

THEME 2
PLANS

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# ICONS USED IN THE BOOK 



THEME 2 PLANS

FUNCTIONS
F1 Describing future plans and arrangements
F2 Expressing one's ideas in unplanned situations
F3 Making oral presentations on a planned topic

## 1 Think and Create <br> $30 \Omega$

The activity aims to have students write about their future plans and arrangements in a literary way.

## Materials and Preparation

The sample poem Word categories which will be used in students' writings. Copy and hand out the sheet with the sample poem on, the word categories and the notepad on page 37.

## Procedure

1 Ask students to study the words given and think about them.
2 Then, tell them that they are going to write a story/letter/poem/song, etc. using the words given.
3 Put the sample poem on display and discuss how the words are used to create a literary item.
4 Monitor and guide them while they are carrying out the task.
5 As the final step, have volunteers present their works.

## 2 Listen and Spot



This is an intensive listening activity focusing on future plans and arrangements of different people. The activity requires students to spot the correct picture based on the activities mentioned in the recording.

## Materials and Preparation

As a preparation, the teacher photocopies the handouts on pages 38-42 for each group.

## Procedure

1 Divide students into groups of four or more depending on the size of the class.
2 Give a handout with pictures on to each group and ask them to look through the pictures swiftly.
3 Tell them that they will listen to different people describing their future plans and arrangements in the recording.
4 Point out to students that there are four pictures in a combination for each choice on the handouts and they should spot the correct picture by listening to each person's future plans and arrangements. Remind them that details matter.
5 After the first listening, let them listen once more in order to check their answers.
6 Once students have finished the activity, check and elicit the correct answers with the class.
7 Award 5 points for each correct answer. The group(s) having the highest score will be the winner(s) of the activity.

Suggestion for extension: After the groups have finished the activity, they could draw their own pictures depicting their future plans and arrangements and then, they could build up their own texts related to the pictures.

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## 3 Future Dominoes

The activity aims to have students create sentences related to describing future plans and arrangements through a collaborative work.

## Materials and Preparation

A set of dominoes for each pair of students.
Cut off the dominoes on page 43 along the dotted lines. Either student of each pair will have half of the dominoes on one page.

## Procedure

1 Put students into pairs. Give one set of dominoes to each pair, and ask them to share them out equally.
2 Tell students the rules of the game. One of the students places a domino on the desktop and the other one has to make a complete sentence by placing one of the dominoes $s / h e$ is holding at either end of the one on the desktop. Students take it in turns to place their dominoes at either end of the domino chain. Remind them that they should observe the triple dots and periods. Triple dots mean that students can place a domino at that end.
3 In case of a disagreement on a sentence, the teacher is to make the final decision. The student whose sentence is incorrect has to take back the domino and misses a turn. Likewise, the student who fails to make a sentence misses the turn as well.
4 The game continues till one student uses up all her/his dominoes, or neither student can make a correct sentence. The student to finish first or have fewer dominoes left is the winner.

## 4 Common Future <br> 3082

The activity aims to have students describe future plans and arrangements.

## Materials and Preparation

Pieces of paper

## Procedure

1 Put students into groups of four/five depending on the size of the class.
2 Write the following topics on the board.
EDUCATION, CAREER, THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE, MARRIAGE\&CHILDREN, HOBBIES\&INTERESTS
3 Ask students to think about what their lives are going to be like in the year 2040 and have them write sentences related to the topics on the board, on pieces of paper.
4 Encourage students to be as creative as possible and write down as many details as they can.
5 Have students read their sentences aloud for the other members of the group in turns and take notes about their friends' sentences.
6 Then, let them revise their notes to find out what they have in common with the other members of the group.
7 Finally, tell them to share what they have in common as in the example.
E.g. Selin and I have a common plan about the future.

Selin is going to do engineering and I'm going to do engineering, too.

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## 5 Chain Drill <br> 388

This activity aims to have students express their ideas in unplanned situations.

## Materials and Preparation

Situation cards on page 44
Before the activity, cut out the situation cards.

## Procedure

1 Divide the class into groups of four or five depending on the class size.
2 Give each group a situation card randomly.
3 Ask students to discuss the situations on their card(s) for 5 minutes and make sentences using "will" or "will not (won't)" related to the situations given.
4 Ask each student in each group to repeat the previous sentence(s) and add one more sentence or expression to the chain.
5 Award 1 point for each acceptable new sentence and mark it on a score sheet.
6 Remind students that the group with the longest sentence chain and the highest score wins the game.
7 Carry on the game with another card.
E.g. Situation: It's snowy.

