



Teaching with Authentic Materials: Ready-to-Use Activities for Teen Learners

EXTRA Handout: Realistic Examples for multiple cities and countries

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Introduction

This handout serves as an extra incentive for organizing a trip to multiple countries and cities. The interesting part is that they have to decide whether visiting more cities is **worth the extra transport costs** or whether it's better to spend more time in fewer places. That trade-off is exactly the kind of authentic decision-making you want.

You may present the task as such:

"You have €500 per person. Decide whether your group will visit one city, several cities in one country, or multiple countries. Justify your decisions based on your budget, transport options and the experiences you want to have."

This adds another layer of negotiation. Students soon realise that a three-country itinerary may sound exciting, but they might sacrifice museum visits, restaurant meals or accommodation quality to pay for extra train or plane tickets. Besides practicing vocabulary, they're making realistic choices, defending them, and weighing priorities, which naturally generates rich communicative language.

What is the flow of the activity?

- Split into teams (preferably, at least two)
- Choose a destination(s) for each group
- Offer them relevant materials (at least 2, preferably 3)
- Assist them with expenses (optional)
 - *Expenses for various destinations in workshop handout*
- Trigger their critical thinking with questions to help them justify travel plans
- Have each team do a presentation
- Discuss which trip is best value for money

Budget allocation:

✓ 2 students (€1,000)

Probably **best to visit one city**. Trying to include multiple countries would mean spending too much on transport.

✓ 3 students (€1,500)

One country with 2–3 cities (e.g. Rome–Florence–Venice or Prague–Brno) or perhaps **two nearby capitals** if transport is inexpensive.

✓ 4 students (€2,000)

A route such as:

Vienna → Bratislava → Budapest

Austria → Slovakia → Hungary

Amsterdam → Brussels → Luxembourg City

Netherlands → Belgium → Luxembourg

Prague → Vienna → Budapest

Czech Republic → Austria → Hungary

Venice → Ljubljana → Zagreb

Italy → Slovenia → Croatia

Berlin → Prague → Wrocław

Germany → Czech Republic → Poland

These routes can be realistic if students use trains or budget airlines and share accommodation.

✓ 5 students (€2,500)

Students have much greater flexibility. They could plan a mini-European tour such as:

Paris → Brussels → Amsterdam

France → Belgium → Netherlands

Copenhagen → Malmö → Oslo

Denmark → Sweden → Norway

Prague → Vienna → Budapest

Czech Republic → Austria → Hungary

Barcelona → Montpellier → Milan

Spain → France → Italy

Venice → Ljubljana → Zagreb

Italy → Slovenia → Croatia

Brussels → Luxembourg City →

Strasbourg

Belgium → Luxembourg → France

Berlin → Prague → Kraków

Germany → Czech Republic → Poland

With **5 students (€2,500 total budget)**, a three-country trip is realistic **if** they:

- travel for **5-7 days**,
- stay in budget hotels, hostels or apartments,
- use **trains or low-cost airlines** where appropriate,
- don't overspend on attractions.
- Below are some realistic examples. The prices are **illustrative** and suitable for classroom planning activities.

Option 1: Central Europe (Excellent Value)

- **Countries:** Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary
- **Cities:** Prague → Vienna → Budapest

Category	Cost (€)
Flights (Athens → Prague / Budapest → Athens)	650
Train tickets between cities	220
Accommodation (6 nights)	780
Food	500
Local transport	120
Attractions	180
Emergency fund	50
Total	2,500

Highlights

- Prague Castle
- Schoenbrun Palace
- Budapest Thermal Baths
- Danube Cruise

Option 2: Benelux Adventure

- **Countries:** Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg
- **Cities:** Brussels → Luxembourg City → Amsterdam

Category	Cost (€)
Flights	700
Trains	240
Accommodation	820
Food	450
Local transport	110
Attractions	120
Emergency fund	60
Total	2,500

Highlights

- Grand Place
- Luxembourg Old Town
- Amsterdam Canal Cruise

Option 3: Mediterranean Explorer

- **Countries:** Italy, Slovenia, Croatia
- **Cities:** Venice → Ljubljana → Zagreb

Category	Cost (€)
Flights	720
Trains & buses	180
Accommodation	760
Food	500
Local transport	110
Attractions	170
Emergency fund	60
Total	2,500

Highlights

- St Mark's Square
- Lake Bled (day trip)
- Zagreb Cathedral

Option 4: The Capitals Tour

- **Countries:** Germany, Czech Republic, Poland
- **Cities:** Berlin → Prague → Kraków

Category	Cost (€)
Flights	700
Trains	230
Accommodation	770
Food	480
Local transport	120
Attractions	150
Emergency fund	50
Total	2,500

Highlights

- Brandenburg Gate
- Charles Bridge
- Wawel Castle

Option 5: Scandinavia on a Budget

- **Countries:** Denmark, Sweden, Norway
- **Cities:** Copenhagen → Malmö → Oslo

Category	Cost (€)
Flights	850
Trains	260
Accommodation	700
Food	420
Local transport	120
Attractions	100
Emergency fund	50
Total	2,500

Highlights

- Nyhavn
- Öresund Bridge
- Oslo Opera House

Teacher Tip

- Encourage students to compare **time**, **distance**, and **cost**, not just prices. For example, travelling from Prague to Vienna by train may be cheaper and more environmentally friendly than flying, while also allowing students to experience another aspect of European travel. This naturally introduces discussions about sustainability, convenience, budgeting and personal preferences, making the task richer than simply finding the lowest fare.

One refinement

- To keep the task authentic, tell students they **don't have to spend the entire budget**. If one group returns with an exciting €2,100 itinerary and another spends the full €2,500, they can debate which plan offers the **best value for money** rather than simply the most expensive experience. This mirrors real-world travel planning and encourages more thoughtful decision-making.