NEWS LESSON

Will a Day at the Beach Cost Money?



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. What should a day at the beach cost?
2. Would you pay for a cleaner beach with better facilities?
3. Can a small fee still stop people doing something?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**residents**	☐
2	**development**	☐
3	**access**	☐
4	**privilege**	☐
5	**investment**	☐
6	**proof**	☐
7	**dispute**	☐
8	**wealthier**	☐

A	a way to get to a place or use it
B	people who live in a place
C	money that a company puts into something to make more money later
D	new buildings or a big plan to build on land
E	a strong disagreement
F	a special thing that only some people are allowed to have
G	facts that show something is true
H	having more money than others

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

In 2026, people in Portugal protested about plans near several beaches in Arrábida. They were afraid local families would find it harder to visit.

1 On a hot summer day, a beach seems like a simple place. People swim, sit in the sun or walk beside the water. But what happens if a company controls the easiest way to reach the sand? In Portugal, that question turned into a public argument in 2026.

2 Residents and campaigners protested against plans connected with several beaches in Arrábida, a beautiful coastal area south of Lisbon. They were afraid that private development could make access more difficult for local families. The area is known for clear water, green hills and beaches that attract large numbers of visitors every summer. In July and August, the roads and car parks near the sea fill up quickly, so even a short trip needs planning.

3 The protesters argued that the coastline should stay something everyone can enjoy. For many residents, the beach is not just a tourist attraction. It is a place they grew up visiting as children, and they want their own children to be able to use it too, without paying for the privilege.

4 Supporters of private investment may see things differently. Businesses can provide parking, cleaning, restaurants and other useful services, and tourism creates jobs for people who live nearby. But those services usually come at a price, and people worry when an ordinary afternoon at the beach starts to feel like an expensive holiday package. Cleaning, parking and safety all cost money, and somebody has to pay for them in the end. A small fee may seem fair once, but a family that visits fifty times a summer would pay it fifty times.

5 There is an important difference between owning a beach and running services near it. The public debate was about access and the possible effects of a proposed development. It was not proof that every beach in the area had already become private property, and rules differ from beach to beach.

6 The dispute asks a question that matters in many countries. A coastline may be valuable because it is beautiful, but that is exactly why companies want to make money from it. Can local people, visitors and businesses all benefit without turning a shared natural place into somewhere only wealthier families feel comfortable? The answer may be different in every country, but the question keeps coming back.

Sources: The Guardian. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. The roads near the sea are quiet in July and August. T F NG
2. The development plans were cancelled after the protests. T F NG
3. Tourism can create jobs for people who live nearby. T F NG
4. A family that visits fifty times a summer would pay a small fee fifty times. T F NG
5. The text says every beach in the area had already become private property. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

attract	campaigners	crowded	fee	nearby	protect	valuable

1. Several _____ gave out leaflets and asked people to sign a petition.
2. Beautiful beaches _____ thousands of tourists every summer.
3. The car park charges a small _____ of three euros for the whole day.
4. Beach land is very _____ , so a house with a sea view can cost millions.
5. Many people who live _____ walk to the beach after work.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. The families _____ swimming there every Sunday when the children were small. (GO)
2. Last summer, the council _____ a public meeting about the plan. (HOLD)
3. A woman _____ the crowd that she had swum there all her life. (TELL)
4. A shopkeeper _____ that fewer customers came after the car park became more expensive. (SAY)
5. Volunteers _____ the beach clean before the protest. (KEEP)

7 Language focus: prepositions

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Many verbs and nouns need one fixed small word after them. Learn the pair together, not just the first word.

about against between for of to with

1. Residents protested _____ the plans for the new car park.
2. The area is known _____ its clear water and green hills.
3. Many families worry _____ the cost of a day at the beach.
4. There is a big difference _____ owning a beach and running services near it.
5. They want their children to have easy access _____ the sand.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. What should everyone be able to enjoy at a beach without paying?
2. Would a local discount solve the problem of repeated entry fees?
3. Who should help pay to look after a popular stretch of coast?

9 Role-play: a fee for the beach car park

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the council officer

Your council wants to charge a fee at the beach car park. The money will pay for cleaning and safety. Explain why, listen to the resident, and decide if you can offer anything.

Student B · the local resident

You take your family to the beach about fifty times every summer. You think a fee is unfair for local people. Say why, and suggest a better idea.

Useful phrases

I understand your point, but we've got to pay for the cleaning.

That's a lot of money for a family like ours.

What if local people got a discount?

I'm afraid we can't make an exception for everyone.

Who'd decide how the money's spent?

Let's try to find something that's fair for everybody.

Afterwards, tell the class: did you agree on a fee, and who was happiest with the result?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 B · 2 D · 3 A · 4 F · 5 C · 6 G · 7 E · 8 H

4 True, false or not given

1 F · 2 NG · 3 T · 4 T · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 campaigners · 2 attract · 3 fee · 4 valuable · 5 nearby

6 Verb forms

1 went · 2 held · 3 told · 4 said · 5 kept

7 Language focus

1 against · 2 for · 3 about · 4 between · 5 to

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