

T 1.8

I'm going away for two weeks. Do you think you could possibly water my house plants for me? Don't worry, I know how house-proud you are. I'll make sure everything stays clean and tidy. Let's give her a spectacular homecoming party when she gets back from New York. Me? I'm just a housewife. Four kids, home-made cakes and home-grown vegetables! We're having a house-warming party on the 12th. Can you come? I'll give you our new address. Mind you, with it being much bigger, there's much more housework to do! Her grandmother's sick and housebound so they have to go and help.

T 1.9 Things I miss from home**Andrew**

Well, the thing I miss most when I'm away from home is definitely listening to the radio, and the way I get round this, particularly when I go away for two, three or four months or something, is to take a small short wave radio that I found and take great trouble to tune in this short wave radio to get an English language station, something like the World Service. And I'm there, waving the aerial around and twiddling the knob, and trying to find the correct kind of station, but then suddenly when it all comes on, and you can hear it, it's great, it really makes me feel like I'm back home, back in my bedroom tuning into weird programmes on wonderful subjects really.

Helen

When I'm away from home for any length of time, something that I really have to have with me is my hair straighteners, ... erm ... I can't bear to wake up in the morning and be without them, because my hair is most unruly, and I would feel very uncomfortable having gone out without straightening my hair beforehand, so I have to take those with me whenever I stay with friends or go on holiday.

Gabriele

When I'm away for a little bit longer, ... erm ... what I do miss are my two cats and I do take a photo of them. That sounds very silly but I like to see them from time to time.

Paul

Erm ... if I'm away from home for a while, what I usually miss most is my bed. I like a good solid bed. Erm ... in particular what I find I miss if I'm in a hotel is a pillow that I like. I do find that hotels have this incredible knack of providing pillows that you just can't sleep with - there always seems to be two pillows on the bed and if you use one it's never enough, and if you use both of the pillows, your head seems to be just stuck up in the air - so I have thought of taking a pillow with me but that seems a bit excessive. Erm ... but again connected with sleep, one thing I always do take with me is ear plugs. I find they're absolutely invaluable, if you're not sure where you're going to be in a hotel and if it's very noisy, as long as you're quite used to sleeping with ear plugs ... er ... they can be wonderful 'cause you don't need to worry about traffic and people making a lot of noise in the next room.

Ylvia

Well, when I'm away from home ... erm ... there are several things I miss, the usual ones, my children of course, and a good cup of tea ... erm ... but something I realize I do miss is, is the news, and it's not, it's not that other countries don't have any news, but I'm very attached to a particular news programme and a particular presenter, and if they're not around to tell me the news, I can't quite believe it. It's very odd - doesn't happen with papers, I'm happy to read another paper but on the telly I like to see, I like to see a familiar face and ... erm ... the same background colours and it's all very reassuring, when he's telling something dreadful. But what do I miss ... erm ... with me? I always travel with a bag of

snacks, ... erm ... I don't know why, because I'm terrified ... er ... I'm just terrified of, of being hungry while I'm travelling and not finding anything I want to eat. Gosh, I didn't, I didn't think I was so fussy - there you go!

Chris

I think the thing I miss most when I go away for an extended period, on holiday or whatever ... er ... especially if I go away abroad is probably Sunday morning, and by that I really mean a lazy Sunday morning when I can get up fairly late, wander down to the newsagent's, buy the newspaper, come back with a croissant and make a big pot of coffee, and spend ... er ... at least the morning and maybe a large part of the day just sitting around reading the paper, drinking coffee and relaxing.

T 1.10

- A Great to see you. Come on in.
B I was just passing and thought I'd drop in.
- A Excuse me, don't I know you from somewhere?
B No, I don't think so.
- A What'd you mean you're not coming?
B Well, I just don't feel up to going out tonight.
- A I think I'll have the chocolate mousse. What about you?
B Let me see. No, actually, I don't think I'll bother with dessert.
- A My flatmate can't make it to your party.
B Really! That's a drag. I was hoping to meet her.
- A How come you're not having a holiday this year?
B We just can't afford it.
- A You'll make yourself ill if you carry on working at that pace.
B That's as maybe but I have to get this finished by Friday.
- A I've got you the last two tickets for the show.
B Fantastic! I knew you'd swing it for us.

