

Mohamed Khider Biskra University

Department of English

Lecture: Reading comprehension

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Text: My Journal Travel!

Before You Read

A. Scan the travel journal on the next page. Look only at the title, the subheadings, and the photograph. Then answer the following questions.

1. Who wrote the travel journal?
2. Where did she travel to?
3. How long was she traveling?
 - a. more than one month
 - b. less than one month

B. Discuss your answers in A, and the following questions, with a partner.

1. Would you enjoy reading someone's travel journal? Why, or why not?
2. Do you keep a travel journal, or would you like to? Why, or why not?

A. Read the following sentences, then scan the second paragraph of the journal on the next page. Check (✓) the three things Maria wrote about on October 20.

1. It is difficult for her to talk to her classmates.
2. She doesn't know how to take the bus.
3. She is making lots of friends.
4. She can't understand her teacher.
5. Her English is improving very slowly.
6. She had trouble understanding someone on the bus.

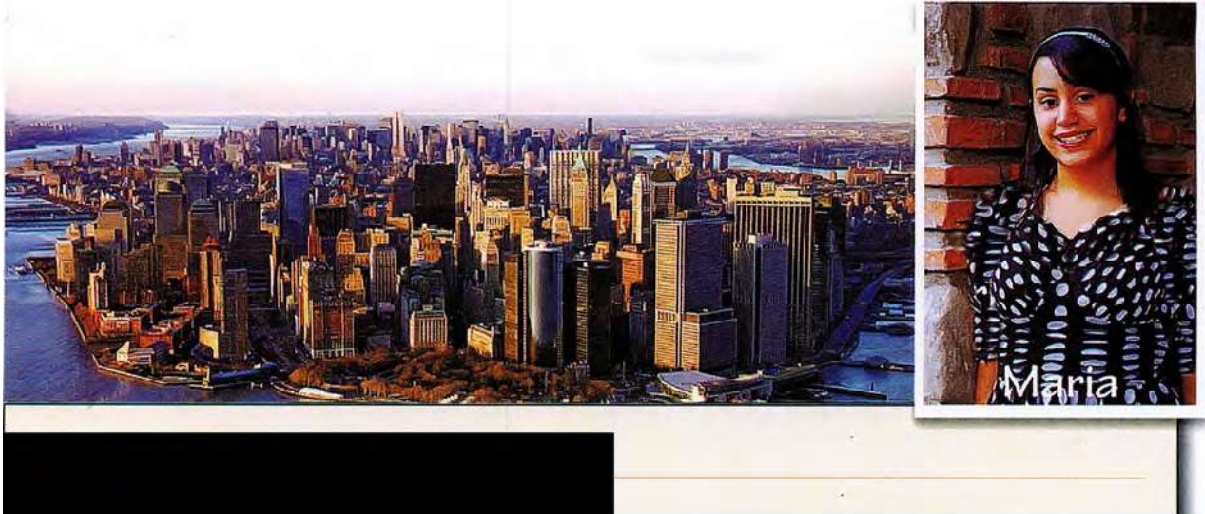
B. Scan the third paragraph of the journal for the following information. Check (✓) the three things Maria wrote about on October 27.

1. She wrote for the student newspaper.
2. She met a French woman.
3. She talked about her experiences in the United States.
4. She met a Japanese man.
5. She walked around the city.
6. She went to a party.

C. Now read the entire journal carefully. Then answer the questions

***Reading Skill
Reading for Details***

*Reading for details is especially useful when we need to get information from one part of a larger passage. We can **scan** the passage to find out which part we need to read more carefully, and then look for specific details.*



My Travel Journal

September 13

Hi Journal! It's me, Maria! I arrived in New York City two weeks ago. I am writing this **journal** for one of my classes. My teacher says it is a good way for me to **practice** writing in English and to write about my experiences here in the United States. So far, I like New York and my school. I have three classes a day. Most of my classmates come from Japan, Korea, Poland, Germany, and Brazil. There aren't many Italian students, so I have to use English most of the time. I am learning a lot! I am living in student housing, and I have my own comfortable room.

October 20

My English is hopeless! I was on the bus this morning and a man spoke to me, but I **hardly** understood him. I was so **embarrassed**. Why is my English so slow? I want to make **lots of** American friends, but this isn't happening so easily. I feel **shy**, and it is hard, for me to talk to people, even my classmates! I like them, but sometimes I can't understand them very well. I'm feeling homesick. I miss my friends and family.

