

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 1 Do you prefer guided tours or learning about tourist sights by yourself? Why?
- 2 What kind of tourist destinations do you enjoy the most? Why?
- 3 Have you ever experienced problems at airport security checks or customs? What happened?
- 4 Describe the best vacation you have taken.
- 5 What is your opinion of medical tourism? Would you ever consider being a medical tourist? Why or why not?



## FEATURED READING

### Medical Tourism

Your flight lands at your tropical destination, and, being excited, you immediately run outside to smell the lovely, clean air and view the beautiful blue sky. Taking it all in, you inhale deeply, relax, appreciate the beauty and to then grab a taxi and head to the nearest hospital! Did you have an accident? Did the food on the airplane make you sick? Nope! You're a "medical tourist." You have been planning this trip for a long time, and now you have arrived at your destination to take advantage of high quality, low cost medical care and a little relaxation on the beach.

Why would anyone fly half way around the world to get medical treatment they could just get at home? Money. The cost of surgery in Western Europe and the United States is often 10 times the price of what it is in Thailand, India or South Africa, the leading medical tourist destinations. For example, a heart valve replacement in the US will cost you at least \$200,000, but in India the same procedure is performed for only \$10,000. And in the US, if you have any complications and need to spend extra time in the hospital, you will pay a hefty price. In Thailand, on the other hand, if you need to spend a few days in a resort on the beach while recovering, it will cost you nothing; it's included in the cost of the surgery. With savings and service like that, it's no wonder that this strange but very practical type of tourism is becoming so popular.



# Holidays

Holiday Syndrome

## KEY WORDS

<b>blues</b>	n. depression, gloom
<b>convivial</b>	adj. friendly and making you feel welcome
<b>festivities</b>	n. festive proceedings, celebrations
<b>ritual</b>	n. a formal ceremony
<b>symptom</b>	n. any sensation or change in bodily function
<b>insomnia</b>	n. chronic inability to fall asleep
<b>daughter-in-law</b>	n. the wife of one's son
<b>accommodation</b>	n. housing, lodging
<b>sister-in-law</b>	n. the sister of one's husband or wife, the wife of one's brother
<b>coined</b>	adj. fabricated, invented



## DIALOGUE

**W** : How was your New Year's holiday?

**M** : It wasn't too bad, but we were stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic on the way down to my grandparents' house. Can you believe it took us nine hours from Seoul to Daegu?

**W** : That's ridiculous! Why didn't you just take the train instead?

**M** : That was the initial plan, but I couldn't get my hands on any tickets. They were completely sold out.

**W** : Next year, you'd better book tickets months in advance.

**M** : Good idea. So how was your holiday?

**W** : I'd have to say that it was pretty stressful. I have an enormous extended family, so I spent most of the time in the kitchen helping my mother. I'm still aching all over.

**M** : It's amazing how much time and effort women put into preparing for the major holidays.

**W** : Unfortunately, their work is often taken for granted.

**M** : You're right. Maybe next year, I'll offer a helping hand in the kitchen too!

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 1 What are the activities that you do during the Lunar New Year's Day?
- 2 What is Holiday Syndrome? Do you think married women are the only ones who have Holiday syndrome?
- 3 Talk about the busiest and longest holidays you've ever had.
- 4 What are some symptoms you may go through before or after major holidays?
- 5 Do you know any other countries that celebrate New Year's Day? How do they celebrate it?



## FEATURED READING

### Holiday Blues for Married Women

When it comes to religious and cultural holidays, most people think of family gatherings and convivial festivities. However, the holiday season such as Seollal or Chuseok also brings many emotional and physical challenges for people like Sangmi. Several times a year, she suffers from various symptoms such as headache, fatigue and insomnia. It started when she married a man from a big, extended family. As the eldest daughter-in-law, she is expected to prepare the ancestral ritual at least 8 times a year. Her husband has 5 siblings, so it's not unusual to have 20 people to attend the ritual. To celebrate the major holidays, they arrive a day before and spend the night. As a hostess, she prepares accommodation and meals for them. Her sisters-in-law help her, of course, but she is the one who is in charge of all the work as perfect as it can be. With all this hard work, it is often the case that she can't even grab a bite until the ritual is over. She and her sisters-in-laws are stuck in the kitchen to cook and wash the dishes while men in the family enjoy the dishes. For Sangmi and other married women, born and grown up in a modernized nuclear family, traditional holidays come as a huge source of stress. This phenomenon has been coined as Holiday Syndrome, or Holiday depression, referring to a combination of symptoms many married women display before upcoming holidays.



