

Wishes

LEVEL **B2.1**

Student's Book

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				Multiple matching	Speculating & Reaching a decision	
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A Journey Under the Sea

Several years ago, my wife and I came upon an advertisement in a travel magazine for an international exchange programme promising 'the chance of a lifetime'. Not one to let such an intriguing **opportunity** pass me by, but a bit hesitant about **taking such a leap into the unknown**, I did some research and discovered that the programme involved something called house-swapping.

After much discussion, my family and I decided to, as they say, go for it. Consequently, we were soon jetting off for a holiday in the Peak District of England while our exchange partners were settling down for their vacation in our flat back home in Mt Vernon, Washington. The exchange was for a month and the time passed quickly. To end our time away on a high note, we decided to travel to Paris via the engineering marvel known as the Channel Tunnel.

Being on a fairly tight budget, we **opted** for a package deal which included round-trip tickets on the Eurostar passenger train, five nights in a three-star hotel in Paris, Metro passes and **unlimited** use of the Paris bus system. When the package still hadn't arrived after a week, I began to think that perhaps our trip hadn't been such a good idea after all. Maybe it was a sign that we shouldn't go.

The tickets and vouchers eventually arrived and I **scolded** myself for having had such silly thoughts. On the day of departure, with plenty of time to spare, my two teenage children, my wife and I stood waiting eagerly on the platform at King's Cross Station. At exactly 7:57 am, we boarded our train and began our journey through the **picturesque** county of Kent. About an hour into our journey, an announcement, in both English and French, informed us that we were about to enter the Channel Tunnel.

The Eurostar adverts had boasted proudly about the engineering **feat** that was the 'Chunnel', and the **convenience** it offered to those travelling between England and the Continent. They had spoken highly of the "lack of rough seas" and to me, a person who gets seasick very easily, this was a major selling point. When all is said and done, however, I must admit that there were moments when I felt quite nervous about travelling 50 metres below the bottom of the English Channel.

Inside the tunnel itself, there really wasn't much to grab my attention – no posters or other artwork, so I busied myself studying the **occupants** of our carriage. Some calmly read novels or newspapers; others quietly looked through business reports and notes. I quickly realised, however, that most of my fellow passengers were like my family in that they looked excited and very happy to be enjoying such a **novel** travel experience.

Our underwater journey ended as quickly as it had begun. All of a sudden, we left the darkness of the tunnel behind and **nosed out** into the light of the pleasant French morning. The tracks being well-built, we quickly **accelerated** to 300 kph, the speed of a Boeing 747 at take-off. We arrived in Paris' busy city centre a mere 180 minutes after leaving London. That journey, and indeed the whole time that we spent on the exchange programme, have given us all a **yearning** for new experiences, and many wonderful memories that we will cherish forever.



Reading & Listening

1 Describe picture A. Where was it taken? What time of year is it? How can you tell? How do you think the people feel? Why?

2 Look at the map. Which countries can you see?

3 Read the last sentence in each paragraph. What is the article about? Listen, read and check. What is the author's purpose?

4 Read the article. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Study Skills

Multiple Choice

Read the text quickly to get an idea of what it is about. Read the question stem, then find the part of the text which the question refers to. Go through the choices and choose the one that fits best. The information might be rephrased.

Exam Practice: Reading

- 1 **How did the writer first learn about the house-swapping scheme?**
 A from his wife
 B purely by chance
 C through a travel agent
 D by doing research
- 2 **The writer uses the phrase 'go for it' (paragraph 2) to express the idea of ...**
 A taking a risk.
 B going abroad.
 C flying on a jet.
 D having a choice.
- 3 **The writer 'scolded' himself (paragraph 4) because ...**
 A the tickets arrived late.
 B they had to wait a long time on the platform.
 C he thought the trip was a silly idea.
 D he had worried unnecessarily.
- 4 **The writer was most attracted by the fact that the Eurostar train ...**
 A travelled so far below sea level.
 B was unaffected by sea conditions.
 C offered a convenient way to travel.
 D used such a well-designed tunnel.
- 5 **What did the writer do during his journey through the tunnel?**
 A He studied a business report.
 B He looked at the other passengers.
 C He read a novel about travelling.
 D He wished the journey would end quickly.
- 6 **How was the writer's attitude changed by his experiences?**
 A He began to think more about the past.
 B He saw the value of doing new things.
 C He realised his journey was special.
 D He saw that he needn't have worried so much.

5 Match the words/phrases in bold to their definitions.

- passengers in
- chance
- reprimanded
- sped up
- longing for
- achievement
- decided on
- eased forward
- different
- usefulness
- attractive
- doing something without having previous experience of it
- endless

6 Fill in: high, cherish, rough, travel, tight, grab, package, exchange, business, intriguing. Make sentences based on the text, using the phrases.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 6 seas |
| programme | 7 experience |
| 2 on a(n) note | 8 my attention |
| 3 budget | 9 to memories |
| 4 deal | 10 opportunity |
| 5 reports | |

Speaking

7 Work in pairs. Imagine you have been on an interesting journey. Tell your partner about your journey. Say:

- where you went and which means of transport you used.
- how long you went for and the reason for your journey.
- what you did during your stay there.

In pairs, ask and answer questions based on the text.

Writing

8 Portfolio: Use your answers from Ex. 7 to write an email to a friend of yours about your travel experience (80-120 words).

