

A tall, white lighthouse with a black lantern room stands on a rocky cliff overlooking the ocean. Waves are crashing against the base of the cliff. The sky is blue with some clouds. A green banner is overlaid on the bottom part of the image.

# THE OCEAN

***“How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is quite clearly ocean.”***

Arthur C. Clarke (1917 – 2008), British science-fiction writer

## 1. The Ocean Discussion

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “ocean”? What words would you use to describe the ocean?
2. Do you like the ocean? Why or why not? Why do some people not like the ocean?
3. Are you afraid of the ocean? Why or why not?
4. What kind of weather do you associate with the ocean?
5. Do you like visiting the beach? Why or why not?
6. Which beach would you like to visit if you could visit any beach the world?
7. Which beaches would you recommend to foreign tourists visiting your country and why?
8. What's the difference between an ocean and a sea?

## 2. The Ocean Vocabulary

- **wave** (noun) – *a swell of water that rises up out of the ocean in a forward motion.*
- **rough seas** (noun) – *an area of the sea or ocean characterised by very large waves.*
- **tide, tidal** (noun, adjective) – *the rise and fall of the ocean level where it meets land due to the gravity of the sun and moon.*
- **the seven seas** (noun) – *all the oceans (traditionally the Arctic, Antarctic, South Pacific, North Pacific, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Indian oceans).*
- **beach bum** (noun) – *someone who loves the beach, especially as a place to relax.*
- **scuba diving** (noun) – *the activity of swimming underwater for a period of time using breathing apparatus.*

**Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)**

1. Be careful if you walk along the beach this afternoon; the **tide** will be in.
2. You can only go **scuba diving** if you have valid certification.
3. I got sea sick on the ferry when we went through **rough seas**.
4. I'm a **beach bum**; I love nothing more than relaxing on the beach with a good book.
5. This beach is great for surfing as the **waves** are really big.
6. Annie Lennox travelled the world and **the seven seas**.

### **The Ocean vocabulary comprehension questions**

1. Where have you seen the biggest waves?
2. Have you ever experienced rough seas?
3. What problems will the tide cause in the future?
4. Would you like to sail the seven seas? Why or why not?
5. Are you a beach bum?
6. Have you ever been scuba diving? If so, how was it? If not, would you like to?

### 3. Video: How Big Is The Ocean?

You are going to watch a TED Ed video called "How big is the ocean?"

**Watch the video here:** <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-ocean/>

**While you watch the video, answer the following questions:**

#### Multiple choice

- How many oceans are there?  
**a) 1**                      b) 5                      c) 7
- How many USAs could fit on the surface of the ocean?  
**a) 36**                      b) 46                      c) 56
- How much of Earth's water is not in the ocean?  
**a) 3%**                      b) 50%                      c) 97%
- How much of the world's biosphere is contained in the ocean?  
a) 90 %                      b) 95%                      **c) 99%**

#### Sentence completion

- The **importance** of the ocean to life is unparalleled.
- The Mid Ocean Ridge is the world's largest **mountain range**.
- Beneath the Denmark Strait you can find the world's largest **waterfall**.
- This carries **116** times more water per second than Inga Falls.

#### Short answer

- How much of Mauna Kea is below seawater? **5200m**
- How many more times deeper than the Grand Canyon is Challenger Deep? **Six**
- What proportion of the world's population live within 100km of the ocean? **50%**
- Evidence of what can be seen in every part of the ocean? **Human influence**

## 4. The Ocean Conversation Questions

1. What are the best experiences you have had in or near the ocean?
2. What fun things do you like to do (or would like to do) in or near the ocean?
3. Have you travelled on a boat or ferry? How was it?
4. Have you ever been on a cruise? How was it? If not, would you like to?
5. Would you like to live near the ocean? Why or why not?
6. What are the different ways the ocean is important for the economy?
7. What are some of the environmental problems the ocean is facing?
8. What does the world need to do to protect the ocean?

## 5. The Ocean Writing Task

Write about a memorable experience you had on or near the ocean. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- A description of the place you went to.
- What you did and who you were with.
- What made it so memorable.

### **Alternative exam practice question:**

Despite their importance to animal life and to humans, the oceans are facing severe environmental threats. Describe the impact humans have had on the oceans and suggest ways to minimise this impact.