

Open C1 English · Unit 08

Travel, Culture & Identity

Grammar: Participle clauses (-ing, -ed, perfect participles)

Pronunciation: Silent letters and tricky spellings

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How to use this study pack

- Study the grammar and vocabulary before attempting the output tasks.
- Use the public site for audio playback; this PDF is the printable study companion.
- Mark answers directly on paper, then return to the online lesson for media-rich practice.
- Keep a separate C1 notebook for rewritten answers, useful collocations and pronunciation notes.

Unit workflow

Input: reading, listening and media exposure.

Language focus: grammar, vocabulary, idioms and Use of English.

Output: writing, speaking, mediation and realistic everyday communication.

¿De qué va esta unidad?

En esta unidad, exploraremos la intersección entre los viajes, la cultura y la identidad. A un nivel C1, ya no basta con saber pedir una mesa en un restaurante o reservar un hotel; el objetivo es alcanzar la capacidad de discutir conceptos abstractos, matices culturales y cómo las experiencias de viaje moldean nuestra percepción del mundo. Analizaremos cómo el lenguaje nos permite expresar la complejidad de la identidad personal y colectiva, un tema recurrente tanto en conversaciones sofisticadas como en los textos académicos de nivel avanzado.

El principal reto de esta unidad radica en la precisión gramatical y la fluidez retórica. Utilizaremos las participle clauses para condensar información y dar un tono más elegante y cohesivo a vuestros textos y discursos, algo esencial para impresionar a los examinadores de Cambridge. Además, trabajaremos con la pronunciación de letras mudas (silent letters), un obstáculo común que suele delatar un nivel intermedio. Al finalizar, seréis capaces de navegar conversaciones complejas sobre sociología y cultura con la naturalidad que exige el nivel Advanced.

Objetivos de aprendizaje

- **Grammar Mastery:** Utilizar correctamente las participle clauses (present, past y perfect) para combinar ideas de forma sofisticada y evitar la repetición de sujetos.
- **Vocabulary Expansion:** Adquirir léxico avanzado relacionado con la antropología, el patrimonio cultural y las dinámicas de viaje.
- **Reading Comprehension:** Desarrollar la capacidad de extraer información implícita y comprender el tono de artículos de opinión complejos sobre identidad.
- **Listening Precision:** Identificar matices de significado y actitudes de los hablantes en audios con diferentes acentos y velocidades naturales.
- **Use of English Excellence:** Dominar la reescritura de frases (sentence transformation) utilizando estructuras de participios para cumplir con los requisitos de la parte 4 del examen.
- **Advanced Writing & Speaking:** Producir textos argumentativos y discursos fluidos que integren vocabulario idiomático de forma natural y coherente.

Lo que vas a encontrar

- **Introduction:** Una visión general de los temas clave que conectan la cultura con el lenguaje.
- **Grammar Focus:** Un estudio profundo de las participle clauses para mejorar la cohesión textual.
- **Vocabulary Builder:** Vocabulario especializado sobre viajes, tradiciones y la construcción de la identidad.
- **Idiomatic Expressions:** Modismos y frases hechas para sonar como un hablante nativo al hablar de experiencias.
- **Reading Workshop:** Lectura de textos complejos sobre identidad cultural con ejercicios de comprensión crítica.

- Listening Lab: Práctica auditiva con hablantes nativos enfocada en captar detalles y opiniones sutiles.
- Use of English Challenge: Ejercicios de transformación y reescritura para perfeccionar la estructura gramatical.
- Writing Task: Práctica de redacción de ensayos o artículos siguiendo los estándares de Cambridge.
- Speaking Seminar: Simulaciones de debates y presentaciones sobre temas culturales.
- Mediation Practice: Ejercicios para transformar información de un idioma a otro o de un formato a otro de manera profesional.

Tiempo estimado

Total estimado: 8 - 10 horas

- Introduction: 15 min
- Grammar Focus: 1h 30 min
- Vocabulary Builder: 45 min
- Idiomatic Expressions: 30 min
- Reading Workshop: 1h
- Listening Lab: 1h
- Use of English Challenge: 1h
- Writing Task: 1h 30 min
- Speaking Seminar: 1h
- Mediation Practice: 45 min

Lesson 2: Grammar Focus

Explicación (en español)

Las participle clauses (cláusulas de participio) son una herramienta esencial para alcanzar el nivel C1, ya que permiten condensar información y dar un tono más sofisticado, académico o literario a tu escritura y habla. En lugar de usar dos frases cortas unidas por conjunciones como because, when o after, utilizamos un participio para crear una frase más fluida. Estas cláusulas funcionan como adjetivos o como conectores temporales/causales.

Existen tres tipos principales: el participio de presente (-ing), el participio de pasado (-ed) y el participio perfecto (having + past participle). La regla de oro es que el sujeto de la cláusula de participio debe ser el mismo que el sujeto de la cláusula principal. Si intentas usar una cláusula de participio con un sujeto diferente, cometerás un error de "dangling participle" (participio colgante),

lo cual es muy común en exámenes de Cambridge.

Para los hispanohablantes, el mayor reto es la distinción entre el uso de -ing (que suele indicar una acción simultánea o una causa) y el participio perfecto (having + -ed), que se usa para enfatizar que una acción terminó antes de que empezara la siguiente. En español, a menudo traducimos estas estructuras usando "al + infinitivo" o "después de + infinitivo", pero en inglés, el uso de having done es la forma más elegante de marcar la secuencia temporal en contextos de viajes o relatos culturales.

Un error típico es intentar traducir directamente estructuras como "Siendo un estudiante..." como "Being a student..." cuando en realidad quieres decir "Como era un estudiante...". Aunque gramaticalmente es posible, en C1 buscamos precisión. Recuerda: si la acción es activa, usa -ing; si es pasiva, usa -ed; y si quieres enfatizar la anterioridad, usa having + -ed.

Form – estructura

Type |
Structure |
Function / Usage |
Present Participle |
Verb + -ing |
Simultaneous actions or reason (Because/While...) |
Past Participle |
Verb + -ed / 3rd form |
Passive meaning or state (Because it was...) |
Perfect Participle |
Having + Past Participle |
An action completed before another (After...) |

Examples

- Having travelled across Asia for six months, I felt a deep connection to its diverse cultures. (Habiendo viajado por Asia durante seis meses, sentí una profunda conexión con sus diversas culturas.)
- Feeling overwhelmed by the noise of the city, the backpacker decided to retreat to the mountains. (Sintiéndose abrumado por el ruido de la ciudad, el mochilero decidió retirarse a las montañas.)
- Stunned by the beauty of the Machu Picchu ruins, the tourists stood in silence. (Atónitos por la belleza de las ruinas de Machu Picchu, los turistas se quedaron en silencio.)
- Having lost my passport in Rome, I had to visit the embassy immediately. (Habiendo perdido mi pasaporte en Roma, tuve que visitar la embajada inmediatamente.)
- Walking through the narrow streets of Seville, you feel as if you have stepped back in time. (Caminando por las estrechas calles de Sevilla, sientes como si hubieras retrocedido en el tiempo.)
- Exhausted by the long-haul flight, she fell asleep as soon as she reached the hotel. (Agotada por el vuelo de larga distancia, se quedó dormida en cuanto llegó al hotel.)
- Having lived in three different countries, Mark has a very cosmopolitan identity. (Habiendo vivido en tres países diferentes, Mark tiene una identidad muy cosmopolita.)

- Born in a small village, she grew up with a strong sense of community. (Nacida en un pequeño pueblo, ella creció con un fuerte sentido de la comunidad.)

Contrast

- Having finished the meal, the waiter took the plates. / Having finished the meal, the guests left the restaurant.