Vocabulary & Grammar

1 Say which of the following verbs are used with the following means of transport.

VERBS			
catch	get out of	ride	steer
miss	get on(to)	take	disembark from
get in(to)	get off	drive	board

MEANS OF TRANSPORT		
a car	a train	a plane
a motorbike	a boat	a bus
a bicycle	a ship	a taxi

catch a bus / a train ... etc.

2 Choose the correct word. Which means of transport is each sentence about?

- 1 Takeoff was **delayed/missed** for over an hour because of bad weather.
- 2 The compartment was so **populated/crowded** I couldn't get a seat so I had to stand all the way.
- 3 I took a new direct route that was **fast/speed** so I reached my destination in no time.
- 4 The **traffic/congestion** on the motorway wasn't heavy so it took us very little time to get there.
- 5 The crossing was **rough/bumpy** and we both got seasick.
- 6 We **broke/fell** down outside York and had to wait for over an hour before someone came to get us.

3 Choose the correct word.

- 1 Last year we had the to travel to China.
A occasion B opening C benefit D opportunity
- 2 We reached the airport with plenty of time to
A free B let C spare D spend
- 3 John spoke of the service at this restaurant.
A strongly B greatly C highly D extremely
- 4 The location of the hotel was a major selling of the holiday.
A detail B feature C point D aspect
- 5 The metro makes it easy to get around the city centre.
A busy B full C loud D energetic
- 6 We London just before 10 pm.
A reached B got C had D arrived

- 7 The minister will an announcement later.
A do B have C form D make
- 8 When all is and done, it's his decision.
A said B spoken C told D stated
- 9 There is a variety of marine life at the of the sea.
A base B bed C depth D bottom
- 10 Our journey was a unique experience.
A travel B tour C trip D journey

• Phrasal verbs

4 Fill in the appropriate particle. Check in Appendix I. Use the phrasal verbs in a story of your own.

- 1 Due to the heavy snow, no planes were able to **take**
- 2 Getting my money back when the flight was cancelled didn't **make** missing an important meeting.
- 3 Even though we **set** late, we still made it to the airport in time.
- 4 They were really **put** by the ticket inspector's behaviour.
- 5 Whenever I go on a long trip, my whole family **sees** me at the airport.

5 Fill in the correct word derived from the words in brackets.

Exam Practice: Use of English



When the Channel Tunnel opened, many people had high 1) **EXPECT TRAVEL**
Instead of 2) for up to 3 hours by sea, the tunnel appeared to be an 3) alternative. In reality, **ATTRACT DIFFICULT**
however, the Channel Tunnel project ran into some unexpected 4) **DIFFICULT**
For example, nobody had imagined that there might be a power 5), **FAIL**
leaving the passengers stranded in the tunnel for hours. 6), **OBVIOUS**
problems like this have been overcome and the tunnel now satisfies passengers' 7) **REQUIRE**
8) journey. **ENJOY**

• Comparatives/Superlatives GR p. 139

6 Read the examples. Are there similar structures in your language?

- He runs **as fast as** John.
- She isn't **half as skilled as** her sister.
- Motorbikes are **faster than** bicycles.
- This car is **less expensive than** that one.
- Petrol is **more expensive than** diesel.
- It's getting **hotter and hotter**.
- The earlier** we leave, **the sooner** we'll arrive.
- This is **the fastest** car I've ever driven.



7 In pairs, use the structures in Ex. 6 and the adjectives below to compare various means of transport: **comfortable, safe, economical, polluting, fast, reliable, dangerous, expensive, convenient, tiring, cramped, pleasant, leisurely, inconvenient, slow, uncomfortable, relaxing, etc.**

- A: Travelling **by plane** is **faster and more comfortable** than travelling **by car**.
- B: However, travelling **by car** isn't **as expensive as** travelling **by train**.

• Relative clauses GR p. 139

8 Fill in: **where, whose, who, which, why**. Which of these words do we use for: **people? things/animals? places? reason? possession?**



Tenerife is a Spanish island 1)..... is situated off the coast of North Africa. Having visited many islands 2)..... the nightlife is not very lively, I was thrilled when I saw so many restaurants, cafés and discos in Tenerife. It is a stunning island 3)..... beauty captivates all those 4)..... go there. That is the reason 5)..... many people visit the island year after year.

9 Join the sentences with relative adverbs or pronouns.

- 1 The tourists were robbed. They are talking to the police.
- 2 John is going on holiday to Ibiza. It is one of the Balearic Islands.
- 3 This is the shop. You can buy cheap clothes there.
- 4 Where's the milk? It was in the fridge.
- 5 Owen's dog is a terrier. It is very friendly.
- 6 She tried on five skirts. None fit her.
- 7 Bob is a vet. He is my neighbour.
- 8 He has three sisters. All of them are dentists.
- 9 I met a woman. Her son knows you.

Exam Practice: Use of English

- Key word transformations

10 Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Use two to five words.

- 1 It is a pity she didn't come with us.
which She didn't come with us,
..... pity.
- 2 My six-year-old brother can swim very fast.
years My brother,
....., can swim very fast.
- 3 I've got some letters. Three of them are Ann's.
which I've got some letters,
..... Ann's.
- 4 This is Steve. His wife works with me.
whose This is Steve,
..... with me.
- 5 As she gets older, she becomes more mature.
the The older she gets,
..... she becomes.
- 6 Kate studies harder than John.
as John does not
..... Kate.

Writing

11 **THINK!** Which means of transport do you prefer? Why? Spend three minutes writing about the topic.