

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.

- The holiday was stressful, but the views from the hotel were *quite* / *very* incredible!
- I *utterly* / *really* don't want to talk about the problems we had.
- Evan was *absolutely* / *extremely* right to ask for a refund.
- The airline tickets must have been *totally* / *incredibly* expensive.
- I agree *highly* / *entirely* with Kevin.
- The tourist buses are *always really* / *completely* crowded.
- I'm not *the least bit* / *whatsoever* interested in taking a city bus tour.
- 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 be ¹ _____ lucky to get a cheap airline ticket these days.
- B: I know. They've ² _____ gone up in price, haven't they? But I found a deal on the Internet that was so cheap I was ³ _____ sure must be a mistake! I found two London to Hong Kong returns for 99 Euros.
- A: I'm ⁴ _____ jealous. When are you going?
- B: Next month. But it isn't ⁵ _____ 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 not ⁷ _____ interested in that ki bargain. I'd rather pay more and fly direct!

3 Complete the sentences with the intensifiers.

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

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

5 Match the two parts of the sentences.

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

6 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

- The temperature at the beach was extremely boiling.

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

- I had not fun whatsoever sitting around the hotel pool.

- The bungalow we stayed in was very perfect.

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

- We had so a good time in Bali.
