

# Cruise Ships

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Have you ever been on a cruise?
2. Why are tourists attracted to cruising?
3. What effects do cruise ships have on the environment?
4. Why are some people against going on cruises?
5. Do cruise ships pose health risks?



### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. extravagant    | a) darkened   |
| _____ 2. oblivious      | b) knowing nothing about an issue                       |
| _____ 3. repercussion   | c) responsibility for someone's needs                   |
| _____ 4. accountability | d) the perfect surroundings and atmosphere              |
| _____ 5. legality       | e) an unexpected consequence (usually negative)         |
| _____ 6. ill-equipped   | f) an issue related to the law                          |
| _____ 7. tinted         | g) not having the required tools, supplies, or training |
| _____ 8. sewage         | h) human waste  |
| _____ 9. devastation    | i) the state of being ruined or destroyed               |
| _____ 10. paradise      | j) costing a lot of money                               |
| _____ 11. dock          | k) to provide lots of comfort and attention             |
| _____ 12. pamper        | l) to pull into and stay next to a dock                 |

## Reading

### CRUISE SHIPS

*Casting a shadow over paradise*

1. Some retirees spend more time on water than on land. Cruising becomes an obsession due to the **extravagant** food, entertainment, and recreation available on board and at port. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, many people were **oblivious** to the dangers and **repercussions** of cruising.
2. On a cruise ship, there is no embassy and little **accountability**. Some passengers assume a ship's flag country will deal with any legal problems. Others believe it depends which water or port you are in when a problem occurs. Whether it's theft, assault, or food poisoning, most authorities do not want to deal with the **legalities**. Likewise, crew members are **ill-equipped** to ensure the health and safety of so many passengers. The *Oasis of the Seas* accommodates 7,000 people and is often compared to a small city!
3. How much energy does it take to propel such a monstrous vehicle? Despite climate talks, cruise lines continue to grow their fleets. At the same time, they call themselves "green." Their brochures promote the use of LED lights and **tinted** windows in cabins that reduce the need for air-conditioning. Little is said about how they manage pollution as they cruise the seas. Some cruise ships dump untreated **sewage** and food waste just a few miles from shore. From Mexico to the Mediterranean, beaches are littered with bottles and shoes that cruisers drop or throw carelessly overboard.
4. Did you know that many cruise companies own or lease private beaches? Families snorkel, sunbathe, and enjoy entertainment along the coast. Just a few miles away, many locals can barely feed their children. Some tourists are aware of the surrounding poverty, but choose to turn a blind eye. In 2010, shortly after a historic earthquake in Haiti, a luxurious cruise line was criticized for docking just outside the **devastation**. The cruise line defended itself by saying cruises contribute to the economy. Some people that live near ports call this a myth. Cruise lines dictate where passengers should visit when at port. They don't want passengers to feel guilty about eating at the midnight buffet!
5. Are cruise ships a symbol of human greed? Video footage of the 2012 *Costa Concordia* accident off the coast of Italy showed a cruise transform from **paradise** to hell. Passengers were happily watching a magic show just before orders came in to abandon ship. What would you do if there weren't enough life jackets or rafts? Would you fight to save yourself before a child?
6. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the cruise line industry came to a grinding halt. Ships like the *Diamond Princess* were **docked** for weeks, and **pampered** passengers became prisoners overnight. Will the cruise line industry ever be the same?

*"I have no cruise control.  
It's like the cruises book themselves."*

—Author unknown

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What does the reading say about “accountability”?
2. What is the *Oasis of the Seas*?
3. Why might a cruise ship brochure promote tinted windows in the cabins?
4. Why does the reading mention shoes?
5. How does the author feel about cruise ships?

## Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.  
You may need to change the word forms.

1. We were \_\_\_\_\_ to the fact that there weren’t enough life rafts on board.
2. Getting food poisoning from the buffet was a serious \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. The local authorities have no \_\_\_\_\_ . They say it is not their problem.
4. The hurricane caused a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to the island.
5. The cruise ship was \_\_\_\_\_ . It was missing ten life rafts.
6. We got the royal treatment at the spa. I have never been \_\_\_\_\_ like that before.

## Devil’s Advocate

Work with a partner. Take turns arguing against these statements.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. We don’t need clean oceans.  | 6. The cruise ship crew is well-prepared for emergencies whether docked or at sea. |
| 2. Cruise passengers are greedy people.   | 7. I can swim. I don’t need to wear a life jacket when I’m boating.                |
| 3. You won’t get food poisoning on a cruise ship.                                   | 8. In a life or death situation, I’d give up my life for a child.                  |
| 4. A cruise is an environmentally friendly vacation.                                |  |
| 5. Authorities from the country I’m visiting will keep me safe while I’m traveling. |  |

