

PET – Reading Part 3

Trip to Paris

by Stephen Mitchell

When my mum told me she had to go to Paris for a business trip and suggested that I go with her, I have to admit I wasn't that keen on the idea at first. It's not that I wasn't interested in going to Paris, but I just didn't think it would be much fun with a parent! In the end, though, Mum managed to convince me that we would have a good time.

We live in London so we didn't have to fly. We took the Eurostar, which is a high-speed train that takes about two hours to get there. I thought that I might be a bit scared as the train travels through a 50-kilometre-long tunnel underneath the sea between England and France. But as we were travelling when it was already dark, I didn't even realise that we were in the tunnel until we were almost out of it.

Once we were in Paris, and apart from a couple of meetings on the first day, Mum was free the rest of the time. We did lots of sightseeing, including going to the Louvre Museum to see Leonardo da Vinci's painting called the *Mona Lisa*. I'm not usually a big fan of art galleries, but Mum persuaded me to go, and it wasn't as boring as I thought it was going to be. It was actually quite exciting to see such a famous painting in real life.

The highlight of the trip was when we visited the Eiffel Tower. This famous monument is 324 metres high and has three floors, which you can get to by lift, or you can walk up 669 steps to get to the first two floors! I wanted to go up to the top floor, but Mum refused. She's afraid of heights, and said she couldn't manage anything higher than the second floor. I was a bit disappointed – a friend had been all the way to the top and he'd told me that the view was amazing – but I tried not to show Mum that I minded. In any case, the view from the second floor was pretty spectacular.

1 In the first paragraph, how does Stephen feel about the trip to Paris?

- A He wasn't clear why he had to go to Paris.
- B He wasn't sure about going on this type of trip.
- C He couldn't believe he was going to Paris.
- D He was immediately interested about the trip.

2 How did Stephen feel before his journey on the Eurostar train to Paris?

- A calm about going through a very long tunnel
- B pleased that he didn't have to fly
- C nervous about part of the journey
- D curious to see what a high-speed train was like

3 The visit to the Louvre Museum

- A confirmed Stephen's views about art galleries.
- B was quite disappointing.
- C was a better experience than he had expected.
- D made him really want to visit other art galleries.

4 What happened when Stephen and his mother visited the Eiffel Tower?

- A They were annoyed by how many stairs they had to climb.
- B Stephen made an effort to hide his feelings from his mother.
- C They were impressed with the view from the top floor.
- D Stephen realised that he was scared of heights.

5 What would Stephen say to a friend about the trip?

- A It wasn't all perfect, but I really enjoyed it.
- B It was all fantastic. We did everything that I wanted to do.
- C It wasn't great. I don't think I'll go on a business trip with Mum again!
- D It was all right, although I didn't see anything really amazing.