

Talk a Lot

Hotel

Multi-Purpose Text

A Cultural Visit (Original Text)

Line

1 Kathleen phoned her friend Samantha: "Yeah, we've just got back from Scarborough.
2 We took a little group of Italian students from the college on a cultural visit. [Pause]
3 No, with Amanda – one of my colleagues. A smart lass, but... well, oh gosh, does she
4 not stop talking about work! My goodness! We'd booked quite a nice hotel, but when
5 we arrived it was absolutely grotty inside, so we decided to try somewhere else.
6 [Pause] Fine, fine, but the first couple of days it was awful. Rained cats and dogs!
7 Day in and day out. Incessant, it was. [Pause] Well, we had the police out on the first
8 night. Emilio and Lucio went for a walk and didn't come back 'till after twelve. Said
9 they'd been out practising their speaking skills in a casino. Well... And we had a little
10 romance, you know. Evelina and Rosa'd been fighting over Paolo all week, and on
11 Friday night at the disco Rosa finally won out! Poor lad. And on the second night I got
12 a call from Dennis. He said he'd just been hit by a bus! By a bus! No, he was alright.
13 It was a miracle, I think. But the bus was slightly damaged. And when I got home I
14 found Rob mopping the floor – the floor and everything soaking wet. The freezer'd
15 been quietly defrosting all day. Yeah, when he was out at work. Everything was
16 ruined. So, an eventful week! [Pause] No, I won't. No, no, I won't go anywhere with
17 Amanda again. No, we just didn't get on. The whole week she never stopped
18 lecturing me about phrasal verbs. Nightmare, it was!"
(274 words)



A Cultural Visit (Text with 20 Differences)

Kathleen phoned her **1. men (friend)** Samantha: "Yeah, we've just got back from
Scarborough. We took a little group of Italian **2. prudence (students)** from the college on a
cultural visit. [Pause] No, with Amanda – one of my colleagues. A smart lass, but... well, oh
gosh, does she not stop **3. forking (talking)** about work! My goodness! We'd **4. looked
(booked)** quite a nice hotel, but when we **5. alive (arrived)** it was absolutely grotty inside,
so we decided to try somewhere else. [Pause] Fine, fine, but the first **6. shuttle (couple)** of
days it was awful. Rained cats and **7. cogs (dogs)!** Day in and day out. Incessant, it was.
[Pause] Well, we had the **8. Belize (police)** out on the first night. Emilio and Lucio went for
a walk and didn't come **9. bank (back)** 'till after twelve. Said they'd been out practising their
speaking **10. spills (skills)** in a casino. Well... And we had a little **11. showman
(romance)**, you know. Evelina and Rosa'd been fighting over Paolo all week, and on Friday
night at the disco Rosa **12. tidily (finally)** won out! Poor lad. And on the second **13. light
(night)** I got a call from Dennis. He said he'd just been **14. hip (hit)** by a bus! By a bus!
No, he was alright. It was a **15. medical (miracle)**, I think. But the bus was slightly
damaged. And when I got home I found Rob mopping the floor – the floor and everything
16. poking (soaking) wet. The freezer'd been **17. nightly (quietly)** defrosting all day.
Yeah, when he was out at work. Everything was ruined. So, an eventful week! [Pause] No, I
won't. No, no, I won't go **18. everywhere (anywhere)** with Amanda again. No, we just
didn't get on. The whole **19. weep (week)** she never stopped lecturing me about phrasal
20. 'burbs (verbs). Nightmare, it was!"

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Multi-Purpose Text

A Cultural Visit (Guess the Function Words)



Kathleen phoned h friend Samantha: "Yeah, w 'v just got back f Scarborough. W took little group o Italian students f t college o cultural visit. [Pause] No, w Amanda – one o m colleagues. smart lass, b ... well, oh gosh, d s n stop talking a work! My goodness! W booked quite nice hotel, b w w arrived i w absolutely grotty inside, s w decided t try somewhere else.



[Pause] Fine, fine, b t first couple o days i w awful. Rained cats a dogs! Day i a day o . Incessant, i w . [Pause] Well, w had t police o o t first night. Emilio a Lucio went f walk a didn't come back 'till a twelve. Said t b o practising t speaking skills i casino. Well... A w had little romance, y know.



Evelina a Rosa' b fighting over Paolo all week, a o Friday night a t disco Rosa finally won out! Poor lad. A o t second night got call f Dennis. H said h ' just b hit b bus! B bus! No, h w alright. I w miracle, think. B t bus w slightly damaged. A when got home found Rob mopping t floor – t floor a everything soaking wet.



The freezer' b quietly defrosting all day. Yeah, when h w o a work. Everything w ruined. S , a eventful week! [Pause] No, won't. No, no, won't go anywhere w Amanda again. No, w just didn't get on. T whole week s never stopped lecturing m a phrasal verbs. Nightmare, i w !"

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Multi-Purpose Text

A Cultural Visit (What's the Question?)