(Error: El camarero no terminó la comida, la terminaron los clientes. El sujeto debe coincidir).

- Because being a local, he knew the best hidden spots. / Being a local, he knew the best hidden spots.

(Error: No se usa 'because' antes de un participio de este tipo).

- Having seen the museum, the tickets were sold out. / Having seen the museum, we realised the tickets were sold out.

(Error: Los tickets no 'vieron' el museo; nosotros sí).

- Having wrote the book, he went on tour. / Having written the book, he went on tour.

(Error: El participio perfecto requiere el participio pasado del verbo, no la forma de pasado simple).

Mini-quiz – 10 preguntas

- ___ the ancient ruins, we decided to stay another day to explore more.
 - Having visited
 - Visited
 - Visit
- ___ by the sudden change in weather, the hikers turned back.
 - Frightening
 - Frightened
 - Having frightened
- Rewrite using a participle clause: "Because she had studied the local customs, she didn't offend anyone."
- ___ through the desert, the explorers found an oasis.
 - Having walked
 - Walking
 - Walked
- Complete the sentence: "___ (exhaust) by the journey, the travellers sought shelter."
- Choose the correct sentence:
 - Having lost my keys, the door was impossible to open.
 - Having lost my keys, I found it impossible to open the door.
- "The city, ___ in the 18th century, attracts millions of tourists."
 - building
 - built
 - having built
- Rewrite using a participle clause: "After they had finished their meal, they went for a walk in the plaza."
- "Not ___ (know) the local language, we relied heavily on translation apps."

a) knowing

b) known

c) having known

10. Select the correct option: "___ the truth about his heritage, he felt a new sense of identity."

a) Discovering

b) Having discovered

c) Discovered

Respuestas:

1. a | 2. b | 3. Having studied the local customs, she didn't offend anyone. | 4. b (or a) | 5.

Exhausted | 6. b | 7. b | 8. Having finished their meal, they went for a walk in the plaza. | 9. a | 10.

b

Lesson 3: Vocabulary Lab

Vocabulario C1 – Travel, Culture & Identity

30 palabras con definición, traducción, ejemplo y audio.

acculturation //

/əˌkʌltʃə'reɪʃn/n

Definition: The process of adopting the cultural traits or social patterns of another group.

Traducción: aculturación

Example: Sociologists are studying the rapid acculturation of digital nomads moving to Southeast Asia.

Collocation: process of acculturation

- ### indigenous //

/ɪnˈdɪdʒənəs/adj

Definition: Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

Traducción: indígena

Example: Preserving indigenous languages is crucial for maintaining global cultural diversity.

Collocation: indigenous population

- ### assimilation //

/əˌsɪməˈleɪʃn/n

Definition: The process of becoming similar to the surrounding culture.

Traducción: asimilación

Example: The debate continues regarding whether assimilation is more effective than multiculturalism.

Collocation: cultural assimilation

- ### ubiquitous //

/juːˈbɪkwɪtəs/adj

Definition: Present, appearing, or found everywhere.

Traducción: ubicuidad / omnipresente

Example: The ubiquitous influence of Western media has reshaped global identity.

Collocation: ubiquitous presence

- ### nuance //

/nju:ɑ:ns/n

Definition:A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound.

Traducción:matiz

Example:To truly understand a new culture, one must appreciate the subtle nuances of its etiquette.

Collocation:subtle nuance

- ### paradigm //

/ˈpærədəɪm/n

Definition:A typical example or pattern of something; a model.

Traducción:paradigma

Example:The shift towards remote work has created a new paradigm for international relocation.

Collocation:paradigm shift

- ### manifestation //

/ˌmænɪfɪˈsteɪʃn/n

Definition:An event, action, or object that clearly shows or embodies something.

Traducción:manifestación

Example:The local festival is a vivid manifestation of the region's historical identity.

Collocation:clear manifestation

- ### perpetuate //

/pəˈpetʃueɪt/v

Definition:To make something (typically an undesirable situation or misconception) continue indefinitely.

Traducción:perpetuar

Example:Travel documentaries should avoid stereotypes that perpetuate cultural biases.

Collocation:perpetuate a myth

- ### heterogeneous //

/ˌhetəˈrɒdʒi:nəs/adj

Definition:Diverse in character or content.

Traducción:heterogéneo

Example:London remains one of the most heterogeneous cities in the world.

Collocation:heterogeneous society

- ### intertwined //

/ˌɪntəˈtwaɪnd/adj

Definition:Twisted together; closely connected.

Traducción:entrelazado

Example:The history of the two nations is deeply intertwined through trade and migration.

Collocation:deeply intertwined

- ### feasibility //

/ˌfi:zəˈbɪləti/n

Definition:The state or degree of being easily or conveniently done.

Traducción:viabilidad

Example:The board is assessing the feasibility of expanding our cultural tourism branch.

Collocation:economic feasibility

- ### logistics //

/lə'dʒɪstɪks/n

Definition: The detailed coordination of a complex operation involving many people, facilities, or supplies.

Traducción: logística

Example: Managing the logistics of a global relocation can be overwhelming for expatriates.

Collocation: complex logistics

- ### itinerary //

/aɪ'tɪnərəri/n

Definition: A planned route or journey.

Traducción: itinerario

Example: We need to finalize the travel itinerary before the corporate retreat begins.

Collocation: detailed itinerary

- ### discrepancy //

/dɪ'skrepənsi/n

Definition: A lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts.

Traducción: discrepancia

Example: There was a significant discrepancy between the cultural descriptions in the brochure and reality.

Collocation: significant discrepancy

- ### implement //

/ɪm'plɪment/v

Definition: To put a decision, plan, or agreement into effect.

Traducción: implementar

Example: The government aims to implement new policies to protect cultural heritage sites.

Collocation: implement a policy

- ### unprecedented //

/ʌn'presɪdentɪd/adj

Definition: Never done or known before.

Traducción: sin precedentes

Example: The rise of digital nomadism has led to an unprecedented level of global mobility.

Collocation: unprecedented growth

- ### comprehensive //

/kəm'prɪ'hensɪv/adj

Definition: Complete; including all or everything.

Traducción: exhaustivo / integral

Example: The travel agency offers a comprehensive guide to local customs.

Collocation: comprehensive study

- ### facilitate //

/fə'sɪlɪteɪt/v

Definition: To make an action or process easy or easier.

Traducción: facilitar

Example: Cultural exchange programs are designed to facilitate mutual understanding.

Collocation: facilitate communication

- ### ambiguous //

/æm'brɪdʒjuəs/adj

Definition: Open to more than one interpretation; not having one obvious meaning.

Traducción: ambiguo

Example: The legal status of remote workers in foreign countries can often be ambiguous.

Collocation: highly ambiguous

- ### integration //

/ɪn'tɪgreɪʃn/n

Definition: The action or process of integrating.

Traducción: integración

Example: Successful social integration requires effort from both the newcomer and the host community.

Collocation: social integration

- ### wanderlust //

/ˈwɒndəlʌst/n

Definition: A strong desire to travel.

Traducción: ansia de viajar

Example: Her incurable wanderlust led her to live in six different continents.

Collocation: intense wanderlust

- ### off the beaten track //

/ɒf ðə 'bi:tn træk/phrase

Definition: In a place where few people go, far from usual tourist paths.

Traducción: fuera de las rutas turísticas

Example: We decided to go off the beaten track to find more authentic cultural experiences.

Collocation: travel off the beaten track

- ### culture shock //

/ˈkʌltʃə ʃɒk/n

Definition: The feeling of disorientation experienced by someone who is suddenly subjected to an unfamiliar culture.

Traducción: choque cultural

Example: Moving to a mega-city can cause severe culture shock for those from rural areas.

