

■ A Summer That Changed Everything

Last July, Emma and her family decided to do something different. Instead of going to their usual beach resort, they planned a road trip through southern France. Emma wasn't very excited at first—she preferred lying by the pool, listening to music, and doing nothing. But her parents insisted it would be “an adventure.” They started their trip in Lyon and drove to small towns along the coast. Each place had its own charm: colorful markets, tiny cafés, and locals who were always ready to chat. Emma was surprised by how friendly everyone was, even though her French wasn't perfect. She quickly learned some useful phrases and tried to speak as much as she could. One day, while they were driving through the countryside, their car broke down near a lavender field. It was extremely hot, and there was no signal on their phones. Instead of panicking, they decided to wait and enjoy the view. The smell of lavender, the sound of the wind, and the silence of the place made Emma feel strangely peaceful. When a farmer finally stopped to help them, she realized that sometimes the best moments happen when things don't go according to plan. At the end of the trip, Emma didn't want to go home. She had taken hundreds of photos, made a few new friends, and even promised herself to keep studying French. “Next year,” she said to her parents, “let's get lost again.”

■ Comprehension Questions

1. Where did Emma and her family go on vacation?
2. How did Emma feel before the trip started?
3. What surprised her about the people she met?
4. What problem did they have during the trip?
5. What did Emma learn from the experience?
6. What decision did she make at the end?

■ Vocabulary Check

Word	Meaning
1. resort	a) a place where people go on holiday for relaxation
2. to chat	b) to talk in a friendly way
3. charm	c) something unusual that happens during a trip
4. peaceful	d) feeling calm and quiet
5. according to plan	e) everything happens as expected

Match the words with their meanings.

■ Follow-up Writing Task (Optional)

Write about a time something unexpected happened during your holidays. Use at least one of these expressions: “Instead of...”, “Even though...”, “I realized that...”