

READING

1 Read this magazine article quickly and choose the best description.

- A description of a journey that the writer has made
- Advice for people who are planning a holiday
- An advertisement for a holiday in the USA
- Advice for business travellers

2 Read the article again. What are the writer's opinions? Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- It's very difficult to make the trip across the USA.
- It's a good idea to drive.
- It's a good idea to buy a car.
- It's a long way between cities.
- You should spend a lot of time in New York and Los Angeles.
- The north east is the most interesting area.
- American hotels cost a lot of money.
- It's a good idea to book hotels in advance.

Many people dream of travelling across the USA. It's one of the world's great journeys and it's surprisingly easy to make that dream come true, as our travel expert explains.

You can travel across the USA by bus, train or plane, but for the real experience, you have to drive. There's no need to buy a car, because renting a car is easy. There are car hire offices at all major airports and most companies will offer one-way rental, which means that you don't have to return the car to the same office.

When you're driving, remember that the distances between cities can be very long, so choose a comfortable car with air conditioning and make sure you take lots of your favourite music with you.

You'll probably start your journey in New York on the east coast or in Los Angeles on the west coast. They are both fascinating cities but don't spend too long there – get out on the road! That's where you'll experience the real USA.

Most people agree that the south west of the USA is the most interesting part of the country. That's where you'll find the mountains of Utah and the deserts of Arizona with world-famous sights such as the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley.

As for accommodation, there are lots of motels everywhere and you don't normally need to book in advance, so you don't have to plan your journey in too much detail. You'll also find plenty of diners serving good American food like hamburgers, hot dogs and pizza. But be careful! Americans are big eaters, so you can expect to return home a few kilos heavier than you arrived!

Glossary

- air conditioning:** a system that controls the temperature inside a car
- fascinating:** very interesting
- motels:** hotels for drivers
- diners:** cheap restaurants

ROAD TRIP USA

VOCABULARY Travelling by plane

3 Match the sentence halves.

- I was able to check in
 - It was only when I joined the queue
 - We got to the airport in plenty of time but it took ages
 - The trains weren't running, so I called
 - The plane was rather late
 - When I checked the departures
 - We got stuck in heavy traffic on
 - I quickly ran to the boarding
- taking off, but still managed to land on time.
 - the way to the airport and missed the flight
 - board, it said 'delayed' next to my flight.
 - gate, and was the last person to board the plane.
 - online, so I had more time to spend in the duty free.
 - a taxi to take me to the airport.
 - to board that I realised I was at the wrong gate!
 - to go through security, and we nearly missed our flight.

GRAMMAR Past simple and past continuous

- 4 Complete the sentences with the correct past form of the verb in brackets.**
- When I arrived in the Departure hall, a huge queue of people(wait) to check in.
 - I heard the last call for my flight as I (go) through security.
 - I was buying some duty free when someone (steal) my camera.
 - We (sit) in the plane when the flight attendant (tell) us the plane couldn't take off for another hour.
 - We (travel) to Hong Kong and we (have to) change flights in Zurich.
 - The plane (take off) when suddenly one of the engines (go) dead.

- 5 Circle the correct form of the verbs in italics.**
- While I *travelled* / *was travelling* to Sydney I *lost* / *was losing* all my luggage in Bangkok.
 - The train *wasn't running* / *didn't run*, so I *was taking* / *took* a bus to the airport.
 - I *dropped* / *was dropping* my passport while I *was running* / *ran* towards the boarding gate.
 - I *was talking* / *talked* on the phone when I *was hearing* / *heard* someone call my name.
 - I *knocked* / *was knocking* over a woman's coffee as I *left* / *was leaving* the cafeteria.

- 6 Complete the story with the correct past simple or past continuous form of the verb in brackets.**



I was really excited about my holiday in Hawaii. So, I ¹ (go) shopping and ² (buy) some new clothes. When the day ³ (come) to leave, it ⁴ (rain), so I ⁵ (call) a taxi to take me to the airport. I ⁶ (ask) the driver to stop at a chemist's so that I could buy some tablets for my allergy. As I ⁷ (get) out of the taxi, a bus ⁸ (go) past and splashed water all over me! So, when I ⁹ (arrive) at the airport, I quickly went to the bathroom to change my clothes. After that, it ¹⁰ (take) ages to go through check-in. Then, as I ¹¹ (go) through security, they ¹² (stop) me to search my hand luggage. By this time it ¹³ (get) late, and so I had to run to the boarding gate. I ¹⁴ (get) there as they ¹⁵ (close) the gate! Fortunately, the woman from the airline let me onto the flight.

DEVELOPING CONVERSATIONS

Apologising for being late

- 7 Complete the dialogues with the phrases in the box.**

don't worry at least missed got stuck in
haven't been here was chatting to

- A: Sorry I'm late. I my neighbour and completely forgot the time.
B: Oh well. Never mind. you're here now.
- A: Sorry I'm late. I heavy traffic.
B: What was the problem?
- A: Sorry I'm late. I the bus.
B: It's OK. I long.

LISTENING

- 8 3.4 Listen to the first part of a conversation between Greg and his friend Anna about Greg's road trip on Route 66. Tick (✓) the correct answer.**

- Greg had a:
a great time b terrible time.
- Route 66 is:
a 4,248 miles long b 2,448 miles long.
- Each day, Greg travelled:
a 116 miles b 150 miles.
- Route 66 is:
a a normal road b a modern six-lane motorway.

- 9 Match these words in the box to the photos. There are two words for each photo.**

valley Cadillac arch
river monument National Park



- 10 3.5 Listen to the second part of the conversation. Number the photos 1-3 in the order you hear them.**