

Lake Garda

B2 Reading, Vocabulary & Grammar Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: New Words & Phrasal Verbs

Read the words and their meanings.

Word / Phrasal Verb	Meaning
steer clear of	to deliberately avoid someone or something
thin out	to become less crowded or numerous
soak up	to fully experience and enjoy an atmosphere or surroundings
while away	to spend time in a relaxed, unhurried way
brush up on	to improve or refresh knowledge or a skill you already have
get away with	to succeed in doing something risky or unconventional without facing consequences
itinerary	a planned route or schedule for a trip
steeped in	deeply associated with or full of something, especially history or tradition
fortress	a strong, fortified building designed for defence
shoulder season	the period between a destination's busy and quiet seasons, often with better prices and fewer crowds

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Part 2: Reading

This text uses the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd conditionals. Read the text.

Lake Garda has long been a favourite escape for travellers looking to branch out from Italy's more crowded tourist trails. Even so, its popularity means that if you don't plan carefully, you could easily end up stuck in traffic or unable to find a table at the best restaurants.

If you arrive in high season without booking accommodation in advance, you might struggle to find anywhere decent to stay. Many visitors prefer to steer clear of July and August altogether, opting instead for the quieter shoulder seasons of May or September, when the weather is still pleasant but the crowds have thinned out.

Once you've settled in, there's no shortage of ways to soak up the atmosphere. If you had more time, you could easily while away entire afternoons exploring the lakeside towns, sampling local wines, or simply sitting by the water. Sirmione, in particular, rewards those who set aside a full day rather than rushing through in an hour or two.

If travellers only knew how much there was to see beyond the obvious spots, they would probably rethink their itineraries entirely. For instance, few tourists bother to brush up on the region's history before visiting, yet the area is steeped in centuries of stories, from Roman villas to medieval fortresses.

If you had asked a local twenty years ago, they might have told you that Lake Garda was still something of a hidden gem. These days, that's no longer the case — the secret is well and truly out. Still, if you know where to look, it's entirely possible to make the most of the lake without following the crowds. Those who get away with avoiding the busiest attractions altogether often say they've had a far more memorable trip.

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Part 3: Vocabulary Practice — Match the word to the meaning

Write the correct letter in the blank.

Word		Meaning
1. steer clear of	___	A. to deliberately avoid someone or something
2. thin out	___	B. the period between a destination's busy and quiet seasons, often with better prices and fewer crowds
3. soak up	___	C. a strong, fortified building designed for defence
4. while away	___	D. to fully experience and enjoy an atmosphere or surroundings
5. brush up on	___	E. to improve or refresh knowledge or a skill you already have
6. get away with	___	F. deeply associated with or full of something, especially history or tradition
7. itinerary	___	G. to become less crowded or numerous
8. steeped in	___	H. to spend time in a relaxed, unhurried way
9. fortress	___	I. to succeed in doing something risky or unconventional without facing consequences
10. shoulder season	___	J. a planned route or schedule for a trip

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Part 4: Synonyms (same meaning)

Circle the option with the same meaning.

1. Which option means the same as "steer clear of"?

☐ A) avoid

☐ B) seek out

☐ C) enjoy

2. Which option means the same as "thin out"?

☐ A) decrease

☐ B) increase

☐ C) stay the same

3. Which option means the same as "soak up"?

☐ A) fully enjoy

☐ B) ignore

☐ C) rush through

4. Which option means the same as "brush up on"?

☐ A) review

☐ B) forget

☐ C) invent

5. Which option means the same as "get away with"?

☐ A) escape consequences for

☐ B) get punished for

☐ C) apologise for

Part 5: Antonyms (opposite meaning)

Circle the word with the opposite meaning.

1. Which word means the opposite of "steer clear of"?

☐ A) seek out

☐ B) avoid

☐ C) ignore

2. Which word means the opposite of "thin out"?

☐ A) get more crowded

☐ B) empty completely

☐ C) stay quiet

3. Which word means the opposite of "while away"?

☐ A) rush through

☐ B) relax during

☐ C) enjoy slowly

4. Which word means the opposite of "steeped in"?

☐ A) lacking in

☐ B) full of

☐ C) known for

5. Which word means the opposite of "get away with"?

☐ A) get caught for

☐ B) succeed at

☐ C) avoid

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Part 6: Grammar — Which conditional is used?

Read each sentence from the text. Circle 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Conditional.

