4 READING

EXAM PREPARATION • Exercise 2: *Cambridge B2 First for Schools* Reading and Use of English Part 6

HOME ARTICLES ABOUT BLOG

Dutch girl fakes a holiday to South East Asia

We all know how easy it is to fake a photo these days, but what about trying to fake an entire holiday? [1] F

Zilla told her family that she was going on holiday to South East Asia. In fact, she wasn't going anywhere. After her parents had said goodbye to her at the airport, she took the train back to her apartment and began the task of faking her trip by posting 'holiday' photos on Facebook.

At first, she set up her apartment so it resembled a Bangkok hotel room. It must have been impressive as her parents and friends never suspected anything when she video called them from there. [2] ___ To do this, she found images online and then with the help of her boyfriend, used photo software to digitally place herself as the subject in these impressive shots. They must have made quite an impact as they were liked hundreds of times on social media.

Zilla didn't only use technology to make her images. By chance, she found a Buddhist temple in Amsterdam where she could shoot 'real' photos of herself with the monks who lived there. [3] ___

The project might not have fooled anyone if she had been less careful. [4] ___ She sent messages to her friends in the middle of the night, and created fake profiles of new friends she had made on her trip. She even remembered to buy souvenirs from local Asian shops.

In the end, Zilla revealed to her friends and family what she had done. [5] ___ But why did she do it? She was concerned that people accepted everything they saw on social media as real. With this experiment, she wanted to show how easy it is to create a fake world on social media, and how common it is for people to alter reality in their own lives.

An article

Skill UP! Often, a paragraph in a text focuses on a single topic, and all the sentences in that paragraph present ideas about that topic. These ideas are connected via linkers (e.g. *and*, *because*) and reference words (e.g. *it*, *them*, *these*, *their*, *one*) that refer back or forward to other ideas.

1 ★☆☆ **Read the *Skill UP!* and the article. Choose the correct answers.**

1 Zilla's … thought she was going on holiday.
A boyfriend B family

2 Zilla tried to convince people she was on holiday by posting … on social media.
A stories B photos

3 She tricked her parents into thinking that her home was ….
A an apartment B a hotel room

4 She took some photos of herself at a temple ….
A near her home B in Asia

5 To make the holiday seem real, she also bought … from shops in Amsterdam.
A souvenirs B Asian clothes

6 Zilla faked her holiday because she wanted to show how easy it was ….
A to go on holiday without leaving your home B to show an unreal life on social media

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 ★★☆ **Read the article again and complete it with the sentences below. There are three sentences that you do not need to use.**

A But Zilla paid close attention to detail.

B It didn't take long for Zilla to do that.

C Then, she went on to post photos of herself at the beach, and at tourist and cultural sites.

D After this happened, Zilla had to become more careful.

E All were surprised, and most found it an enjoyable hoax.

~~F That's exactly what Dutch student Zilla Van Den Born did.~~

G As well as this, she bought takeaways from local Asian restaurants and posted close-ups of the dishes.

H Most people were convinced by them but not everyone.

3 ★★☆ **Read the article again and put the events in the correct order.**

A _____ Zilla told her family and friends the truth about her holiday.

B _____ Zilla took a train back to her apartment.

C 1 Zilla decided to fake an entire holiday.

D _____ Zilla used photo software to fake photos of her holiday.

E _____ Zilla changed the look of her bedroom.

F _____ Lots of people liked her holiday photos.

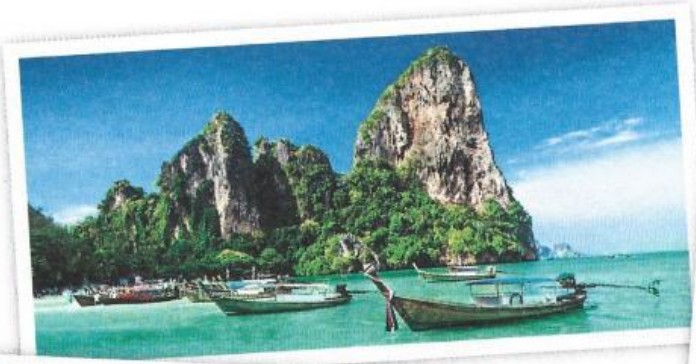
G _____ Zilla's parents took her to the airport.

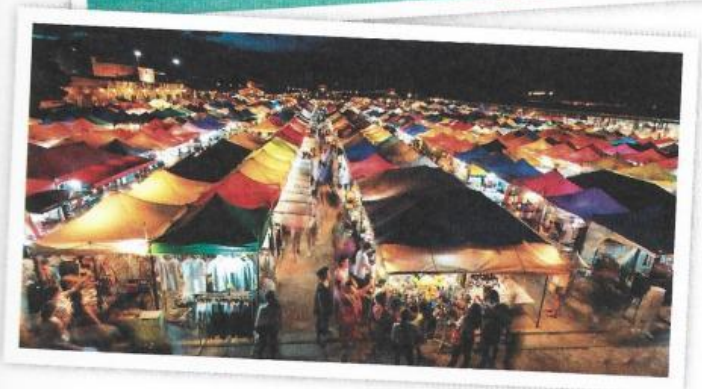
4 ★★★ **Answer the questions. Write complete sentences.**

1 What does Zilla mean when she says that people create a fake world on social media? How common do you think it is for people you know to alter reality on social media? How do they do this?

2 Why do you think people often show a more attractive version of their lives online? Do you think it's OK to do this? Why / Why not?

3 Do you ever use filters or software in photos to change the way you look? Do you ever write or say things about your life that aren't true? Why / Why not?





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