

## Overtourism in the UK: the Example of Cornwall

### I- INTRODUCTION

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#### A/ What is overtourism?

1. Observe the following photos and answer the questions.



Photographs: Harry Borden/The Guardian

- What is going on in these pictures?
- What makes you say that?
- What else can you say?

2. Browse the following resources and answer the questions.

[Anti-tourism protests across Spain continue despite economic growth | BBC News](#) (video clip)

[Protests over mass tourism could spread beyond Spain, says Unesco official](#)

- What phenomenon is addressed in the two documents?
- Which places are affected?
- Cite some of the causes, impacts and reactions.

3. Read the following quote and answer the questions.

**“ THE PROBLEM NOW IS THAT IT HAS BEEN SHARPENED UP FOR THE TOURISTS. IT’S TOO CLEAN. IT’S LIKE AN OLD PERSON WITH BOTOX. YOU DON’T GET THE SAME SENSE OF THE PAST. IT’S TOO CLEAN, TOO SHARP ”**  
– Ken Loach on his home city, Bath

- Who is Ken Loach?
- Reformulate what he says about his home city, Bath.
- What aspect / impact of tourism does he denounce? Explain.

## B/ Getting to know Cornwall

1. a) Observe the maps below and describe Cornwall’s location in the UK.



Sources: Encyclopaedia Britannica / Cornwall County Council

b) Look at [Pictures of Cornwall](#).

c) Use the maps and photos, and take into account Cornwall’s geographic location to make assumptions about the structure of its economy, its relationships with the rest of England, the Cornish people, the landscape, culture, etc.

2. Now, read the following texts to check your assumptions and learn more about Cornwall and Cornish people.

a) Entry for “Cornwall” in the Encyclopedia Britannica (abridged and adapted).

Cornwall is the most remote of English counties. Its eastern boundary is some 200 miles (320 km) distant from London. Cornwall’s westernmost town, Penzance, lies another 80 miles (130 km) farther from London and close by Land’s End, the traditional southwestern extreme of Great Britain.

The main upland areas inland are a series of granitic intrusions that form distinctive moorlands<sup>1</sup>. It has an attractive coastal landscape that is subject to increasing pressures by the demands of recreation and tourism. Long stretches<sup>2</sup> of the coast are now owned by the National Trust<sup>3</sup> or are otherwise protected from commercial development.

The climate of Cornwall is closely affected by the proximity of the sea. High winds and sea mists are common; rainfall is frequent and heavy. Temperatures are warm in summer and relatively mild in winter. As a result, the vegetation is luxuriant, especially in sheltered coastal areas.

Metal ores, especially tin<sup>4</sup>, attracted prehistoric settlers to the metalliferous zones around the granitic intrusions of Cornwall, and there is a wealth of stone relics such as megalithic dolmens, monoliths, and circles. Subsequent Roman and Saxon settlement in England caused an associated migration of Celtic Christians to Cornwall, where they resisted the Saxon advance for 500 years, acknowledging Saxon overlordship only in the 10th century. The county’s isolation aided the survival of the Celtic language known as Cornish, although it has not been spoken as a living language since the 18th century.

Rural resources provide the bases of the economy. The valleys afford excellent pasture for dairy cattle<sup>5</sup>, and the moorland has large areas for rough grazing<sup>6</sup>. Tourism, capitalizing on the attractive physical environment, now provides the major source of income, especially along the coast, where many small fishing ports—such as St. Ives, Newquay, and Polperro—are busy resorts<sup>7</sup>. Cornwall is a favourite county for second homes and retirement, which, together, are causing basic changes in the social structure of rural areas. Many coastal towns—notably Falmouth, Penzance, and Fowey—are active ports.