Student 1: I will put on my coat.
Student 2: I will put on my coat and wear my scarf.
Student 3: I will put on my coat, wear my scarf and go out.
Student 4: I will put on my coat, wear my scarf, go out and make a snowman.
Student 5: I will put on my coat, wear my scarf, go out, make a snowman and play snowball with my friends.

## 6 That's My Friend

## 308

The activity aims to have students express opinions in unplanned situations and guess their friends' opinions, which is to bring fun and boost acquaintance.

## Materials and Preparation

The dialog sheet on page 45
Copy the dialog sheet for each student.

## Procedure

1 Put students into pairs. Hand out the sheets with the incomplete dialogs to be completed on.
2 Ask students to read the dialogs and complete them by choosing either of the choices provided (the choice which is closer to what their ideas would be in the unplanned situations given). Remind them that their partners should not see their answers.
3 Once the students are finished with the task, have them make guesses about their partner's answers for each dialog. The partner, then, shares her/his answer and if the guess of the partner is correct, the pair is awarded 1 point. The pair(s) with the highest score is/are the winner(s).

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FUNCTIONS
F1 Describing future plans and arrangements
F2 Expressing one's ideas in unplanned situations
F3 Making oral presentations on a planned topic

## 7 What Will You Do?

The activity aims to have students express their ideas in unplanned situations.

## Materials and Preparation

Copies of the board game and dice on page 46
Cut out the dice pattern in the appendix and make the dice.

## Procedure

1 Put students into groups of three or four.
2 Have each student roll the dice in turns and go to the square corresponding to the number gotten from the dice.

3 Ask each student to make a sentence using "I will ..." to respond to the situation in the square.
4 Tell students that the group to reach the 'Finish' space first is the winner.
5 Remind students that they cannot share the same decisions.

## 8 Don't Hold the Ball!

The activity aims to have students express their ideas in unplanned situations.

## Materials and Preparation

Unplanned situations cards on page 47
A ball
A bag
Before the activity, cut out the unplanned situations cards provided and put them into the bag. If necessary, you can add some unplanned situations depending on the size of the class.

## Procedure

1 Gather students in a circle.
2 Turn the music on.
3 Show students the bag and tell them that there are some unplanned situations cards in it.
4 Ask students to pass the ball around the circle.
5 Tell them that when the music stops, the student with the ball has to answer the question or express his/her idea about the situation the teacher reads aloud.
6 If the student with the ball does not give an acceptable answer within a minute or repeats an answer given already, he/she leaves the circle.
7 Tell students that the last student in the circle wins the game.

THEME 2 PLANS

FUNCTIONS
F1 Describing future plans and arrangements
F2 Expressing one's ideas in unplanned situations
F3 Making oral presentations on a planned topic

## 9 Helpful Buddy <br> 308120

The aims of the activity are first to match the ideas with the unplanned situations given, and then to produce more ideas in different situations. This activity encourages students' creativity by promoting students to express various ideas on the unplanned situations.

## Materials and Preparation

As a preparation, the teacher photocopies the handout on pages 48 and 49 for each group.

## Procedure

1 Put students into groups of four or five depending on the size of the class.
2 Hand out the copies and tell students that the activity has two steps. First, they are going to match the ideas with the unplanned situations on the front side of the sheet. After completing the matching task, ask them to turn over the sheet. Second, they are going to write as many ideas as possible for each unplanned situation. For this part of the activity, encourage them to be as creative as possible as to what they would say in the unplanned situations given.
3 Remind that they have 25 minutes to complete all the tasks and that for each correct matching and meaningful sentence, they are going to be awarded one point.
4 When the time is over, ask the group to tell the answers of the matching activity and their ideas for each situation on the handout.
5 Work out the scores to announce the winner.

## 10 Come Join Us! <br> 

The activity aims to have students express their opinions by making oral presentations on a planned topic.

