

## "THE JOURNEY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE DESTINATION"

1. Some people believe that "the journey is more important than the destination". What is your opinion on this idea? Why do you believe so? Explain your opinion and think of an example.

2. Read the following description of a journey and answer:

a) What does Oliver think is more important: the journey or the destination? Why?

### Bus Journeys *Oliver Balch, travel writer*

Darwin opted for a sailboat. Che famously went by motorbike. Me, I'm a bus man. There are few crannies where a rickety local bus won't take you. I've driven with brave (though not always sober) bus drivers across Chile's Atacama Desert and to the edge of the Ecuadorian jungle, over the endless Argentine pampas and to barren Paraguayan outposts.

I'm not alone. Bus is the travel mode of choice for the majority of South Americans, too. Nowhere gives a better flavour of the continent than its often scrubby, chaotic bus stations. And no cultural immersion programme can rival sitting shotgun with a local farmer or market tradesman.

Of my hundreds of bus journeys in South America, a ride through the jungles of northern Bolivia remains the most emblematic. The trip to Cobija, a town on the Brazilian border, was

advertised as taking twelve hours. Nothing was said of the balsa rafts to make the half dozen river crossings, nor the almost total lack of tarmac, nor the high probability of getting stuck in the mud.

But when we rolled into town, a full day late, my preference for bus travel remained unshaken. It's true, I could have flown. But if I had, then I'd have definitely missed out on the male bonding that is shovelling mud during a torrential storm and the delights of an old lady's homemade *cherimoya* (a heart-shaped fruit with white flesh and green skin) flan. And not only that, I wouldn't have heard a live (and regularly repeated) version of Bolivia's top 50 all-time-classic folk songs. Even without these, the coachload of accommodation offers I received from my new best friends in Cobija would have made the trip more than worthwhile.

From *The Guardian*

#### Glossary:

- Crannies (n): cracks, small holes.
- Rickety (adj): shaky.
- Scrubby (adj): not well cleaned or organized.
- Sit shotgun (v): to sit in the passenger's seat of a motorbike.
- Tarmac (n): asphalt, pavement.
- Shovelling (v): digging.
- Coachload (n): a group of people travelling.

### MIXED CONDITIONALS - REVISION

Match the mixed conditional types with their functions.

Type 1	Hypothetical situation in the present and its hypothetical consequence in the past
Type 2	Hypothetical situation in the past and its hypothetical consequence today

3. Based on Oliver's experience, choose the correct option. Then, say which function is expressed in each case. (type 1 or type 2)

- a) If I didn't have / hadn't had travelled by bus through America, I wouldn't appreciate / wouldn't have appreciated the beauty of bus journeys today.
- b) If I wasn't / am not an adventurer, I wouldn't travel / wouldn't have travelled on a bus journey through the continent.

c) If I didn't meet / hadn't met kind and generous people along the journey, my view on the American culture would be / would have been completely different.

d) If I chose / had chosen another means of transport, I wouldn't acknowledge / wouldn't have acknowledged the beauty of bus journeys.

**4. Complete the following ideas to express one of the mixed conditional functions.**

- Pay attention to the way you will write the actions (affirmative or negative form).

a) If we \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) all our money on that adventure holiday last year, we \_\_\_\_\_ (be) going skiing next month.

b) If I \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) my passport when I was backpacking, I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) all these problems trying to get a new one.

c) If I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) seasick every time I get on a boat, I \_\_\_\_\_ (cross) the Channel by ferry last summer when I went to France.

d) If I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) Paul on holiday, we \_\_\_\_\_ (be) married now.

**5. Think about a good journey you've had in the past. Write and reflect on it by writing two mixed conditionals expressing imaginary past situations and their present consequences, and two imaginary present situations and their past consequences.**

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**6. Look at the following ideas and choose the best advanced conditional structure.**

a) Supposing / Unless the flight has been cancelled, how are you going to get to your destination?

b) Even if / Provided you plan your trip in advance, backpacking can be fantastic.

c) Unless / As long as you speak the local language, surviving in another country can be difficult.

d) Providing / In case you get lost, you should have a printed map in your backpack.

**7. Write about tips for a great holiday/journey using these expressions.**

*only if - in case - unless - supposing*

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