

TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

1) Last year, my friend Tim and I visited Thailand. Our first stop was the capital, Bangkok. The “City of Angels” was very busy and after a week we felt we needed a change, so we booked tickets to go on a guided tour to a Karen village in the North-west of the country. The next morning, an old van parked outside our hostel. A man jumped out and shouted our names at us. After around four hours, we arrived at the village.



2) As soon as we got off the bus, it felt like we stepped back in time. Everywhere we looked there were small bamboo huts and open fires with locals making their daily meal. Our tour guide told us that the Karen tribe live the same way today as they did for generations. They grow their own food, weave their own cloth to make clothes and build their own huts. They are very friendly people.



3) What surprised me the most, though, were the huge bronze rings the Karen women wore around their necks. Karen girls first start to wear the rings when they are five years old. They begin with one ring, and over the years, they add more and more. By the time they become adults, some Karen women wear up to 15 rings, so their necks look extremely long. Most people say that Karen women do this so that they look like dragons, an important animal in Kayan religion. On the journey back to Bangkok, I couldn't stop thinking about the lives of the Karen people. The whole day was a great experience.

Exercise 1: Read the text again, match the paragraphs to the headings and **TICK THE EXTRA HEADING**

- A. An interesting appearance
- B. Just like the old days
- C. Looking for something different
- D. Living in the city

Exercise 2: Mark the sentences True (T) or False (F)

- 1. Tim and the writer stayed in Bangkok for a week before going to the Karen village.
- 2. The Karen people live in modern houses made of stone and bricks.
- 3. Karen women start wearing bronze rings when they become adults.
- 4. Some Karen women wear up to 15 rings around their necks.
- 5. The writer didn't enjoy the visit to the Karen village.

Exercise 3: Complete the sentences according to the text

- 1. The writer went to Thailand with _____.
- 2. People call Bangkok _____.
- 3. They went to a Karen village which is in _____.
- 4. The Karen people live in _____.
- 5. They cook their food on _____.
- 6. The rings make the women's necks look _____.

Exercise 4: Fill in the gaps with **weave, grow, booked, guided, adult**.

- 1. We went on a _____ tour in Bangkok.
- 2. We _____ our holiday to the USA online.
- 3. They showed us how to _____ cloth.
- 4. They work in fields and _____ rice.
- 5. In Japan there are special ceremonies when a young person becomes a(n) _____.