

A great place to stay

IN THIS LESSON, YOU:

- talk about places you have stayed in
- express positive and negative views about places
- practise listening to two conversations about places people have stayed in
- practise using negative questions to express opinion and surprise

VOCABULARY Where you stayed

1 Read the sentences. Do they express positive (P) or negative (N) views about places, or could they be either (E)?

- The whole place was really **muddy** and everything got **filthy**.
- We had a **stunning** view from our room.
- The service was really **efficient**.
- The weather was just **unbearably hot**.
- It **overlooked** a building site.
- People were so welcoming, it was quite **overwhelming**.
- The place was **a bit of a dump**, to be honest.
- The **facilities** were absolutely incredible.
- It was quite **isolated** – basically in the middle of nowhere.
- The beach was **deserted** so we had the whole place to ourselves.

2 **P** ▶ Listen to words and phrases from Exercise 1 and practise saying them. Which words or phrases do you find hard to say? Practise saying them again.

3 Work in pairs. Think of ways to describe three places you have stayed in using the language from Exercise 1. Tell your partner about the places.

LISTENING

4 ▶ Listen to two conversations where people talk about places they have stayed. Answer the questions.

- Where did the speakers stay?
- In what ways did they have a good time?
- What problems did they have?

5 **FS** ▶ Listen to eight questions from the conversations. Write the first word in each question. Then listen again and try to write down the whole question.

6 ▶ Listen to the conversations again. Complete the phrases with three words in each gap. Contractions count as two words.

- It _____ this island in the middle of the Danube.
- It _____ while we were there.
- They _____ for a couple of nights.
- We had a great time, _____ the weather.
- In August? _____ a bit hot?
- Look _____. That's stunning!
- It was a bit annoying, but _____ the place was, you couldn't complain.
- It was a bit of a struggle climbing back up, but it was _____.

7 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- Have you ever been to a music festival? If yes, which one? What was it like?
- If not, would you like to go to one? Why? / Why not?
- Has anyone ever put you up? When? Where?
- What's the best sunset you've seen? Where? What were you doing?

GRAMMAR

Modifiers

Modifiers make adjectives, adverbs, verbs or nouns stronger or weaker.

Adjectives and adverbs can be made stronger with *very*, *really*, *absolutely*, *completely*.

Adjectives and adverbs can be made weaker with *a bit*, *quite*, *fairly*, *pretty*.

Nouns can be modified by *complete*, *real*, *a bit of*, *hardly any*, *almost no*.

Verbs can be modified by *really*, *absolutely*, *hardly (ever)*.



8 Look at the Grammar box. Then work in pairs. Read these corrected sentences and discuss why the corrections are needed.

- 1 We got ~~very~~ **absolutely** soaked. (or **very** / **really** wet)
- 2 It was ~~absolutely~~ **really** hot. (or **absolutely** boiling)
- 3 Oh, it was ~~too~~ **really** incredible. I loved it. (or **absolutely** incredible)
- 4 It was ~~quite~~ **a bit** too hot for my liking.
- 5 The food was ~~a bit~~ **quite** nice, but maybe a bit bland.
- 6 It was ~~completely~~ **a complete** waste of time.
- 7 It was a bit ~~of a~~ **any** nightmare.
- 8 It was a bit dull. There were hardly ~~any~~ **any** facilities.

9 Match these modifiers with the groups of words (1–7). Which two groups of words can be used with more than one modifier?

a bit	a bit of a	absolutely	almost
fairly	hardly	really	very

- 1 pain / tourist trap / waste of money / dump / struggle
- 2 no one there / nothing to do / missed the bus / cried
- 3 cold / amazing / boiling / interesting / loved it
- 4 isolated / noisy / rough / too cold / overwhelming
- 5 posh / welcoming / efficient / dull / warm
- 6 filthy / amazing / gorgeous / deserted / enormous
- 7 anywhere to eat / anything to do / slept / noticed

10 Work in pairs. Use some of the language from Exercise 9 to talk about places in your town or city.

G See Grammar reference 6A.

DEVELOPING CONVERSATIONS

Negative questions

We often use negative questions to express our opinion or show that we find something surprising.

Couldn't you stay somewhere else?

Wasn't that a pain, having to rely on the bus?