Tin was mined in Cornwall for at least 3,000 years. Despite periodic depressions in the industry, Cornish tin mining continued profitably until the 20th century. The last few tin mines in Cornwall were closed in the 1980s and in 2006 the copper<sup>8</sup> and tin mines in Cornwall were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

1. *lande* - 2. *portions, étendues* - 3. The National Trust is a heritage and nature conservation charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - 4. *l’étain* - 5. *les vaches laitières* - 6. *la pâture* - 7. *stations balnéaires* - 8. *le cuivre*

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Cornwall-unitary-authority-England>

b) Excerpts from Philip Marsden’s piece about Cornish identity, The Guardian, April 2014

Trying to identify Cornwall’s appeal, Jacquetta Hawkes<sup>1</sup> reached for its shape: “Cornwall is England’s horn, its point thrust out into the sea.”

Such a position has always made Cornwall tricky to administer. The Romans didn’t bother trying, as long as their supply of tin was secure. Saxon villagisation did not extend far into Cornwall. When the Tudors tried to unite the realm, the Cornish proved unbiddable<sup>2</sup>. [...]

Apart from the few scraps of literature, there is one everyday reminder of the Cornish language, a faint but constant echo of the county’s non-Englishness: its place names. They have proved a vital part of the revivalists’ attempts to reassemble the vocabulary and structure of Cornish. [...]

More than anything, Cornwall's particularity lies in its abiding<sup>3</sup> and diverse sense of place. No other region of England offers such a range of dramatic landscapes, nor carries such a freight of mythology and projection. Many archaeologists now explain the vast numbers of Neolithic and early bronze age monuments, both on mainland Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, in terms of ritual or sacred landscape. [...] Whatever your chosen interpretation of such prehistoric features, and there is no shortage of colourful options, their profusion in Cornwall adds to its mystique. [...]

Retaining a sense of being Cornish has been made more challenging by the growing influx of visitors, many with their own strong ideas of what Cornwall represents. The artists who gathered in St Ives in the 1930s were drawn in part by west Cornwall's freedom from the Englishness that pervaded the rest of the country. [...]

Cornwall is not big – a tapering sliver of land<sup>4</sup> no more than 80 miles long. But within it, you can travel a short distance and be in a different world. Go inland from the glitzy coastal surf and sailing resorts, and you reach empty moorland, or tidal creeks fringed with oakwoods, or the weird, white landscape of the China-clay<sup>5</sup> country, or the deprived, thickly populated districts around Redruth and Camborne. The traditions of the Cornish are likewise hidden from those who visit only the coast.

To many Cornish nationalists, this week's recognition of the Cornish people as a minority, alongside the Welsh and Scots, is merely a step on the path to a devolved assembly, the re-establishment of the old Stannary Parliament, whose legislative powers were never officially revoked.

There is some scepticism west of the Tamar<sup>6</sup> about what their new status will really mean. But it can do no harm to remind those unfamiliar with the south-west that the Cornish are not really English, and that Cornwall is not really England.

1. English archeologist - 2. non compliant, rebellious - 3. permanent - 4. a narrow fragment of land - 5. *roche argileuse de couleur blanche* - 6. The Tamar is the river that separates Cornwall (to the west) and Devon (to the east); "west of the Tamar" means "in Cornwall".

Philip Marsden is the author of a book on Cornwall, *Rising Ground: A Search for the Spirit of Place*.

c) Excerpt from *Undercurrent* by Natasha Carthew, 2023 (page 74)

We Cornish people are known for our resilience. We live remotely from our English cousins, and we have always had to endure a lack of resources, long miles and harsh sou'-westerly storms to survive. It is no wonder we have always looked to nature to survive: one moor in which to mine, two oceans in which to fish, and a million fields to farm.

We are not a modern people. Our culture is Celt and our heads are full of folklore and tradition. We are superstitious to the point that nothing is done without complete thought, circular discussion, but our hearts are always full of love. There is an old saying that 'Nobody loves the Cornish more than the Cornish,' and this is true: I love our strength in conviction, our rebellious nature and our pride, and most of all I love our ability to turn every story back around to be about ourselves.

## II- CORNWALL THEN AND NOW

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**A/ Read the texts pages 6 and 7 and do the following activities.**

1. Match the following words / definitions with the words and expressions in bold type in texts 1 and 2. Pay attention to the context as some of the words may have various meanings.

