



Talking About Travel

DESCRIBING PLACES

About the Lesson

With this worksheet, you'll boost your vocabulary for describing places, and you'll find definitions, practice exercises and opportunities to practice these adjectives: *overrated/underrated, lively, scenic, secluded, unspoiled, touristy, polluted, overdeveloped and hectic.*



**underrated/
overrated**

lively

scenic

secluded

unspoiled

***Talking About Travel –
Describing Places***

touristy

polluted

overdeveloped

hectic



Overrated/Underrated

You can describe a place as overrated if it's not as great as everyone says it is. And if it's underrated, it's a wonderful place, but people don't say many good things about it.

EXAMPLES

- We were so excited to visit Los Angeles, but we thought it was kind of overrated.
- If you're looking for an underrated city in Italy, you should check out Bologna.

Lively

If you enjoy a lively city or area, it means you like to travel to places with energy and excitement. A lively place usually offers plenty of things to do for travelers and tourists.

EXAMPLES

- Mexico City is a lively metropolis with an incredible art scene.
- This part of Lisbon is quiet during the day but lively at night.





Scenic

We say that a place is scenic if it provides beautiful, interesting or unique views. We usually describe a natural landscape as scenic, but you can also say that an urban setting is scenic, especially if it's completely one-of-a-kind.

EXAMPLES

- This scenic bus tour through Napa Valley will take your breath away.
- It's a convenient place to live but not very scenic.

Secluded

We say that an area is secluded if it's isolated and away from too many other people. So if you're looking for a secluded town to spend a weekend, it's probably because you need some quiet time on your own.

EXAMPLES

- I'm just looking for a secluded place where I can do some writing.
- It's a beautiful village, but it's a little too secluded for him.





Unspoiled

If you're looking for an unspoiled place to visit, it means you want a place in nature without urban development. If you like to take photos, you probably love an unspoiled landscape that feels untouched by people.

EXAMPLES

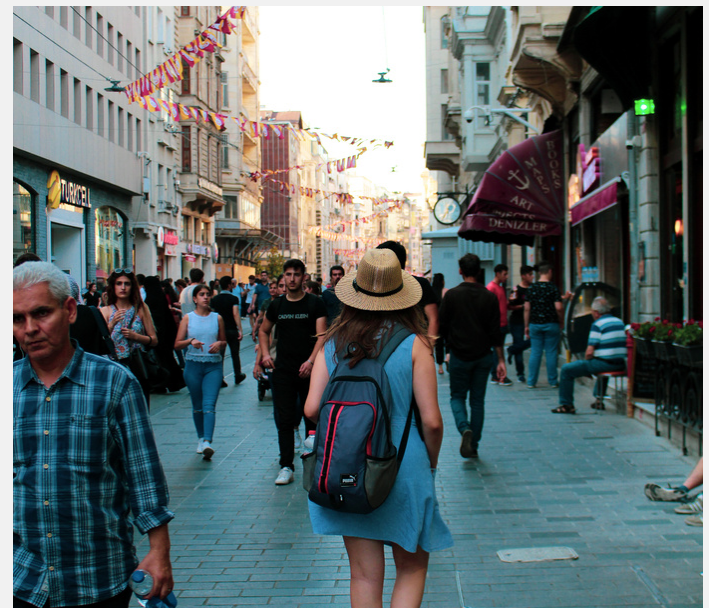
- She's looking for an unspoiled area where she can connect with nature.
- These unspoiled beaches attract photographers from all over the world.

Touristy

You can say a place is touristy if it has too many tourists. Some travelers dislike touristy cities or attractions. If you're one of those travelers, you probably avoid visiting certain popular destinations during the tourist season.

EXAMPLES

- Even though it's pretty touristy, I still love Amsterdam.
- It's a great museum, but it's too touristy this time of year.





Polluted

We describe a city as polluted if the air is not clean, if the water is full of toxic waste or trash, or if you find garbage everywhere around the city.

EXAMPLES

- It used to be a beautiful coastal city, but the beaches are polluted now.
- The polluted air comes from all the scooters and nearby factories.



Overdeveloped

You can say that a city or area is overdeveloped if it has been taken over by big companies and large hotels. If you prefer places that are quiet and secluded, you probably want to stay away from overdeveloped cities.

EXAMPLES

- It used to be a great city, but it's getting too overdeveloped.
- Sadly, it's just an overdeveloped island now.





Hectic

We can refer to a place as hectic if it's noisy, crowded or chaotic. If you visit a city with a lot of scooter traffic, for example, it might feel very hectic to you because you're not used to it.

EXAMPLES

- Paris is really hectic this time of year.
- I wasn't prepared for the hectic traffic and crowds in Rome.