1. To Scarborough.
2. No, everything was ruined.
3. Yes, it rained cats and dogs.
4. Rob.
5. Because the first one was absolutely grotty inside
6. Her friend Samantha.
7. Emilio and Lucio.
8. On Friday night.
9. Italian.
10. For a cultural visit.
11. Awful.
12. Because two students were missing.
13. One of Kathleen's colleagues from work.
14. Because she kept lecturing her about phrasal verbs.
15. Because Dennis wasn't harmed.
16. Slightly damaged.
17. When Rob was out at work.
18. Emilio.
19. After twelve.
20. Rosa.
21. Because the freezer had defrosted.
22. Evelina and Rosa.
23. Phrasal verbs.
24. Mopping the kitchen floor.
25. Dennis did.
26. To practise their speaking skills.
27. On the second night of the trip.
28. At the disco.
29. No, they didn't get on.
30. All day.



A Cultural Visit (True, False, or Unknown?)

1. They had some bad weather during the trip.
2. Amanda hadn't wanted to go to Scarborough.
3. They lost a lot of expensive food when the freezer defrosted.
4. Evelina and Paolo didn't get together at the disco on Saturday night.
5. Dennis was cycling home, when he was hit by the bus.
6. Amanda works with Kathleen.
7. Emilio and Paolo went to a casino.
8. Dennis was at work while the freezer was defrosting.
9. Kathleen went to Scarborough with some students and a colleague.
10. Evelina and Rosa often fight over the same guy.
11. The freezer defrosted during the night and everything was spoiled.
12. Samantha and Amanda are good friends.
13. Paolo had two admirers.
14. Kathleen and Samantha have known each other for years.
15. One of Rob's favourite pastimes is mopping the floor.
16. Amanda got up late each day and ate breakfast alone.
17. Amanda isn't very clever.
18. When Kathleen got home, Rob was out.
19. A small group of Italian students went on the trip.
20. It had been Emilio's idea to go to the casino.
21. The hotel they had booked wasn't suitable.
22. Amanda had a lot to say about phrasal verbs.
23. The bus was badly damaged.
24. The police came on the first night because of some missing students.
25. Amanda went to Italy with some students and a colleague.
26. The police cautioned the two students for going to the casino.
27. Rosa and Paolo got together at the disco.
28. Dennis was involved in a road accident.
29. The whole trip was a complete disaster.
30. Kathleen hates phrasal verbs.

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Multi-Purpose Text

Glossary of New Words

Here are some words and phrases from the text that may be unfamiliar to students. You could either pre-teach them, or encourage your students to find translations in a bilingual dictionary and write them in the spaces below. Stressed syllables are underlined.

Line:	Unfamiliar English:	Explanation:	Translation:
1	<u>yeah</u>	(sl) yes	
1	<u>Scarborough</u>	(prop n) A small seaside town on the north-east coast of England, which is a haven for tourists	
3	<u>lass</u>	(sl) northern slang for "girl". Kathleen comes from north Derbyshire, a county towards the north of England	
3	<u>gosh</u>	(excl) an expression of frustration or surprise; polite form of "God!"	
3	<u>does she not stop talking...</u>	(irreg) not a question form, but a rhetorical question (a question that does not require an answer). Kathleen uses inversion to emphasise her point. It gets to the stressed word more quickly. See also: line 7: "Incessant, it was!" / line 18: "Nightmare, it was!" / and line 13: "It was a miracle, I think."	
4	My <u>goodness!</u>	(excl) As "gosh", above	
5	<u>grotty</u>	(adj) dirty, unpleasant, e.g. esp. a place. Also, when you feel sick: "I feel grotty today."	
6	<u>Rained cats and dogs!</u>	(id) It rained heavily	
7	<u>Day in and day out.</u>	(phr) All day (for several days)	
7	<u>incessant</u>	(adj) continuous, without a pause	
7	we <u>had</u> the <u>police</u> out...	(irreg) the police were called and came to see us	
8	'till	(abbr) until	
8	<u>Said</u> they'd been <u>out</u> ...	(irreg) "They said they'd been out." By not saying the pronoun, Kathleen speeds up her tale	
9	<u>Well...</u>	(dm) Kathleen pauses, before embarking on a different train of thought; or she could be about to comment on something her friend has said, and then decides not to bother	
9	And we <u>had</u> ...	(irreg) It is not considered good grammar to begin a sentence with "and", but Kathleen is in a hurry to tell her friend what happened during the trip	
10	you <u>know</u>	(dm) Discourse marker. This phrase has no meaning, but allows Kathleen to pause before continuing the next anecdote	
10	<u>fighting</u> over <u>Paolo</u> ...	(phr v) to fight over sby = to be rivals for sby's affection; to both want to date the same person	
11	<u>Rosa</u> <u>finally</u> <u>won</u> <u>out</u>	(phr v) to win out = to be successful; to beat sby at sth; to win	
11	<u>Poor</u> <u>lad</u>	(sl) "lad" is northern slang for "boy". Kathleen talks about Paolo as a boy, rather than a young adult, probably because she is more than twenty years older than him	
12	By a <u>bus!</u>	(rep) Kathleen repeats this phrase to emphasise the unlikely event; or it could be that her friend misheard her, and she needs to repeat this phrase, which is so important to her tale	
13	It was a <u>miracle</u> ...	(exagg) exaggeration – Kathleen means that Dennis had been very <i>lucky</i> , not that a literal miracle had happened	
14	<u>soaking</u> <u>wet</u>	(id) very wet	
14	The <u>freezer</u> 'd been <u>quietly</u> <u>defrosting</u> <u>all</u> <u>day</u> ...	(id) The freezer had been defrosting all day without anybody noticing	
16	an <u>eventful</u> <u>week!</u>	(und) understatement – it had been not only an eventful week, but a week full of rather unexpected events	
17	we <u>just</u> <u>didn't</u> <u>get</u> <u>on</u>	(phr v) to get on with sby = to enjoy a good relationship with sby	