Didn't they run more often than that?

11 Look at the Developing conversations box. Then complete the questions with negative forms.

- 1 A: _____ it a bit noisy?
B: Yeah, really noisy. The bar opposite had really loud music playing all night.
- 2 A: _____ you find it annoying, the way the sand always gets everywhere?
B: Yeah, a bit, but stony beaches are just really uncomfortable. They're no good for sunbathing.
- 3 A: _____ you ever heard of it? It's very well known.
B: Not in Asia it's not!
- 4 A: I don't really fancy diving myself. _____ you scared?
B: Not at all. I loved it. I'm thinking of taking it up.
- 5 A: _____ it really uncomfortable, camping?
B: It can be a bit, yeah, but we've got mattresses and chairs and stuff, so it won't be too bad.

12 Work in pairs. Respond to these comments with negative questions. Use the words in brackets. Then have conversations using your ideas.

- 1 'We stayed in a big five-star hotel in Cairo.' (expensive)
- 2 'Eight of us are going to share a room in a youth hostel.' (crowded)
- 3 'The area's quite rough, but the rent's really low.' (scary)
- 4 'I had to share a room with my boyfriend's mother.' (feel awkward)

CONVERSATION PRACTICE

13 Work with a new partner. Have a conversation about places you've been to. Begin by using this guide. Continue the conversation with comments, questions and responses. Then change roles and have another conversation.

Student A

Student B

Ask if B went away in the holidays.

Say where you went.

Ask about or comment on the place.

Respond.



A shock to the system

IN THIS LESSON, YOU:

- discuss culture shock and your experiences of it
- practise listening to an academic talk about what culture shock involves
- read a series of emails from a man living abroad for the first time
- identify tone and emotion in a series of messages

LISTENING

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 What do you understand by 'culture shock'?
- 2 When might you experience it?
- 3 What might it involve?

2 ▶ Listen to an extract from a radio programme about culture shock. How does the speaker answer the three questions in Exercise 1?

3 ▶ Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 What two misconceptions about culture shock are mentioned?
- 2 What is *acculturation*?
- 3 What four stages do people go through?
- 4 What happens in each phase?
- 5 Why might it be a problem if you don't complete the cycle?

READING

4 Work in pairs. You are going to read some emails from a young man called Matt, who has moved abroad for the first time. Look at the photos of his hometown in England and the place he has moved to – Singapore. Discuss the questions.

- 1 What do you think Matt's life in England was like? Think about: social life, social circle, places to eat, nightlife, things to do in your free time, and so on.
- 2 How easy do you think he will find moving to Singapore? Why?
- 3 What things do you think Matt will have to get used to?
- 4 How would someone find moving the opposite way: from Singapore to a small English village?
- 5 Which place would you rather live in? Why?

5 Read email 1 from Matt to a friend back home. Answer the questions.

- 1 Which of your ideas from Exercise 4 does he mention?
- 2 Are you surprised by his reaction? Why? / Why not?

6 Work in pairs. Discuss what changes might have happened during Matt's first few weeks in Singapore. Then read Matt's second email and find out if you were correct.

7 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Have you ever been homesick? When? Why?
- 2 What kind of things do you moan about in terms of school, work, family? Who do you moan to?
- 3 What kind of things do you think a foreigner might find difficult about your country?

8 Read Matt's third email and answer the questions.

- 1 What has Matt been doing since he last wrote to Jane?
- 2 How has his attitude to both Singapore and the UK changed?
- 3 What do you think has caused the change?

9 Before you read Matt's final email – written three years later – discuss the questions. Then read the email in File 6 on page 193 to see if you guessed correctly.

- 1 What do you think Matt's final email will say?
- 2 Why do you think there has been such a long gap between emails?
- 3 Where do you think he's living and how is he feeling?