- a) a trainee who works with an expert to learn a trade: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- b) dying: \_\_\_\_\_ ; c) to appear suddenly: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- d) to deal with: \_\_\_\_\_ ; e) impressive: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- f) to keep for future use (to book): \_\_\_\_\_ ; g) attraction: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- h) completely filled with (tourists): \_\_\_\_\_ ; i) strangeness: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- j) identical to the one before: \_\_\_\_\_ ; k) abandoned: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- l) in a situation where things suddenly become much worse: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- m) measures: \_\_\_\_\_ ; n) to reduce: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- o) attributed to: \_\_\_\_\_ ; p) to decline: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- q) about to experience something negative: \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- r) property that is rented out to holidaymakers: (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- s) to be unable to buy a home because the asking price is too high: (2 expressions) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ;

2. After reading the texts, answer the questions below.

- a) What changes do the texts address? What has caused them?
- b) Use both texts to explain how the people interviewed compare the past and the present in the towns where they live. How do they regard the evolution of their towns and how do they feel about it?
- c) How are the impacts of tourism in Cornwall similar / different to those in the European places mentioned in the resources page 2?

## TEXT 1

*This is an excerpt from an article written by Tanya Gold for The Guardian in which the author visits St Ives, Cornwall, and interviews the locals. In this passage, she talks to long-time resident Phyllis Rashley.*

St Ives is a seasonal town. [...] In winter, [it] is empty and in summer, **overwhelmed**: a town that has lost its balance. Holiday cottages and Airbnbs fill the town with carnival, or absence, depending on the season, and locals **are priced out**. This dynamic plays out nationally – in Wales, Kent, Norfolk – but it has a brittle poignancy<sup>1</sup> here. St Ives is, from its hill, the prettiest town in Britain and, as if  
5 cursed for it, it is also the patient zero of overtourism. I moved to west Cornwall seven years ago, to Newlyn, on the other side of the peninsula, but St Ives has a powerful **lure** on my imagination. I spent much of the last year driving across the moor<sup>2</sup>, speaking to locals and visitors, trying to understand its agony, and magic.

I knock on an open door in the old town, which locals call Downalong. It is answered by Phyllis  
10 Rashleigh, who moved here from Lancashire when she was five. Her husband was born in this house, and she says she will tell me how St Ives used to be. Her parents had a hotel in Fore Street in the 1950s, over what is now a Mountain Warehouse shop, a bright, pale house with 13 bedrooms. “And it was hard work,” she says, “but everybody did that.” Richer people bought Victorian terrace houses on the hill for B&B, and fishermen’s wives rented out the best bedroom. “They had a family who stayed  
15 with them, and that same family would come down every year. Then the visitors were mostly working-class people. Each season would be a **carbon copy** of the one before, because before those people went home, they said, ‘**Save** me the same week next year.’

“I know people who are in their 90s,” she says. “They still come and say, ‘Oh, we’ve been coming to St Ives for the last 70 years. Oh, we used to stay with Mrs So-and-so in such a street, but she died, and  
20 then we stayed with so-and-so.’” But it’s not like that now, she says. “It’s impersonal, and the **holiday lets** are usually owned by people who’ve bought them especially for that purpose, who don’t live here. They’ve hired it out through an agency. Nobody knows who actually owns it.

“Nobody lives here any more out of season,” Rashleigh adds. “If you go uptown now you won’t see many people. I’ve just walked down from Tesco<sup>3</sup> and I don’t think I’ve met four. We’ve got a parking  
25 space at the Sloop Inn and most of the people there will be tradesmen, because this time of year scaffolding<sup>4</sup> goes up like a forest because everybody wants their work done before Easter.

It’s just changed completely,” she says. “We’ve lost all our banks, all of them. We’ve lost all our post offices, except one at the back of the toy shop. Most shops are boarded up<sup>5</sup> except in the summer. Most of the cafes have shut down for the winter.”

