



Business Upper Intermediate

Homework - Unit 13: Culture



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1. Match the words (1-10) with their definitions (a-j).

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Hierarchical | a. Careful to avoid risk or danger. |
| 2. Formal | b. Receptive to new ideas or experiences. |
| 3. Liberal | c. Adhering rigidly to rules or standards. |
| 4. Egalitarian | d. Valuing group goals over individual ones. |
| 5. Individualistic | e. Ordered by rank or authority. |
| 6. Collectivist | f. Advocating for equal rights for all. |
| 7. Cautious | g. Following established rules or ceremonies. |
| 8. Strict | h. Open to new ideas and favoring reform. |
| 9. Open | i. Valuing individual freedom and self-reliance. |
| 10. Accepting | j. Willing to tolerate or welcome different views. |

2. Match the words (1-10) with their definitions (a-j).

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| a. You'll be grounded for a week if you break curfew. | 1. Hierarchical |
| b. He eagerly tried the exotic food and participated in unfamiliar customs. | 2. Formal |
| c. Guests at the gala wore tuxedos and evening gowns while observing traditional etiquette. | 3. Liberal |
| d. In the community circle, every voice is given equal weight and respect. | 4. Egalitarian |
| e. She prefers to work alone and takes pride in solving problems by herself. | 5. Individualistic |
| f. She advocates for social change and values personal freedom. | 6. Collectivist |
| g. She welcomed her new neighbors, who had different cultural practices, with warmth and kindness. | 7. Cautious |
| h. The manager reports to the director, who in turn reports to the vice president. | 8. Strict |
| i. He double-checks every detail before making a decision. | 9. Open |
| j. The team prioritized their shared mission over personal ambitions. | 10. Accepting |

3. Complete the sentences with the words below.

- cautious
- formal
- collectivist
- open
- strict
- accepting
- hierarchical
- individualistic
- egalitarian
- liberal

1. In many parts of Africa, there is a _____ mindset, prioritizing community well-being over individual gains.
2. Brazil is known for its _____ and friendly atmosphere, especially during social gatherings and celebrations.
3. Swiss culture often emphasizes being _____, especially when it comes to punctuality and following rules.
4. Canada is often seen as an _____ nation, welcoming immigrants from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.
5. The Netherlands is often considered a _____ country, particularly in terms of social policies.
6. American culture is often described as _____, where personal achievement and independence are highly valued.
7. Saudi Arabia has _____ laws governing public behavior and personal conduct.
8. Scandinavian countries like Sweden have _____ social systems, where there is a strong focus on equality and social welfare.
9. In Japanese society, a _____ structure is often observed, where seniors are given a lot of respect by juniors.
10. British events can be quite _____, with an emphasis on proper etiquette and dress code.

1. Match the following phrases 1-8 with their synonyms a-h.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. to adjust to | a. to be cognizant of |
| 2. to be aware of | b. to hold in esteem |
| 3. to be familiar with | c. to be responsive to |
| 4. to be used to | d. to be briefed on |
| 5. be respectful of | e. to show acceptance for |
| 6. to be informed about | f. to accommodate oneself to |
| 7. to be tolerant of | g. to have knowledge of |
| 8. to be sensitive to | h. to be accustomed to |

2. Match the underlined phrases with their antonyms (1-8) from exercise 1.

1. During the meeting, he disregarded his colleagues' points of view, interrupting them frequently.
2. The student entered the exam lacking knowledge of the topics that were going to be covered.
3. He chose to ignore the warning signs despite them being clearly displayed.
4. Despite the social norms, he showed narrow-mindedness toward other people's religious beliefs.
5. She struggled to adapt away from the new time zone after her international flight.
6. New to the cold weather, he was not accustomed to wearing layers of clothing.
7. She showed a lack of empathy for her friend's emotional state, making jokes at inappropriate times.
8. Though she had lived there for years, she was unacquainted with the local customs.

