

Joe's surprise holiday

Most people go on holiday with friends or family, so would you invite a complete stranger to go on holiday with you? **1** The group, from Bristol in the UK, had planned a weekend away together to celebrate one of their birthdays. Everything was arranged, including plane tickets to the sunny island of Mallorca in the Mediterranean, and three days' accommodation on the island.

2 It was too late to cancel his reservation or change the name on the ticket. But what could they do with a plane ticket in the name of Joe McGrath?

3 This involved going onto Facebook and looking for people with that name.

They messaged 15 men and offered a free holiday to anyone who wanted it – the only requirement was that you had to be called Joe McGrath! **4** At first, this Joe thought that the message was a joke. But then he spoke to the people from Bristol and he realised that their offer was real.

He considered the idea for a couple of days, and then he thought 'Why not?' So he packed his bags, and drove down to Bristol. **5** But they still all had a great weekend together. Joe is even planning to invite his new friends for a weekend in Manchester soon.



- A** Then the friends had a brilliant idea.
- B** Unfortunately, just a week before they were due to travel, one of the friends found out that he couldn't go on the trip.
- C** But the airline refused to give Joe a refund on the ticket.
- D** The friends didn't need to wait long to get a reply.
- E** Well, that's exactly what 10 good friends did recently.
- F** The next day, Joe flew to Mallorca with 10 people he had only just met.
- G** Not many people would want to do that.
- H** Only one person answered – 21-year-old Joe McGrath from Manchester.