## Materials and Preparation

Presentation slides on pages 50-55
The evaluation scale on page 56

## Procedure

1 Put students into groups of five depending on the size of the class.
2 First, tell students that they are expected to work in groups to create a presentation on their school as members of the School Communication Team. The purpose of the presentation is to convince students to join your school.
3 Then, choose four/five students for the jury and hand out the evaluation scales. The jury members will be responsible for evaluating the presentations to determine the winner.
4 Next, give students 10 minutes to prepare for the presentation using the presentation slides (the sheets to be handed out in the form of slide frames with topics on).
5 When the time is over, allow the spokespersons of the groups to do their presentations on behalf of their groups. (Groups are free to do the presentations with more than one student.)
6 Finally, get the scores from the jury to determine the winner(s).
7 The group with the highest score is the winner.

## THEME 2 PLANS

F1 Describing future plans and arrangements
F2 Expressing one's ideas in unplanned situations
F3 Making oral presentations on a planned topic

## 11 For or Against

The activity aims to have students practice debating and make an oral presentation on a planned topic.

## Materials and Preparation

## Presentation slide on page 58

Copy the presentation slide and hand them out.
Copy and hand out the evaluation scale on page 57.

## Procedure

1 Divide the class into two groups. Then, divide both groups into two as As and Bs.
2 Tell them that the groups will be given different topics to be debated over and As of either group will be for and Bs against.
3 Have the As and Bs of either group debate over their topics standing for and against. During the debate within a group, the other group will be the jury to evaluate the debating group using the evaluation scales.
4 Before the groups start to debate, remind them the following rules regarding the debate.

- Respect your opponents.
- Do not interrupt.
- The arguments should be supported with details.

5 Give them the topics and ten minutes to prepare their presentations for use in the debate. Monitor and guide them while they are carrying out the task.
6 When the time is up, let the groups debate referring to their presentations.
7 As the final step, take the evaluation scales and declare the winners for each group.

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## 12 Recall and Present 30 \&

This activity aims to have students make an oral presentation on a planned topic. It is such an activity that students use three language skills, which are reading, speaking, listening, in an integrated way to complete the tasks.

## Materials and Preparation

A worksheet with an informative text about tips for planning a tour on page 59
Small topic cards on page 59
Copy and hand out the sheet to students. Cut out the topic cards and insert them into an envelope.

## Procedure

1 Put students into groups of four or five.
2 Ask students to read the text on the sheet. Give them fifteen minutes.
3 Write the following topics on the board while they are reading the text.

- DESTINATION
- PRICE
- TRANSPORTATION
- ACCOMMODATION
- DOCUMENTS
- DATE\&TIME
- NUMBER OF TRAVELERS

4 Then, explain students that they should read the text very carefully and try to keep in mind the details regarding the topics on the board.
5 When time is up, ask a volunteer from each group to choose one of the topic cards from the envelope randomly and give information on that specific topic as far as s/he recalls from the text.
6 As the final step, check if the information students have shared matches that in the text and award one point for each correct piece of information. You can also assign a student from the other groups to check the information given and keep the score. The group with the highest score will be the winner.

## Suggestion for Extension:

Teacher could ask students to prepare an informational travel brochure about the city/country that they know very well by keeping in mind the tips mentioned in the reading text. The target of the brochure might be convincing people to come and visit their city/country. For this activity, students could search for information about the place on the Internet and then present it by using a presentation program.

