

# Essential English

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.



# Stimulus 1

## Context

On the next page is an editorial in the opinion section of an online travel magazine.

# Travelling Thoughts

**Lee Smithwords** | 11 March 2021 | 5:00 PM |  14 comments  
*Travel Correspondent*

There's an expectation, I think, that not only should we travel, but that our travel should be extraordinary. We've all had friends dazzle us with glamorous snaps of poses in front of famous sights, or pictures of mouth-watering meals at some 'hidden treasures'. It's not a new trend. Travel stories have existed forever... since travel began. So many TV shows about it, too!

While it's not new, the pressure to have amazing, stunning, once-in-a-lifetime travel experiences with life-changing moments seems stronger than ever. We see friends on exciting holidays to exotic locations and feel swayed by travel advertisements that pursue us. No matter which website we journey to, before we know it, our finger drifts towards the 'Book now!' button dancing in front of us.

Planning travel is as exciting as first experiences and new finds — there's booking flights, seeking accommodation and checking guidebooks for must sees, must dos and must eats! Seriously! It can be as thrilling as the trip itself. One friend actually told me he relished every part of the planning process from its first moment (very first) to creating his day-to-day itinerary. Every detail!

Me? Not so much.

Anyway, you'd think that all that organisation would lead to the most thrilling, fulfilling, rewarding travel possible, but after returning from one of his grand adventures, he seemed low-spirited. At first I thought it was jet lag, and intrigued, I asked him about it. 'I spend so much time making sure I plan the perfect travel experience,' he said, 'but it doesn't always meet my expectations. Or I plan to do too much and then I need a vacation to recover from my vacation.'

That got me thinking. Yes, travel can be challenging, but it's also exciting. Obviously, it's more thrilling to breathe the air of another city and inhale its smells than imagining them in photos at home; to see new places and to try new things, but deep down, what motivates travel? Are we posing in front of national icons just to show off to others?

It's something I struggle with. It's something worth thinking about too, isn't it? After all, it really strikes at the heart of travel's purpose. Our purpose. I mean, why travel at all? Now, isn't that the question!

What I do know is that I've learned much about the world — and about myself, simply because of travel. I've been able to experience cultures, languages, food and communities, both similar and different from what I've always known. They're experiences that have dawned a greater appreciation of the complexities of the world around me, of who I am and what I can handle... and of course, what matters.

**For more travel reflections, follow along @smithwordsreflections on travel**

# Stimulus 2

## Context

This is the home page of a travel company's website.

Travel Differently

← → ↺

http://www.traveldifferently.com.au

★


Awesome accommodation



Extraordinary experiences



Pristine places



Astonishing adventures



Tired of the same-old, same-old?

Try something different with *Travel Differently*!



Travel

the world

Differently

Where do you want to go?

🔍

Travel should:

✓ offer unique accommodation, from daring to delightful

✓ include off-beat, out-of-this-world experiences

✓ be thrilling, with tours bringing new life to old places

✓ be exciting, exhilarating, exceptional.

TD

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## References

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