10 Match the verbs (1–8) from the four emails with the words (a–h) they were used with.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 pick up | a an apartment |
| 2 gaze | b pride in what they do |
| 3 get over | c out of the window |
| 4 slave away | d very smoothly |
| 5 sort out | e at my desk |
| 6 go | f Matt at the airport |
| 7 cope with | g my jet lag |
| 8 take | h different variants of English |

11 Read the four emails again. Underline examples of these features of acculturation. Compare your ideas with a partner.

- 1 wonder and joy
- 2 settling into a routine
- 3 swinging from one extreme to another
- 4 looking critically at your previous existence and its culture
- 5 insulting someone
- 6 refusing to mix with people
- 7 getting stuck in a phase

SPEAKING

12 Think of a time when you experienced culture shock and had to adapt to new ways of doing things (in another country, beginning a new job, etc.). Decide which language from this unit you want to use. Think about:

- what was strange for you.
- the different feelings you went through.
- how well you adapted.
- any things you just couldn't get used to.

13 Work in groups. Share your experiences.

READING

1



To: Jacksonjane@hotmail.ml
Subject: Greetings from Singapore

Hi Jane,

Just a quick email to say I've arrived and am slowly finding my feet. It's been an absolutely mad few days. Got off the plane and was immediately hit by the heat – just unbearably hot and humid. I was picked up at the airport by David, who works for the company. He was taking the mickey out of me a bit in the taxi because he said I looked like a little boy who'd just arrived from the countryside. I suppose I probably did as I sat there gazing out of the window with my mouth hanging open. I mean, it's SO different. It's a bit overwhelming – but in a good way.

Anyway, after a couple of days getting over my jet lag and orientating myself a bit, I started at work. Mind you, I haven't exactly been slaving away at my desk. I seem to have spent most of my time being taken out for lunch, meeting people and partying! It's been pretty wild. I'd better start doing some proper work soon or the company will wonder what they're paying me for!

Anyway, they've already sorted out an amazing apartment for me – 15th floor, stunning view – so that's all gone very smoothly. I already know I'm going to love it here.

How are things with you?

Matt

2



To: Jacksonjane@hotmail.ml
Subject: Too little time!

Hi Jane,

Sorry it's been a while. Things have settled down a bit since I last wrote. In fact, I've been working fairly long hours. People just don't seem to stop here. When I used to travel into London from the country, I thought the pace of life there was pretty fast, but here it's completely ridiculous! Then there's the heat – it's so hot and humid here I seem to be sweating all the time and I can only get to sleep with the air conditioning on full. I've also found the office culture a bit of a challenge: all the different variants of English are quite hard to cope with, and when I do understand people, I'm often shocked by how direct and to-the-point they are!

Luckily, though, I've made friends with this guy who joined around the same time as me and we go out and have a moan about things and just generally share our frustrations. David calls us The Moaning Twins, but who cares what he thinks? To be honest, I'm already thinking of leaving. I honestly can't bear it! I never thought I'd miss home so much! Call me sometime soon.

Matt



Marina Bay, Singapore.

3



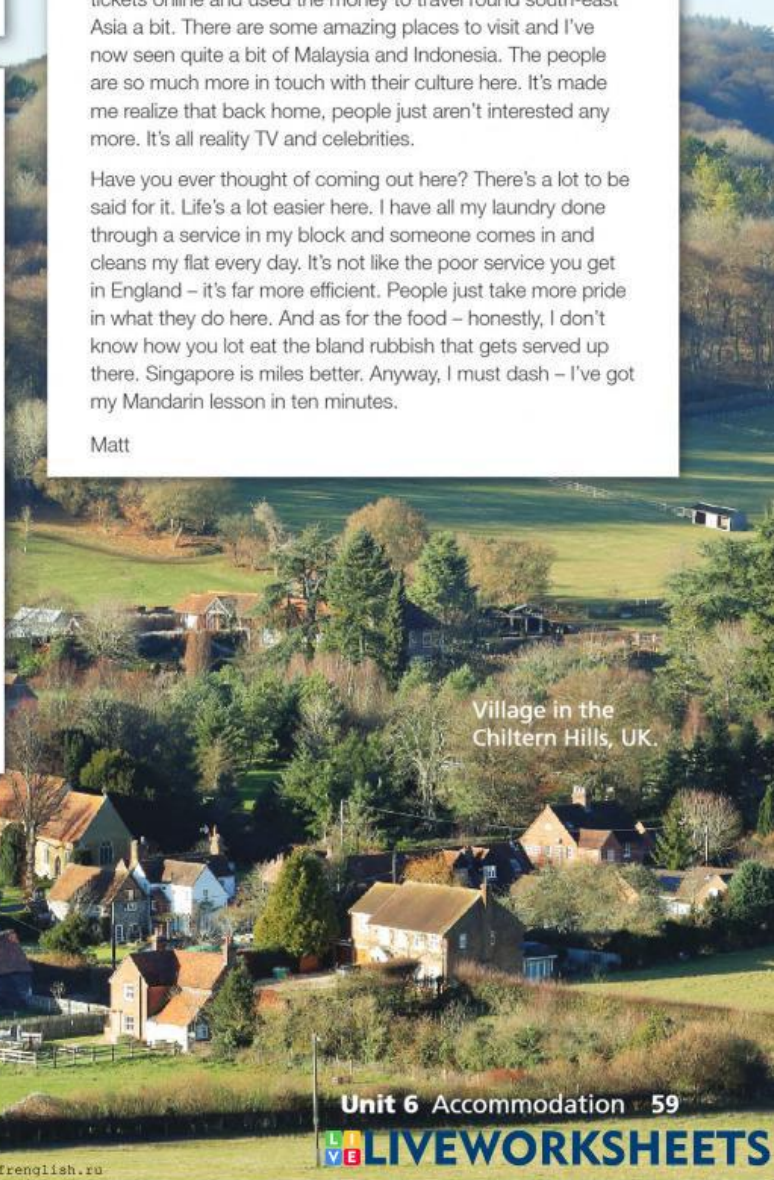
To: Jacksonjane@hotmail.ml
Subject: Why go back when you can go forwards?

