Reading: an informal email

1 Read the email and answer the questions.

To: jane@worldmail.com

Subject: Egypt holiday!

Hi, Aunt Jane

We're back from our holiday in Egypt. We had a really good time, but lots of things went wrong! First, our flight was delayed. We had to stay at the airport for a few hours, waiting to get on the plane. When we finally arrived at our hotel, we weren't given a room with a sea view. The hotel was built 200 years ago and I wanted to tell the manager, 'You need to do some repairs,' but I didn't. Mum and Dad weren't very happy that our rooms weren't cleaned every morning.



Our hotel was near the beach, but there was a big storm on the first day and the beach was closed – it was too dangerous to keep it open. We went to a museum instead and learned about ancient Egyptian pharaohs, tombs and mummies. We bought lots of books on Egypt to take home with us. Unfortunately, I wasn't told until the museum was closing that there was an exhibition on hieroglyphics. We went back the next day, but the exhibition had finished!

The best day was the last day. We left Cairo and went to Giza, where we saw the Sphinx and the pyramids. There were lots of people there. Everyone took lots of photographs.

I hope all is well with you and Uncle Matthew.

Love, Amber

1 What happened at the airport? The flight was delayed.
2 How long did they have to wait for their plane at the airport? _____
3 When was the hotel built? _____
4 Why couldn't they go to the beach on the first day? _____
5 Did Amber see the exhibition on hieroglyphics? _____
6 What did they buy lots of at the museum? _____
7 When did they see the Sphinx and the pyramids? _____

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Writing 3

1 **Complete the common phrases used to begin and end informal emails with the words from the box.**

going ~~thanks~~ wait hope forward hear

1 Thanks for your email.
2 It's great to _____ from you.
3 How's it _____ ?
4 I can't _____ to see you.
5 I'm really looking _____ to seeing you.
6 _____ to hear from you soon.

Help with Writing

The key to writing an email to friends or family members is to use a friendly, informal style.
Use contractions (*I'm* instead of *I am*), use exclamations (!) and write as if you were talking to the person.

2 **Imagine you are Amber's aunt. You and Uncle Matthew had a day trip to London last Saturday. It didn't go very well. Read the information below, then write an email in response to Amber's telling her all about your difficult day trip. Use the phrases from Activity 1.**

- You and Uncle Matthew decided to go to the Ancient Egypt exhibition at the British Museum.
- You went to London by train.
- The train was delayed.
- The exhibition was cancelled.
- On the way home, there were lots of people on the train and not enough seats. You had to stand up.

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