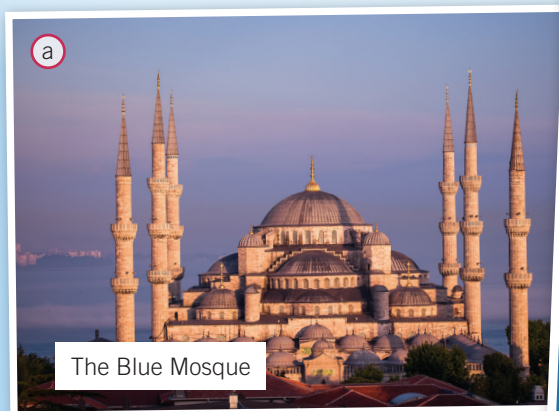


1 SPEAKING

a Look at the pictures and answer the questions with a partner.

- Where are these places? Why do millions of tourists take photos of them?
- What is the typical picture postcard image of your country?



2 READING



BETTER READING: PREDICTION

You can read more easily when you have an idea of what the text will be about. The title and pictures can help you predict this.

Look at the title of the text and the photo with its caption on page 37. What do you think this text will be about? Tick ✓ two of the topics below. Now skim (read the text quickly) to see if your ideas are correct.

- ☐ Italy from north to south
- ☐ The daily life of a gondolier
- ☐ What gondoliers think of their customers
- ☐ The history of Venice Airport

a Read the text again. Match paragraphs 1–4 with topics a–d below. Were your predictions in exercise 2 correct?

- ☐ The gondoliers of Venice
- ☐ Marco and his gondola
- ☐ The city and the tourists
- ☐ Marco's job and the customers

b Answer the questions.

Who or what ... ?

- cost 50,000 euros
- sings Italian songs
- got her licence in 2010
- usually fail the exam
- sells things for tourists



c Find words in the text with these meanings.

- Not big from side to side. (paragraph 1) _____
- A tool for taking photos of yourself with a smartphone. (paragraph 2) _____
- A document you need to become a gondolier. (paragraph 3) _____
- Things which tourists buy to remember a place. (paragraph 4) _____
- Large numbers of people. (paragraph 4) _____

d Choose the best endings for the sentences.

- Marco ...
a is famous. c likes taking photos.
b is careful with his gondola.
- Marco's customers ...
a are all very nice. c often sing.
b are always dangerous.
- Gondoliers have to ...
a pass an exam. b be Italian. c be men.
- The streets of Venice are ...
a full of normal shops. c full of tourists.
b good to walk along.



A gondola on a canal in Venice

Interview with a gondolier

by Emma J Tang

1 Everybody wants a photo of Marco, but not because he's famous. It's because of the boat he owns – the typical boat of Venice, a gondola. He spends each day going along the narrow canals of the city, but he never hits the walls. 'I don't want to damage the gondola,' he says. 'It cost 50,000 euros!'

2 'Do you enjoy your job?,' I ask. 'It's all I know', Marco replies. His father was a gondolier, and Marco learned how to move a gondola around Venice a long time before he learnt to drive a car. I ask him about his customers. 'They're a mix of people – some are very nice, others are crazy,' he says. 'They always use their selfie sticks to take photos, and they sometimes get in the way of other boats – it's quite dangerous, actually. And they often start singing Italian songs like *O Sole Mio* while we're going along the canal. What a terrible noise!'

3 There are around 450 licensed gondolas in Venice today. However, we don't see any women gondoliers, so I ask Marco about this. 'There's one', he says. 'Her name's Giorgia, and she got her licence in 2010.' I'm a bit surprised there is only one woman gondolier, but Marco doesn't understand either. 'I don't know why there aren't more,' he says. 'I know that women sometimes try to get a licence, but they usually fail the exam.' He explains that the exam is very difficult, including knowing about the weather, finding places in the city, knowing about history and speaking foreign languages. 'But I don't suppose it's more difficult for a woman than it is for a man,' he adds.

4 I want to know what Marco thinks of his home city, Venice. 'It's crazy,' he says. 'You can't walk along the streets easily anymore because of the crowds. So many people! And it's hard to find a normal shop – most of them only sell souvenirs for tourists.' When he has a few days free, Marco always goes to the mountains. 'It's nice just to walk normally,' he says. But then he always returns to Venice and the tourists. 'Tourists,' he says, 'We can't live with them, but we can't live without them!'

3 SPEAKING

a Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 What do you think it would be like to live in a place with a lot of tourists?
- 2 Do you prefer crowded or quiet places?
- 3 Do you like meeting new people? Why / Why not?