1. "If you arrive in high season without booking, you might struggle to find anywhere decent to stay."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

2. "If you don't plan carefully, you could easily end up stuck in traffic."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

3. "If you had more time, you could easily while away entire afternoons."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

4. "If travellers only knew how much there was to see, they would rethink their itineraries."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

5. "If you had asked a local twenty years ago, they might have told you it was a hidden gem."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

6. "If more people had known about the area's history, tourism would have grown much earlier."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

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Part 7: Grammar — Choose the correct verb form

1. If you ____ in high season without booking, you might struggle to find a room.

☐ A) arrive

☐ B) arrived

☐ C) had arrived

2. If you ____ more time, you could while away entire afternoons.

☐ A) have

☐ B) had

☐ C) had had

3. If travellers ____ how much there was to see, they would rethink their itineraries.

☐ A) know

☐ B) knew

☐ C) had known

4. If you ____ a local twenty years ago, they might have told you it was a hidden gem.

☐ A) ask

☐ B) asked

☐ C) had asked

5. If you don't plan carefully, you could easily ____ stuck in traffic.

☐ A) end up

☐ B) ended up

☐ C) have ended up

6. If more people ____ about the area's history, tourism would have grown earlier.

☐ A) know

☐ B) knew

☐ C) had known

7. If you ____ where to look, it's possible to avoid the crowds.

☐ A) know

☐ B) knew

☐ C) had known

8. If she ____ more careful with planning, she wouldn't have missed the best restaurants.

☐ A) is

☐ B) were

☐ C) had been

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Part 8: Grammar — Change the conditional

1. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If you arrive early, you will find a good table."

☐ A) If you arrived early, you would find a good table.

☐ B) If you have arrived early, you will find a good table.

☐ C) If you arrived early, you will find a good table.

2. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If we plan carefully, we won't end up stuck in traffic."

☐ A) If we had planned carefully, we wouldn't have ended up stuck in traffic.

☐ B) If we plan carefully, we wouldn't end up stuck in traffic.

☐ C) If we planned carefully, we won't end up stuck in traffic.

3. Change to 1st Conditional: "If I had more time, I would explore every town."

☐ A) If I have more time, I will explore every town.

☐ B) If I had more time, I will explore every town.

☐ C) If I have more time, I would explore every town.

4. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If tourists knew more, they would visit different places."

☐ A) If tourists had known more, they would have visited different places.

☐ B) If tourists know more, they would visit different places.

☐ C) If tourists knew more, they will visit different places.

5. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If you avoid July and August, you steer clear of the crowds."

☐ A) If you avoided July and August, you would steer clear of the crowds.

☐ B) If you have avoided July and August, you steer clear of the crowds.

☐ C) If you avoided July and August, you steer clear of the crowds.

Part 9: Word Scramble

Put the words in the correct order. Write the full sentence.

1. prefer / Many / visitors / to / steer / clear / of / July / and / August / altogether.

Your sentence: _____

2. is / The / area / steeped / in / centuries / of / stories / from / Roman / villas / to / medieval / fortresses.

Your sentence: _____

3. rewards / Sirmione / those / who / set / aside / a / full / day / rather / than / rushing / through.

Your sentence: _____

4. bother / Few / tourists / to / brush / up / on / the / region's / history / before / visiting.

Your sentence: _____

5. possible / It's / entirely / to / make / the / most / of / the / lake / without / following / the / crowds.

Your sentence: _____

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Part 10: Dialogue — Complete the conversation

Claire and James plan a trip to Lake Garda. Circle the best word or phrase for each blank.

Claire: Are you thinking about Lake Garda for your holiday?

James: Yes! If we ____ (1) ____ in high season, we might struggle to find good accommodation.

Claire: True. We should probably ____ (2) ____ July and August altogether.

James: Good idea. If we ____ (3) ____ more time, we could really ____ (4) ____ afternoons just relaxing by the lake.

Claire: That sounds perfect. Have you looked into Sirmione?

James: A bit. Apparently the area is ____ (5) ____ history — Roman ruins and old castles.

Claire: Interesting. If I ____ (6) ____ about that sooner, I would have planned more time there.

James: We can still ____ (7) ____ it if we plan well now.

Claire: True, though I doubt we'll ____ (8) ____ skipping the main sights completely — people always say Sirmione is unmissable.

1. Blank 1

☐ A) travel

☐ B) travelled

☐ C) had travelled

2. Blank 2

☐ A) steer clear of

☐ B) brush up on

☐ C) while away

3. Blank 3

☐ A) have

☐ B) had

☐ C) had had

4. Blank 4

- ☐ A) while away
- ☐ B) brush up on
- ☐ C) steer clear of

5. Blank 5

- ☐ A) steeped in
- ☐ B) brushed up on
- ☐ C) thinned out

6. Blank 6

- ☐ A) know
- ☐ B) knew
- ☐ C) had known

7. Blank 7

- ☐ A) make the most of
- ☐ B) get away with
- ☐ C) steer clear of

8. Blank 8

- ☐ A) get away with
- ☐ B) brush up on
- ☐ C) thin out

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Answer Key

Part 3: Vocabulary Matching

1. steer clear of → A
2. thin out → G
3. soak up → D
4. while away → H
5. brush up on → E
6. get away with → I
7. itinerary → J
8. steeped in → F
9. fortress → C
10. shoulder season → B

Part 4: Synonyms

1. Which option means the same as "steer clear of"?

☒ A) avoid ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) seek out

☐ C) enjoy

2. Which option means the same as "thin out"?

☒ A) decrease ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) increase

☐ C) stay the same

3. Which option means the same as "soak up"?

☒ A) fully enjoy ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) ignore

☐ C) rush through

4. Which option means the same as "brush up on"?

☒ A) review ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) forget

☐ C) invent

5. Which option means the same as "get away with"?

☒ A) escape consequences for ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) get punished for

☐ C) apologise for

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Answer Key

Part 5: Antonyms

1. Which word means the opposite of "steer clear of"?

☒ A) seek out ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) avoid

☐ C) ignore

2. Which word means the opposite of "thin out"?

☒ A) get more crowded ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) empty completely

☐ C) stay quiet

3. Which word means the opposite of "while away"?

☒ A) rush through ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) relax during

☐ C) enjoy slowly

4. Which word means the opposite of "steeped in"?

☒ A) lacking in ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) full of

☐ C) known for

5. Which word means the opposite of "get away with"?

☒ A) get caught for ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) succeed at

☐ C) avoid

Part 6: Which Conditional is Used?

