

1 Read the text. Match people A–F with the topics 1–6 they talk about.

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|--|---|
| 1 ☐ crossing the street | 4 ☐ making friends |
| 2 ☐ how people behave | 5 ☐ losing something important |
| 3 ☐ studying | 6 ☐ contacting your family |

Challenging yourself abroad

Studying abroad is a big challenge for anyone to face and so it's natural to feel anxious when you're making plans. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't give it a go. We asked six international students to share their best advice for studying abroad.



A Maikel

From: Barcelona **Studying in:** London

Try and learn something about the country before you go. Of course, you should learn the language and the basics — money, phones, etc., but it really helps if you can find out about the culture and the way people behave. You can find lots of information in books and on websites. Take it on board and you'll find it much easier to fit in.



D Stephen

From: Birmingham **Studying in:** Rio de Janeiro

You should definitely make friends with the locals because it will help you integrate. But I've learnt that it's also OK to make friends who are from your own country. It will help you feel less homesick and less miserable. Also, say 'yes' to every opportunity, even if you feel a bit uneasy at first. If you do, you'll have an adventure and see places you've never seen before. And may never see again!



B Tomasz

From: Kraków **Studying in:** Paris

Scan copies of all your important documents before you leave — passport, visa, insurance documents, etc. I've lost my passport twice and both times it was a nightmare. I had to spend days at the embassy trying to get a new one and while you don't have it, you can't really do anything!



E Özge

From: Istanbul **Studying in:** Berlin

Keep a journal. Make yourself write something every day, even if it's just a sentence or two about what you've done that day. In a few years' time you'll get a buzz out of reading about your time abroad. And don't forget you're there to study. Meet new people and explore, but remember to go to class in the morning, even if it's not compulsory. Once you've studied, congratulate yourself, then go and have fun!



C Janice

From: London **Studying in:** San Francisco

Learn the traffic rules! I got really stressed when I first came here because the cars drive on the other side of the road. I often got confused about where to look. Oh and 'jaywalking' (crossing the street in unauthorised places) is illegal here and you have to pay an expensive fine if a police officer sees you!



F Maria

From: Buenos Aires **Studying in:** New York

Don't forget your family back home. As soon as you arrive, send them a message to say you've arrived safely and give them all your contact details. It's not difficult to stay in touch, but it's easy to forget in all the excitement of a new place. It will stop them feeling anxious about you and it will also make things easier for you, knowing the ones you love are easy to contact.

2 Read the text again. Mark the sentences T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

- ☐ Maikel suggests using books and websites to learn the language before you go.
- ☐ Tomasz didn't scan a copy of his passport.
- ☐ It's against the law to cross the street anywhere you want in San Francisco.
- ☐ Stephen thinks you should only spend time with local people.
- ☐ Özge thinks you shouldn't go to classes if you don't have to.
- ☐ Maria says it's easy to keep in contact with your family.

3 Find words or phrases in the text with the meanings below.

- the most important and necessary facts about something the basics
- a very bad situation _____
- a punishment where you have to give money _____
- feel unhappy because you are a long way from home _____
- a book where you write things that happen to you each day _____
- you have to do it _____
- your phone number, home address, email address, etc. _____