

- 2 Look at the sentences about a trip to India. Read the text to decide if each sentence is correct (C) or incorrect (I).

Tip: Read the sentences first, then read the text quickly for general meaning. Find the relevant part of the text for each sentence and read that part carefully to see if the sentence is correct or incorrect.

- 1 It was Jake's idea to go to India with his dad.
- 2 Jake felt excited and slightly anxious before the holiday.
- 3 India didn't feel very different to Jake when he first arrived.
- 4 Jake preferred the hotel in Delhi to the one in Jaipur.
- 5 Jake became bored with visiting historic buildings in Jaipur.
- 6 Jake found the train journey to the south uncomfortable and disappointing.
- 7 According to Jake, travelling by car can be frightening at times.
- 8 Jake was annoyed that he didn't see any tigers in the wildlife park.
- 9 Jake was glad that they ignored the warnings about food in the guidebook.
- 10 Jake and his dad said they would return to India one day.

A trip to India

by Jake Davis

My dad has always wanted to go to India, but my mum has never been particularly interested in visiting the country. So last year my dad decided to take me there for a three-week holiday. Although I was looking forward to the trip, I was also a bit nervous about visiting a country with such a different culture.

We landed in Delhi and as we drove out of the airport, I could see immediately that it was not at all like home. The first thing that struck me was how many people there were – there were people everywhere, on bikes and motorbikes, pushing handcarts or walking with large bundles on their heads. Everywhere I turned, there were different sights, sounds and smells.

We spent two days exploring Delhi before moving on to Jaipur, a smaller city that is known for its famous pink-coloured buildings. I enjoyed our stay here in a typical Indian hotel. This was much nicer than the big international hotel where we had stayed in Delhi. I felt I was really in India now! We spent two days visiting monuments and palaces in and around Jaipur, which, although interesting at first, became less so after the fifth or sixth one!

After Jaipur, we took a long train journey south to Kerala in a train packed with people, animals and all kinds of goods. Travelling by train in India is definitely an interesting experience, but not as enjoyable as I expected, and the heat was almost unbearable. Travelling by car with an experienced local driver is much more enjoyable, although at times you want to close your eyes when your driver speeds past a red light, beeping his horn loudly to warn other traffic that he's coming!

In our final week we visited a large wildlife park. Although the advertisement promised us tigers, the closest we came to seeing one was a rather old-looking paw print on the ground. This didn't matter though, as we saw elephants and were lucky enough to spot a family of these animals in a river, the young ones splashing around playfully. This more than made up for the lack of tigers!

All in all, the holiday was a wonderful experience. The food was definitely one of the highlights. We enjoyed some wonderful hot snacks from food stalls by the side of the road, despite the advice in the guidebooks to only eat in hotels and restaurants. The other thing I will really remember from the trip is the kindness and warmth of the people. As Dad and I boarded the plane to come home, we promised ourselves that it wouldn't be the last time we would see this amazing country.