Collocation: experience culture shock

- ### vibe //

/vaɪb/n

Definition: A person's emotional state or the atmosphere of a place (informal).

Traducción: vibra / ambiente

Example: The local cafe has such a laid-back vibe that you'll want to stay all day.

Collocation: positive vibe

- ### get lost in //

/get lɒst ɪn/phrase

Definition:To become deeply involved or absorbed in something.

Traducción:perderse en

Example:I love to get lost in the narrow streets of old European towns.

Collocation:get lost in the moment

- ### eye-opening //

/aɪ.əʊpɪŋ/adj

Definition:Surprising and revealing.

Traducción:revelador

Example:Traveling alone was an eye-opening experience that changed my perspective on life.

Collocation:eye-opening experience

- ### bucket list //

/'bʌkɪt lɪst/n

Definition:A number of experiences that a person hopes to have during their lifetime.

Traducción:lista de deseos

Example:Seeing the Northern Lights was at the top of her bucket list.

Collocation:top of the bucket list

- ### wander //

/ˈwɒndə(r)/v

Definition:To walk or move in a leisurely, casual, or aimless way.

Traducción:vagar / deambular

Example:We spent the afternoon wandering through the local artisan market.

Collocation:wander aimlessly

- ### soul-searching //

/'səʊl ,sɜːtʃɪŋ/adj

Definition:Involving deep personal reflection.

Traducción:introspectivo / de búsqueda interior

Example:Her solo journey through Asia was a period of intense soul-searching.

Collocation:soul-searching journey

- ### vibrant //

/ˈvaɪbrənt/adj

Definition:Full of energy and enthusiasm; bright and striking.

Traducción:vibrante

Example:The city is known for its vibrant nightlife and diverse food scene.

Collocation:vibrant culture

-

Idioms & expressions — Travel, Culture & Identity

To be a fish out of water · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To feel uncomfortable or awkward because you are in an unfamiliar situation or environment.

Significado: Sentirse como un pez fuera del agua.

Example: As a digital nomad moving from Tokyo to a remote village, I felt like a bit of a fish out of water at first.

- ### To broaden one's horizons · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To expand one's range of interests, knowledge, or experience.

Significado: Ampliar horizontes.

Example: Travelling through South America is the best way to broaden your horizons and challenge your preconceptions.

- ### To lose oneself in something · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To become so involved in an activity or culture that you forget about everything else.

Significado: Perderse en algo (entregarse por completo).

Example: I love to lose myself in the local markets of Marrakech; the sensory overload is incredible.

- ### A melting pot · neutral

neutral

Meaning: A place where different peoples, styles, and cultures are mixed together.

Significado: Un crisol de culturas.

Example: London remains a true melting pot, constantly evolving with new global influences.

- ### To step into someone else's shoes · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To imagine yourself in another person's situation to understand their perspective.

Significado: Ponerse en los zapatos de otro.

Example: Cultural empathy requires us to step into someone else's shoes to truly understand their identity.

- ### To live vicariously through someone · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To experience something indirectly through the stories or experiences of another person.

Significado: Vivir algo a través de las experiencias de otro.

Example: Since I can't afford to travel this year, I'm living vicariously through my sister's Instagram stories.

- ### To be deeply rooted in · formal

formal

Meaning: To have strong, established connections to a particular culture or place.

Significado: Estar profundamente arraigado en.

Example: Even though she lives in Berlin, her identity is deeply rooted in her Mexican heritage.

- ### To go off the grid · informal

formal

Meaning: To live without using modern technology or being reachable via the internet.

Significado: Desconectarse / Vivir fuera de la red.

Example: To truly experience the wilderness, we decided to go off the grid for two weeks.

- ### To be in a digital bubble · informal

formal

Meaning: To only encounter information and people that align with your existing views via algorithms.

Significado: Estar en una burbuja digital.

Example: Travelling is essential to break out of your digital bubble and meet people with different worldviews.

- ### To curate an identity · formal

formal

Meaning: To carefully select and present a specific version of oneself to the world (often via social media).

Significado: Curar/gestionar una identidad (de forma selectiva).

Example: Many travellers today seem more interested in curating an identity online than actually experiencing the culture.

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Lesson 5: Reading Practice

Unit 8: Travel, Culture & Identity

Reading Text

The Paradox of the 'Authentic' Traveller

In the summer of 2025, the global tourism industry reached a fever pitch. As digital nomadism transitioned from a niche lifestyle to a mainstream professional standard, the concept of 'travel' underwent a profound metamorphosis. No longer was travel merely a temporary hiatus from one's life; it became a permanent state of being. However, this shift has ignited a fierce debate regarding cultural identity and the commodification of local traditions.

For decades, the quintessential traveller sought 'authentic' experiences—the chance to witness a culture untouched by the homogenising influence of Western consumerism. Yet, as we navigate the mid-2020s, a paradox has emerged. The very act of seeking authenticity often results in its destruction. When a remote village in the Andes or a coastal town in Southeast Asia becomes a 'must-see' destination on social media, the influx of visitors inevitably alters the social fabric. Local customs, once deeply rooted in communal identity, are frequently repackaged into digestible, aesthetic performances for the digital gaze.

Critics argue that this 'experiential tourism' creates a hollowed-out version of culture. In many destinations, traditional crafts and rituals are no longer practiced for their original spiritual or social purposes, but are instead staged to meet the expectations of high-spending visitors. This creates a performative identity where locals become actors in their own heritage. The tension between economic necessity and cultural integrity is palpable. While tourism provides vital revenue for developing regions, it simultaneously risks turning living cultures into static museum pieces.

Furthermore, the rise of the 'hyper-mobile' professional has blurred the lines between resident and visitor. When a significant portion of a local population consists of transiently employed expats, the sense of community can become diluted. The local identity is no longer a stable foundation but a fluid, often fragmented, concept. This can lead to a sense of alienation among the permanent residents, who may feel like strangers in their own streets as the landscape is redesigned to cater to a globalised, transient demographic.

Proponents of modern travel argue that this evolution is merely a natural progression of human interaction. They suggest that culture has always been fluid and that the 'purity' travellers seek is a romanticised myth. From this perspective, the exchange of ideas and the economic benefits of tourism are seen as catalysts for growth rather than agents of decay.

As we move further into this era of unprecedented mobility, the challenge lies in finding a middle ground. Can we travel in a way that respects the sanctity of local identity without patronising it? The future of global culture may depend on our ability to distinguish between genuine engagement and mere consumption. If we continue to treat culture as a commodity to be collected, we may find that by the time we reach our destination, there is nothing left to discover.

Comprehension – multiple choice

1. What is the writer's main point in the first paragraph?
 - A. Travel has become more expensive due to the rise of digital nomads.
 - B. The definition of travel has changed because it is now a constant lifestyle.
 - C. The tourism industry is struggling to keep up with modern professional standards.
 - D. Digital nomadism has caused a decline in traditional travel habits.
2. In the second paragraph, the writer suggests that the search for authenticity...
 - A. is the only way to ensure a meaningful travel experience.
 - B. is often the cause of the very thing travellers are looking for.
 - C. has been successfully achieved through social media.
 - D. is a modern invention that lacks historical depth.
3. According to the third paragraph, what is a danger of 'experiential tourism'?
 - A. It prevents locals from earning enough money to sustain themselves.
 - B. It leads to the complete disappearance of traditional crafts.
 - C. It turns genuine cultural practices into superficial displays.
 - D. It encourages visitors to ignore local spiritual values.
4. What does the writer imply about the 'hyper-mobile' professional in the fourth paragraph?
 - A. They contribute significantly to the stability of local communities.
 - B. Their presence can lead to a loss of community cohesion.
 - C. They are more likely to respect local traditions than traditional tourists.
 - D. They help bridge the gap between different cultural identities.
5. How does the writer view the argument made by proponents of modern travel?
 - A. As a valid perspective that challenges romanticised views of culture.
 - B. As a way to justify the destructive nature of modern tourism.
 - C. As a misunderrcally optimistic view of economic growth.
 - D. As an argument that fails to account for the loss of local revenue.
6. What is the overall tone of the conclusion?