1. Fr= *c’est particulièrement poignant* - 2. Fr= *la lande* - 3. name of a supermarket chain - 4. Fr= *des échafaudages* - 5. have their windows and doors covered with wooden planks

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/10/its-just-a-rich-mans-playground-now-how-st-ives-became-patient-zero-of-british-overtourism>

## TEXT 2

### **‘We’re on a cliff edge’: Cornish village where 52% of houses are not first homes**

Jamie Grierson, 6 March 2024, The Guardian (edited)

The C Toms & Son boatyard in Polruan is a busy hub of activity in an otherwise ghostly harbourside. Its owners, father and son Allen and Paul Toms, put the **eeriness** in the picturesque Cornish village down to one thing: **holiday lets** and second homes.

On Wednesday, the chancellor<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy Hunt, announced plans to **curtail tax breaks**<sup>2</sup> given to landlords of holiday lets in an effort to boost the supply of long-term rentals in places such as Polruan – but Allen and Paul are not convinced it will work.

The furnished holiday letting (FHL) regime allows the owners of about 127,000 properties to deduct the full cost of their mortgage<sup>3</sup> interest payments from their rental income and, potentially at least, pay lower capital gains tax when they sell. This FHL scheme has now been **scrapped**, meaning a holiday let landlord who earns £30,000 in rent will have to pay about £4,000 a year extra in income tax. The theory is that it will encourage landlords to consider long-term rentals, boosting this housing stock and reducing prices for local people.

Recent research by the Lanteglos by Fowey parish council found that a **staggering** 52% of the houses in Polruan are second homes or holiday rentals.

Allen, 79, who now lives over the harbour in Fowey, and Paul, 51, who has lived in Polruan his whole life, have seen the area change significantly.

“Years ago, Polruan had a rowing team, football team, youth club. We as a business, if we advertised for an **apprentice** we would have youngsters applying, now we have nothing. Can’t get them. This is **down to** second homes, which create a situation where younger workers and their families **cannot afford to** live in Polruan,” Allen says.

On the measures in the budget, he says: “If they can afford a second home, they can afford to pay more tax. But it’s not going to do anything.”

Allen took the unusual step of buying a property in the village to accommodate men interested in working for the boatyard. His son, Paul, has a child at the local primary school, which has seen its numbers **dwindle** from 75 in 2013 to 23 now. “Every winter it gets quieter,” Paul says. “Because obviously the older generation are **passing** and youngsters can’t afford to live here.”

Paul’s son is working as an apprentice in the boatyard but he fears his son will not be able to afford to live in Polruan. Paul is not convinced the chancellor’s **steps** will make an impact.

Gini Ainley, who moved to Polruan four years ago from Winchester, is a parish councillor in the village. The council’s survey of the village established that of the 572 properties in Polruan, 166 are permanent homes or social housing and 12 are long-term rentals.

“The people that are second home owners come down regularly, and they really are part of the local community,” she says. “And obviously rentals are important because they do bring in revenue to our beautiful village. Having said that, we probably are **on a bit of a cliff edge** now with that sort of proportion. Some of the issues have been that we’ve lost about 28% of our social housing. We’re definitely at a stage where we think as a council we should do something about particularly the Airbnb-type **rentals**, the ones that just suddenly **spring up**, she says.”

Graham Morris, 55, took over Polruan Village Store five months ago after moving from Callington, a Cornish town farther east. The shop was **on the brink of** closure before Morris took over and many residents are grateful to him for saving the business. Morris has his own ideas for **tackling** the impact that the second homes and holiday lets have on the local economy.

“I believe there should be some form of contribution to local businesses. If that was then evenly distributed throughout the businesses during the winter months and the difficult months, that would allow them to pay themselves and their staff,” he says.

Many in the village describe it as a “ghost town” in winter. Most understand the seasonal cycle is the model they signed up to, but it is getting harder.

“This is our first winter. We were told it’s going to be quiet in the village, and the village has been very supportive of us so we know we’re going to be OK – but I haven’t paid myself [for] five months.”

