



Pre-Reading

A. Answer the questions before you read the text. Tick (✓) the correct answer and write your own ideas where needed.

1. Have you ever been abroad?

☐ Yes, many times

☐ Once

☐ Never

2. How do you feel about travelling?

☐ 😄 Excited

☐ 😐 Okay

☐ 😬 Nervous

3. Which country would you like to visit?

.....

4. What do you enjoy doing when you visit new places?

.....

Reading

B. Read the text quickly and match the headings a-g with the paragraphs 1-4. There are three extra headings which you do not need to use.

- a. A natural delight
- b. Things to avoid
- c. A scary experience
- d. First impressions
- e. A rough ride
- f. Living with the Bedouins
- g. Gestures and handiwork

5b



My trip to Morocco

by Amanda Edmunds

1

I arrived at Marrakech airport where I met my friend Amelie, who had arrived the previous day. She's been to Morocco many times and I couldn't wait for her to show me around. Amelie is French, which is cool, because they speak Arabic, French and Berber in Morocco. As soon as I'd dumped my bags in the hotel room, we went out to grab a bite. We went to a souq, which is an open-air market by day, but at night it turns into a bustling open-air restaurant with loads of food stalls. It was full of life and everything smelt delicious. I was enjoying the sights as we were walking through the crowd eating our kebabs, and I didn't notice a man yelling at me. He was a snake charmer and I almost stepped on his cobra because I wasn't looking where I was going!

2

I had seen many people the previous night with henna tattoos on their hands, so I asked Amelie where I could get one. So, it was back to the souq, where a little old lady turned my hands into a work of art. She explained that the tattoos would go away two weeks later. Afterwards, while walking around the city, I noticed how some people hail taxis. They don't stick out their hand, but they point a finger, or even two fingers. I asked Amelie why they did that and she explained that it was a way to tell the taxi driver how many people need a lift. Later, we needed a taxi to get back to the hotel, so I gave it a try. We found a taxi pretty quickly, so I guess it worked fine.

3

I was a bit nervous about our next outing, but as it turned out, I had the time of my life. We went on a 2-day 4x4 excursion to Erg Chebbi. This is a place in the Sahara desert and it took us most of the day to drive there, but it was definitely worth it. We watched the sun setting over the enormous sand dunes. Then the real show started as the stars came out and filled the entire sky. Living in the city, I had never seen so many stars. It was magical. I fell asleep that night imagining how wonderful life as a Bedouin might be: roaming the desert on camels and sleeping in tents under the stars.

4

A few days later, my dream came true and I got the chance to go camel riding, but it didn't really live up to my expectations. Getting on a camel isn't exactly a piece of cake, but after a bit of a struggle I managed to get up there (I called my camel Goofy because he had huge teeth). We rode off but after a while I felt dizzy and I asked the guide, Moha, if we could stop. Moha told me not to worry as I'd get used to it. He also said that camels are known as 'ships of the desert'. Then it crossed my mind that I was feeling seasick in the middle of the desert!

MY CAMEL, GOOFY

OUTSIDE THE MARRAKECH SOUQ WITH MY HENNA TATTOOS

SAND DUNES IN THE DESERT

C. Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why was Amelie a useful person to visit Morocco with?
- 2 What did Amanda eat on her first night in Marrakech?
- 3 Why did a man yell at Amanda?
- 4 Where did Amanda go to get a henna tattoo?
- 5 How many fingers did Amanda hold up to hail a taxi?
- 6 How long did it take the girls to get to Erg Chebbi?
- 7 What impressed Amanda the most on their trip to the desert?
- 8 Why did Amanda want to get off her camel?

D. Find words / phrases in the text and match them with the definitions below.

No	Definition	Paragraph Number	Words/ Phrases
1	put something somewhere quickly and carelessly	paragraph 1	
2	get a small meal	paragraph 1	
3	excursion	paragraph 3	
4	whole	paragraph 3	
5	wander or travel around an area	paragraph 3	
6	not being as good as one hoped	paragraph 4	
7	very easy	paragraph 4	
8	realise	paragraph 4	