

Reading Comprehension



Develop students' reading comprehension skills through authentic-style newspaper articles about travel experiences.

Students will practice finding key information such as names, places, dates, and facts from two texts. They will also learn to answer literal and inferential questions, identify true or false statements, and sequence events in order. In addition, students will expand their travel-related vocabulary.



From Jakarta to New York: A Scholarship Student's Journey

When I won a scholarship to study in New York, I was overjoyed. But after arriving, I experienced culture shock. American food is heavier and greasier than Indonesian food. I missed rice and my mother's cooking. The weather in New York was colder than in Jakarta, so I had to wear layers. American greetings are more direct than what I was used to. People shake hands firmly and say "Hi, how are you?" even when they don't expect a real answer.

The daily schedule was also strange. In America, dinner is bigger than lunch, but in Indonesia, lunch is bigger. Because lunch in America is quicker and smaller, I felt hungrier in the afternoon. At first, everything felt difficult and unfamiliar.

After three months, I felt more at home. I learned that culture shock is more common than I thought. New York is busier and faster than Jakarta, but it is also more exciting. Now I enjoy bagels, pizza, and my new friends from around the world. I am glad I came.

Questions for Reading 1

1. Based on the passage, what can you infer about Indonesian food compared to American food? Name two differences.

2. Why do you think the author felt "overjoyed" at first but then experienced culture shock? What does this tell you about adjusting to a new country?

3. The author says American greetings are "more direct." What does this imply about Indonesian greetings?

4. The author felt hungrier in the afternoon in America. What does this reveal about the importance of meal schedules in different cultures?

Questions for Reading 1

1. Based on the passage, what can you infer about Indonesian food compared to American food? Name two differences.

Indonesian food is lighter and less greasy than American food.

2. Why do you think the author felt "overjoyed" at first but then experienced culture shock? What does this tell you about adjusting to a new country?

The author was excited about the opportunity, but the actual experience was difficult. Adjusting takes time.

3. The author says American greetings are "more direct." What does this imply about Indonesian greetings?

Indonesian greetings are less direct and probably softer or more formal.

4. The author felt hungrier in the afternoon in America. What does this reveal about the importance of meal schedules in different cultures?

Meal schedules affect hunger. Different cultures prioritize different meals.

Comparative Sentences Analysis

Based on the reading passage, complete the table below. Find comparative sentences from the texts or create your own using information from the passage.

CATEGORY	INDONESIA	AMERICA	COMPARISON
Food	Lighter, less greasy	Heavier, greasier	American food is heavier than Indonesian food.
Weather		Colder	
Greetings	Less direct		
Meal schedule	Lunch bigger		
Pace of life		Busier, faster	

Comparative Sentences Analysis

Based on the reading passage, complete the table below. Find comparative sentences from the texts or create your own using information from the passage.

CATEGORY	INDONESIA	AMERICA	COMPARISON
Food	Lighter, less greasy	Heavier, greasier	American food is heavier than Indonesian food.
Weather	Hot, humid	Colder	America is colder than Indonesia.
Greetings	Less direct	More direct	America is more direct than Indonesia.
Meal schedule	Lunch bigger	Dinner bigger	Indonesia's lunch is bigger than America's.
Pace of life	Slower	Busier, faster	America is busier than Indonesia.



From Classroom to Colosseum: A Girl's Italian Adventure

I won an essay competition, and my prize was better than I imagined: a 7-day trip to Italy, all expenses paid. The Colosseum was bigger than I expected. "Pictures are less impressive than the real thing," I said. Real Italian pizza is better and lighter than the pizza at home. In Naples, I learned that authentic pizza is fresher and more delicious than anything I had tried before.

Tuscany was more peaceful than Florence. The rolling hills were greener than anywhere I had seen. Venice was more romantic than any movie. Riding a gondola through the canals felt magical. Italian gelato is creamier and richer than ice cream at home. I tried pistachio flavor, and it was the best dessert I have ever had.

Italy was the best week of my life. I cried at the airport because I didn't want to leave. Now I want to study art history. My advice to other students is to work harder than everyone else because you never know where your dreams will take you.

Questions for Reading 2

1. The author says pictures are "less impressive than the real thing." What does this suggest about experiencing famous places in person versus seeing them in photos?
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2. Compare the author's feelings about Florence and Tuscany. Which one did she prefer and why?
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3. Why do you think the author decided to study art history after her trip? What specific experiences might have influenced her decision?
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4. The author calls Italian gelato "the best dessert I have ever had." What does this imply about the ice cream she had before visiting Italy?
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Questions for Reading 2

1. The author says pictures are "less impressive than the real thing." What does this suggest about experiencing famous places in person versus seeing them in photos?

Seeing places in person is more impressive than looking at photos.

2. Compare the author's feelings about Florence and Tuscany. Which one did she prefer and why?

She preferred Tuscany because it was more peaceful than Florence.

3. Why do you think the author decided to study art history after her trip? What specific experiences might have influenced her decision?

Seeing the Colosseum, Michelangelo's David, and Venetian canals likely inspired her love for art and history.

4. The author calls Italian gelato "the best dessert I have ever had." What does this imply about the ice cream she had before visiting Italy?

The ice cream at home was less creamy and less rich.

Comparative Sentences Analysis

Based on the reading passage, complete the table below. Find comparative sentences from the texts or create your own using information from the passage.

CATEGORY	HOME	ITALY	COMPARISON
Pizza		Better, lighter	
Scenery		Greener, peaceful	
Romance	Less romantic		
Dessert	Less creamy		

Comparative Sentences Analysis

Based on the reading passage, complete the table below. Find comparative sentences from the texts or create your own using information from the passage.

CATEGORY	HOME	ITALY	COMPARISON
Pizza	Less good	Better, lighter	Italy's pizza is better than home.
Scenery	Less green	Greener, peaceful	Italy is greener than home.
Romance	Less romantic	More romantic	Italy is more romantic than any movie.
Dessert	Less creamy	Creamier	Italy's gelato is creamier than home.