- A. Celebratory, regarding the new era of global mobility.
- B. Dismissive, of the importance of maintaining cultural integrity.
- C. Cautionary, urging a more mindful approach to travel.
- D. Indifferent, as the writer sees no way to resolve the paradox.

Gapped text – missing sentences

Instructions: Choose the correct sentence (A-E) to fill the gaps in the text. Note that one option is a distractor.

- A. This shift often leads to a situation where the local population feels pressured to adapt to external expectations.
- B. Consequently, the distinction between a resident and a tourist becomes increasingly blurred.
- C. This phenomenon is often referred to as 'cultural erosion' by sociologists.
- D. Such a transformation can lead to a disconnect between the people and their traditional way of life.
- E. However, this does not mean that the economic benefits are entirely without merit.

Glossary

- Metamorphosis (metamorfosis/transformación)
- Commodification (mercantilización)
- Homogenising (homogeneizador)
- Palpable (palpable/evidente)
- Integrity (integridad)
- Transient (transitorio/pasajero)
- Catalyst (catalizador)
- Sanctity (santidad/carácter sagrado)

Answers

Comprehension

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. B
- 5. A
- 6. C

Gapped Text (Sequence of logic based on the text structure)

Note: In a real exam, the gaps would be marked in the text. Based on the logical flow of the provided text:

- * Gap 1 (Para 2): D
 - * Gap 2 (Para 3): A
 - * Gap 3 (Para 4): B
 - * Gap 4 (Para 5): E
- (Distractor: C)

The Soul of Travel: Identity and Authenticity

Esta actividad de comprensión auditiva se divide en tres partes para poner a prueba tu capacidad de análisis. Primero, responderás a preguntas de opción múltiple; segundo, completarás frases utilizando palabras exactas del audio; y finalmente, resolverás preguntas de opción múltiple sobre el monólogo y el debate.

Part 1 – Conversation (questions 1–6)

|

Question |

Options |

1 |

What has changed regarding Speaker 2's approach to travelling? |

They now prefer visiting as many landmarks as possible. / They have moved from ticking off sights to seeking deeper meaning. / They find that travel has become too expensive and superficial. / They are no longer interested in visiting historical sites. |

2 |

Why does Speaker 2 find the 'checklist' approach to travel unsatisfying? |

It is too physically demanding for modern travellers. / It focuses on spectacle rather than genuine connection. / It makes it difficult to take good photographs. / It prevents travellers from seeing the most famous sites. |

3 |

According to Speaker 2, how can travel influence one's personality? |

It results in a complete change of character. / It validates one's own cultural way of life. / It challenges existing preconceptions and biases. / It makes people feel more comfortable in their own culture. |

4 |

What does Speaker 1 suggest is a risk of 'cultural tourism'? |

That it becomes too expensive for the average person. / That traditions are consumed purely as an aesthetic experience. / That travellers lose interest in visiting remote locations. / That local people become too reliant on foreign visitors. |

5 |

How does Speaker 2 describe the difference between a 'curious guest' and a 'consumer'? |

A guest pays more, while a consumer looks for bargains. / A guest seeks understanding, while a consumer uses culture as a backdrop. / A guest stays longer, while a consumer moves quickly between spots. / A guest respects local laws, while a consumer ignores them. |

6 |

What is the 'real essence of travel' according to the conversation? |

To see as many new landscapes as possible. / To collect authentic souvenirs from different places. / To develop a nuanced understanding of the human condition. / To escape from one's own cultural identity. |

Part 2 – Monologue: sentence completion (questions 7–12)

Complete each sentence with 1–3 words from the recording.

1. The speaker felt that the checklist approach to travel was somewhat _.
2. Travel can force you to question your own _.
3. The most profound trips are those that make you feel a bit _.

4. Using culture as a backdrop for your own _ is a sign of consumerism.
5. The speaker wants to move from being a spectator to being a _.
6. Travel allows for a more _ understanding of the human condition.

Part 3 – Panel discussion (questions 13–18)

13. What is the primary tension discussed in the monologue?

- The cost of travel versus the quality of the experience.
- Globalised tourism versus the preservation of cultural identity.
- The rise of social media versus traditional travel agencies.
- The economic benefits of tourism versus environmental damage.

14. What is 'cultural commodification' as described by the narrator?

- The process of teaching local traditions to foreigners.
- The economic growth caused by selling local crafts.
- Repackaging traditions into standardised products for tourists.
- The protection of sacred sites through government regulation.

15. What psychological impact might tourism have on local younger generations?

- They may lose interest in travelling abroad.
- They might view their heritage through a profitable lens.
- They may become more connected to their local community.
- They might struggle to learn foreign languages.

16. What does the narrator suggest is a potential benefit of ethical tourism?

- It can lead to the complete disappearance of local traditions.
- It can act as a catalyst for cultural pride and preservation.
- It ensures that all travel remains predictable and comfortable.
- It allows tourists to take ownership of local heritage.

17. How does Speaker 2 in the panel discussion view the term 'voyeurism'?

- They believe it is an accurate description of modern travel.
- They think it is too cynical a term for the experience.
- They feel it describes the reality of short-term visits.
- They argue it is the only way to truly experience a culture.

18. What is Speaker 3's main criticism of travellers seeking 'authentic' experiences?

- They are often too expensive to maintain.
- It can be a form of romanticising the other.
- It is impossible to achieve in a modern world.
- It leads to too much cultural exchange.

Vocabulario clave

- nuanced — matizado / con matices - preconceptions — prejuicios / ideas preconcebidas - hit the nail on the head — dar en el clavo - commodification — mercantilización - catalyst — catalizador - equilibrium — equilibrio - voyeurism — voyeurismo - eurocentric — eurocéntrico
- ### Respuestas

Part 1: 1. A · 2. C · 3. C · 4. A · 5. A · 6. D

Part 2: 1. superficial · 2. cultural biases · 3. out of place · 4. narrative · 5. participant · 6. nuanced

Part 3: 13. B · 14. A · 15. A · 16. C · 17. C · 18. C

Transcript

Ver transcript completo

SEGMENT 1 — CONVERSATION

Speaker 1: So, I was looking through those old photos from your trip to Kyoto last year, and it struck me how much your perspective on travel seems to have shifted. You used to be all about ticking off landmarks, but now you seem more interested in... well, the soul of a place?

Speaker 2: That's a fair observation, actually. I suppose I've come to realise that the 'checklist' approach to travel is somewhat superficial, isn't it? It's all about the spectacle, but you leave feeling strangely empty. In Kyoto, I found myself more drawn to the quiet rituals—the way a tea master moves or the specific silence of a temple garden. It felt less like sightseeing and more like an encounter with a different way of being.

Speaker 1: I see what you mean. It's almost as if you're searching for a sense of identity through these cultural encounters. Do you think that experiencing such vastly different traditions actually influences who you are back home?

Speaker 2: To some extent, certainly. It's not that I've undergone a complete personality transplant, obviously, but it does challenge my preconceptions. It forces you to question your own cultural biases. I think we often travel to validate our own way of life, but the most profound trips are those that make you feel a bit... out of place, in a constructive way.

Speaker 1: That's a nuanced way to put it. Although, I do wonder if there's a risk of 'cultural tourism'—you know, where people just consume these traditions as a sort of aesthetic experience without truly understanding the depth behind them.

