

Essential English

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

Stimulus 1

Context

This is a magazine article about tourist destinations.

Is a tourist destination ever more than just a place?

Standing on the sand dune, I wriggle my toes in the warm, gritty seashells and gaze across the pastel blues spreading into the distance. Rolling, aqua waves bubbling with white foam on sugary beaches blend with the fresh, salty Pacific Ocean air — a literal living, breathing artwork.

Our beaches are definitely more than just tourist destinations. Artists sing and write about their spiritual significance, their changing moods (both stormy and peaceful), their beauty and their energy, imprinting themselves on our hearts as symbols of freedom and adventure.

Who we are

Just as I did every holiday, I want to run down and dive into the blue, but I sit and think instead, the sand folding around me like velvet.

As far as tourist destinations go, beaches are a popular choice. For some Queenslanders, they're in our DNA. They're in our tourist ads, our conversations and our photos. We identify with them.

Beaches, however, aren't for everyone. My cousins complain about the salt water drying out their skin, the scratchy sand getting into everything and the sun blinding their eyes.

When it came to watching people sunbaking on the sand under the midday sun, my grandfather would shake his head and say, "It's just like throwing an egg in a frying pan."

But you didn't have to sunbake, I'd think — there were zillions of other things to do.

Smiling now, I put on sunscreen.

I know this beach so well — such a quiet stretch of sand for a change of pace.

I stand, watching the waves rushing forwards and retreating. In and out, then in and out again, a rhythm as old as time.

Sand tickles my toes.

What we understand

I step towards the ocean and Dorothea Mackellar's line from *My Country* — 'I love her jewel-sea' murmurs itself to life in my mind — and I realise how this place with all its moods (calm, stormy) reflects our humanity.

This place is the paradise it always was and it's now my own family's special spot.

As for identity? Just as waves make patterns in the sand, seascapes shape us. Maybe that's why we — Queenslanders — are often so relaxed and friendly. What could we possibly be grumpy about?

How we feel

Places shape our interests. Destinations impact our values. Locations affect our thinking. We are products of our environments, so it makes sense that the many tourist destinations we experience combine into a kaleidoscope of light, colour and feelings, all working, pulling and pushing at our identity.

From as far back as I can remember, memories of summer holidays have always been about the beach. It's a place where we came to make memories. It's who we are.

Where to now

Nowadays, we don't always have time to visit — we have many things to distract us. You know what it's like. But whenever we can, like homing pigeons, we head to this coastal tourist destination. And when we do, that familiar feeling envelops and nourishes us. *Every. Single. Time.*

Stimulus 2

Context

This photo essay is on a website about Australia.

Where To Go In Australia

← → ↻  <http://www.wheretogoinaustralia.com.au> ★

*Time well spent
With so many amazing tourist
attractions, the hardest
decision was where
to go!*

Creativity
Melbourne's
Federation Square

Jewel
Sydney's
Opera House

Peace
Queensland's
Daintree

Sparkle
Queensland's
Surfers Paradise

Heritage
Longreach's
Stockman's Hall of Fame


Our country,
our destinations

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References

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