Answer Keys \& Audio Scripts
Audio Script
2 Listen and Spot

1 I have made some arrangements for this Monday. First, I am meeting up with my school friends and we are going downtown on Monday morning. We are going to hang out together for some time in the city center. Then, we are going to try some fabulous seafood and dessert for lunch in a fish restaurant. There are different styles of fish restaurants such as local, oriental, modern or award-winning in the city center. As they have exclusive and warm atmospheres, I usually prefer local ones. It is just my cup of tea. One of my friends has already got four tickets for a local concert at a low price and, luckily, we are going to join the concert together. I think it will be so much fun. At around 6 p.m., we will all, most probably, be very tired and decide to turn back home. In the evening, I'm planning to watch a comedy movie with my parents at home. If they want, my friends can also join us. What a nice way to end the day, don't you think? I hope everything goes as planned.
2 In a month, we are going on a family vacation. For the vacation, we are flying to Spain next Sunday morning and probably, ahead of us is a busy week. When we arrive in Barcelona, my mom is going to rent a car and my dad is going to drive to the coastal areas of the city. I am going to read the map and tell dad where to go. Sant Sebastià is the oldest and the most popular beach of the city, so it is going to be our first destination. We intend to settle and have a tent camping there. During the camp, we are going to fish and cook them on fire. I mean, it is very easy to make meals if you camp near the seaside. There are also lots of other world-famous beaches around the city, so we are going to visit them and enjoy swims. I'm sure we will have a lot of fun.
3 I like cultural tours, so I am going to Russia this year. It is somewhere that I have never been to. I have always heard good things about it. Therefore, I have always longed for this country and finally, I could manage to save enough money to take this tour. My first plan is to have a trip to St Petersburg. I am going to visit the largest art gallery, The Hermitage Museum, in Russia. The museum is an excellent example of baroque architecture and there are world-famous paintings and unique portrait sculptures which make the gallery a must-see one. I have already purchased the tickets on the museum's website. I am also going to spend time strolling St Petersburg Park near the museum. This is an area with a fascinating history. Here, I plan to see the Grand Palace which dates back to the $18^{\text {th }}$ century. I think these landmarks appeal to all history lovers. I can't wait! It is going to be a fantastic tour.
4 My trip to Canada is definitely a sheer craze, but I decided to go there and then, arranged a really good package deal with a travel agent. This means that it will not cost much. I am a very energetic person and I can't sit still for very long. For this reason, the travel agency has arranged a nature trip in Canada. On this trip, I am going hiking in the woods and the mountains near Lake Superior. I expect to see various wild animals such as moose, bears and maybe even wolves in this area. It will be very nice to be camping out every night and enjoy the beautiful unspoiled countryside. The highlight of my holiday though, is definitely going to be near the spectacular Niagara Falls. I am going to take lots of pictures there. I can't wait to see it!
5 I am working all summer, but I'm going to spend two days in England this month. I have had an itch to experience the mystery of Cornwall. It has amazing views and beaches. I am going to try some fabulous seafood and wander through the narrow streets of the city. There are many colorful local shops in the area, and I will buy some handmade souvenirs for my beloved ones. I am fond of legends, so I am going to take a short trip to King Arthur's Castle, Tintagel as well. Later, I am going to visit West Yorkshire. It is the place where the famous Brontë sisters lived and it is a good choice for the fans of English literature. I am not going to miss the opportunity to visit

## THEME 2 PLANS

## Audio Script

their house because it is open to the public. Hiking is my favorite activity, so I am going to wander the moors of the city during my trip. I have really put a lot of effort into planning this holiday, so I hope everything will be great!

## Answer Key

2 Listen and Spot

1 A
2 C
3 B
4 A
5 C

## Answer Key

## 9 Helpful Buddy

| 1 | $C$ | 8 | $H$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | J | 9 | $G$ |
| 3 | E | 10 | $D$ |
| 4 | L | 11 | $F$ |
| 5 | K | 12 | A |
| 6 | $M$ | 13 | $B$ |
| 7 | I |  |  |

## THEME 2 APPENDIX

## The Sample Poem:

My life in the future will be very interesting, I'm sure
Guess where will be a place of my residence
Rio de Janeiro
And there I'll be with Sally, my bestie
We're going to learn to speak Japanese
And drink fruit juice
We will live happily forever and ever

| Occupation | City | People | Sports |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| teacher <br> doctor <br> writer <br> baker <br> architect | Chicago <br> New York <br> İstanbul | your best friend <br> your father <br> your mother <br> your sister/brother <br> your cousin | basketball <br> football <br> cycling <br> swimming <br> paragliding |
| Free Time Activities | Languages | Holiday Types | Food and Drinks |
| go swimming <br> surfing on the net <br> going out with friends <br> playing an instrument <br> going camping | English <br> French <br> German <br> Spanish <br> Italian | beach holiday <br> activity holiday <br> camping holiday <br> farm holiday <br> sightseeing holiday | fried chicken <br> sandwich <br> orange juice <br> tea <br> mineral water |

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THEME 2 APPENDIX

2 Listen and Spot (1)


## B



## THEME 2 APPENDIX

2 Listen and Spot (2)



## THEME 2 APPENDIX

2 Listen and Spot (4)


(1)


## THEME 2 APPENDIX

2 Listen and Spot (5)



## THEME 2 APPENDIX

5 Chain Drill


# THEME 2 APPENDIX 

6 That's My Friend

## Imagine that you are one of the people in the dialogs. Which of the choices given would be your voice?

## DIALOG 1

A friend Hey, look! There are empty cans on the floor, in the middle of the classroom!
a) Wait! I will go to the janitor and inform him.
b) Come on! I will put them into the rubbish bin over there.