Speaker 2: You've hit the nail on the head there. It's a fine line to walk. There's a massive difference between being a curious guest and being a consumer. If you're just there to snap a photo for Instagram and move on to the next 'authentic' spot, you're not really engaging with the culture; you're just using it as a backdrop for your own narrative.

Speaker 1: Right, so it's about moving from being a spectator to being a participant, even if only in a minimal, respectful capacity.

Speaker 2: Exactly. It's about empathy and presence. I think that's the real essence of travel—not just seeing new landscapes, but developing a more nuanced understanding of the human condition through these different lenses.

SEGMENT 2 — MONOLOGUE

Narrator: Good morning, listeners. Today, we're delving into a concept that sits at the very heart of the modern travel industry: the tension between globalised tourism and the preservation of cultural identity. For decades, the travel industry has been driven by a desire for accessibility. We want the world to be reachable, easy to navigate, and predictably comfortable. However, this very ease often comes at a significant cost to the authenticity of the destinations we flock to visit.

Narrator: When a location becomes a 'hotspot,' we often see a process of cultural commodification. This is where local traditions, rituals, and even sacred sites are repackaged into digestible, standardised products for the global tourist market. While this certainly brings economic benefits

to the local community, one has to ask: at what point does a culture lose its essence when it is tailored specifically to meet the expectations of outsiders? We see this in the way traditional dances are shortened for performances or how local crafts are mass-produced to suit souvenir tastes.

Narrator: Furthermore, there is the psychological impact on the local population. When identity becomes tied to tourism, the line between genuine tradition and performance begins to blur. Younger generations may grow up viewing their own heritage through the lens of what will be most profitable or most 'Instagrammable' for visitors. This can lead to a fragmented sense of identity, where the authentic self is suppressed in favour of a curated persona designed for the tourist gaze.

Narrator: Yet, it would be overly simplistic to suggest that tourism is purely detrimental. It can, when managed ethically, act as a catalyst for cultural pride and preservation. It can provide the financial resources necessary to maintain heritage sites that might otherwise fall into ruin. The challenge, therefore, lies in finding a sustainable equilibrium. We need to move towards a model of 'responsible immersion'—where travel is not an act of extraction, but one of mutual exchange.

Narrator: Ultimately, the question of identity in travel is a question of respect. It requires us, as travellers, to acknowledge that we are entering someone else's lived reality. We must approach these spaces with a degree of humility, recognising that while we are visitors, the culture we are witnessing is a living, breathing entity with its own autonomy. As we navigate this increasingly interconnected world, the goal should be to foster global understanding without erasing the unique cultural fingerprints that make our world so diverse.

SEGMENT 3 — PANEL DISCUSSION

Speaker 1: Welcome to our final segment. We've been discussing the impact of travel on identity, and I'd like to bring in our panel to debate a rather controversial point: can a person ever truly 'experience' a culture, or is it always just a form of sophisticated voyeurism?

Speaker 2: If I could jump in there, I think the term 'voyeurism' is a bit too cynical, isn't it? I wouldn't say it's purely about watching from a distance. I believe that through travel, we can achieve a genuine, albeit temporary, connection with another culture. It's not about claiming to fully understand a complex history in a fortnight, but it's about the empathy and the cognitive shifts that occur when you step outside your own bubble.

Speaker 3: I have to disagree slightly with that. While I agree that empathy is a vital component, I think we often fall into the trap of 'romanticising' the other. We travel to find something 'primitive' or 'untouched,' which is a deeply Eurocentric way of thinking. By looking for these 'authentic' experiences, we are often projecting our own fantasies onto these cultures. It's not an encounter with reality; it's an encounter with our own expectations.

Speaker 1: That's a provocative point, Speaker 3. So, are you suggesting that true cultural exchange is impossible within the framework of modern tourism?

Speaker 3: Not impossible, but it is incredibly difficult. Most tourism is structured around comfort and familiarity. To truly engage, you have to step into the uncomfortable, the unpredictable, and the unknown. Most people aren't willing to do that; they want the 'flavour' of the culture without any of the actual friction.

Speaker 2: But isn't some level of friction necessary for growth? If we only sought out the most challenging experiences, travel would become an elitist pursuit reserved for the most intrepid adventurers. I think the goal should be to democratise these experiences while still encouraging a level of mindful engagement. We don't need to live in discomfort to be respectful.

Speaker 1: So, we have two distinct schools of thought here. One suggests that the very structure of tourism prevents genuine engagement, while the other argues that meaningful connection is possible through intentionality and empathy.

Speaker 3: Precisely. And I would add that we must also consider the power dynamics involved. Often, the traveller holds the economic power, which inherently skews the 'exchange.' It's rarely a meeting of equals.

Speaker 2: I take your point on power dynamics, certainly. However, I still believe that the potential

for positive transformation is immense. If we can move towards a more conscious form of travel, where the traveller is a guest rather than a consumer, we can mitigate many of those issues. It's about the intention behind the journey.

Speaker 1: A fascinating debate to conclude our session. It seems the answer lies in the delicate balance between curiosity and respect. Thank you both for your insights.

Lesson 7: Use of English

Part 1 – Word formation

Instructions: Complete the sentences by changing the form of the word in CAPITALS at the end.

- The sudden _____ of the ancient ruins caused a massive surge in local tourism. RELY
- Many travellers find that the _____ of local customs can lead to awkward social situations. MIS-UNDERSTAND
- Exploring remote villages provides an _____ insight into how traditional lifestyles are preserved. UNPARALLELED
- The museum's new exhibit aims to highlight the _____ of different ethnic groups within the city. DIVERSITY
- For many, a sense of _____ is deeply tied to the language they speak from childhood. IDENTITY
- The guide's _____ account of the expedition made us feel as if we were actually there. VIVID
- There is an _____ need to protect endangered cultural heritage sites from over-tourism. IMPER-ATIVE
- The _____ of the landscape was so breathtaking that we all stood in silence. MAGNIFICENT

Part 2 – Key word transformations

Instructions: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

1. Because she had travelled to so many countries, she felt very at home in any airport. EXPERIENCED
 _____ countries, she felt very at home in any airport.
2. As soon as he finished his meal, he decided to head off to the local market. FINISHED
 _____ his meal, he decided to head off to the local market.
3. Since the city was built on a volcanic island, the architecture is quite unique. BEING
 _____ on a volcanic island, the architecture is quite unique.
4. Because he was overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the cathedral, he couldn't speak. OVER-WHELMED
 _____ by the sheer scale of the cathedral, he couldn't speak.
5. After they had spent months planning the trip, they finally set off. SPENT
 _____ months planning the trip, they finally set off.
6. Because the flight was delayed, we spent the entire afternoon in the terminal. DELAYED
 _____ by the flight, we spent the entire afternoon in the terminal.

Answer key

- discovery
- misunderstanding
- unparalleled
- diversity
- identity
- vivid
- imperative
- magnificence
- Having experienced so many
- Having finished
- Being built
- Overwhelmed
- Having spent
- Being delayed

Lesson 8: Writing Workshop

Unit 8: Travel, Culture & Identity

Writing: The Review

Task (Cambridge C1 Advanced, Part 2)

Instructions:

You see this task in the exam:

Review

You have seen the following text on an international travel magazine website:

Exploring the world through its people: Is traditional tourism dying?

Many travellers are moving away from typical sightseeing and instead seeking 'cultural immersion' experiences. They want to live like locals, learn new traditions, and understand the true identity of a place.

Write a review of a travel documentary or a book you have recently read that explores the relationship between travel and culture. You should describe the work, explain how it explores the theme of identity, and state whether you would recommend it to other travellers.

