

Nom et Prénom : \_\_\_\_\_

Numéro : \_\_\_\_\_

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**Read the text below and do the exercises that follow.**

### **Why you should visit Switzerland**

*Author Sarah Schmalbruch tells us why Switzerland is such a great place for holidays.*

For being such a small country, Switzerland offers a surprising amount of cultural variety. It's divided into three regions, which are determined by the countries they border, and has four official languages. Although there's a definite Swiss influence throughout all of the country's regions, the regions also have strong influences from the countries they border, so traveling from one to another feels like traveling to a different country altogether.

Switzerland is not the kind of place where tourists fear using public restrooms; in fact it's just the opposite. The bathroom you find in a train station is probably going to be just as clean as the bathroom you find in your hotel room. And it's not just the public restrooms, it's the country's public transit, streets, water fountains — you can drink from most of them — and much more.

There's really no need to rent a car when traveling to Switzerland. The Swiss have their public transportation system down to a science. The trains are on time down to the second — trust me, I've missed enough to know — and you can get across the whole country with just one ticket that works for multiple kinds of transportation.

Switzerland has some of the most incredible scenery in Europe, thanks to the majestic Swiss Alps. Even if you're not skiing or hiking in the Alps, just looking at them is life changing enough. Probably the most well-known of the Swiss Alps is the Matterhorn — it's been named the most photographed mountain in the world — which towers over the border between Switzerland and Italy. It's situated in the picturesque and luxurious town of Zermatt. For those who aren't expert climbers, there's the Klein Matterhorn or little Matterhorn, which can be reached via a funicular ride.

If castles and mountains weren't enough, Switzerland also has incredible waterfalls. First and foremost, there's the Rhine Falls near Schaffhausen, the largest plain waterfall in all of Europe. The crashing falls are not only a pretty sight, but also an impressive one because of their sheer size. Along with being clean and eco-friendly, the Swiss are also very healthy. Swiss food is fresh, and you can definitely taste the difference. One of the things I miss most about living there are the bakeries, which is where we would buy all of our bread and the more-than-occasional breakfast or afternoon treat. Eating out is expensive, but it's worth it.

No matter what time of year, Switzerland offers a number of options for outdoor travelers. During the winter and early spring, there's skiing and snowboarding. Besides winter sports, there's hiking and paragliding, both of which can be done in the spring, summer, and fall.

## EXERCISES

A) Answer the following questions about the text above. Do not copy from the text. Use your own words and write complete sentences! Each one of your sentences must contain a verb.

(10 points)

1. Why does travelling in Switzerland feel like travelling to many countries?

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2. Is it necessary to have a car when you travel in Switzerland? Why?

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3. How clean is Switzerland, according to the author?

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4. How can you go to the Klein Matterhorn?

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5. What qualities do the Swiss people have? Please name three of them.

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6. What sports activities can you do in Switzerland? Name as many as you can find in the text.

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7. What does “*definite*” mean in line 3? Underline the correct alternative:

- a) limited                      b) clear                      c) unclear                      d) extremely big

8. What does “*worth it*” mean in line 31? Underline the correct alternative:

- a) bad for the price    b) really cheap            c) good for the price    d) impossible

9. What does “*the trains are on time down to the second*” mean in line 13? Underline the correct alternative:

- a) The trains are very punctual                      b) There are two trains every hour  
c) Two trains are put together                      d) The trains were punctual in the past

10. What does “*whole*” mean in line 14? Underline the correct alternative:

- a) small                      b) beautiful                      c) flat                      d) complete

**B) Your best friend Emma has just returned from her holidays in Switzerland. Recreate the following dialogue. (10 Points)**

YOU: Hi Emma! \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
EMMA: It was really great!  
YOU: \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
EMMA: I was there for eight days.  
YOU: \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
EMMA: Yes, I went to Zermatt and I even saw the Matterhorn.  
YOU: \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
EMMA: No, I travelled with my parents and my brother.  
YOU: \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
EMMA: Oh yes, it's terribly expensive!

**C) Past tenses: fill in the gaps with a past simple or a past continuous tense. (10 points)**

Example: I was walking (walk) by the lake when I saw (see) Ryan Gosling.

- 1) We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) down with the lift and then it suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (stop).
- 2) I \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a shower yesterday morning when the telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (ring). I \_\_\_\_\_ (run) down the stairs and I \_\_\_\_\_ (answer). It was my mother.
- 3) We \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) together in the classroom when the teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive).
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ (you / drive?) the car when the accident happened?
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ (they go?) to the hockey game yesterday?



Picture 1



Picture 2

