



Lifestyles

Task: Van Life

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 11.

You are going to hear a talk about **van life**. 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

There is something thrilling about traveling and living in a van while seeing different parts of the world. In many people's minds, this type of life lies at the root of all adventure of the unknown. It seems far-fetched to live in a van all the time, among which many people feel that they couldn't fit into van life. It is highly implausible that new travelers won't find that van life hasn't changed their life for the better. Even so, it doesn't come without its stumbling blocks, as you will see.

First and foremost, the best thing to do is to anticipate potential problems. It is a big if to travel without anything ever happening. In order to have little problems and that everything goes smoothly, somebody that embraces van life must plan for breakdowns. With that being the case, regular maintenance needs being done to make sure the van is working correctly. This way the traveler won't get stranded in the middle of nowhere. Something else that may cause some grief, is that of the weather. Particularly during the winter, it may be rather difficult if there is extreme cold and the solar energy that the traveler is using for power, doesn't obtain as much power. In a similar fashion, rainy days could also be tricky. Namely, when clothes get wet, then they could be hard to dry. On these types of days, it is just best to delve into things that help you stay calm, like relaxing, playing games and reading. Another aspect that is explicitly strenuous would be feeling and getting sick when traveling. Be it car sickness or feeling claustrophobic. Not to mention, the lack of access to a flushing toilet, no heater, being in a small place filled with empty medicine wrappers and used tissues. This can bring about some extremely uncomfortable situations to live in. One other drawback could be having to use electronic devices, such as mobile phones, laptops and so on. One might very well run into the problem of charging their devices. Assuming that this is an ordeal for the traveler, it is widely agreed that planning ahead and using power banks is the way to go.

Subsequently, seasoned travelers that have been well into van life for some time now, know that proper planning appears to be helpful to ease some of these situations. It is obvious that vans have small spaces to live in. So, for everything to go according to plan, the traveler must have taken into consideration solutions for aspects such as laundry, food storage, recycling, rubbish and so on. One of the many pleasures of traveling is to fully explore the different types of cuisines that you may encounter on your journeys, albeit it could become quite an expensive delight to be done on a regular basis. In the case that the traveler might want to save money, cooking with the use of camping kitchens is a good alternative. If an individual puts forward this cost effective way of living, it is broadly claimed that they would



see not only an incredible saving, but also they would eat well and healthier. However, it may surprise you that what emerges from this type of lifestyle, is a welcoming and helpful community that is eager to participate in guiding others. This stems from people with the likeminds and the same interest. Chances are that these like minded people just so happen to be full of advice they can share from prior experiences that the traveler can be pondering over. Only when you talk to others, will you gain more knowledge through their encounters. So, it all boils down to having great experiences without it costing you an arm and a leg. One more thing that can be done to save money, while being frugal, is to use laundry facilities or special laundry bags to wash all your clothes at once.

On a final note, this type of lifestyle isn't for everybody, but should be looked into and fully considered for those that love and hope for adventure. I dare say that in my humble opinion, for somebody that wants to adopt this way of life, they should learn from others that can contribute to ways that one can prepare. It might be that this will trigger people to require being responsible for programming their travels and plan for the unexpected and foster ideas of what they can do when things don't go their way.

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 the point of view of the speaker, the potential problems of van life and things people should do or know when living this lifestyle.**

Now tell me **about the point of view of the speaker, the potential problems of van life and things people should do or know when living this lifestyle.** You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learn from others, plan for the unexpected and be flexible and willing to learn when things don't go your way
Potential Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan for breakdowns: need regular maintenance to keep van working correctly ● Planning for the weather: winters are very difficult due to extreme cold and solar energy doesn't power as much ● Rainy days: clothes get wet and hard to dry; best to clean up, relax and play games or read ● Getting sick: feel car sickness and claustrophobic, lack of access to flushing toilet, no heater, small place to have empty medicine wrappers and tissues; important for sanity to keep tidy ● It takes time to charge devices; plan ahead and use power banks
Things you should do or know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vans are small spaces: need to plan for everything like, laundry, food storage, recycling, rubbish ● Eat well; save money cooking and use camping kitchens ● Van life community is welcoming and helpful; likeminds and same interest, can give advice from prior experiences ● Use laundry facilities or special laundry bags to be frugal and save money