Write your review in 220–260 words in an appropriate style.

Tips (en español)

- Structure: No te limites a resumir. Divide el texto en: Introducción (contexto), Desarrollo 1 (descripción del contenido), Desarrollo 2 (análisis del tema de identidad/cultura) y Conclusión (recomendación final).
- Register: El tono debe ser semi-formal o informal pero sofisticado. Evita el lenguaje excesivamente coloquial (slang), pero permite cierta personalidad para que sea una "review" atractiva.
- Linking: Usa conectores de transición para moverte entre la descripción y tu opinión (e.g., Moving on to..., What is particularly striking is...).
- Hedging: En el nivel C1, evita generalizaciones absolutas. En lugar de "The book is perfect", usa "The book offers a compelling insight into..." para mostrar matices.
- Evaluación de ideas: No digas solo si te gustó o no. Explica por qué el autor logra (o no) transmitir la esencia de la cultura. La crítica debe ser analítica.
- Time management: Dedicar los primeros 5 minutos a planificar el enfoque. No escribas la descripción y la opinión al mismo tiempo; primero decide qué puntos clave quieres resaltar.

Useful language

|

Expression |

Español |

Audio |

1 |

What immediately stands out is... |

Lo que destaca enseguida es... |

|

2 |

At first glance, the scene appears to... |

A primera vista, la escena parece... |

|

3 |

Whereas the first image suggests..., the second one points to... |

Mientras que la primera imagen sugiere..., la segunda apunta a... |

|

4 |

There is a striking contrast between... and... |

Hay un contraste marcado entre... y... |

|

5 |

The people seem to be dealing with... |

Las personas parecen estar lidiando con... |

|

6 |

It is highly likely that... |

Es muy probable que... |

|

7 |

One could infer that... |

Se podría inferir que... |

|

8 |

This might reflect a broader issue: ... |

Esto podría reflejar un problema más amplio: ... |

|

9 |

Although the setting is different, both images convey... |

Aunque el contexto es distinto, ambas imágenes transmiten... |

|

10 |

The overall impression is one of... |

La impresión general es de... |

|

11 |

This would be a useful example of... |

Esto sería un ejemplo útil de... |

|

12 |

I would argue that the second image feels more... |

Diría que la segunda imagen resulta más... |

|

Model answer

Title: A Journey into the Soul of the Andes

The Last Inka, a captivating documentary directed by Elena Rossi, explores the delicate intersection between modern tourism and the preservation of indigenous identity in Peru. Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Sacred Valley, the film follows a group of travellers attempting to live authentically within local communities.

The documentary delves into the tension between "cultural tourism" and genuine connection. Rather than focusing on mere sightseeing, Rossi focuses on the human element: how the influx of outsiders affects the traditional way of life. The film offers a profound insight into the struggle to maintain one's identity when faced with the commercialisation of heritage. What is particularly striking is the portrayal of the local elders, whose wisdom provides a poignant contrast to the fast-paced lives of the tourists.

While some might find the documentary's pacing somewhat meditative, this slow approach is essential to the film's message. It forces the viewer to step out of the "tourist mindset" and engage with the reality of the environment. It challenges the notion that travel is merely a consumer product, suggesting instead that it should be a transformative exchange.

Ultimately, The Last Inka is much more than a travelogue; it is a philosophical inquiry into what it means to belong to a place. I would highly recommend it to any seasoned traveller who seeks to understand the deeper implications of their journeys. It is a thought-provoking masterpiece that stays with you long after the credits roll.

Marking checklist

- Content: Have you addressed all parts of the task? (Description, exploration of identity, and a clear recommendation).
- Communicative Achievement: Is the tone appropriate for a magazine review? Does it engage the reader while remaining sophisticated?
- Organisation: Is the text logically organised into clear paragraphs with effective use of cohesive devices (linking words)?
- Language: Have you used a wide range of advanced vocabulary and complex grammatical structures (e.g., inversion, conditionals, passive voice) accurately?

Vocabulario para Writing & Speaking

Expression |

Español |

Useful C1 example |

cross-cultural awareness |

conciencia intercultural |

Travel can develop cross-cultural awareness. |

cultural adjustment |

adaptación cultural |

Cultural adjustment may take several months. |

to broaden one's horizons |

ampliar horizontes |

Studying abroad broadens one's horizons. |

local customs |

costumbres locales |

Respecting local customs matters. |

a sense of place |

sentido de lugar |

Architecture creates a sense of place. |

cultural identity |

identidad cultural |

Language is central to cultural identity. |

to step outside one's comfort zone |

salir de la zona de confort |

Travel forces people to step outside their comfort zone. |

mutual understanding |

entendimiento mutuo |

Tourism can promote mutual understanding. |

Speaking – describe & compare

Compara las dos imágenes (la imagen generada y una imaginaria de un turista en una ciudad tecnológica moderna). Describe las similitudes y las diferencias, y comenta qué sentimientos o ideas transmiten las imágenes sobre el concepto de viajar y la identidad cultural. Debes hablar durante 2 minutos.



speaking

Useful phrases

- It appears to me that the subject is... — Me parece que el sujeto está... - One striking difference between the two scenes is... — Una diferencia llamativa entre las dos escenas es... - The atmosphere seems to be somewhat... — El ambiente parece ser algo... - In stark contrast to the first image, this one... — En marcado contraste con la primera imagen, esta... - There is a sense of immersion in the local culture. — Hay una sensación de inmersión en la cultura local. - The setting suggests a much more traditional way of life. — El entorno sugiere una forma de vida mucho más tradicional. - It could be argued that the traveller is seeking... — Se podría argumentar que el viajero está buscando... - The composition of the photo highlights... — La composición de la foto resalta... - While the first image is quite vibrant, the second is... — Mientras que la primera imagen es bastante vibrante, la segunda es... - The traveller seems to be lost in thought regarding... — El viajero parece estar absorto en sus pensamientos respecto

a... - This evokes a feeling of solitude amidst the crowd. — Esto evoca un sentimiento de soledad en medio de la multitud. - Judging by her expression, she might be feeling... — A juzgar por su expresión, ella podría estar sintiéndose... ### Pronunciación

Presta atención a las letras mudas (silent letters) en palabras comunes de este tema como 'island' (/ˈaɪ.lənd/) o 'climb' (/klaɪm/). Además, practica la pronunciación de 'culture' (/ˈkʌl.tʃər/) para evitar añadir una vocal extra al final, y asegúrate de que la 't' en 'identity' sea clara pero natural.

Model answer

In this first image, we see a young woman deeply immersed in a traditional Moroccan market, seemingly lost in thought while consulting a paper map. The atmosphere feels incredibly authentic, with the warm sunlight filtering through the wooden slats creating a sense of timelessness. It appears to me that she is seeking a genuine connection with the local culture, rather than just being a passive observer.

In stark contrast, if we were to compare this to a scene of a tourist in a high-tech, modern city, the vibe would be entirely different. While the modern setting might offer convenience and efficiency, it often lacks the sensory richness seen here. In the market scene, there is a palpable sense of history and tradition that shapes the traveller's identity through discovery.

One striking difference is the level of engagement with the surroundings; here, the traveller is physically and mentally present in an ancient environment. While the modern traveller might rely heavily on digital tools, this woman's use of a paper map suggests a more deliberate, perhaps more challenging, way of navigating a new culture. Ultimately, the image evokes a feeling of quiet contemplation amidst the bustling, vibrant chaos of the marketplace.

Lesson 10: Mediation Task

Mediation

Basándote en la información de la agencia, escribe un correo electrónico a tus amigos para proponerles este nuevo tipo de viaje. Debes utilizar un registro informal pero persuasivo, explicando los beneficios de la inmersión cultural y comparándola con los viajes tradicionales para convencerlos de que vale la pena el coste.

