Dear you, lovely you,

We're so sorry to hear that you had to cancel your vacation at the last minute. We hope you're feeling better, and that you'll be able to take your vacation within 2 weeks, even if you've had to change plans.

We thought that we'd tell you a few things about our recent trip to Rome, so that, even if you couldn't go out of town, you can live our trip, vicariously! ☺

You may not remember WHY we had planned to go to Rome, so let us refresh your memory: our elderly friend's constant whining, "I'm lonely. Come and see me. I'm lonely. Come and see me."

Since it's no small expense JUST TO SEE HER, we had told her many times months in advance that we were coming for five days during the last week in June, and had asked her each time to please tell her son NOT to take her out of town that week. Her response was always a weak, "OK," but we figured that repeating it would remind her to do it. We figured, badly, as you'll see, but we're getting ahead of ourselves. Finally, we made plans, booked a hotel in a good spot halfway between where she lives near the Ponte Milvio and downtown Rome, and bought the nonrefundable train tickets. We WhatsApp'd her immediately with the final details, and she WhatsApp'd back right away, "Super!" Then…drum roll, please…within a half an hour, she messaged us, again, saying that her son was taking her to Sperlonga that week, and couldn't we change our plans?! "NO," we said, trying to bite our tongues. Such a typical Italian mother…quick to protect her son from bother, while spreading it around liberally to others. Harrumph!

We shouldn't be so bitter, even if it was an expense we'd rather have avoided (more than €750.00 each!). We enjoyed a lovely few days in Rome, great – but HOT and HUMID – weather, re-visiting lots of our old 'friends,' such as the Pantheon and the Capitoline Museums. One day, we even got a chance to eat a brioche a piece – oh, heaven, they're so light and fluffy, and don't stay on our stomachs like stones, as most of them do – at our favorite place near the Fontana di Trevi, then…went back the next day for another each! We also got to meet up with two of our other friends who also live in Rome. All in all, it was a lovely five days, even if her going away right when we told her we were going to be there still rankles, grrrrr. Oh well, we should just let it go, and be happy that we had a few days in our beloved Rome.

We hope that this has cheered you up. Looking forward to seeing you, soon. Hugs, your besties!

**bother**: an unwanted inconvenience, annoyance

**to rankle**: to cause bitter irritation

**to bite (your) tongue** (idiom): to not say something (you) very much wanted to say

**harrumph**: an expression of annoyance

**bitter**: acrid, usually disagreeably

**fluffy**: light, soft, airy, puffed up

LIVEWORKSHEETS

# TASK_B1_READING_LETTER_personal experiences and feelings_MEYER-Rome

**GIST**: You couldn't go on vacation, recently, and so you're sad. Your best friends have written you a letter about what they saw and felt while they were on their most recent vacation, so that you can experience theirs through their words, but they'll quiz you about it when you see them for coffee, soon, so get prepared! **READ** these gist terms, and **WRITE** them down on a separate piece of paper. **SKIM READ QUICKLY**, looking only for these terms. **MARK** each time you see them. When you're finished, **COUNT** how many of each term you have read, and use the pull-down menu to choose the correct answer. ***WATCH OUT!*** An envious colleague has included at least one term that is not in the text! (**MAXIMUM TIME ALLOWED**: 15 minutes)

_____ Rome _____ June _____ Parthenon

**DETAILED**: Super! That got you through their quick questions over coffee, but they're coming to your house for dinner, tonight, and they'll want to talk about their trip. Get prepared! **READ** the questions TWICE, then **don't look** at them. **SCAN READ** the text TWICE with MODERATE SPEED. Now go back to the True/False questions and answer them, correctly, by **CLICKING** on True or False without reading, again. **Don't worry**! The questions are purposefully **general**, so you should be able to answer them, correctly, without having to read, a third time, but if you do need to, it's OK, just remember for which questions you needed to do it, so you and your teacher can talk about why. ***WATCH OUT n. 1!*** An envious colleague has included at least one question that is misleading! ***WATCH OUT n. 2***! Not all questions are asked with exactly the same language as is used in the text! (**MAXIMUM TIME ALLOWED**: 25 minutes)

| | TRUE | FALSE |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Your friends were a little angry about not seeing their friend. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. They had a lovely time, even if it was cold and humid. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. They got to see some of Rome's most important monuments. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. They weren't able to see their friend because she was in the hospital. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Their favorite place for a brioche is in the suburbs of Rome. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Their main reason for going was to visit their elderly friend. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. You had to cancel your vacation plans because you were sick (*tieh!*). | _____ | _____ |

EXTRA (no point): What is your favorite place in Rome, and why? _____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS