FOCUS

Reading & Listening

UNIT 3 B

TRAVELLERS' TALES

A

We often travel by plane but we don't use budget airlines, even though they are cheaper and often fly to the places we want to go. I'd rather pay more for a bit more comfort. Last Christmas, we wanted to spend the holidays with family and friends and we had a change of flight in Frankfurt, Germany. The time between flights was 45 minutes and we soon realised that we weren't going to make it. The airline was good to us and the other passengers and gave us food and a comfortable hotel to sleep in. We got a flight the next morning but, unfortunately, it meant that we missed a big family party. I thought I'd been clever and found a quick way to get to Canada but I was very wrong. Now I know that I need to leave at least two hours between flights if I want to be safe. That's much better than missing a flight or arriving without your luggage.

B

We decided to travel across Europe by train. Train travel always looks so romantic in films. I imagined leisurely meals in the dining car and meeting exotic people, followed by a comfortable night's sleep. Things started to go wrong before we had even left. The security and check-in for the train from London was just like at an airport, except that the queues were longer. Then, when we got to Brussels, we found that our night train was three hours late and there was nowhere to leave our bags. After a very long and not very good meal at the station, it was finally time to get on the night train. It was OK but the compartment was too hot and when we opened the window, it was too noisy to sleep. The beds were hard and there was no dining car so everyone went straight to their own compartments and didn't socialise at all. It wasn't quite as I had imagined it!

C

We wanted to go to England but weren't sure how to travel. We live a long way from an airport and, anyway, none of us like flying. If we went by train, we would have to change three times. In the end, we went by coach. It left our home town at five o'clock in the afternoon, as planned, and arrived in London, exactly on time, twenty-two hours later. I wasn't expecting to sleep well and it wasn't as comfortable as a bed but it was better than I had imagined. The bus stopped every four hours for a rest and we all got out. Everyone was very friendly and chatted and the atmosphere was almost like a party. Then, at about eleven o'clock, it all went quiet as people tried to sleep. When I got out in London, half asleep but happy, I felt as if I was saying goodbye to old friends. I'm now planning on doing more travelling by coach.

Reading

1 Read the stories and match each sentence (1–5) to a story (A–C). You can choose each story more than once.

1 There were no delays.

2 There wasn't enough time to get to a planned connection.

3 It was a good way to meet new people.

4 There was no chance to meet other passengers.

5 I have learnt an important lesson about planning journeys.

1 ____
2 ____
3 ____
4 ____
5 ____

Listening

2 [Track 7] You will hear six short extracts about holidays. Choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

1 The family had something to eat
A as soon as they got on the ferry.
B about an hour after the ferry had set off.
C while they were watching England disappear.

2 The man decides to pay the extra amount because
A he thinks 50 pounds is not too much to pay.
B he doesn't want to queue up again.
C he doesn't want to unpack all his luggage.

3 Choose the correct statement.
A Beth wants her dad to collect her.
B Two students are going home from the trip because of bad behaviour.
C The teachers don't seem to be enjoying the trip.

4 The speaker is
A showing some friends a tent he has just bought.
B asking for information about a tent.
C explaining the advantages of a tent.

5 From St Agnes
A you can easily get to the Isles of Scilly.
B you can take a boat trip to Canada.
C you can admire the Atlantic Ocean.

6 The woman who is listening to her friend talk about her holiday
A loves skiing.
B is surprised that her friend has been skiing in Spain.
C isn't keen on the idea of a holiday in February.

LIVEWORKSHEETS