Review test A: Units 7–8

Reading

The future of travel?

Do you sometimes wish you could swim in a deep blue ocean with fantastic tropical fish? Or would you choose to travel along the Colorado River in a kayak? Last weekend, I experienced both. I must have been in both places for about 30 minutes in total, and my clothing, which was a smart suit, didn't get wet. I was at an exhibition about the weird but wonderful world of virtual reality travel, which is a travel experience that is created by computer graphics. I could enjoy both experiences with a pair of special glasses, which only cost me $20.

The Grand Canyon experience, which I saw at the exhibition, was particularly inspiring. A realistic version of the 4,926 m^2 park was created with amazing computer graphics, which take you to the Grand Canyon as the sun begins to rise. You can even see animals, who respond realistically to your presence, and change the speed that you travel along different rivers. If you wanted to see everything at night, you could just turn on a flashlight.

All this seems amazing to me. Not so long ago, people couldn't learn much about most countries without booking an expensive travel ticket. Then with guidebooks, travel vlogs, and tourist websites, we managed to get information about these places. But we still depended on the photography, reviews, and experiences of other travelers. Now, if you had access to the apps I saw, you wouldn't need to read or listen to others: you would be able to discover the world by yourself.

In fact, virtual travel is already used in a wide variety of ways. For example, if you wanted to stay in a Best Western hotel in North America, you could use it to walk around the rooms in advance before you book. If you were interested in climbing the Eiffel Tower in Paris, you could see the view from the top before you decide to pay. If you were a teacher, you would be able to take your children around museums without the risk of losing them. There are many wonderful possibilities.

I wish I could tell you that the days when we needed to pack a large suitcase and fly for 15 hours might disappear, but this technology may not replace the experience of travel. The travel industry believes it will make people more interested. There are also health issues with virtual travel. I met a lady at the conference who felt rather sick after wearing the virtual reality glasses for a long time. Yet it might replace travel for some people, whose budgets or bodies are not able to take them to remote destinations, and we might all start traveling on our lunch breaks!

8 Read the text and write *T* (true) or *F* (false) next to the statements.

1 The author really went kayaking last weekend. ___
2 Using this technology, you can see the Grand Canyon early in the morning. ___
3 We will always need information from other travelers. ___
4 You can see the rooms in the Best Western hotel before you book. ___
5 Soon we won't have to travel long distances to experience distant places. ___
6 Virtual reality travel experiences can make you sick. ___

___ / 6

9 Complete the sentences with one or two words from the text.

1 The author really went to _____ last weekend.
2 The author bought _____.
3 The computer graphics of the Grand Canyon experience are very _____.
4 You can do the Grand Canyon experience at night with a _____.
5 In the Grand Canyon experience, _____ might respond to you.
6 Before guidebooks, you needed a _____ to learn about many countries.
7 Before virtual reality, we still depended on _____ for our information.
8 Now schools can let children see _____ safely.
9 The _____ thinks that people will travel more often if we have virtual travel experiences.
10 People who don't have much _____ can now "travel."

___ / 10

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