T 1.11 See p15**T 1.12 See p153****T 1.13**

- A Excuse me, don't I know you from somewhere?
B Actually, I don't think so.
A Weren't you at Gavin's party last week?
B Not me. I don't know anyone called Gavin.
A Well, someone who looked just like you was there.
B Well, that's as maybe but it certainly wasn't me.
A I am sorry!
- A Tony! Hi! Great to see you.
B Well, I was just passing and I thought I'd drop in and say 'hello'.
A Come on in! Have a drink!
B You're sure? You're not too busy?
A Never too busy to talk to you.
B Thanks Jo. It'd be really nice to have a chat.
A Fantastic! Let me take your coat.

**UNIT 2****T 2.1 Marco Polo 1254-1324**

Marco Polo was the first person to travel the entire 8,000 kilometre length of the Silk Route, the main trade link between Cathay (China) and the West for over two thousand years. He was born in Venice, the son of a merchant. In 1271, when he was 17, he set off for China. The journey took him four years. His route led him through Persia, Afghanistan, and Mongolia. He travelled by boat, but mainly on horseback, and he frequently got lost. He was met by the emperor Kublai Khan. He was one of the first Europeans to visit the territory, and he travelled

extensively. He went over mountain ranges, down rivers, and across deserts. He stayed in China for seventeen years. When he left, he took back a fortune in gold and jewellery. He arrived back home in 1295. He wrote a book called *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which gave Europeans their first information about China and the Far East.

Tommy Willis, backpacker in Asia

Tommy Willis is in Fiji. He's on a nine-month backpacking trip round south-east Asia. He flew into Bangkok five months ago. Since then, he's been to Vietnam, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Japan. He's visited royal palaces and national parks in South Korea, and climbed to the summit of Mount Fuji in Japan. He's been staying in cheap hostels, along with a lot of other young people. 'I've met a lot of really great people, but it hasn't all been easy,' said Tommy. 'I've had diarrhoea a few times, and I've been pickpocketed once. I've also been mugged, which was really scary.' Apart from that, his only worry is the insects. He's been stung all over his body. He's been travelling mainly by public transport - bus, train, and ferry, but when he's been able to afford it, he's also taken the occasional plane. He's looking forward to taking things easy for another week, then setting off again for Australia. 'Once you've got the travel bug, it becomes very hard to stay in the same place for too long,' he said.

T 2.2

He's been stung all over his body. He's visited royal palaces. He's been staying in cheap hostels. I've been pickpocketed and mugged. I've met a lot of really great people. He's been to Vietnam and Japan.

T 2.3

- When and where was he born?
In 1254 in Venice.
- How long did it take to travel to China?
Four years.
- How long did he stay in China?
For seventeen years.
- What did he take back to Venice?
Gold and jewellery.
- What was his book called?
The Travels of Marco Polo.
- How long has he been away from home?
For five months.
- Which places has he been to?
Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Japan.
- Where's he been staying?
In cheap hostels.
- How many times has he had diarrhoea?
A few times.
- Has he been pickpocketed?
Yes, once.

T 2.4**1 Alan**

They are ... one of the most eerie ... and -er strange experiences you can possibly have. The first time I saw them, they appeared as a kind of shimmering curtain, over the top of a ridge of mountains, and they went from a greeny colour to a kind of purply red colour. And they just stayed there. The second time I saw them, it was the most amazing sight because they were right above our heads, and they covered the whole of the sky. The other interesting thing is that -er not everybody hears it, but they sometimes make a sound, a kind of -er buzzing noise. It was a real sense of wonder and awe. I just kind of sat there with my mouth hanging open, just feeling kind of small.

2 James

You start at the bottom of the valley, and slowly make your way up the hill, -er about a seven-hour hike until you get to a camp. Then you get up very early the next morning, about four o'clock, in order