4 A Read the article and match topics a)–d) with paragraphs 1–4.

a) dealing with problems _____
b) having the best experience _____
c) doing something different _____
d) preparing for your trip _____

My top travel tips

Sandy Graves is an experienced travel writer who regularly travels all over the world. Here she shares some of her top tips.

1 When you start packing, leave your suitcase open somewhere. As you think of something you need to take, pack it. Don't leave it until later or you might forget. Make photocopies of all your important documents and put them in your suitcase, too. If you lose your passport, having a copy will make it easier to get a new one. Pack earplugs. They're great for long flights and noisy hostels, when you really need to sleep.

2 While you're travelling, be patient. Everybody wants to leave on time, but it doesn't always happen. Buses can be late, you can have problems with your documents or your card might not work in the ATM. Don't worry, there's always a way to get there. Smile and enjoy it – you won't have another chance to!

3 If you want more than just a holiday, try volunteering, spending some time learning new skills and meeting new people. You can travel anywhere in the world to do all kinds of different jobs, from building in Tanzania to looking after elephants in Thailand. Just think what you could do.

4 Do your best to try everything around you. Try the local food, buy the terrible, cheap souvenirs (they won't feel terrible when you're back home) and take lots of photos. And talk to local people – you can get so much more out of your trip if you do. Keep an open mind, and don't criticise the local culture. You might see or experience things which seem strange to you, but are normal there.

B Read the article again. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

1 Try to pack things at the same time as you think of them. _____
2 It's a good idea to take earplugs for when you want to go swimming. _____
3 It's best not to worry when you have problems. _____
4 There aren't many opportunities to do anything different when you travel. _____
5 Don't buy souvenirs if they're not good. _____
6 Try to accept things which seem strange to you. _____

C Find words in the article that match these meanings.

1 things you put in your ears to keep out noise (paragraph 1): _____
2 places where you can eat and sleep cheaply for a short time (paragraph 1): _____
3 able to wait calmly (paragraph 2): _____
4 a machine where you can get money from your bank (paragraph 2): _____
5 abilities; things you can do (paragraph 3): _____
6 from the place where you are (paragraph 4): _____

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