DIALOG 2
Instructor I think you should stop trying. I cannot say you are cut out for karate. I'm sorry! You
a) I won't! I will keep trying till the end!
b) OK. I will think about that and let you know as soon as possible.

DIALOG 3
A friend Hey, look at this tiny kitten. Oh! It's injured!
You
a) Oh! I will call the emergency services.
b) Let's take it home. I will ask my parents to take it to a veterinary clinic.

## DIALOG 4

Your flatmate It's my turn to cook today, but I feel exhausted!
You
a) No worries! I will order something for us.
b) Come on! I will help you cook.

## THEME 2 APPENDIX

## START

| You need help as you don't understand your math homework. | It's snowing outside. | You have just been fired. | You have run out of petrol. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| You have just missed the bus. | There is no cheese for breakfast. | You forgot to take your medicine. | There is a water cut in your neighborhood. |
| You are off from work today. | Someone has stolen your wallet. | Your dog bit a friend of yours. | You have burnt your dinner. |
| You left your mobile phone at your friend's house. | An old friend has just sent you a wedding invitation. | The phone is ringing. | You slipped and hurt your leg. |
| There's someone at the door. | You have realized that there isn't a safe in your hotel room. | The plants are about to die. | Your wife/husband forgot to pick up your children from school. |
|  |  |  | FINISH |



# THEME 2 APPENDIX <br> 8 Don't Hold the Ball! 

Oh, my dictionary is not with me!Oh, I'm late. I'm going to miss the bus.l've got a terrible headache.
I'm starving.Your friend is looking for you.
I can't finish my language project alone.
It's very hot.
I should pay the bills, but I have no time.
Can you wash the dishes?
Oh, l've spilt tea on my mobile phone!The phone is ringing.
Oh, there is no butter left!
I've lost my keys.
The TV is out of order.
Hey, the bell is ringing!
It's dark in here, I can't see you!
I can't carry this bag. It's too heavy.Oh, Susan is coming over for dinner, but we have no food left!Oh, I have no money with me! I forgot my wallet.

## THEME 2 APPENDIX <br> 9 Helpful Buddy (1)

## Step 1

## Ideas

1

2

3

4

5

Look! I'll give you a painkiller.

13
I'll prepare a relaxing tea for him.

I'll help you do the vacuuming the rooms.

Calm down! I'll give you a lift to the company.

Don't worry, l'll bring you some drinks.

Don't think about it! I'll make a cake for you.

Don't panic! We'll pick up you.

Calm down! We'll buy it for you.

OK! I'll visit you later then.

Calm down! l'll lend you mine. What size do you wear?

Don't panic! l'll call an ambulance.

It's not the end of the world! I'll go and have a look for it in the market.
-

Don't worry, I'll call her.

## Unplanned Situations

a I am too tired and l've a severe headache.

I'm worried about our new friend. I haven't seen hide nor hair of her since last week.

My brother has an exam tomorrow and he is worried about it.

## THEME 2 APPENDIX

9 Helpful buddy (2)

## Step 2

Unplanned Situations

Ideas
a I am too tired and I've a severe headache.
b
I'm worried about our new friend. I haven't seen hide nor hair of her since last week.

My brother has an exam tomorrow and he is worried about it.
d
Gosh! I have sprained my ankle.

My car is out of order and I must be in time for the meeting.
f Oh my! I've lost my ID card while shopping. Look! l've spilt tea on my jacket.

I am busy with my work now. I have to finish all the reports.

I have no time to buy the concert ticket. I am worried about it.

I have a severe backache and I can't clean the house.

The guests are coming tonight and we haven't prepared any food for them.

I am very thirsty and water supply has been cut off.

I have no car, so I won't come and join the party.

|  |
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## THEME 2 APPENDIX

10 Come Join Us! (1)

## THEME 2 APPENDIX

10 Come Join Us! (2)


## THEME 2 APPENDIX

10 Come Join Us! (3)

## THEME 2 APPENDIX

10 Come Join Us! (4)


## THEME 2 APPENDIX

10 Come Join Us! (5)

## THEME 2 APPENDIX

10 Come Join Us! (6)


## THEME 2 APPENDIX

10 Come Join Us! (7)

The Evaluation Scale

|  | Not Satisfactory | Fair | Satisfactory |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  <br> Is the presentation done <br> in a smooth way? | 1 | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |
| Clarity: <br> Is the presentation clear <br> and easy to understand? |  |  |  |
| Feasibility: <br> Is it possible to do the <br> things explained in the <br> presentation? |  |  |  |
| Content: <br> Does the presentation <br> cover all the topics to be <br> explained? |  |  |  |
| Time: <br> Is the time of the <br> presentation suitable, not <br> too short or too long? |  |  |  |

## THEME 2 APPENDIX

11 For or Against (1)

## Debate Topic

Will electronic databases totally replace traditional libraries?
Will online education be better than traditional education?