*1. ministre des Finances - 2. réductions d’impôts - 3. emprunt immobilier*

## **B/ GRAMMAR FOCUS (1): TALKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT**

In the two texts, pages 6 and 7, Phyllis and Allen compare the past and the present. Underline the different verb structures they use (in text 1, lines 11-17 and text 2, line 20) to talk about the past compared to the present, and past habits.

What other structure does Phyllis use to say that something is no longer the case today (line 23)?

Learn more by reading [this lesson from Cambridge Grammar](#).

Also revise [NOT ANY MORE here](#) ; and [NO LONGER / NOT ANY LONGER](#) .



C/ Read the following excerpt from Natasha Carthew's book, *Undercurrent*, and answer the questions below.

- a) What other factors have contributed to the housing crisis in Cornwall?  
b) How does it impact the most deprived and transform the social fabric of Cornish villages?

When Maggie Thatcher decided it was a good idea to sell off council houses<sup>1</sup> with the implementation of the Right to Buy in 1980's Housing Act, she had failed to realise that this would be the end of council-house communities, although she probably didn't care. The policy allowing council tenants<sup>2</sup> to buy their homes at a discount meant that when someone inevitably sold up (often at a profit) a private buyer would move in. This meant that those families living in poverty, needing a roof over their heads, found it increasingly hard to access social housing, a home like the one we moved into in the late 1970s.

Cornwall is still littered with abandoned caravans; it is also starting to fill with them again. On a walk along any coastal path or through fields in any direction you will likely come across someone living among the bracken and briars<sup>3</sup>, off-grid<sup>4</sup> not because of some environmental middle-class yurt-driven want but because of necessity, extreme poverty.

House prices during the coronavirus pandemic rose beyond all proportion to sate<sup>5</sup> a glutinous demand for Cornish homes.

The average property price in Cornwall county is £334,000, the median price is £270,000. The average price increased by £2,500 (1%) between August 2021 and July 2022, nine times the average of Cornish earnings. The UK House Price Index shows that Cornwall's house prices have increased faster than the England and Wales average when compared with the same time the year before. Property in Cornwall has always been expensive, in comparison to local average wages, but the pandemic increased difficulties. A surge in 'staycations' meant many private landlords moved into making long lets to affluent<sup>6</sup> Londoners, evicting local tenants in the process.

Working from home during Covid also meant a lot of rich folks from up-country could live their dream of a cottage in Cornwall, while keeping their remote jobs, pushing locals even further towards the fringes of society. As a result, house prices, evictions, homelessness and the demand for social housing have all risen steeply. Meanwhile, the amount of affordable housing has dropped off a cliff, with many families stuck on the precipice of a social-housing waiting list because they have lost their rented home: for the simple reason that their landlord sold up.

What does this all mean for Cornish communities? It means off-season there are entire villages, like the beautiful twin fishing villages of Kingsand and Cawsand, along the coast from Donderry and just the other side of Rame Head, where in winter all of the fishermen's cottages are boarded up, not just because of the battering sea that hits the village but because they are holiday homes, second homes, and, except for holidays, nobody is there, the hearth and heat of each house ripped out.

When I think back to my childhood and our council house, I think about our community of chaos and care, the small casual acts of kindness and the personalities that were larger than life.

1. houses that are owned by a local council and rented to people at a low rent. - 2. the people who rent the council houses. - 3. *les fougères et les ronces* - 4. not connected to any of the main utilities (electricity, water, etc.) - 5. to fully satisfy (an appetite for) - 6. wealthy

Natasha Carthew, *Undercurrent*. 2023 (pages 98-100)

### III- VISITING CORNWALL: HOW NOT TO BE AN OVERTOURIST

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#### A/ Sustainable tourism

Read the text below and answer the questions.

- a) Use the context to infer the meaning of the words in bold type. Look them up in a dictionary if you are stuck.
- b) What reasons are given to explain why Cornwall is popular with tourists?
- c) How does that impact the other seaside resorts and coastal towns in Britain?
- d) Apart from the tourists themselves, who is responsible?
- e) Explain what sustainable tourism is. Then, [read this definition](#) to complete your answer.
- f) What should the tourist industry do to be more sustainable in Cornwall? Think of 2 or 3 ideas.

