



## National Customs

### Task: Customs in Spain

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 7.

You are going to hear a talk about **going on vacation in Spain**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

Spain is a popular travel destination, and has been called more than once the Carribean of Europe. However, you must take into account that tourism and vacation has changed a lot from past to present.

In that past, there wasn't a lot of travelling out of Spain. So, one point to consider is that Spaniards mainly took their vacations in August. However, if you had a lower position in the workforce, this perhaps was not your luck. You may not be given the choice but to take your vacation in July. Another thing to think about is that since everybody went in the same time frame, prices were often inflated in house and apartment rentals, which could make it very expensive and it was very normal for extended family to rent one place and multiple family units all go at the same time so that they could enjoy a longer vacation period. Furthermore, since the majority of the people would take their summer break at the same time, it was very common for vacation spots to be overcrowded. If you were to go to a restaurant or the beach, you would have to go early enough to claim a place since there were so many people. Also, Spaniards used to go on vacation more within Spain than out of their country, because it was more expensive and there was less air transportation available.

Now, turning to the present, we can see that there has been changes when concerning Spaniards going on vacation. When comparing with the past, it ought to be noted that vacation periods are extended anywhere from June to October. Although, it remains true that the most popular times are in July and August. In addition, even though many people still rent houses, apartments and hotels, more vacation homes are owned by people these days. Notwithstanding these changes, the inflated prices of July and August are still there but with the use of the internet these days, somebody that is willing to do the research and hunt for an offer, can find a great price. An added perk for those that love to find good deals is that you should be able to see at the end of august sales on beach and summer clothing. Something else that is seen these days is that with more affordable international travel, more Spaniards are taking their holidays out of Spain. This might also be part of the reason why more foreigners are taking their holidays in Spain as well.

By and large, when comparing the past with the present, I believe it is safe to say that people of today have more choices than they did in the past. When and where do you like to go on vacation?



Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about going on vacation in the past and present in Spain.

Now tell me about going on vacation in the past and present in Spain. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Past	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the majority took vacation in August</li><li>• employees had to go in July</li><li>• Prices inflated during that period in house and apartment rentals</li><li>• Vacation spots over crowded</li><li>• Went on vacation more in Spain</li></ul>
Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vacation period has extended from June to October</li><li>• More people own vacation homes now</li><li>• Prices are still inflated but with internet can find a good deal</li><li>• At the end of August you can find good deals on beach and summer clothing</li><li>• With more affordable international travel, more Spaniards take their holidays out of Spain / more foreigners come to Spain</li></ul>

Marks: +\_ / +10