

5a

Reading Skills

BEAUTIFUL Nepal!



Sun 5th April – Kathmandu

We arrived safely in a very foggy Kathmandu after our short but **delayed** flight from India. We caught a local bus to the hotel, passing street vendors, **beggars**, shoeshine boys and even a **barber** with his chair and **cracked** mirror out on the **pavement**! This morning we **escaped** the dust, noise and pollution of the city to visit the incredible Monkey Temple up in the hills. There really were hundreds of monkeys there — they were running around everywhere. There were lots of steps to climb but it was worth it — the view of the snowy **peaks** of the Himalayas in the distance was absolutely **breathtaking**!

Tues 7th April – The Himalayas

We woke up yesterday morning feeling so excited! Finally the day we would begin our 2-day **trekking** excursion to the Himalayas had arrived! We took a small plane journey from Kathmandu and then trekked for hours up and down the rocky mountain **trail**. It was hot in the bright mountain sun but quite cold wherever there was some **shade**. You can't imagine how spectacular the **scenery** was! We finally reached a village called Phakding where we **put up** our tent and camped outside a teahouse. We tried some local dishes, which were delicious, and then got into our sleeping bags. It got cold very quickly once the sun had gone down! I awoke the next morning to the most amazing sunrise I had ever seen! I took a walk down

to the river where I ran into two young boys playing. They were really friendly. Nepalese villages are very poor, but everyone we met in the mountains seemed happy.

Thurs 9th April – Bhaktapur

Returning from the mountains, Kathmandu seemed even busier than when we left! We took a taxi to the ancient town of Bhaktapur today as we had heard that its annual festival Bisket Jatra was taking place. When we got there, we **hired** a guide, who took us to see the noisy **tug-of-war** contest that kicks off the festival every year. Apparently, the festival is **based on** a fairy tale and continues for days. It includes a wild parade, a **candlelit** procession and two more tugs-of-war! Later in the day, we went on a guided tour of Bhaktapur's magnificent temples, then we went shopping for souvenirs. The city is full of **craftsmen** selling paintings and **handicrafts**. I bought some beautiful pottery and Jake found a fantastic pair of hand-made drums!

Sat 11th April – Home Sweet Home!

Jake and I finally put on our **backpacks** for the last time and flew home today after 5 weeks, 4 countries, 2 **nasty** viruses and countless temples, mountains, beaches and cheap campsites and hotels! I'll never forget the amazing experiences I've had **backpacking** through Asia, but right now I'm looking forward to some **home comforts** and a good night's sleep ...

Task 1. Read the text and answer the questions.

1. What was the weather like in Kathmandu?
2. What was the weather like in the Himalayas?
3. What means of transport did the travelers use while in Nepal?
4. Where did they stay?
5. What did they do and see in each place?

Task 2. Translate into English.

1. задержанный рейс
2. сбежали из грязного города
3. на расстоянии
4. вид снежной вершины был захватывающим
5. 2-ухчасовая пешая экскурсия
6. захватывающий пейзаж
7. местные блюда были очень вкусными
8. ежегодный праздник/фестиваль
9. нанять гида
10. ремесленники продают изделия ручной работы
11. я участвовал в туристическом походе по Азии
12. опасные вирусы
13. домашний уют

Task 3. Read the text again and find the adjectives describing the following.

1. bus
2. city
3. view
4. scenery
5. parade
6. boys
7. villagers
8. contest
9. campsites and hotels
10. sunrise
11. Bhaktapur temples
12. experiences
13. pottery

Task 4. Make up your own sentences with these expressions