

Nadiia Yurko

Senior lecturer at the Department of Ukrainian and Foreign
Languages

*Ivan Boberskyi Lviv State University of Physical Culture,
Lviv, Ukraine*

Iryna Styfanyshyn

Senior lecturer at the Department of Ukrainian and Foreign
Languages

*Ivan Boberskyi Lviv State University of Physical Culture,
Lviv, Ukraine*

TRAVEL BOOKS AND GUIDES: THE ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF LEARNING TOURISM ENGLISH

English is used all around the world. Therefore you will probably use English to communicate in many travel situations. While the hotel staff might not speak your native language, they will probably speak some English. Many signs at popular tourist sites will be in English, so it is helpful if you do not speak the local language. In addition to this, when it comes to traveling, communicating with strangers is a necessity. Whether you have lost something, are looking for the train station or a restaurant, starting conversations with strangers in English is a vital skill [3].

Knowing tourism English will make it easier to communicate with other people. Wherever you go in the world, even if you do not speak the native language of the region, you can probably find someone who speaks English. That is why, English is so important for people who travel or work in the tourism industry. You can learn travel English from TV and movies, online classes and many other accessible sources. Using books still remains one of the most popular and great ways to learn tourism English.

The traditional books you can use to learn travel English are the textbooks. They are usually meant to be used in a classroom, with a teacher to guide you through the information. Some textbooks come with workbooks too, which have summaries of the textbook material and exercises where you can practice

what you learned. The most widespread and popular are as follows: *English for International Tourism* [2], *Tourism 1 Student's Book* [7], *Going International: English for Tourism Student's Book* [4].

The writing in textbooks can sometimes be difficult to understand, or there can be a lot of information on every page. Learn one thing at a time. The first time you read a chapter, do not take any notes. Just read it and try to understand. On the second reading, read more carefully, take notes and spend some time understanding the confusing parts. Only continue to the next chapter of a textbook when you completely understand the material in the previous chapter. It might take you a little longer, but it will help you learn better. Make sure you have time to study, in a quiet, comfortable area without any distractions. Do not forget to take breaks. Textbooks work better when you have a teacher to help you understand the information.

Another type of books that can also be used for tourism English learning are tourism guides. They describe the best places to visit, the best hotels to stay in and other useful information for someone traveling in a new place. Many also include historical information and give tips on the best times to visit popular places. They are like having a native friend giving you inside information from someone who lives in the place you are visiting. The most common and well-liked are the following: *Lonely Planet* [6], *Let's Go* series of travel guides [5], *Rick Steves' Europe* [8], *Bill Bryson's travel books* [1].

Use a travel guide for the country or city where you would like to go. By doing this, you can learn about the different historical facts of the area, places to visit and tips for where to eat and what to do. Do not read tourism guides like a book. There is too much information about too many things. Instead, read a few sections from each part of the book. Focus on vocabulary and phrases. Some words are used over and over in travel guides. If you see a word or phrase repeated more than once in the book, write it down and look it up.

Take notes in sections. Tour guides are usually organized

by location, with information on places to stay, eat, explore and more. When you are taking notes, organize them by topic instead of location. For example, put all transportation-related notes together, historical terms and facts in another section, and restaurant vocabulary in a different section. These books are a great read and an excellent way to improve your English, and with the travel theme, there are plenty of phrases and words to learn as a tourism English learner too.

To sum up, you can learn a lot from both kinds of books, but you need to study them differently. Which type of book you choose depends on your study style. If you like things to be explained clearly and in an organized way, you will probably like textbook learning. If you prefer to learn by seeing the language being used in a natural context, and if you do not mind learning without any guidance, then you might prefer using a travel guide.

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