



# 28 Communication Workshops

## Orbital Tours The experience of a lifetime!

### Writing

#### Before you start

1 Read the advertisement and the letter to Orbital Tours. Which of these things is the letter writer worried about?

- training, space suit, space walks,
- weight limit for baggage,
- health insurance, accommodation,
- flights, the price, work

2 Find mistakes of style in the letter.

- 1 (line 1) 2 (line 3) 3 (line 5)  
 4 (line 7) 5 (line 8)  
 6 (line 8) 7 (line 11)  
 8 (line 15) 9 (line 16)  
 10 (line 17)

Example 1 Hi there

3 Replace the mistakes with these formal words and expressions:

- can be guaranteed, would prefer not,
- Dear Sir/Madam, if possible,
- I look forward to hearing from you,
- to reserve, would like,
- I would be grateful if you could,
- Yours faithfully,
- Could you please tell me

**From today**, reservations are being taken for the first sightseeing trip into space which we hope to offer from 2008 onwards. For around £75,000, astro-tourists can book a week's trip into a low orbit 60 miles above the Earth, staying in comfortable accommodation on our space hotel. **The price includes:**

- full physical training
- a made-to-measure space suit
- preparations for zero-gravity
- space walks

A team of ex-Nasa scientists and astronauts are involved in the project. The flight to the space hotel from Cape Canaveral lasts three hours. Then orbit the Earth once every three or four hours for breathtaking views of home!

Hi there,  
 I am writing to ask for more information about the 'Orbital Tours' holiday. I am very interested in the holiday, but I want some details. Firstly, it is not clear whether your company arranges flights from Europe. I would like to fly from London, if that's all right with you. 5  
 Secondly, I would be grateful if you could tell me what kind of accommodation is available. I would like you to save me a place, provided that the safety of the trip is OK. I really don't want to share a room with anybody else unless it can't be helped. 10  
 Thirdly, you say the price includes full training at your special space centre. Just tell me what the training involves exactly. 10  
 Finally, your advertisement also mentions NASA experts and space walks. The idea of space walks sounds very interesting, as long as I am not expected to do any work for NASA. 15  
 Send me more details about the dates and prizes. 15  
 Write soon.  
 All the best,  
 Michael Davidson

4 Look at the sentences below. Replace the underlined words with these words:

as long as, except if, if

It is not clear whether your company only arranges flights from the USA.

I would like you to reserve me a place, provided that the safety of the trip can be guaranteed.

I would prefer not to share a room unless I have to.

Now choose the correct words from the brackets.

- 1 I like going to the beach (as long as/unless) it isn't too crowded.
- 2 I won't go (provided that/unless) the room has a shower.
- 3 I don't know (unless/whether) I would enjoy a balloon flight.
- 4 The Arctic cruise sounds great (provided that/unless) it isn't too cold!
- 5 I don't like sightseeing (unless/whether) I have a guide.
- 6 The submarine holiday sounds fine, (as long as/whether) it's safe.
- 7 I am not sure (if/provided that) it's such a good idea.
- 8 I'd love to stay (unless/provided that) there are en suite bathrooms.

### A Formal Letter

Write a letter replying to a magazine advertisement by a holiday company. Follow the stages below.

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### Stage 1

Choose a type of holiday, e.g. Antarctic cruise, African safari, ballooning across Europe, deep-sea diving in the Indian Ocean. Decide who you are going with, e.g. friends, family, and when you want to go. Then write a list of things you want to find out.

- price – how much? what does it include? are there any extras?
- accommodation – tent? cabin? hotel? single or double room?
- food – what kind? are meals included in the price?
- baggage – any weight limit?
- clothes – what clothes are suitable?
- equipment – is it provided?
- health and accident insurance – how safe is it?
- language – do guides speak English?

### Stage 2

Plan your paragraphs.

### Stage 3

Write your letter. Remember to write in a formal style. Try to include examples of *unless*, *whether*, *as long as* and *provided that*.

### Stage 4

Check your letter.

### Talkback

Work in pairs. Read your partner's letter. Then imagine you are a travel agent. Answer the questions from his/her letter.

### Listening: A Song

'Daniel' by Elton John



1 Look at the lyrics. Try to guess the missing words. For the final word of each line think about words that rhyme with the previous line, e.g. cry, my

Daniel is travelling <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on a plane  
 I can see the red tail lights heading for <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
 Oh and I can see Daniel waving goodbye  
 God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

They say <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ is pretty though I've never been  
 Well Daniel says it's the best place that he's ever <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Oh and he should know, he's been there enough  
 Lord I miss Daniel, oh I miss him so much

Daniel my brother you are <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ than me  
 Do you still feel the <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of the scars that won't heal  
 Your eyes have died but you see more than I  
 Daniel you're a star in the face of the <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

2 Now listen to the song and check your guesses. Answer these questions about the song.

- 1 How does the singer feel about his brother?
- 2 Why do you think Daniel is going away?
- 3 What do you think might have happened in the family?