

**A Read what Marga says about her home town and answer the questions.**

*Vivo en Holguín, una ciudad que está situada en la costa norte de Cuba. Es conocida por sus playas espectaculares y es uno de los destinos turísticos más populares del país. La región tiene un clima tropical, así que normalmente hace sol, pero también llueve a menudo.*

- 1 Word order in Spanish can be different from word order in English. Look at the example translation and then translate the other phrases.

*la costa norte* - the north coast

*playas espectaculares* – \_\_\_\_\_

*destinos turísticos* – \_\_\_\_\_

*destinos turísticos más populares* – \_\_\_\_\_

*un clima tropical* – \_\_\_\_\_



Sometimes it's useful to translate the text in chunks first and then to decide on the best word order for the English translation.

- 2 Complete the translations of phrases from the text and write them in the correct order to translate the text in activity A.

the country's most popular \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ Holguín

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ coast \_\_\_\_\_ Cuba

\_\_\_\_\_ it's usually \_\_\_\_\_

It's \_\_\_\_\_ for

\_\_\_\_\_ spectacular \_\_\_\_\_ and

The region \_\_\_\_\_

but it \_\_\_\_\_ often.

a \_\_\_\_\_ climate

a city \_\_\_\_\_ situated

is \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Make a list of any words or phrases you were unsure about translating but which you now know.

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**B Read what else Marga tells us about where she lives and answer the questions.**

*Gracias al mar y a su abundante vida marina, en Holguín se puede disfrutar de una excelente experiencia de buceo. Se puede también explorar el maravilloso paisaje de la zona y, para los que prefieren los pasatiempos culturales, en el centro de la ciudad se pueden visitar museos, galerías de arte, monumentos y mucho más.*

1 Make a list of the activities you can take part in in Holguín according to Marga. Compare your list with your partner's.

2 What are the three Spanish verbs used to talk about these activities? Two of these are easy to translate even if you didn't already know them because they are cognates. The third is more difficult. Discuss with your partner how you could figure out what it means.

3 Now translate the text into English.

*Gracias al mar y a su abundante vida marina, en Holguín se puede disfrutar de una excelente experiencia de buceo. Se puede también explorar el maravilloso paisaje de la zona y, para los que prefieren los pasatiempos culturales, en el centro de la ciudad se pueden visitar museos, galerías de arte, monumentos y mucho más.*

This is a near-cognate. If you don't know the English word, use an English dictionary – sometimes we can also learn new English vocabulary when we're doing translations.

To avoid a word-for-word translation of this, think about the more natural way of saying it in English.

You know this means 'thank you' but think carefully about how you translate it here.

This could be a cognate but the word 'zone' would not normally be used in English in this context. What might be another possible translation?

★ If you are unsure about how to translate something, try leaving a blank and coming back to it when you have the rest of the sentence in place. For example, try this for *para los que* if you are not certain how to translate it at first.

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## Answers

## A

## 1

*la costa norte* – the north coast

*playas espectaculares* – spectacular beaches

*destinos turísticos* – tourist destinations

*destinos turísticos más populares* – most popular tourist destinations

*un clima tropical* – a tropical climate

## 2

Sample answer

I live in Holguín, a city that is situated on the north coast of Cuba. It's known for its spectacular beaches and is one of the country's most popular tourist destinations. The region has a tropical climate so it's usually sunny but it also rains often.

## 3

Student's own answers

## B

## 1

snorkelling

exploring the countryside

visiting museums, art galleries, monuments, etc

## 2

*disfrutar*

*explorar*

*visitar*

## 3

Sample answer

Thanks to the sea and its abundant marine life, in Holguín you can enjoy an excellent snorkelling experience. You can also explore the impressive countryside of the area and, for those who prefer cultural pastimes, in the city centre you can visit museums, art galleries, monuments and much more.



*Disfrutar* is more difficult as it is not a cognate. Sometimes the rest of the sentence can help you to figure out the meaning of an unknown word. Here, we can see that Marga is talking about a positive experience and so we could guess that this verb is the verb 'to enjoy'.