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Come for a visit. I'll show you my city!

Jom Palao

People sometimes say to me, "You speak English so well." I tell them, "I practice with native speakers," but I don't tell them that I make money while I practice! How do I do it?

It all started when I joined a tourism website and became a tour guide. Here's how it works: People from all over the world can sign up for tours with me directly. That keeps the prices low for the tourists. And I don't pay anything to have my name on the site!

The people on the site want to see the usual tourist attractions, like museums and monuments, but they also want to see the places that ordinary tourists never see. I can show them. When I give tours of my city, Bangkok, I take visitors to restaurants and shops that only Thai people visit. We check out interesting neighborhoods where they can talk to local people and eat local food.

Can you guess my visitors' favorite activity? Eating! We visit markets and my favorite little restaurants. They look around, and everyone else is Thai. That really makes their visit special. Their interest in Thai food gave me an idea: cooking lessons! So, last year my mother and I offered cooking lessons for the first time. Well, my mother cooks, and I explain everything in English. The classes are now more popular than my tours. Every class is full. Maybe next I will offer Thai dancing lessons!

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3 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A What is the main idea of the article?

a. Being a tour guide is the best way to learn a new language.
b. The internet has changed many things for tourists and travelers.
c. A local tour guide can give tourists a special experience.

B READING SKILL 1. Read the Reading Skill. Cross out the details that are not in the text.

a. The cost for tourists is low.
b. Eating is often tourists' favorite thing to do.
c. Tourists visit neighborhoods where Thai people live.
d. The website is free for guides.
e. Thailand needs more tourism websites.
f. Tourists can find local guides.
g. Jom and her mother offer cooking lessons.
h. Tourists visit small stores where Thai people shop.
i. Visitors meet and talk to Thai people.
j. Jom heard about the tourism website from a friend.

READING SKILL Find details

Most readings have a few big ideas and then some details to give information about those ideas. Finding details can help you understand the writer's ideas better.

2. Now match the supporting details to each of the three big ideas below. Write the letters on the lines.

a 1. Jom's tourism website has many advantages.
_____ 2. Local guides help tourists understand Thai people and culture.
_____ 3. Jom works for visitors who love Thai food.

C FOCUS ON LANGUAGE Read. What do the underlined words mean?

I tell them, "I practice with <u>native speakers</u>," but I don't tell them that I make money when I practice!

a. people who started speaking a language as a child
b. people who speak a language at work

LIVEWORKSHEETS