# Did You Hear About That?

Today's media

## KEY WORDS

<b>mass media</b>	n. any means of communication, such as television, radio stations or newspapers, that reaches very large numbers of people
<b>embedded journalist</b>	n. a journalist who travels with a military unit during battle
<b>paparazzi</b>	n. photographers who follow celebrities around trying to get pictures of them to sell to magazines and newspapers
<b>slanted</b>	adj. characteristic of unfairly favoring one side of an argument; biased
<b>unrelenting</b>	adj. hard working; determined
<b>unbiased</b>	adj. based on facts instead of opinion or emotion
<b>merge</b>	v. to take 2 or more companies and turn them into one big company
<b>campaign</b>	n. the process of trying to become an elected politician, consists primarily of expensive public relations programs
<b>military hardware</b>	n. equipment such as engines, aircraft, tanks etc. used by the military to fight wars

## DIALOGUE

**M**: Everyone's talking about the recently released snapshots of the Hollywood actress and her boyfriend on vacation.

**W**: Yeah, I heard. Personally, I'm against the paparazzi.

**M**: Why? They're just doing their job.

**W**: I think it's wrong to hunt celebrities for the opportunity to photograph them.

**M**: Aren't you curious about their private lives?

**W**: Well, they are fun to look at, but it's an invasion of privacy.

**M**: I can't help but to think that celebrities often benefit from lots of press and the attention they receive from the paparazzi.

**W**: You're right. The issue is a double-edged sword.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 1 Do you think that the paparazzi invade people's privacy, or do you think they are just doing their jobs? Explain.
- 2 What is your opinion about reporters who are embedded with military units?
- 3 Do you trust today's media or do you think that most stories are slanted?
- 4 Would you like to be a journalist? Why or why not?
- 5 How many companies control the mass media in your country? Do you trust them?



## FEATURED READING

### Just How Free is Our "Free Press"

The free world remains free, in large part, due the unrelenting work of journalists who spend their days and nights searching for politicians who may be doing things that are illegal and/or immoral. And when these politicians are caught behaving badly, it is often the end of their careers and sometimes the beginning of their jail sentences! Unfortunate for them, but fortunate for us, as the constant threat of the media keeps politicians' behaviors in check. In America, the free press is a constitutional right and a necessity that all citizens cherish. Unfortunately for Americans, however, they seem to be losing their most precious possession, a free and unbiased media, through government deregulation and corporate mergers. In fact, in America today nearly all mass media is owned by just 6 companies: General Electric, Time Warner, Walt Disney, News Corp., CBS and Viacom. And media is not all that these companies are interested in. General Electric, for example, is one of the US government's biggest military hardware suppliers and a huge money donor to both the Republican and Democratic parties! With that in mind, what kind of reporting do you think you'll see on their TV stations when America goes to war? Supportive ones, I imagine. In addition, is it even possible to get fair and unbiased reporting when the entire media market is controlled by so few people? Clearly, it is not. When we watch the news today, it seems very likely that we are simply getting the opinions and views that these few corporate entities want us to see.



# I Think I'm in Love!

Dating

## KEY WORDS

<b>acceptable</b>	adj. satisfactory; ok
<b>blind date</b>	n. a date in which neither person has previously met
<b>survey</b>	n. a set of questions asked to many people in an attempt to gain specific knowledge
<b>participate</b>	v. to take part in something
<b>companion</b>	n. a person who is with another on a social occasion
<b>opinion</b>	n. a personal view or attitude
<b>innocent</b>	adj. naive and without harmful motives
<b>similarly</b>	adv. like; resemblingly



## DIALOGUE

**M** : Do you remember Melissa?

**W** : Of course, you've only mentioned her like a hundred times! How's everything going with her?  
Are you two lovebirds an official couple yet?

**M** : Well, things were going really well for awhile, but she's been playing hard to get recently.

**W** : What do you mean? Does she ignore your calls?

**M** : Yes, and what's even worse is that yesterday we were supposed to meet for dinner, but she stood me up!

**W** : You've got to be kidding! What was her excuse?

**M** : Her boss gave her some last minute work, and our dinner totally slipped her mind.

**W** : I don't buy it! I think you should call it quits. You don't deserve to be treated like that!

**M** : You're right, but I'm so into Melissa. It's going to take me awhile to get over her.