Vacation III: Hiking the Peruvian Andes**

Do you need to get away from it all? If so, this is the vacation for you. You'll be flown into Lima, Peru and taken into the Andes for a two week backpacking adventure of a life time. We've arranged experienced local guides to accompany you on your journey into the magnificent and mystical landscape.

**Dream Vacation IV: New York Party Time!**

The Big Apple! Need I say more?! You'll enjoy two weeks stay in a luxury suite on Central Park. You'll need to relax, because you'll be out enjoying the New York night life until early in the morning. This all expenses paid vacation includes dinner at some of the most exclusive restaurants in New York, and on call car service at any time. Experience New York at its finest and most exciting.