

9.2 Even holidays are stressful

4 Complete the sentences with the expressions. Some words may fit in more than one sentence.

not at all **so** **utterly**
quite literally **totally** **whatsoever**

- 1 A: We had a scary taxi ride from the airport.
B: Scary? It was _____ terrifying!
- 2 A: The weather was a bit rainy.
B: A bit rainy? It _____ rained the whole time.
- 3 A: The first hotel wasn't cheap.
B: Not cheap? It was _____ expensive!
- 4 A: It's a bit silly to get lost if you have a map.
B: Silly? In a complex city like Tokyo, I think it's _____ understandable!
- 5 A: The hotel's staff weren't very helpful.
B: Weren't very helpful? They were _____ interested in their guests.
- 6 A: The tour guides didn't give us much information about travel arrangements.
B: Not much? They gave us no information _____!

5 Complete the three texts with the correct options.

Text 1

My first holiday abroad was to Singapore. I felt ¹extremely / **utterly** nervous about using the local public transport and getting around, but once I discovered the ²so / **absolutely** amazing food in the markets, I began to feel ³really / **entirely** happy with my choice of destination.

Text 2

My holiday in Australia was of no benefit ⁴in the least / **whatsoever** for reducing stress. I'd bought cheap plane tickets several months before I went, but I didn't make a hotel reservation before leaving. The first night, I ended up in a business hotel that was ⁵not at all / **completely** pleasant – the room smelled of cigarette smoke – and I spent the whole next day trying to find a nicer place to stay. Rather than make last-minute arrangements, it would have been more relaxing to cancel the trip ⁶extremely / **entirely**.

Text 3

I had a ⁷totally / **so** boring holiday! That was definitely my first and last 'staycation' – you know, going on holiday near home rather than going abroad. I had a reasonably relaxing time, but it wasn't ⁸not at all / **the least** bit exotic, so it didn't feel ⁹at all like / **entirely** a proper vacation. Next summer, I definitely want to go further from home!

6 Complete the conversation with appropriate intensifying adverbs. There is more than one right answer for most gaps. Don't use the same word twice.

A: How was your long weekend?
B: It was ¹_____ stressful.
A: Oh, no! It was a music festival, right? When you told me about it, your plans sounded ²_____ brilliant!
B: Right. I mean, we ³_____ expected it to be a brilliant weekend, but it ... got off to a very bad start.
A: So can I ask what went wrong?
B: Well, first, I have to say, I accept the blame ⁴_____. But basically, what happened is we went to the wrong place ... or I booked the hotel in the wrong place.
A: The wrong place ... you mean the wrong part of town?
B: No, I ⁵_____ literally booked a hotel in the wrong city – in a city far away.
A: Oh, no! But it was Spain, right? Girona?
B: Well, that's where we flew to. But the hotel I booked was a thousand kilometres away – in Gerena, near Seville.
A: Gerena ... Girona ...
B: I know ... it's ⁶_____ embarrassing! There's no excuse ⁷_____!

EXERCISES

1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 The holiday was *stressful*, but the views from the hotel were *quite* / *very incredible*!
- 2 I *utterly* / *really* don't want to talk about the problems we had.
- 3 Evan was *absolutely* / *extremely* right to ask for a refund.
- 4 The airline tickets must have been *totally* / *Incredibly* expensive.
- 5 I agree *highly* / *entirely* with Kevin.
- 6 The tourist buses are always *really* / *completely* crowded.
- 7 I'm not *the least bit* / *whatsoever* interested in taking a city bus tour.
- 8 The food wasn't *very* / *in the least* what I expected.

2 Complete the conversation with these words. There is sometimes more than one possibility.

incredibly	the least bit	really
so	totally	very

A: You have to be¹ _____ lucky to get a cheap airline ticket these days.

B: I know. They've² _____ gone up in price, haven't they? But I found a deal on the Internet that was so cheap I was³ _____ sure must be a mistake! I found two London to Hong Kong returns for 99 Euros.

A: I'm⁴ _____ jealous. When are you going?

B: Next month. But it isn't⁵ _____ perfect.

A: Oh, no? Why not?

B: It's a(n)⁶ _____ long journey. We have to change planes three times, and it takes 40 hours.

A: Really?! I'm not⁷ _____ interested in that kind of bargain. I'd rather pay more and fly direct!

3 Complete the sentences with the intensifiers.

- 1 We were _____ hungry when we left the hotel, and we were _____ starving by the time we got to the restaurant. **absolutely** / **very**
- 2 We felt _____ exhausted after three days of walking around New York, and I felt _____ tired the following week at work. **extremely** / **completely**
- 3 I was _____ confident in our tour guide, because some of the historical information he gave us was _____ incorrect. **n't so** / **utterly**
- 4 The food on the tour was _____ delicious, but I think some people found it _____ spicy. **totally** / **very**
- 5 The weather in Mexico was _____ hot, but we _____ roasted on the beach in Egypt. **absolutely** / **very**

4 Choose the best position in the sentence for the word in brackets.

- 1 The instructions were of no _____ value _____. (whatsoever)
- 2 I'm afraid his advice was _____ in the least bit _____. helpful. (not)
- 3 I _____ loved _____ that movie. (absolutely)
- 4 He said _____ they're hoping to change the system _____. (entirely)
- 5 His email was _____ surprising _____. (completely)
- 6 I've had _____ an _____ exhausting morning. (utterly)
- 7 The house fell apart _____ literally _____. (quite)
- 8 I don't _____ like _____ my new haircut. (really)

5 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 They were very
- 2 We weren't at all
- 3 She absolutely
- 4 We've quite
- 5 I think we need to throw the plan away and start over
- a happy with the accommodation.
- b literally been running all day.
- c tired after the long walk and slept for eighteen hours.
- e doesn't need a new car.

6 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 The temperature at the beach was **extremely** boiling.

2 We were **utterly** late for the plane, so we missed it.

3 I had **not** fun **whatsoever** sitting around the hotel pool.

4 The bungalow we stayed in was **very** perfect.

5 I'm afraid I **disagree** with you **quite** about the hotel being **comfortable**.

6 We had **so** a good time in Bali.