

Reading

"Moments That Stay With Us"

Some trips are about the places we visit, but the most unforgettable ones are often about the moments. I remember sipping coffee in a tiny New York cafe, the kind that makes you feel like you're in a movie. In contrast, the Caribbean was a lesson in slowness. Time seemed to stretch, and even silence had a voice. It wasn't the expensive resort that stuck with me, but a spontaneous conversation with a local fisherman who shared a story about chasing a storm. These small, vivid moments—unscripted and raw—are what turn a trip into something unforgettable. They're not scheduled on itineraries, but they linger long after the return flight. What really stays with us are the feelings those moments create: awe, gratitude, and connection.

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False:

1. The author preferred the Caribbean over New York. **True / False**
2. The author had coffee in a famous coffee chain. **True / False**
3. A conversation with a local was more memorable than a resort. **True / False**
4. The author believes itineraries are essential for good trips. **True / False**
5. The author felt a sense of connection during the trip. **True / False**

B. Open-ended Questions:

1. What contrast does the author make between New York and the Caribbean?
2. Why do you think the local fisherman left such an impression?
3. Do you agree that feelings are more memorable than sights? Why/why not?

Vocabulary: Idioms & Phrases

Match the expression with its meaning:

1. Off the beaten path
2. In the moment
3. Make your skin crawl
4. A blessing in disguise
5. Hit the ground running

Meanings:

- A. Something good that seemed bad at first
- B. Doing something with energy from the very beginning
- C. To feel fully present and aware

- D. Something unusual or far from tourist spots
- E. To make someone feel uncomfortable

Use 3 of the expressions in your own sentences.

Grammar Focus: Advanced Emphasis — Fronting & Emphatic Structures

 **What is Fronting?** Fronting is when we move a part of the sentence to the beginning to give it emphasis. It's often used in writing or more formal speech and can create a dramatic effect or highlight something specific.

☒ **Examples of Fronting:** • Normal: I had never seen such a beautiful sunset before. •

Fronted: Never had I seen such a beautiful sunset before.

• Normal: We went to the top of the Empire State Building.

• Fronted: To the top of the Empire State Building we went.

 **Exercise A: Transform with Fronting** Rewrite each sentence to add emphasis through fronting.

1. I will never forget the moment I arrived in New York.

2. They had barely landed when the storm started.

3. I met wonderful people at the beach.

4. We explored little-known islands.

5. The sunset was absolutely stunning.

6. The city lights amazed me.

7. I had never tasted such delicious food before.

8. We only realized we were lost at night.

9. They had just left the hotel when the rain started.

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10. I saw the Empire State Building for the first time.
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 **Exercise B: Real Travel Reflections — Fill the Gaps** Complete these sentences with your own ideas using fronted expressions for dramatic or emotional impact. Use your trip to New York and the Caribbean as inspiration.

1. Only after _____ did I realize how much I'd grown.
 2. Never before _____ had I felt so free.
 3. At the top of _____, I paused to take it all in.
 4. Not until _____ did I understand what peace means.
 5. Rarely _____ have I laughed so hard.
 6. Into the water _____ we dove with excitement.
 7. So stunning _____ was the view that I forgot to take photos.
 8. Seldom _____ do I feel that inspired.
 9. On the last day _____ I made a surprising decision.
 10. Nowhere else _____ have I felt more alive.
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♦ **Additional Grammar Focus: Inversion After Negative Adverbials**

 **What is it?** When certain negative adverbials (like *rarely*, *never*, *not until*, *hardly*) are placed at the beginning of a sentence, we often invert the subject and auxiliary verb.

☒ **Examples:** • Normal: I had never experienced anything so wild. • Inversion: Never had I experienced anything so wild.

• Normal: She rarely eats street food. • Inversion: Rarely does she eat street food.

 **Practice A: Rewrite with Inversion.** Rewrite these using inversion with the negative adverbials given.

1. I had never felt so relaxed. (*Never*)

2. She barely had time to breathe before her next flight. (*Barely*)

3. I only understood the painting after the guide explained it. (*Only after*)

4. We rarely see skies that clear. (*Rarely*)

5. They hadn't even unpacked when the power went out. (*Hardly*)

6. I never imagined I'd try parasailing. (*Never*)

7. He only called after he reached the airport. (*Only when*)

8. We had no idea until we saw the news. (*Not until*)

9. She seldom travels alone. (*Seldom*)

10. I understood the culture more deeply after living there. (*Only after*)