Hey Jane,

I know I said I was going to be back in England over Easter, but then I thought why go back to the miserable weather, terrible food and dull conversation? In the end, I sold my plane tickets online and used the money to travel round south-east Asia a bit. There are some amazing places to visit and I've now seen quite a bit of Malaysia and Indonesia. The people are so much more in touch with their culture here. It's made me realize that back home, people just aren't interested any more. It's all reality TV and celebrities.

Have you ever thought of coming out here? There's a lot to be said for it. Life's a lot easier here. I have all my laundry done through a service in my block and someone comes in and cleans my flat every day. It's not like the poor service you get in England – it's far more efficient. People just take more pride in what they do here. And as for the food – honestly, I don't know how you lot eat the bland rubbish that gets served up there. Singapore is miles better. Anyway, I must dash – I've got my Mandarin lesson in ten minutes.

Matt



Village in the Chiltern Hills, UK.

Sorted!

IN THIS LESSON, YOU:

- practise ways of resolving problems
- discuss problems connected to different kinds of accommodation
- listen to four conversations about accommodation problems
- get a better understanding of idiomatic language

LISTENING

- 1 **Work in pairs. Think of three common problems that people have in each of these situations. What's the worst problem in each case? Why?**
 - 1 staying in a hotel
 - 2 renting a flat or house
 - 3 sharing a flat or house
- 2 **Listen to four conversations about accommodation. Decide what kind of place is discussed in each conversation and what the main problem is.**
- 3 **Listen again. Match two statements (a–h) with each conversation (1–4).**
 - a Someone didn't know what was supposed to happen.
 - b Someone has ended up losing money because of a decision they made.
 - c There's no way to change the temperature in the room.
 - d Someone is sarcastic at the end of the conversation.
 - e Someone feels they're being cheated.
 - f Someone didn't do what they'd said they'd do.
 - g The person repeats their complaint in stronger language.
 - h Someone has paid to sort out a problem.

- 4 **Work in pairs. Discuss what you would do in each situation in Exercise 2.**

A: What would you do in the first situation?

B: I'd ask to see the manager.

A: How would that help?

GRAMMAR

Have / Get something done

*You were right to **have it looked at** and **get it repaired**.*

*I **had my bike stolen** from right outside the house.*

- 5 **Look at the examples in the Grammar box and choose the correct option to complete the rules (a–d).**
 - a *get or have + object + past participle is an active / a passive construction.*
 - b *We use this structure when we talk about someone doing something for us that we ask – or pay – them to do. It emphasizes the action / the person who does it.*
 - c *We can also / can't use this structure to talk about bad things that happen even though we didn't cause them.*
 - d *The structure only focuses on the object of the verb / focuses on both the object of the verb and the person that the object belongs to.*



Lobby of Bellagio Hotel,
Las Vegas, US.