England is one of the most visited countries in the world, but most travellers head to **a handful of** well-known destinations, which then suffer from large crowds while other destinations struggle. Of the top 20 in England, around 50 percent are in London, while several others, such as Bath, Stonehenge and the Bodleian Library are easily reached on day trips from the capital. Of the remainder, only a handful such as lake cruises in Bowness and the Eden Project, are not found in an urban environment.

We believe that for English tourism to be **sustainable**, it requires responsible management of popular destinations to ensure they are not **overwhelmed** by visitors.

Outside of London, Cornwall is one of the most over-visited parts of England, with a **dramatic** coastline, golden sandy beaches, good weather and waves that draw surfers like moths to a flame. In recent years the '*Poldark effect*' has brought a new influx of visitors seeking the locations of the BBC's Sunday night bodice-ripper<sup>1</sup>, just as *Game of Thrones* transformed tourism in Dubrovnik and Iceland, and *Lord of the Rings* New Zealand.

Cornwall is a perfect example of an English '**honeypot**' destination that has been over-promoted for years at the expense of others. In key locations such as Falmouth, Newquay and St. Ives, as well as popular beaches, local people are massively **outnumbered** by tourists in July and August with a corresponding detrimental effect on their communities and the environment. Meanwhile, many of England's lesser-known coastal communities have been left to **fade away**.

Many parts of England, particularly seaside towns and other coastal areas, are heavily dependent on tourism, an industry renowned for seasonal, low-paid employment. They're steadily being hollowed out<sup>2</sup> as young people seek opportunities elsewhere, leading to deprivation which in turn affects tourism numbers. In countries such as England where the main tourist season is quite short, earning a sustainable income year-round can prove difficult. Resorts including Hunstanton, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Skegness and Scarborough retain plenty of historic charm, but underfunding and inaccessibility, combined with a **shift** of focus to destinations elsewhere, has allowed them to fade.

1. a sexually explicit romantic film with a historical setting - 2. emptied

<https://www.responsibletravel.com/holidays/england/travel-guide/responsible-tourism>

## B/ How to be a responsible tourist

### 1. Pre-reading activity

- a) Explain in your own words what being a **responsible tourist** means.
- b) List a few things people can do to be “responsible tourists”.

2. a) Read the following tips about traveling responsibly from another passage adapted from [www.responsibletravel.com](http://www.responsibletravel.com).

How can you help?

Simply put: don't follow the crowds. Avoid the city breaks and England's crowded tourism hotspots, instead looking to idyllic, isolated accommodations in the countryside.

If you do really want to see the Tower of London, or the beaches of Cornwall, then consider visiting outside the busy summer months instead when you'll have a more pleasant experience, and tourism businesses will benefit from income in low season. And next time you fancy a visit to the seaside, remember there are many other attractive resorts around the English coast that aren't Brighton and Falmouth.

Wherever you go, try to spend local. Much of the English tourism industry is small-scale, making it quite easy to inject money into the domestic economy. You'll get a warmer welcome from a locally owned bed and breakfast than you will from a faceless international hotel chain. You'll eat fresher (and better) dishes with local produce, and also dramatically reduce your holiday's carbon footprints. And the money you spend will stay for longer in the local area, boosting the communities and providing employment prospects for local people.

b) Now, explore the following article from the Guardian and learn how people can be responsible tourists.

### [Be a better tourist! 28 ways to have a fantastic holiday – without infuriating the locals](#)

> which ones are the most sensible, in your opinion?

> Which tips are tourists and travellers more likely to pick up?

> Draw from this source to add 2 or 3 paragraphs to the passage from “Responsible Travel” above, providing useful tips to be a better, more responsible tourist in Cornwall or other UK seaside resorts.

