



### Video 3 – Real World English: holidays and vacation

Do you say you're going on holiday, or on vacation? What's the difference? And what on earth is a *bank* holiday anyway?

The answers depend on what variety of English you speak – and that depends on where you live, or where you come from.

If you take a week or two off work, that's a *holiday* in British English and a *vacation* in American English.

*Holiday* is often used in the plural. You can chat about what happened *on your holidays*, for example, or look forward to the *summer holidays*.

If it's clear which one you mean, you can just say *the holidays*. For American English, just replace *holiday* or *holidays* with *vacation* (but never say *vacations*).

Simple, right? Not really ... There's more.

Although *vacation* isn't used in British English, *holiday* is used in American English, where it means a national, legal day off, like Thanksgiving or Independence Day.

So you could have a holiday during a vacation if you were having time off work when a national holiday took place. For example if you have taken a week off work and Thanksgiving falls during that week then you have had a holiday – *Thanksgiving* - during your vacation – *time off work*.

In Britain it's different, these national days off are called *bank holidays*.

If you're unsure of which word to use when you're communicating internationally, you can always say *public holiday instead*. Public holiday is common to British and American English and is used all over the world.

And now that you're going on holiday or vacation – when exactly are you going? In our next video, we'll look at how people talk about dates and times in different varieties of English.

See you then!