Texto original (español)

La Agencia de Viajes 'Mundo Global' ha lanzado un nuevo programa de 'Turismo de Inmersión Cultural'. A diferencia de los tours convencionales, este programa permite a los viajeros vivir con familias locales, participar en sus tradiciones diarias y aprender lenguas regionales. El objetivo es fomentar el respeto mutuo y el intercambio de identidad, evitando el turismo de masas. Los viajes son de corta duración (una semana) pero de alta intensidad cultural. Se requiere un perfil de viajero curioso y respetuoso. El coste es ligeramente superior a un paquete estándar debido a la personalización de las experiencias.

Imagen de apoyo



mediation

Estrategias clave

- Identificar los puntos clave del texto original (inmersión, intercambio, coste).
- Adaptar el tono de un anuncio formal a un correo electrónico informal entre amigos.
- Sintetizar la información para evitar repeticiones innecesarias.
- Utilizar conectores de contraste para comparar el turismo tradicional con el de inmersión.
- Transformar datos objetivos en argumentos persuasivos.
- Mantener la coherencia temática sobre identidad y cultura durante todo el texto.

Audiencia de destino

your group of friends who are planning a summer trip

Respuesta modelo (English)

Hi everyone,

I've just come across something fascinating for our summer trip! I was looking at 'Mundo Global's' new immersion programme, and it's totally different from the usual sightseeing tours we usually go for.

Instead of just snapping photos of monuments, this involves living with local families and actually getting involved in their daily traditions. It's all about true cultural exchange and understanding different identities firsthand. While it is a bit more expensive than our typical budget holidays, I honestly think it's worth every penny. We wouldn't just be tourists; we'd be experiencing the heart of the culture.

It's a week-long intensive experience, which fits our schedule perfectly. Since we're all looking for something more meaningful than just lying on a beach, this could be the perfect adventure. It requires a bit more effort to adapt to a new lifestyle, but I know we're up for the challenge!

What do you think? Should we swap the standard hotels for something more authentic this year?

Best,

[Your Name]

Lesson 11: Podcast Guide

Podcast Guide – Travel, Culture & Identity

Escuchar podcasts auténticos es fundamental en el nivel C1 para acostumbrarte a la velocidad natural, los modismos y los diversos acentos del mundo real. En esta guía, encontrarás recursos seleccionados que desafiarán tu comprensión auditiva mientras exploras temas complejos sobre la identidad y el impacto cultural del viaje.

Recommended podcasts (3 total)

1. BBC: Desert Island Discs

- Level & accent: British (Received Pronunciation / various), C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: Any episode featuring a writer or traveller (e.g., travel memoirs).
- Why it's useful for C1: Este programa es perfecto para entender la narrativa personal y cómo la identidad se moldea a través de las experiencias de vida. El lenguaje es sofisticado, pero el formato de entrevista permite seguir el hilo conductor fácilmente.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To be shaped by... (Ser moldeado/influenciado por...)

- A turning point in my life (Un punto de inflexión en mi vida)
- To leave a lasting impression (Dejar una impresión duradera)
- To wander aimlessly (Vagar sin rumbo)
- To find one's roots (Encontrar las raíces de uno mismo)

2. TED Talks Daily

- Level & accent: Mixed (Global English), C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: Episodes related to "Cultural Identity" or "The Psychology of Travel".

- Why it's useful for C1: Las charlas de TED ofrecen una estructura argumentativa clara que es esencial para los exámenes de Cambridge. Te ayudará a aprender cómo exponer ideas abstractas y complejas de manera coherente.

- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To challenge our assumptions (Desafiar nuestras suposiciones/prejuicios)

- A sense of belonging (Un sentido de pertenencia)
- To bridge the gap between... (Cerrar la brecha entre...)
- To be deeply ingrained in... (Estar profundamente arraigado en...)
- To broaden one's horizons (Ampliar los horizontes de uno mismo)

3. The Inquiry (BBC World Service)

- Level & accent: British/International, C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: Episodes regarding "Globalisation" or "Cultural Heritage".
- Why it's useful for C1: Este podcast utiliza un lenguaje periodístico de alto nivel y trata temas de actualidad global. Es ideal para practicar la escucha de debates y análisis profundos sobre cómo la cultura cambia con el movimiento de las personas.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To spark a debate (Desencadenar un debate)

- The nuances of... (Los matices de...)
- To undergo a transformation (Experimentar una transformación)
- To be inextricably linked to... (Estar inextricablemente ligado a...)
- To pose a threat to... (Suponer una amenaza para...)

Active listening strategies (C1)

- Escucha por capas: No intentes entender cada palabra desde el primer segundo. La primera escucha debe ser para captar la idea general (gist); la segunda, para los detalles.
- Anticipación de contexto: Antes de darle al play, lee el título y la descripción. Predice qué vocabulario o temas podrían surgir para preparar tu cerebro.
- Identificación de marcadores discursivos: Presta especial atención a las palabras que conectan ideas (however, nonetheless, furthermore). Estas son las señales que te indican hacia dónde va el argumento.
- Notas selectivas (Notetaking): No escribas frases completas. Utiliza palabras clave, símbolos o esquemas para registrar ideas principales y detalles relevantes sin perder el hilo.
- Análisis de la entonación: En C1, el significado a menudo reside en el tono. Escucha cómo el hablante usa la entonación para enfatizar, mostrar ironía o expresar duda.
- Aceptación de la ambigüedad: Si no entiendes una palabra, no te detengas. Intenta deducir su significado por el contexto y sigue adelante; detenerse rompe tu fluidez de comprensión.

Follow-up task

Task: The "Deep Dive" Reflection

- Vocabulary Extraction: While listening, write down 5-8 new words or collocations. Look up their definitions and write one original sentence for each that relates to your own life or opinions.
- Summary Writing: Write a 150-word summary of the episode. You must use at least three of the "key phrases" you listened for to practice their integration.
- Critical Response (Speaking): Record a 2-minute voice note on your phone. In this recording, you must argue whether you agree or disagree with the speaker's perspective, using advanced connectors (e.g., consequently, albeit, whereas).
- Self-Correction: Listen to your own voice note. Did you use the new vocabulary correctly? Did you sound natural? Note one thing to improve for your next recording.

Lesson 12: Media Guide

Cine & Series – Travel, Culture & Identity

Utilizar contenido audiovisual auténtico te permite exponerte a matices de registro y modismos que los libros de texto no suelen cubrir. Al ver series de alta calidad, entrenarás tu oído para entender estructuras complejas como las cláusulas de participio en contextos naturales.

Recommended title

- Title: The Crown, 2016–2023, Netflix
- Accent/dialect: Received Pronunciation (RP) and various British regional accents.
- Why it's perfect for C1: The series offers a sophisticated level of vocabulary regarding politics, tradition, and social etiquette. It is ideal for studying the tension between personal identity and public duty, using a highly formal register that is essential for C1 writing and speaking.
- Episodes to start with: Season 1, Episodes 1–4.

Language focus

-

"Having been raised in the constraints of royalty, Elizabeth found her personal identity often at odds with her public duties."

Vocabulary note: At odds with /æt ɒdz wɪð/ (en conflicto con / en desacuerdo con)

- Grammar spotlight: This uses a Perfect Participle clause (Having been raised...) to establish a background cause or reason before the main clause.

-

"The Queen, appearing somewhat detached from the changing social landscape, struggled to relate to the modern era."

Vocabulary note: Detached /dɪ'tætʃt/ (distante / desapegado)

- Grammar spotlight: This uses a Present Participle clause (appearing...) to provide extra information about the subject, functioning like a more sophisticated relative clause.

