

# Essential English

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

# Stimulus 1

## Context

These reflections are published on a website about travel for school leavers.



**Jessie M.** 11:47 AM

Mum has always said that travel is the best way to learn about your place in the world and to create meaningful relationships. She also quotes William Wordsworth's lines of poetry before she travels anywhere:

'I will arise and go now' because 'I shall have peace there'.

Mum is constantly telling me that travel is important because it:

- opens minds
- creates meaningful relationships and
- prompts reflections about life.

I know she was encouraging me to travel, but I wanted other things. And poetry wasn't going to convince me!

Now, though, I can see why. During a study tour last year, I learned so much about myself and others, the benefits of visiting unfamiliar places and enjoying different cultures. Integrity, kindness and other noble qualities — quite suddenly — also become blindingly beautiful, because when you're out of your comfort zone, you sometimes feel overwhelmed. You quickly realise, however, that although everyone is different, we're really still the same, because caring, belonging and trust are universal. Travel does that. I found 'peace there'.

From the moment I met people, they encouraged me to speak their language, so I tried to (no doubt my language teacher thousands of kilometres away would've winced at my pronunciation!). But I practised, practised and practised and pretty soon I realised I wasn't even having to think about which words to use! Travel does that. It sharpens the tongue.

Spending three weeks with a friendly family also meant meaningful relationships, making their home a haven, a place where I had 'peace'. Turned out Wordsworth and Mum were right.

On the last day, my friends asked me to make a traditional Australian meal for them, so I gave them a Vegemite sandwich! 😂😂😂

Anyhow, I travelled.

I learnt.

I grew.

I went from 'I will arise and go now' to going and having 'peace there'.



**Ari S.** 3:12 PM

### **Travelling = learning**

I had always known I didn't want to do what everybody else was doing for Schoolies Week, but travel excited me. Still, it was hard to decide, and it wasn't until I saw an ad for a study tour that the light dawned and I signed up... travelling instead of going to Schoolies Week was the best decision.

To be honest, travel wasn't what I had been expecting. I'd done research about the country before I'd left, but there was only so much you could learn from websites.

Yes, they show you beautiful photos of famous sights, but they don't really capture the feeling of walking towards that world-renowned monument and seeing it tower above you in person.

Yes, they recount the history of a place, but can't accurately describe the feeling of standing in the same spot as past great historical figures.

Yes, they explain the basics of introducing yourself and ordering food, but nothing prepares you for the feeling of being surrounded by unfamiliar languages as you struggle to navigate unknown places.

In truth, I found travelling confusing and tiring, but it was good for me, a spiritual revelation, if you will. All those unfamiliar sights, sounds and smells made me appreciate all the things I take for granted back home. They helped me realise that the way I live isn't the only way to live — or should live.

Regardless, if you're looking for a unique travel experience like I was, or an adventure learning about another country, a study tour might light the way.

## Stimulus 2

### Context

This is the cover of a book about travel.



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# References

## Stimulus 1

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