A top-down view of a desk with various office supplies. On the left is a notebook with a pen. In the center are several paper clips. On the right is a bowl filled with paper clips, a pair of white earbuds, and a smartphone. The text "Let's Practice!" is centered on the desk.

Let's Practice!

WORDS IN CONTEXT

Match the words or phrases in bold to their synonyms or meanings.

not that great

breathtaking

natural

exciting

quiet and isolated

1. She went to a **secluded** town not far from her city.
2. We thought the bus tour of the city was **overrated**.
3. It's worth climbing that hill for a **scenic** view of Salzburg.
4. I'll never forget the **unspoiled** beauty of The Painted Desert.
5. There's plenty to do in this **lively** city that almost never sleeps.

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4. I'll never forget the **unspoiled** beauty of The Painted Desert. (*natural*)
5. There's plenty to do in this **lively** city that almost never sleeps. (*exciting*)

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Complete the sentences with the correct words.

unspoiled

lively

scenic

secluded

underrated

1. You'll get one of the most _____ views of the city from here.
2. This is the best part of town if you're looking for a _____ night scene.
3. Honestly, I prefer _____ nature to urban places.
4. Traverse City is one of America's unknown, _____ beach towns.
5. They needed a _____ getaway, so they rented a cabin in the woods.

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DEFINITIONS

Match the words or phrases to their definitions.

touristy polluted overdeveloped hectic

1. _____: crowded with too many travelers
2. _____: ruined by too many businesses or residential areas
3. _____: chaotic and noisy
4. _____: contaminated by garbage or toxic waste

DEFINITIONS

Match the words or phrases to their definitions.

touristy polluted overdeveloped hectic

1. touristy: crowded with too many travelers
2. overdeveloped: ruined by too many businesses or residential areas
3. hectic: chaotic and noisy
4. polluted: contaminated by garbage or toxic waste

WHAT'S ANOTHER WAY TO SAY...?

Rewrite the sentences with one of the words above.

You might have to make some changes to the sentences, or add/change a preposition.

1. We took a day trip to get away from the **noisy** city.
2. He didn't expect the water there to be so **contaminated**.
3. It's pretty **crowded with travelers**, but it's still worth a visit.
4. He wanted to make sure his coastal village didn't become **ruined by big businesses**.

WHAT'S ANOTHER WAY TO SAY...?

Rewrite the sentences with one of the words above.

You might have to make some changes to the sentences, or add/change a preposition.

1. We took a day trip out to get away from the **hectic** city.
2. He didn't expect the water there to be so **polluted**.
3. It's pretty **touristy**, but it's still worth a visit.
4. He wanted to make sure his coastal village didn't become **overdeveloped**.

A top-down view of a desk setup. In the upper right, a white keyboard is visible. To its left is a white coffee cup with a dark sleeve. On the far left, a large, vibrant green monstera leaf with characteristic holes is partially visible. The background is a plain, light-colored surface. In the bottom right corner, a portion of a black folder or notebook is visible.

Speaking Practice

DISCUSSION

Answer the following questions.

Try to give as much detail as you can. Elaborate with examples or stories whenever possible.

- We've all seen those amazing photos of unspoiled destinations. Have you ever been to secluded locations? How was your experience? Have you ever traveled somewhere and were surprised to find it too commercialized?
- Which destinations appeal to you most? Touristy locations with a lively scene, or someplace serene and quiet? Which aspects of each do you prefer?

DISCUSSION

Answer the following questions.

Try to give as much detail as you can. Elaborate with examples or stories whenever possible.

- How do you feel about locations that are now overdeveloped and polluted? Can you name some cities that have become overdeveloped? In your opinion, which overdeveloped cities are still worth traveling to?
- Traveling during peak summer months can be hectic, expensive and exhausting. When do you take your vacation? Do you prefer to travel outside of the summer months?

DISCUSSION

Answer the following questions.

Try to give as much detail as you can. Elaborate with examples or stories whenever possible.

- Which places have you visited that you feel are either overrated or underrated? What made you feel that way? Which places in your country do you feel are overrated? Which are underrated? Why?
- If you could choose one ultimate scenic road trip, train trip, or cruise, which would it be and why?

DISCUSSION

Answer the following questions.

Try to give as much detail as you can. Elaborate with examples or stories whenever possible.

- What characteristics of a location are most important to you? Is it a lively city atmosphere? Beautiful unspoiled nature? Impressive history and architecture? Interesting people? What are your best memories of a place?
- Imagine you took a vacation to a beautiful, secluded island, but there was no internet or television. What would be the best part about this kind of environment? What would be the worst?

Thank You!

I hope you enjoyed this resource!

If you have any questions, please [send me a message](#).

For more worksheets and lessons, visit my website at

www.inenglishwithlove.com.