-

”Driven by a sense of duty, much of her life was sacrificed for the sake of the Crown.”

Vocabulary note: For the sake of /fɔː ðə seɪk əv/ (por el bien de / en aras de)

- Grammar spotlight: This uses a Past Participle clause (Driven by...) to express a passive meaning (she was driven), which is a common way to start sentences in formal English.

Viewing task (active watching)

- Vocabulary Log: Note down at least 10 new words or idiomatic expressions per hour of viewing.
- Register Analysis: Identify moments where the characters shift from formal ”court” language to informal, private conversations.
- Grammar Hunt: Listen specifically for sentences starting with -ing or -ed (Participle clauses) and write them down to see how they replace longer relative clauses.
- Oral Summary: After each episode, record a 2-3 sentence summary on your phone using at least one participle clause to practice your flow.

Similar titles (2 alternatives)

- Travels with My Father (2021): A heartwarming film perfect for practicing conversational English and themes of family identity.
- Black Mirror (Selected episodes): Great for advanced learners to explore modern identity and technological culture through high-level, often dark, vocabulary.

The Crossroads of Heritage



everyday_scene

En esta escena, vemos a una viajera joven navegando por un mercado local, un momento que simboliza la intersección entre la curiosidad del viajero y la autenticidad de una cultura ajena. Esta imagen nos permite discutir cómo el viaje moldea nuestra identidad y cómo nos adaptamos a entornos desconocidos.

Preguntas para hablar (Speaking practice)

- Describe what is happening in this scene and the atmosphere of the setting.
- How might the woman's travel experiences be influencing her sense of identity?
- Speculate on why the woman might be looking at a paper map instead of using a smartphone.
- Compare the experience of solo travel with travelling in a group. Which is more enriching?
- To what extent do you believe that visiting foreign countries changes a person's perspective on life?

Unit review – Travel, Culture & Identity

Al finalizar esta unidad, deberías ser capaz de utilizar estructuras gramaticales avanzadas, como las cláusulas de participio, para condensar información y mejorar la cohesión de tus textos. También deberías haber ampliado tu léxico para discutir temas abstractos relacionados con la identidad cultural, el impacto del turismo y las experiencias de viaje de manera sofisticada.

En este examen de revisión, pondrás a prueba tu capacidad para transformar frases complejas, utilizar colocaciones de nivel C1 y redactar textos coherentes. El objetivo es que evalúes si estás preparado para el nivel de precisión y fluidez que exige el examen Cambridge C1 Advanced.

Grammar consolidation

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

-

Because she was born in a small village, she felt like a stranger in the city. (BORN)

_____ in a small village, she felt like a stranger in the city.

-

After he had finished his research on local customs, he decided to move to Japan. (HAVING)

_____ his research on local customs, he decided to move to Japan.

-

Since I didn't want to offend the locals, I kept my opinions to myself. (WANTING)

_____ to offend the locals, I kept my opinions to myself.

-

The flight was delayed, which meant we missed our connecting flight. (DELAYED)

_____, we missed our connecting flight.

-

Because the city was overwhelmed by tourists, the locals began to leave. (OVERWHELMED)

_____ by tourists, the locals began to leave.

-

As he was travelling through South America, he met many interesting people. (TRAVELLING)

_____ through South America, he met many interesting people.

-

Because she had lost her passport, she couldn't board the plane. (LOST)

_____ her passport, she couldn't board the plane.

-

The book was written by a famous explorer, so it became a bestseller. (WRITTEN)

_____ by a famous explorer, the book became a bestseller.

-

Because they were exhausted from the long journey, they fell asleep immediately. (EXHAUSTED)

_____ from the long journey, they fell asleep immediately.

-

After we had explored the ruins, we went to a local cafe. (EXPLORING)

_____ the ruins, we went to a local cafe.

Vocabulary activation

A. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in capitals.

- The sudden _____ of traditional customs in the region is a cause for concern. (DISAPPEAR)
- Traveling alone can be a deeply _____ experience that changes your worldview. (TRANSFORM)
- Many people believe that cultural _____ is inevitable in a globalised world. (ASSIMILATE)
- The museum offers an _____ insight into the lives of ancient nomads. (EXHAUST)

B. Choose the correct collocation to complete the sentence.

- To truly understand a country, you must _____ its local customs.

a) catch / b) absorb / c) take

- The heavy rain _____ our travel plans for the weekend.

a) put off / b) set back / c) broke down

- We were struck by the _____ beauty of the remote islands.

a) breathtaking / b) heart-stopping / c) breath-takingly

- The city is a _____ of different cultures and traditions.

a) melting pot / b) mixing bowl / c) blending pot

C. Rewrite the sentences using a more formal/C1 register.

- The trip was really good and we learned a lot.

The journey proved to be highly _____.

- It is hard to understand why people like to travel so much.

The _____ of the human desire to travel remains a subject of debate.

- They want to keep their culture the same.

They aim to _____ their cultural heritage.

- The place was very crowded with tourists.

The area was _____ with tourists.

Integrated skills task

Source Text

"In an era of unprecedented global connectivity, the concept of 'authentic' travel has become increasingly blurred. As digital nomads traverse the globe, they often seek out 'untouched' destinations, yet their very presence can inadvertently alter the cultural fabric of the places they visit. While tourism provides a vital economic lifeline to many remote communities, it also risks turning sacred traditions into mere commodities for consumption. This tension between economic necessity and cultural preservation is the defining challenge of modern travel. Is it possible to experience a culture without fundamentally changing it, or is the act of observation itself a form of transformation?"

Writing Task

Instrucciones: Basándote en el texto anterior, escribe un ensayo (180-220 palabras) en el que analices los pros y los contras del turismo en comunidades locales. Debes discutir si el impacto económico compensa la posible pérdida de autenticidad cultural y dar tu opinión personal sobre cómo se puede viajar de forma más responsable.

Speaking checkpoint

- Compare: Compare the experience of travelling to a bustling metropolis with travelling to a remote, rural area. Which do you find more enriching?
- Speculate: How might the way we experience different cultures change in the next fifty years due to virtual reality?
- Evaluate: "Tourism does more harm to local identities than good." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
- Justify: If you had to choose between a luxury holiday or a backpacking adventure, which would you justify as a better way to learn about a culture?
- Compare: Compare the concept of 'home' for a local resident versus a long-term traveller.
- Evaluate: Evaluate the impact of social media on how people perceive 'authentic' travel destinations.

Self-assessment rubric

Criterion |

Needs work (B2) |

Solid (C1) |

Exam-ready (C1+/C2) |

Accuracy |

Frequent errors in complex structures. |

Good control; errors are rare and don't impede meaning. |

Highly accurate; sophisticated use of grammar. |

Range |

Uses basic vocabulary and simple sentences. |

Uses a wide range of vocabulary and varied structures. |

Exceptional range of idiomatic and advanced language. |

Fluency |
Hesitations when using complex grammar. |
Smooth delivery with natural pauses. |
Effortless flow; able to handle complex topics easily. |
Task Achievement |
Partially answers the prompt. |
Fully addresses all parts of the task. |
Provides deep, nuanced, and sophisticated responses. |

Answer key

Grammar consolidation

1. Born
2. Having finished
3. Not wanting
4. Being delayed / Having been delayed
5. Overwhelmed
6. Travelling
7. Having lost
8. Written
9. Being exhausted
10. Having explored

Vocabulary activation

1. disappearance
2. transformative
3. assimilation
4. exhaustive
5. b) absorb
6. b) set back
7. a) breathtaking
8. a) melting pot
9. enlightening / rewarding
10. motivation / impetus
11. preserve
12. teeming / swarming