

Essential English

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

Stimulus 1

Context

This introduction was written for a book of travel stories.

Introduction

A traveller's declaration

Travel is a catalyst¹ for change.

I'm sure you'll agree. You are, after all, reading this book's introduction about travel tales. It's something that you and I, two strangers, who will likely never meet, have in common.

Travel. Even the sound of its vowels and consonants rings true, just like a whisper — it's a pledge, a bond, a promise of marvellous new experiences.

I guess that's one of the best things about travel: the promise of bringing 'newness' to us. It exposes us to new places, new people, new experiences, and encourages us to adopt new ways of thinking about the wide, wondrous world around us. This book's travel tales are that, a catalyst for the new, a changing of the mind.

They're tales of how travel stimulates our brain and sharpens our thinking as we respond to unfamiliar sights and breaks in our routine. Many inspire travelling beyond our comfortable, our familiar, our home. Writers reflect on the satisfying sensation of their minds opening and knowledge growing as they explore paintings at art galleries, historical archives at museums and precious gemstones at local gem shows. Excitement spikes, creating a sense of wellness.

Challenging situations like faulty transport, accidents and missed scheduled departures create drama, but in times of stress, we grow. When we get lost, it's almost as if our brain has to start working to solve the problem. One tale describes arriving at a city at midnight, leading to a three-hour trek through strange streets in pitch darkness, knocking on doors to find accommodation. The inability to speak the language means weird and wonderful gestures that are hilarious. Then there are the funny mis-steps that make you laugh, and sometimes, cry. Travel is a catalyst...

For me, the struggles I've had while travelling have encouraged independence, sparked curiosity in people around me and inspired self-reflection. The people I've met and the things I've seen have made life exciting, like adding spice to an egg omelette.

1 an event, person or thing that provokes a strong response

Travel. Sometimes, rather than a whisper, it's an accusation. How could we not care about:

- environmental impacts
- damage to sacred sites
- effects on local communities?

These are real... they make you think, to really think about how critical it is not to destroy the things we go there to love!

There are positive and negative elements to travelling. How do I decide what's more important? The damage travel might cause versus the personal belief that it makes our lives better? I know that it's because of travel that I'm aware of the world's wonders, including the travel industry's impact, both good and bad.

In this book's pages, you'll find many travel experiences, from disorientating to disastrous, exhausting to energising. It's not a whisper or an accusation, but both, and everything in between.

One thing unites them all — travel is a catalyst for change.

Stimulus 2

Context

These pages are from a journal containing personal reflections about travel.

My essential travel essentials

The means to travel and
what travel means to me...

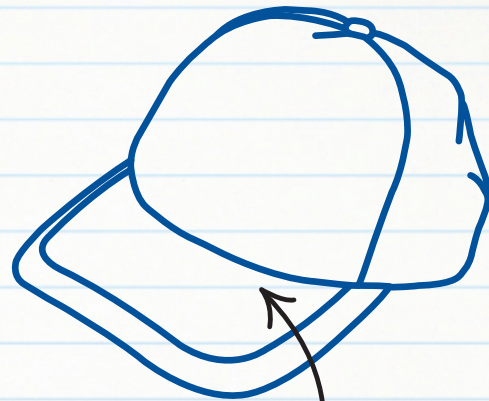


An open mind





A sense of adventure!



favourite hat!



a pair of comfy shoes!



stainless steel water bottle!

Travel is doing, seeing, and learning

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References

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