3. Now, read Natasha Carthew's piece published in the Guardian and answer the following questions.

- a) What uncomfortable home truths does she tell "those visiting Cornwall"?
- b) Compare the recommendations you added to the text above (2 a page 10) to the ones Carthew gives in her piece.
- c) Comment on the tone she uses, using examples from the text.
- d) Is her piece likely to drive home the message, in your opinion? Explain why (not).

## Welcome to Cornwall! Please don't ruin it for us local people

Natasha Carthew, 29 May 2023, The Guardian

So, you're thinking of coming to Cornwall. Perhaps you're here for a half-term break or planning your annual summer pilgrimage. But what do you really know about this seemingly perfect, picture-postcard holiday destination?

5 For example, have you ever wondered where the local people live? Or have you noticed that many of your holiday neighbours are recognisable in the narrow lanes of the pretty fishing villages because they are the same people you live near in London? If you talk to the local people – the ones who serve you in the fancy<sup>1</sup> fish restaurants or who clean your bed linen and come out to your rental on a Sunday night to help with the sticky front door – they will tell you that they have been priced out of their own towns.

10 No longer can they afford to live in the shoreside fishing cottages (they might also tell you that their grandfather lived there as a boy), and anyway the village doesn't have a bus service in the winter months, so they've had to move to one of the less beautiful inland towns for out-of-season work.

15 Many tourists visiting Cornwall in the holiday season do not realise the huge part played by water, and the lack of it, here in my home county. In summer 2022, we locals were asked by South West Water to ration our usage in the run-up to the holidays so that tourists had enough when they visited. In next-door Devon, restrictions have just been extended to a further 390,000 local people to conserve water for the coming holiday season. This summer we will probably face more water rationing, as suppliers have admitted that new treatment plants will not be ready in time for the annual doubling of our population.

20 The tourism industry, particularly in rural and coastal areas, is heavily reliant on healthy ecosystems. They bring a range of benefits, not least food, water and natural beauty for visitors and local people alike. However, tourists can threaten the quality of the local environment, and overtourism is a growing concern, bringing traffic, parking issues, pollution and litter. Cornwall is one of the UK's top holiday destinations and receives an estimated 5 million visitors every year. The recent sharp growth in the sector has led to strain on infrastructure – including hospitals, the RNLI<sup>2</sup> and other local services – while unregulated rentals have meant unaffordable housing for residents.

25 So what can those visiting Cornwall do to counteract this? You could start by visiting beaches that don't feature in the usual guidebooks. Get exploring and discover your own private paradise; there are many coves<sup>3</sup> that remain quiet throughout the year. Visitors can also protect the nature around them and contribute to its restoration by getting involved in nature-based activities and conservation: join a Surfers Against Sewage beach clean; discover Cornish Wildlife Trust events like woodland and cliff path conservation; visit RSPB<sup>4</sup> reserves; rent beach equipment; leave the car behind to enjoy top cycle routes.

- 35 Despite what you may have read, we Cornish do welcome visitors and are happy to share our love of our land with you. But it might help if you do a bit of research – Cornwall is fiercely independent and has a proud and unique history and heritage. It’s worth finding out a bit more about our Celtic nation and the Cornish language (...). And try not to be rude to local people. If you’ve been asked to not drink from a glass bottle on the beach, there is a reason for that. Don’t forget to tip waiting staff<sup>5</sup>.
- 40 They are probably on minimum wage, and tipping is an easy way to support the local economy.
- When taking to the coastal path, please don’t run or cycle; it speeds up erosion and is also incredibly dangerous. Don’t forget to take your rubbish away with you: many beaches, especially secluded<sup>6</sup> ones, don’t have bins, so that bag full of waste (...) will end up in the sea, harming wildlife.
- 45 Please don’t buy a second home! If you do, and leave it empty for most of the year, you’re likely to get angry local people making their feelings known. And don’t do a mass Airbnb booking: there’s a housing crisis in Cornwall, and the unregulated accommodation option is putting pressure on housing and pricing local people out of the market. You could always book caravans in holiday parks or rooms in hotels. Many of them are five-star rated – not what you remember from your childhood.
- 50 [...] It’s ridiculous and unhelpful that tourism only happens in the spring, on May bank holiday weekends and in the summer months. Cornwall doesn’t stop being beautiful on the last day of August; it is incredibly beautiful all year round. Our winters are milder than the rest of the country and fewer people visit then, so holidaying then would definitely be less manic (...).