Marks: +_ / +10

Grammar Focus:

- Connectors phrases: Assuming that / In the event that / In the case that, pronoun + might + verb (Assuming that I get coronavirus, I might become immune to it.)
- Only when + subject , will + subject (Only when people stick to social media, will Covid-19 stop spreading.)
- Be it or (Something must be done about global warming. Be it recycling or commuting to work.)
- Well into (He is well into his 40s.) / Anabel is well into her C2 book, but she hasn't finished yet.) Well over (She went well over the top when she told her child off in the store.) / Well after (He got a girlfriend well after he finished college.) / Well before (She bought a house well before she was 30.)
- It is a big if.... / If...., and that is a big if... (If we all recycle, then global warming wouldn't be an issue, but that's a big if.)
- need + verb-ing (The lack of social distancing issue need solving.) / Require + verb-ing (Releasing the lockdown requires being responsible.) / want + verb-ing (The baby wants feeding.)
- Reported verbs: It is said that... / It is widely known that... / It is widely agreed that... / It is broadly claimed that... / It is rumoured that... / It is alleged that... / It is stated that... / It is asserted that... / It is reported that... / Someone is known to... + passive
- Replace "you" for "one"
- Phrasal Verb: Put forward (Recent studies have put forward the fact that...)
- Connectors; Including / Particularly / For instance / For example / By way of illustration / To name a few / Namely / For illustrative purposes / To cite an instance / For the sake of example
- Connectors Among which / That is to say / Such as / Suchlike // In similar fashion / By the same token / Side by side with / Besides / In parallel with / In tandem with / Jointly with / Along with / Apart from this
- Appear to be / Revealed to be / Be proven to be / Be found to be
- It just so happens to be / (,but) as it happens(,) (I was going to dinner this evening, but as it happens, my sister came over and brought food with her.)
- attributed to / associated with / Relate to / ascribe / lay at the door of / has to do with / it is all down to / put down to / it boils down to / it comes down to / hold responsible for
- (All of that) arise out of / emerge from / emanate from / derive from / stem from / spring from / come from (the Greenhouse effect.)
- Lies at the root of
- Gives rise to / Sow the seeds of / Spawn / Prompt / Foster / Generate / Cause / Contribute to / Trigger / Spark / Lead to / Result in / Set in motion / Fan the flames of / Feed into / Be a recipe for something / Drive / Set off
- Phrasal Verbs: Bring about / Bring on / Bring along / Bring upon
- Expressions: Might very well / May very well / There's a big chance / Chances are
- Expression Collocations: It seems far-fetched / It is highly implausible that / There is a remote chance that / It seems preposterous that

- Collocations: fare well / go smoothly / run smoothly / proper functioning / work / do well / succeed / make good progress / go according to plan / thrive / flourish / be successful / come to fruition / bear fruit / yield results
- Expressions: To the best of my knowledge / I dare say / I do believe / I truly believe / In my humble opinion / My take on the issue is that / I feel that / My insight on this issue is / My stand on this issue is / My stance on this issue is
- Vocabulary: contemplate / chew over / mull over / think over / reflect upon / delve into / pondered over / ruminate on
- Vocabulary: investigate / fully explore / fully consider / an in-depth study / an in-depth investigation / further studied / further investigated / looked closely / reviewed thoroughly / studied in the full / broken (down) / looked into (I am under the impression that animal testing is a subject that not only should be reflected upon deeply, but also broken down / looked into.)
- Mixed Conditionals
- Modal with Passives
- Should / Might / Could / Must + have and Perfect Infinitive
- Wish / Hope / If Only
- Verbs followed gerund or / and infinitive: have them do / eager to participate
- Idioms and Expressions
- The Passive
- Tentative Expressions
- Intensifiers and Modifiers
- Signposting Words