

Edinburgh Festival Journal

September 1

I'm so excited! My roommate Christopher and I are on our flight to Edinburgh, Scotland, for the Edinburgh International Festival.

It's the biggest arts festival in the world and combines many

- 5 **separate** festivals happening at the same time. I'm **especially** excited to see lots of indie¹ art and films. There's so much to do, and we only have three days!



September 2

Christopher and I arrived at our hotel in Edinburgh last night. After **checking in**, we had dinner and explored the city streets. It was really **fascinating** but we went to bed soon after because we were so tired! Today we went to King's Theater to watch some short plays that are part of the Fringe Festival. People here call it "The Fringe," and it has an awesome variety of shows by all sorts of performing arts groups. A parade of actors **greeted** us as we walked down the street. They were waving colorful flags, one for each of the theater companies performing at the festival. It was a great way for us to start our festival experience. Christopher wants to hear some bands at the Jazz & Blues Festival, and we hope to see a good film tonight.



September 3

- 20 I saw an awesome comedian today! He was so funny that I couldn't stop laughing. I wish we had these kind of events in my hometown. Christopher and I spent the afternoon walking along the river. There were painters on either side, working and **displaying** all kinds of art. Later, we went to the Foodies Festival for dinner and tried local Scottish foods. Most of it was delicious, although there were a few foods we didn't **dare** try—like haggis!²



September 4

Today is the final day of the International Festival, but some of the smaller festivals will go on for a few

- 30 more days. The plan is to watch some short plays in the amphitheater in the park after lunch. Then, later tonight, we'll attend the closing **ceremonies** in the city center and watch the fireworks. I can't believe the festival is almost over!

¹ **Indie** is short for *independent* and describes an artistic work produced by a small company or group.

² **Haggis** is a kind of sausage made from the heart, liver, lungs, and stomach of a sheep.

Reading Comprehension

Check Your Understanding

A Choose the best answer for the following questions.

- Christopher is the writer's _____.
a roommate b student c boss
- After the writer and Christopher checked into the hotel, the first thing they did was _____.
a go to sleep b have dinner c see a play
- The _____ made the writer laugh a lot.
a amphitheater b comedian c local Scottish foods
- Which of these is the main festival?
a Fringe Festival
b Jazz & Blues Festival
c Edinburgh International Festival

B Number these events (1–5) in the order they happened.

- _____ The writer attended the closing ceremonies in the city center.
- _____ A parade of actors greeted the writer in the street.
- _____ The writer saw painters working and displaying all kinds of art.
- _____ The writer couldn't stop laughing at the comedian.
- _____ The writer attended the Foodies Festival.

C Discuss the following questions with a partner.

- How do people in Scotland probably feel about the arts?
- What do you think about a festival that brings together so many different arts? Would you like to go to this festival?



Critical Thinking

Vocabulary Comprehension

Odd Word Out

A For each group, circle the word that does not belong. The words in blue are from the passage.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 interesting | fascinating | obvious |
| 2 display | show | disguise |
| 3 welcome | express | greet |
| 4 hold back | dare | try |
| 5 especially | normally | commonly |
| 6 register | check in | fly in |
| 7 separate | different | altogether |
| 8 celebration | education | ceremony |

B Complete the following sentences using the words in blue from A. You might have to change the form of the word.

- He has pictures of his family _____ on his wall.
- Would you ever _____ go sky-diving?
At the airport, we waited in a long line just to _____.
- My dog and cat sleep in _____ rooms, otherwise they will fight.