Reading 2

Read the e-mail. Then, for each item, choose the correct option.

From: Ahmed

To: Salem

Subject: My first virtual tourism experience

Hi Salem,

You asked me about my experience with virtual tourism, so I thought I would tell you about it. Last weekend, I decided to take a virtual tour of the Louvre Museum in Paris. I have always wanted to visit Paris, but travelling there is expensive, and I cannot always find enough time for a holiday. I used my laptop and a 360-degree online tour, and I was surprised by how realistic the experience was.

First, I walked through different parts of the museum virtually and looked at famous works of art. I could move around and explore the rooms from home. I also learned interesting information about some of the paintings. The best thing was that I could visit the museum whenever I wanted. I did not have to worry about the weather, flights or time zones.

After that, I tried a virtual rainforest tour from Costa Rica. It was very interesting because I could explore the rainforest while learning about nature and climate change. It made me think about the environmental benefits of virtual tourism. Planes and cars produce a lot of pollution, while virtual travel does not require me to fly or drive.

However, the experience was not perfect. My internet connection was slow for a while, so the tour stopped several times. I also felt some eye strain after using the screen for a long time. This made me understand why some people may not enjoy virtual tourism. Good virtual tours can also require expensive devices and fast internet, which are not available everywhere.

There was one thing I missed most: **real human experiences**. I could see the museum, but I could not taste local food, enjoy the atmosphere of Paris or talk to people there. I understand why a 2023 survey found that 62% of tourists considered trying local food and meeting people very important.

Overall, I really enjoyed my virtual tour. It is cheaper and more accessible than traditional travel, especially for people who cannot travel because of health, age or money. I would definitely use virtual tourism again, but I still hope to visit Paris in real life one day. For me, a virtual tour can show you a place, but real travel lets you truly experience it.

Have you ever tried a virtual tour? If you have, tell me about your experience!

Best wishes,
Ahmed

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Reading 2 (continued)
For each item, choose the correct option.

1. Ahmed decided to take a virtual tour of _____.

A. the Great Wall of China | B. the Louvre Museum | C. the Costa Rican rainforest

2. Ahmed used his _____ to take the virtual tour.

A. laptop | B. car | C. camera

3. One advantage Ahmed noticed was that he could visit the museum _____.

A. only during the daytime | B. when the weather was good | C. whenever he wanted

4. The virtual rainforest tour helped Ahmed learn about _____.

A. art and paintings | B. nature and climate change | C. flights and hotels

5. Ahmed's experience was interrupted because his _____ was slow.

A. internet connection | B. computer battery | C. virtual tour guide

6. After using the screen for a long time, Ahmed experienced _____.

A. motion sickness | B. eye strain | C. tiredness from travelling

7. Ahmed realised that virtual tourism could not provide some real-life experiences, such as _____.

A. exploring a museum | B. learning about paintings | C. tasting local food and meeting people

8. In the end, Ahmed believes that virtual tourism _____.

A. can completely replace real travel | B. is useful, but real travel offers a deeper experience | C. is too expensive for most people

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