## Discussion

1. Will extravagant cruise ships be banned due to environmental laws in the next 20 years?
2. Would you want to work on a cruise ship? Why or why not?
3. What would you do if there weren't enough life jackets or life rafts on a cruise ship?
4. Why aren't airplanes allowed to drop human waste as they fly above oceans?
5. Do you think cruise ships are a symbol of human advancement or decline?
6. Will there be long-term effects to the cruise line industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

## Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

| Classmate's name: | Have you ever been on a cruise? If yes, where did you go? | What is the best part about going on a cruise? | What is the greatest risk of going on a cruise? |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
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|                   |   |  |   |
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|                   |   |  |   |

# Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

## CRUISE SHIPS

*Casting a shadow over paradise*

1. Some retirees spend more time on water than on land. Cruising becomes an obsession due to the \_\_\_\_\_ food, entertainment, and recreation available on board and at port. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, many people were \_\_\_\_\_ to the dangers and repercussions of cruising.
2. On a cruise ship, there is no embassy and little \_\_\_\_\_. Some passengers assume a ship's flag country will deal with any legal problems. Others believe it depends which water or port you are in when a problem occurs. Whether it's theft, assault, or food poisoning, most authorities do not want to deal with the \_\_\_\_\_. Likewise, crew members are ill-equipped to ensure the health and safety of so many passengers. The *Oasis of the Seas* accommodates 7,000 people and is often compared to a small city!
3. How much energy does it take to propel such a monstrous vehicle? Despite climate talks, cruise lines continue to grow their fleets. At the same time, they call themselves "green." Their brochures promote the use of LED lights and \_\_\_\_\_ windows in cabins that reduce the need for air-conditioning. Little is said about how they manage pollution as they cruise the seas. Some cruise ships dump untreated \_\_\_\_\_ and food waste just a few miles from shore. From Mexico to the Mediterranean, beaches are littered with bottles and shoes that cruisers drop or throw carelessly overboard.
4. Did you know that many cruise companies own or lease private beaches? Families snorkel, sunbathe, and enjoy entertainment along the coast. Just a few miles away, many locals can barely feed their children. Some tourists are aware of the surrounding poverty, but choose to \_\_\_\_\_. In 2010, shortly after a historic earthquake in Haiti, a luxurious cruise line was criticized for docking just outside the \_\_\_\_\_. The cruise line defended itself by saying cruises contribute to the economy. Some people that live near ports call this a myth. Cruise lines dictate where passengers should visit when at port. They don't want passengers to feel guilty about eating at the midnight buffet!
5. Are cruise ships a symbol of human greed? Video footage of the 2012 *Costa Concordia* accident off the coast of Italy showed a cruise transform from \_\_\_\_\_ to hell. Passengers were happily watching a magic show just before orders came in to abandon ship. What would you do if there weren't enough \_\_\_\_\_ or rafts? Would you fight to save yourself before a child?
6. During the COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_, the cruise line industry came to a grinding halt. Ships like the *Diamond Princess* were docked for weeks due to coronavirus outbreaks, and pampered \_\_\_\_\_ became prisoners overnight. Will the cruise line industry ever be the same?

# Answer Key

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**

Students read about some negative aspects of vacationing on cruise ships. They practice vocabulary and discuss safety issues and the environmental impact of cruising.

**TEACHING TIPS:**

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

**LEVEL:** High Int

**TIME:** 1.5–2 hours

**TAGS:** discussion, cruise ships, cruising, travel, transportation, environment, COVID-19

## Pre-Reading

**A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS**

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

**B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW**

- |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. j | 3. e | 5. f | 7. a | 9. i  | 11. l |
| 2. b | 4. c | 6. g | 8. h | 10. d | 12. k |

## Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

- The reading states that it is not always clear who a cruise passenger should consult in the case of a crime or problem while at sea or port. Authorities often don't want to deal with the legalities.
- The *Oasis of the Seas* is a large cruise ship that accommodates 7,000 people.
- A cruise ship brochure might promote tinted windows in the cabins to make it seem like the cruise line cares about the environment.
- The reading mentions shoes because many cruisers' shoes wash up on coastlines.
- The author feels that there are many repercussions related to cruising.

## Vocabulary Review

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. oblivious      | 4. devastation  |
| 2. repercussion   | 5. ill-equipped |
| 3. accountability | 6. pampered     |

*(continued on the next page...)*

## Answer Key cont.

### Devil's Advocate

Answers will vary.

### Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

### Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

### Listening

1. extravagant, oblivious
2. accountability, legalities
3. tinted, sewage
4. turn a blind eye, devastation
5. paradise, life jackets
6. pandemic, passengers

### Extra Activity

A fun warm-up or related activity you can play is the "I'm going on a trip" game. The teacher starts by saying, "I'm going on a cruise and I'm bringing..." (name an item). The student closest to the teacher repeats the phrase "I'm going on a cruise and I'm bringing..." (name the item the teacher said AND a new item). This memory game continues until a student can't remember all of the items. If a student can't remember, pass the turn on to the next student.

### SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Traveling*. Most other English-speaking countries spell this word this way: *Travelling*. Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.