

## WORD BANK 1

What are these words in your language?

## AT THE BEACH



beach hut (n)



sand (n) (U)



windbreak (n)



amusement arcade (n)



barbecue (n)  
have a barbecue (v)

U = Uncountable



jumper (n)



lens (n)

artist (n)

Pablo Picasso and Osamu Tezuka were both famous **artists**.

century (n)

My mum was born in the twentieth **century**.

coast (n)

She loves the sea – she has a house on the **coast**.

competition (n)

He won the singing **competition**.

degree (n)

It's 30 **degrees** (30°) outside, so you don't need a coat.

design (n & v)

He **designs** cool clothes.

machine (n)

There are **machines** to do most jobs around the house.

seaside (n)

In the holidays, I usually go to the **seaside** with my parents.

season (n)

The summer **season** is very busy at the beach. It's quieter **out of season** in the winter.

work of art (n)

Picasso's most famous **work of art** is *Guernica*.

# Introduction



The UK is a small country, but it has over 17,000 kilometres of coast – more than some big countries like India and Brazil. No place in Britain is further than 113 kilometres from the sea.

The British love the seaside, and everyone has their favourite place on the coast. For noisy fun, Blackpool is great. For cool shops and music, a lot of people choose Brighton. The beaches of Cornwall and Wales are popular for sports.

During the school holidays in July and August, the seaside is always busy. The summers in Britain are not always hot, but people still go to the beach. People put on jumpers and long trousers. They put up a windbreak so they don't feel the wind. If it's raining, there are amusement arcades and cafés near the beach. Some people swim in the sea ... but it is quite cold. Even in August, the water is usually 18 degrees or less.

Most people only visit the seaside in summer. From October to April, the sea is very cold and the winds on the coast are strong. So are the beaches empty? Of course not! Some people even prefer the coast out of season. And one man has decided to find out why.

# CHAPTER 1 Brilliant beach huts!



Suggs is the main singer in the band Madness. Suggs was eighteen when Madness became famous, but their songs are still popular.

Suggs was born in the seaside town of Hastings, in the south-east of England, and lived near the coast for a lot of his early life. Now he lives in London, but he still loves the sea. When he needs some time to himself, he likes to escape to the coast.

Suggs' favourite place on the coast is in Whitstable, in Kent. It is not far from London and a lot of people go there from the city. Suggs has a beach hut in Whitstable. There are about 23,000 beach huts in Britain. You can see a line of them at the top of some beaches. Inside a beach hut, you can change into your swimming clothes and keep your things for the beach. People don't usually live or sleep in them.

Twenty years ago, no one was very interested in British beach huts, but now they are really popular. You can pay the owner of a beach hut

and use it for a day, a week or a year. If you're rich enough, you can buy one. But they cost a lot of money – sometimes more than a flat! Beach hut owners include famous musicians, actors and artists. Even Queen Elizabeth II, the British Queen, had her own beach hut on the east coast. Of course it was quite big – the size of five or six ordinary huts.

Suggs' hut isn't as big as the Queen's, but he loves it! It has everything that he needs for a day at the beach. There's a radio, so he can listen to football matches, and a little cooker, so he can make a cup of tea. There's also a barbecue for cooking outside. Suggs goes to his beach hut at all times of year. In winter he likes to sit in the warm hut and watch the sea from the window.



Suggs decides to find out more about beach huts. At Mablethorpe, on the north-east coast of England, there are beach huts of every colour. There he meets writer Kathryn Ferry. She tells him about the first beach huts.

'Before beach huts, people had bathing machines,' Kathryn says, 'and

they were on wheels. Bathing machines appeared in the eighteenth century, and they were popular with rich people. You went into the machine to change into your swimming clothes. Then a horse pulled the machine into the sea. You went from the machine into the water, so no one could see you in your swimming clothes.'

Suggs laughs. It is hard to believe!



'But around the end of the nineteenth century, ideas changed a little,' says Kathryn. 'People didn't use bathing machines anymore. Some people took off the wheels and left the machines at the top of the beach. That was the start of beach huts.'

Kathryn wants to show Suggs some new beach huts at Mablethorpe. These new huts are the result of a design competition. The town asked designers to design beach huts for the twenty-first century. Kathryn helped to choose the best designs.

First, Suggs and Kathryn walk to a round, green building.

'This is a big drink of gin and tonic,' Kathryn explains. In Britain, gin and tonic is a popular summer drink.



The 'gin and tonic' beach hut

They go inside and look around.

'It's great,' says Suggs, 'but it doesn't feel like a beach hut. It feels like we're sitting in a work of art.'

The next beach hut looks more like the other huts at Mablethorpe, but inside it is very unusual. Suggs and Kathryn walk in and close the door. There is a glass lens in the top of the hut.

'The lens shows you what is happening outside,' says Kathryn.

'Does it work?' asks Suggs.

'Yes, look! There's the beach,' says Kathryn, 'and people!'

Kathryn has one more hut to show Suggs. In the middle of the grass and sand behind the beach, they see a strange building. It's brown, green, blue and pink.

'This is Jabba,' says Kathryn.

'Jabba the Hutt!\*' Suggs laughs. 'Well, it looks a bit like something from *Star Wars*!'

Suggs sits outside Jabba in the sun. He thinks about the strange new buildings that he has seen in Mablethorpe. He agrees with Kathryn that

\* Jabba the Hutt is in the *Star Wars* films.

they're clever and interesting. But for him they're works of art, not beach huts. He still prefers his own beach hut: four walls, two little windows, the football on the radio and a cup of tea!



The 'Jabba' beach hut



Now watch Clips 2 and 3 and answer the questions on pages 14–15.

 CLIP 2

## 1 Watch the clip and circle the correct words.

- a) Suggs is a famous *singer* / *artist*.
- b) Suggs has played in a *few* / *many* different cities.
- c) His home is in *London* / *a seaside town*.
- d) Suggs was born in *London* / *a seaside town*.
- e) He *likes* / *doesn't like* visiting his beach hut in winter.
- f) Beach huts *are* / *aren't* very popular in Britain.

## 2 What did you see in Suggs' beach hut? Tick the correct answers.

- a barbecue  bread  a chair   
 a cooker  a fridge  milk   
 a mirror  a radio  a toilet

## 3 Answer the questions.

- a) Are there beach huts in your country? How do they compare with Suggs' beach hut?
- b) Imagine you own a beach hut. What things do you have in it?

 CLIP 3

## 1 Watch the clip. Are these sentences true or false?

- |  | True                     | False                    |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Suggs is in the seaside town of Mablethorpe.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Beach huts have wheels.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Kathryn Ferry designs beach huts.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Suggs likes the 'gin and tonic' beach hut more than his hut.    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) They can see the beach from the beach hut with the lens.        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Suggs thinks Jabba looks like something from <i>Star Wars</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## 2 Tick the sentences which describe the Jabba beach hut. Now watch the clip again and check your answers.

- a) It's red and white.
- b) It's brown, green, blue and pink.
- c) It's got a lens inside.
- d) It looks like a drink.
- e) It's got sand around it.

## 3 Which of the beach huts in Mablethorpe do you like best?