October 27

I went to a school party last Friday and it was **awesome**. I talked with a Japanese man named Kenji and a Polish woman named Anna. We talked about our countries' customs and our experiences in the States so far. We are going to walk around the city together this weekend. Also, Kenji wants me to write for the student newspaper here at school. May be things are getting better.

Reading Comprehension

Check Your Understanding

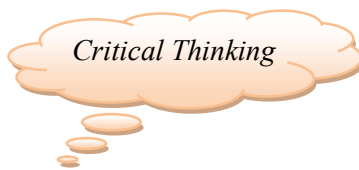
A. Choose the correct answers for the following questions.

1. Whose idea was it for Maria to keep a journal?
a. her classmates' b. her teacher's c. Kenji's
2. The students in Maria's class are.....
a. mostly Polish
b. all Japanese and Italian
c. from different countries

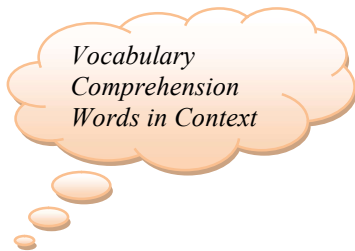
3. Why did Maria get embarrassed?
 - a. She took the wrong bus.
 - b. She couldn't understand someone.
 - c. She cried in class.
4. At the end of October, Maria was feeling
 - a. ready to go home
 - b. depressed and homesick
 - c. better than before

B. Number these events (1-4) in the order they happened.

- a __ A man spoke to her on the bus.
- b __ Maria arrived in New York.
- c __ Maria started keeping a travel journal.
- d __ She went to a party.



1. Do you think it's better to study English with students who are from many different countries or who are all from the same country? Why?
2. How can we learn from our mistakes when learning a new language?



A. Complete each statement with the best answer. The words in blue are from the passage.

1. If Jin-Song's friends think his shoes are **awesome**, they _____.
 - a. really like them
 - b. don't like them
2. Because I have **lots of** money, I _____.
 - a. can't buy too many things
 - b. can give some to my friends
3. I think my English is **improving** because _____.
 - a. I can understand American movies now
 - b. I try not to speak in class
4. Jun was really **embarrassed** during class because she _____.
 - a. forgot to bring her homework
 - b. got an A on the test
5. You need to **practice** playing tennis by _____.
 - a. getting enough sleep
 - b. hitting lots of balls
6. Sandra uses a **journal** to _____.
 - a. write about things that happen to her
 - b. read the news
7. I can **hardly** hear you. Can you speak a little _____?
 - a. softer
 - b. louder
8. Yuki is really **shy**. She _____ talking to people she doesn't know.
 - a. likes
 - b. dislikes

A. Look at the list of verbs below. Make adjectives that describe feelings by adding *-ed*. Write them in the table. Can you think of any other words to add to the table?

Verb	Adjective
depress	depressed
embarrass	
excite	
tire	
worry	
interest	

Vocabulary Skill

Adjectives Ending in -ed
Some adjectives that describe how we are feeling end in *-ed*. Most of these adjectives come from verbs with the same root word. For example, from the verb *interest* we can make the adjective *interested* by adding *-ed*. For verbs that end in *y*, we change the *y* to an *i* and add *-ed*; for example, *worry* becomes *worried*.

B. Complete the paragraph below with adjectives from A. Some have more than one answer.

Healthy Living Gym

Do you feel sad and (1) _____ ? Are you (2) _____ all the time? Are you (3) _____ about your health? You may not be getting enough exercise. Healthy living Gym encourages you to come in and start exercising today. You'll feel _____ (4) about losing weight and looking great. Are you (5) _____ ? Don't be _____ (6) ! Come in today!

Real Life Skill

Writing a journal is a good way to remember your thoughts and experiences, to keep a record of what you learn, and to practice your English writing skills. You can keep a journal of all your daily experiences, or about one subject such as travel, books you read, or how your studies are going.

A. Read the following tips for keeping a journal.

- Use a notebook with lined paper that gives you lots of space for writing.
- Make sure to include the date every time you write in your journal.
- Write about things that are interesting or important to you.
- Try to make a regular time for writing in your journal-for example, three times a week after English class or every evening,
- Read your journal entry again before you give it to your teacher.

B. Now read this journal entry.

Tuesday, October 15

Today, I finished reading an exciting book called *The Perfect Storm*. It was about a group of men on a fishing boat that sank in a very bad storm . The book talked _____ about their families and friends, and it was a really sad story. I would like to see the movie that was made about this story. Tomorrow I will start reading a Harry Potter book.

C. Now write a journal entry about an interesting book or story that you have read.