The Evaluation Scale
Group A Group B

| Criteria | Not Satisfactory | Fair | Satisfactory | Not Satisfactory | Fair | Satisfactory |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Participating in the debate sufficiently |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Participating in the debate effectively |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Responding to the opposing arguments |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Using appropriate manners for debate |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Supporting the arguments with reasons |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## THEME 2 APPENDIX

11 For or Against (2)

## Tips for Planning a Tour

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page" is a famous quote from St. Augustine which emphasizes the importance of traveling in human life. However, organizing just a little trip requires travelers to take into consideration several points. Deciding on the itinerary, a planned route of a trip, is the first and foremost one. On your destination, it is logical to start with deciding on the place you want to visit. You could choose the place from one of your favorite holiday destinations and get some related brochures that could help you to decide. The place where you would like to be active or relaxed and traveling alone or with children are assumed as the other points to be considered on your travel destination.
The price of a tour is the second important issue. It is closely related to the decision whether you choose a package or an independent tour. If you book a tour by a travel agency, it generally offers a package (inclusive) one. The package one generally covers the tickets for museums and facilities, transportations and the snacks you get during the tour. However, you should still check if all destinations have been arranged beforehand by the travel agency, if any guided sightseeing or optional excursions are included in the price of the tour or if you could get a discount for your children. An independent tour may cost cheaper because you do not have to pay for any services and you have to arrange everything yourself. The biggest advantage of it is that you are free on your timetable and it's not necessary to adjust to other tourists, which is also called a flexible tour. Besides these advantages, when you go abroad independently, you have to speak the language of that country in order to communicate with local people. It might be a bit challenging and tiring when you do not know that language very well or when you can't speak the language fluently.
The third important item to be considered is transportation. There are different modes of transportation such as roadways, railways, air, water and pipelines, etc. However, air transportation is one of the most preferred transportations for especially tours abroad. Booking a plane ticket is the initial step in air transportation. When you deal with plane tickets to your dream destination, you could search for it from various websites. So it is possible to track each flight to the destination and follow whether fares are rising or dropping on popular flights. In order to book a ticket online, prefer any website which offers a more complete selection of tickets than others. By this way, it is easy to get the lowest possible price by just choosing and clicking on a suitable flight. Another way to get the lowest price is to choose the flights on weekdays such as Wednesday or Thursday since most people do not prefer traveling on those days. It is also reasonable to book a plane ticket between three months and one month before your flight. At times closer to the flight, it will be more expensive to book because most airlines aim to fill seats. As a last point, it is sensible to choose the first flight of the day since it will be most likely to be on time and so, you avoid any flight delays.
Accommodation is important as much as the other issues mentioned. Hotel is one of the most popular accommodations when you're on holiday. If you book a hotel room via a website, enter deeper information such as the desired location, travel dates, star ratings. A search engine will list several hotels to choose, so you could pinpoint the best ones matching your budget and preferences. If you are one of the truly demanding travelers, call the reception directly and tell what kind of room you want to get. You could ask for details about the view, floor number, etc.
Another point is that if you travel during a shoulder season (the time between the high and low travel seasons of a specific destination), you will pay less for the hotel and the vacationland will be less crowded with tourists; however, many attractions will be still open as they are in the peak season. It is also a good idea to follow the weather conditions for each month and decide on the best season of the year for that place. In sum, when you will stay is as important as where you will stay. Renting a house could be an alternative to hotels for accommodation. It would be more comfortable since you have the whole place to yourself and a good way to save money by cooking your meals at home. However, in order to assure a quality place to stay in, you should read the user reviews for the house beforehand.
As a last issue, some documents such as a travel insurance, a valid passport and visa are required in order not to have any problems with tours abroad. A city map, notes about the overview of the city, restaurants with the addresses and information about the contact person of the tour are the other important documents you should have with you.
To sum up, keep in mind all these tips and enjoy your vacation.

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