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Line:	Unfamiliar English:	Explanation:	Translation:
17	she <u>never stopped</u> ...	(irreg) she didn't stop	
17	she <u>never stopped lecturing</u> me...	(exagg) Kathleen means that Amanda often spoke to her in a patronising way about phrasal verbs, rather than that she did it without a break for the whole trip. To lecture sby is to talk to them in a condescending way, without listening to their opinion, rather than engaging with them in a normal, equal conversation	
18	<u>Nightmare</u> , it was!	(exagg) it was a very difficult or unpleasant situation, rather than something as literally frightening as a nightmare	

(adj)	adjective	(id)	idiom	(sby)	somebody
(abbr)	abbreviation	(irreg)	irregular grammar	(sl)	slang
(dm)	discourse marker	(phr)	phrase	(sth)	something
(esp.)	especially	(phr v)	phrasal verb	(und)	understatement
(exagg)	exaggeration	(prop n)	proper noun		
(excl)	exclamation	(rep)	repetition		

Extension 1:

Encourage students to look at some of the verb forms used in the text, for example the several uses of Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous:

We'd booked...
Said they'd been out...

Evelina and Rosa'd been fighting...
The freezer'd been quietly defrosting...

Notice the use of contracted forms, even with proper nouns ("Rosa") and objects ("freezer"), which is very common in spoken English.

Extension 2:

Think about the times when Kathleen pauses and answers questions from her friend. Imagine what those questions could have been:

[sample answers:]

Line 2: "Did you go with [e.g.] Theresa?"
Line 6: "What was the weather like?"
Line 7: "How did it go?" / "What happened?"
Line 12: "Was he hurt / injured?"
Line 15: "When Rob was at work?"
Line 16: "Will you go anywhere with Amanda in the future?"

Extension 3:

Ask students to count the number of characters in the text (there are 10 named characters), then to create a role play or dialogue, using a few of the characters. Or, students could work on their own and create a monologue using one character from the text, where they talk about what happened from their point of view.

Answers

A Cultural Visit (Guess the Function Words)

See Original Text for answer.

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Multi-Purpose Text

A Cultural Visit (What's the Question?)

Answers will vary. Suggested answers:

1. Where did Kathleen take her students?
2. Did Kathleen and Rob manage to save any food from their freezer?
3. Did it rain heavily during the trip?
4. Who did Kathleen meet when she got home?
5. Why did they go to a different hotel?
6. Who was Kathleen talking to?
7. Which students went to the casino?
8. When was the disco?
9. What nationality were the students that Kathleen took on the trip?
10. Why did Kathleen take a group of students to Scarborough?
11. How was the weather on the first couple of days?
12. Why did the Police come on the first night?
13. Who was Amanda?
14. Why didn't Kathleen get on with Amanda during the trip?
15. Why did Kathleen say there'd been a miracle?
16. How badly damaged was the bus after the accident?
17. When had the freezer been defrosting?
18. Who did Lucio go to the casino with?
19. What time did Emilio and Lucio get back from their night out?
20. Which of the girls did Paolo choose?
21. Why was Rob mopping the floor?
22. Which students were fighting over Paolo?
23. What did Amanda keep lecturing Kathleen about?
24. What was Rob doing when Kathleen got home?
25. Who got hit by a bus?
26. For what reason did Emilio and Lucio claim to have been to the casino?
27. When did Dennis get hit by a bus?
28. Where did Rosa finally win Paolo's heart?
29. Did Kathleen enjoy spending time with Amanda?
30. How long had the freezer been defrosting?

A Cultural Visit (True, False, or Unknown?)

(*T = True, F = False, U = Unknown*)

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. T | 11. F | 21. T |
| 2. U | 12. F | 22. T |
| 3. U | 13. T | 23. F |
| 4. T | 14. U | 24. T |
| 5. U | 15. U | 25. F |
| 6. T | 16. U | 26. U |
| 7. F | 17. F | 27. T |
| 8. U | 18. F | 28. T |
| 9. T | 19. T | 29. F |
| 10. U | 20. U | 30. U |