1. "If you arrive in high season without booking, you might struggle to find anywhere decent to stay."

☒ A) 1st Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

2. "If you don't plan carefully, you could easily end up stuck in traffic."

☒ A) 1st Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

3. "If you had more time, you could easily while away entire afternoons."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☒ B) 2nd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

4. "If travellers only knew how much there was to see, they would rethink their itineraries."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☒ B) 2nd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

5. "If you had asked a local twenty years ago, they might have told you it was a hidden gem."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☒ C) 3rd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

6. "If more people had known about the area's history, tourism would have grown much earlier."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☒ C) 3rd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

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Answer Key

Part 7: Correct Verb Form

1. If you ____ in high season without booking, you might struggle to find a room.

☒ A) arrive ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) arrived

☐ C) had arrived

2. If you ____ more time, you could while away entire afternoons.

☐ A) have

☒ B) had ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) had had

3. If travellers ____ how much there was to see, they would rethink their itineraries.

☐ A) know

☒ B) knew ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) had known

4. If you ____ a local twenty years ago, they might have told you it was a hidden gem.

☐ A) ask

☐ B) asked

☒ C) had asked ✓ CORRECT

5. If you don't plan carefully, you could easily ____ stuck in traffic.

☒ A) end up ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) ended up

☐ C) have ended up

6. If more people ____ about the area's history, tourism would have grown earlier.

☐ A) know

☐ B) knew

☒ C) had known ✓ CORRECT

7. If you ____ where to look, it's possible to avoid the crowds.

☒ A) know ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) knew

☐ C) had known

8. If she ____ more careful with planning, she wouldn't have missed the best restaurants.

☐ A) is

☐ B) were

☒ C) had been ✓ CORRECT

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Part 8: Change the Conditional

1. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If you arrive early, you will find a good table."

☒ A) If you arrived early, you would find a good table. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If you have arrived early, you will find a good table.

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2. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If we plan carefully, we won't end up stuck in traffic."

☒ A) If we had planned carefully, we wouldn't have ended up stuck in traffic. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If we plan carefully, we wouldn't end up stuck in traffic.

☐ C) If we planned carefully, we won't end up stuck in traffic.

3. Change to 1st Conditional: "If I had more time, I would explore every town."

☒ A) If I have more time, I will explore every town. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If I had more time, I will explore every town.

☐ C) If I have more time, I would explore every town.

4. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If tourists knew more, they would visit different places."

☒ A) If tourists had known more, they would have visited different places. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If tourists know more, they would visit different places.

☐ C) If tourists knew more, they will visit different places.

5. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If you avoid July and August, you steer clear of the crowds."

☒ A) If you avoided July and August, you would steer clear of the crowds. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If you have avoided July and August, you steer clear of the crowds.

☐ C) If you avoided July and August, you steer clear of the crowds.

Part 9: Word Scramble

1. prefer / Many / visitors / to / steer / clear / of / July / and / August / altogether.

✓ Many visitors prefer to steer clear of July and August altogether.

2. is / The / area / steeped / in / centuries / of / stories / from / Roman / villas / to / medieval / fortresses.

✓ The area is steeped in centuries of stories from Roman villas to medieval fortresses.

3. rewards / Sirmione / those / who / set / aside / a / full / day / rather / than / rushing / through.

✓ Sirmione rewards those who set aside a full day rather than rushing through.

4. bother / Few / tourists / to / brush / up / on / the / region's / history / before / visiting.

✓ Few tourists bother to brush up on the region's history before visiting.

5. possible / It's / entirely / to / make / the / most / of / the / lake / without / following / the / crowds.

✓ It's entirely possible to make the most of the lake without following the crowds.

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Answer Key

Part 10: Dialogue

1. Blank 1

☒ A) travel ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) travelled

☐ C) had travelled

2. Blank 2

☒ A) steer clear of ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) brush up on

☐ C) while away

3. Blank 3

☐ A) have

☒ B) had ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) had had

4. Blank 4

☒ A) while away ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) brush up on

☐ C) steer clear of

5. Blank 5

☒ A) steeped in ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) brushed up on

☐ C) thinned out

6. Blank 6

☐ A) know

☐ B) knew

☒ C) had known ✓ CORRECT

7. Blank 7

☒ A) make the most of ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) get away with

☐ C) steer clear of

8. Blank 8

☒ A) get away with ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) brush up on

☐ C) thin out