1. very expensive 2. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is the largest lifeboat charity operating around the coasts of the UK. Its mission is “to save lives at sea”. - 3. Fr= *criques* - 4. The RSPB is a charity for the conservation of birds and nature. - 5. Fr= *laisser un pourboire aux serveur-euses* - 6. isolated

## C/ GRAMMAR FOCUS (2): TENSES AND VERB FORMS

1. Observe the following segments or sentences from the text.

- a) (...) they will tell you that they have been priced out of their own towns.
- b) (...) the village doesn’t have a bus service in the winter months, so they’ve had to move to one of the less beautiful inland towns for out-of-season work.
- c) The recent sharp growth in the sector has led to strain on infrastructure while unregulated rentals have meant unaffordable housing for residents.

2. What tense is used in these sentences? Why?

3. In sentence 1, the verb is in the \_\_\_\_\_ voice. Explain why.

4. In sentence 2, the verb form also expresses the notion of \_\_\_\_\_ with the semi-modal \_\_\_\_\_.

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**1. Match the following words / definitions with the words and expressions in bold type in texts 1 and 2.**

Pay attention to the context as some of the words may have various meanings.

- a) a trainee who works with an expert to learn a trade: AN APPRENTICE ;
- b) dying: PASSING ; c) to appear suddenly: SPRING UP ;
- d) to deal with: TO TACKLE ; e) impressive: STAGGERING ;
- f) to keep for future use (to book): TO SAVE ; g) attraction: LURE ;
- h) completely filled with (tourists): OVERWHELMED ; i) strangeness: EERINESS ;
- j) identical to the one before: CARBON COPY ; k) abandoned: SCRAPPED ;
- l) in a situation where things suddenly become much worse: ON A CLIFF EDGE ;
- m) measures: STEPS ; n) to reduce: TO CURTAIL ;
- o) attributed to: DOWN TO ; p) to decline: TO DWINDLE ;
- q) about to experience something negative: ON THE BRINK OF ;
- r) property that is rented out to holidaymakers: (2 words) (HOLIDAY) LET / RENTAL ;
- s) to be unable to buy a home because the asking price is too high: (2 expressions) TO BE PRICED OUT / CAN'T or CANNOT AFFORD TO ;

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**B/ GRAMMAR FOCUS (1) : TALKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT**

1. In the two texts, Phyllis and Allen compare the past and the present. Underline the different verb structures they use (in text 1 lines 11-17 and text 2 lines 17-18) to talk about the past compared to the present, and past habits.

*(...) how St Ives **used to be***

*(...) that same family **would come** down every year.*

*if we **advertised** for an apprentice we **would have** youngsters applying*

What other structure does Phyllis use to say that something is no longer the case today (line 23)?

***Nobody** lives here **any more** out of season.*

Learn more by reading [this lesson from Cambridge Grammar](#).

Also revise [NOT ANY MORE here](#) ; and [NO LONGER / NOT ANY LONGER](#) .

**C/ GRAMMAR FOCUS (2): TENSES AND VERB FORMS**

1. Observe the following segments or sentences from the text.

- a) (...) they will tell you that they have been priced out of their own towns.
- b) (...) the village doesn't have a bus service in the winter months, so they've had to move to one of the less beautiful inland towns for out-of-season work.
- c) The recent sharp growth in the sector has led to strain on infrastructure while unregulated rentals have meant unaffordable housing for residents.

2. What tense is used in these sentences? Why?

3. In sentence 1, the verb is in the PASSIVE VOICE voice. Explain why.

4. In sentence 2, the verb form also expresses the notion of OBLIGATION with the semi-modal HAVE TO.

[Practice with Epigram if need be.](#)