

3RD YEAR HIGH (PRE-INTERMEDIATE)

READING

SOURCE DISCOVER FUTURE 2 - PRACTICE ONLINE MATERIAL

1. READ ABOUT TRAVEL TRIPS: BODY LANGUAGE AND WRITE T / F.

Travel tips: Body language

Body language and gestures are an important part of communication, but they are not the same internationally. This is Dan's story:

My grandfather moved from Greece to Canada when he was a boy. Last year my dad and I went back to visit our relatives there. They live in a small village so we traveled by train to the nearest town, but we needed to get a cab to their village. Luckily, there was a cab outside the station. My dad asked the driver if he could speak English, the driver nodded so dad explained where we needed to go. We had been in the car for only a few minutes, when dad's phone rang. It was Uncle Nico. He had come to the train station to collect us, but we hadn't received the message. Dad explained to the cab driver in English that we needed to go back to the station. But the driver just grinned and winked at dad, and kept on driving. I started to feel nervous and whispered to Dad that something was wrong.

The next thing I knew, we stopped outside a house. Our driver jumped out of the car, and opened the door for us. We stepped out nervously. Then, another man appeared and he gave Dad a huge hug and planted a kiss on each cheek. At that moment, I realized that this was my cousin Draco and relief filled my body. The driver hadn't understood Dad's English at all, but he had recognized Uncle Nico's name and knew where exactly to take us!

The problems began when the family understood the driver's nod to mean 'yes'. In Greece, and some other countries, an upwards nod of the head actually means 'no'. This kind of difference is not unique. Different types of smile can also mean different things. A grin can also just be a friendly gesture, but it is sometimes understood as "I'm keeping a secret, or I am up to no good." The same is true for winking. This gesture needs to be interpreted by the situation, but in Greece it is widely used in a friendly way. In a similar way, a whisper is considered rude in some countries, but not in others. And as for hugs and kisses, many nationalities greet each other this way, though in others this would not be an appropriate greeting.

The lesson travelers can learn from this is that, as well as learning useful phrases in the language of the place where you are going, why not find out about local gestures, too. It could make your travels easier!

1. Dan's dad was originally from Greece.
2. Dan and his dad thought that their taxi driver could speak English.
3. Dan thought that the driver was planning to do something bad to them.
4. Dan was happy when the car stopped and he got out.
5. When he met his cousin, Dan realized he wasn't in danger.
6. The taxi driver had understood all of Dan's dad's instructions.
7. Nodding your head means "yes" and "no" in different countries.
8. You don't need to know the situation to understand what a wink means.
9. It is normal to say hello with a hug or kiss in many countries.
10. The writer suggest says learning the local language is more important than learning about body language.

2. Read the text and choose the correct option A or B.

Text A

1665 was a terrible year for London. 70,000 people died of the plague, and death and disease was everywhere. The city was just recovering when in 1666, another disaster struck. The unlucky people of London woke up one day in September to discover their city was on fire. What started as a small fire in a baker's, became the largest fire in London's history.

September 2nd: Firefighters arrived at the bakery and tried to put out the fire but it grew quickly. At the time, London was full of wooden houses and that day there was a strong east wind.

September 4th: The fire covered half of London now. Even the king helped with passing buckets of water! Many people were scared and tried to leave the city by boat.

September 6th: Finally, the firefighters had the fire under control, and soon extinguished it. Only six people died because of the fire!

The Legacy of the Fire

Although the fire destroyed 80% of the city, and many people were made homeless, the great fire had an unexpectedly positive effect on London. New housing and buildings replaced the dirty, crowded streets where disease had spread easily, making London a healthier place for its residents.

The Great Fire played a big part in shaping modern London. Sir Christopher Wren, the architect in charge of redesigning London after the fire, designed and built many of the landmarks we can still see today in London.

Text B

Grace woke up with a gasp. Thick smoke filled the room. It had driven out the oxygen that her body needed. She stumbled quickly from her bed, and began searching desperately for her younger brother, John, who had been sleeping next to her. "John!

John!" she cried as loudly as her smoke-filled lungs allowed her. Silence, she couldn't hear a reply. It was impossible to see through the smoke. It stung Grace's eyes, and soon her tears began to fall. Only a year before, Grace had lost her father, mother, and sisters to the plague. Now it was just her and John. She couldn't lose John.

The smoke was strong. It was too much for Grace's young body, and she fell to the floor. "Help!" she called weakly, and then everything went black.

Suddenly, there was a loud crash. Grace heard the voice of Mr. Parsons, their neighbor and other men. She was being rescued! Mr. Parson's lifted the girl easily, and carried Grace to safety.

Outside, Grace couldn't believe her eyes. Fire was destroying the city. But, she smiled, because a boy with a dirty face was looking at her. It was John. London might have been burning, but at that moment Grace's heart was happy.

1. Which disaster happened first?

- a. The Great Plague
- b. The Great Fire

2. Why did the fire spread quickly?

- a. Because the buildings were made of wood and there was a strong wind
- b. Because there weren't enough firefighters.

3. What did the king do?

- a. He passed buckets of water to the firefighters.
- b. He left London by boat.

4. How many people died in the Great Fire?

- a. Six
- b. 80% of London

5. Why was London a better place to live after the fire?

- a. Because Sir Christopher Wren designed beautiful buildings.
- b. Because the new streets and buildings were cleaner and less crowded.

6. Why did Grace wake up?

- a. She was worried about her brother, John
- b. She couldn't breathe properly because of the smoke.

7. How did Grace feel when she couldn't find John?

- a. She was a little worried.
- b. She was really scared and anxious.

8. What had happened to Grace's family?

- a. Most of them had died in the fire.
- b. Most of them had died of the plague.

9. Who rescued Grace from the fire?

- a. Her brother, John.
- b. Her neighbor, Mr. Parsons

10. Which sentence describes Grace's feelings at the end of the text?

- a. She isn't worried about the fire, she is just happy her brother is alive.
- b. She is anxious about the effect the fire will have on her life.