3. Complete the phrases with prepositions.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. to adjust _____ | 5. be respectful _____ |
| 2. to be aware _____ | 6. to be informed _____ |
| 3. to be familiar _____ | 7. to be tolerant _____ |
| 4. to be used _____ | 8. to be sensitive _____ |

4. Correct 8 mistakes in prepositions.

Traveling the world exposes you to a myriad of cultures and traditions, making it crucial **to be informed in** the places you visit. Before landing in a new country, it helps **to be familiar to** its customs and social norms. For instance, while the Japanese are **used under** a hierarchical structure in their society, people in Sweden value an egalitarian approach. When you're in a different environment, it may take some time **to adjust with** these cultural norms, such as how to greet people or what to wear.

Being a responsible traveler also means **to be aware for** local laws and traditions. For example, many places in the Middle East have conservative dress codes that you must follow. Similarly, some cultures have specific expectations about punctuality or direct eye contact, and it's important **to be respectful about** these practices to foster positive interactions.

Moreover, showing openness **to be tolerant on** different lifestyles and beliefs is a sign of a well-rounded individual. Whether you're exploring the food in Thailand or attending a ceremony in Africa, it's always beneficial **to be sensitive in** the customs and emotions of those around you. This sensitivity not only enriches your own experience but also leaves a positive impression, making the world a smaller, friendlier place.

5. Are the statements about the text True or False? Correct the False ones.

1. Being familiar with local customs and social norms before traveling to a new country is unnecessary.
2. In Japan, people are used to a hierarchical structure in society.
3. To be a responsible traveler, it is important to be aware of local laws and traditions.
4. Being tolerant of different lifestyles and beliefs is not important when you are traveling.
5. You don't need to adjust to different cultural norms when you are in a new environment.

1. Complete the text with the words below.

- being
 - cut
 - more
 - time
 - top
 - in
 - nothing
 - about
- a. **As _____ went by**, the journey presented more challenges, both physical and emotional. **While** crossing through various countries, language barriers and different currencies made daily life more difficult. **And then, to _____ it all**, my backpack was stolen in Brazil, leaving me without essentials and valuable documents. **But that was _____ compared to** the warmth and help I received from locals, who assisted me in replacing what I'd lost.
- b. **Way back in** 2015, I decided to undertake a backpacking journey across South America. **The reason _____ that** I had always been fascinated by diverse cultures and landscapes. **At first**, the trip was everything I had dreamed of: magnificent vistas, rich history, and the kindness of strangers. **So that was the first problem** solved; my initial hesitation about the trip was unfounded.
- c. **To _____ a long story short**, the journey was an adventure in the truest sense, full of highs and lows. **All _____ all**, it was the hardships that made the beautiful moments even more poignant. Now, whenever I think about that adventure, I feel a sense of accomplishment and a deeper understanding of the world around me.
- d. **That was when** I realized the real essence of travel isn't just in seeing new places but in experiencing humanity's shared kindness. **In the end**, despite all the problems and challenges, the trip was a rewarding experience. I learned to be resilient, adaptable, and appreciative of the smaller things in life.
- e. **After that**, I encountered my first real obstacle. I got seriously sick while crossing the Andes. **It came _____ because of** my lack of preparation for high-altitude conditions. **What's _____**, local medical facilities were far from advanced. **Luckily**, a group of fellow backpackers had some first-aid essentials and knowledge, allowing me to recover enough to continue.

2. Put the paragraphs (a-e) in the correct order (1-5).

3. Answer the questions about the text.

1. Why did the narrator decide to backpack across South America?
2. What obstacle did the narrator face in the Andes?
3. How did locals help when the narrator's backpack was stolen?
4. What realization did the narrator have about travel?
5. How does the narrator feel about the journey overall?

4. Complete the conversation with the phrases below.

- all in all
- go on
- what's more
- ended up
- so how did you
- at first
- but that was nothing compared to
- after that
- it wasn't until
- luckily
- at first
- way back in
- so what did you do
- despite

A: _____¹, when I moved to the city, everything was so overwhelming.

B: _____², what was your first problem?

A: The hustle and bustle of city life was so different from my hometown. I had difficulty adjusting to the fast pace.

B: _____³, what did you do?

A: Well, I _____⁴ joining a local club to meet new people. It was a struggle _____⁵ my shyness.

B: And what did the club members say?

A: _____⁶, they were very welcoming! _____⁷, I made a few good friends.

B: That's understandable. _____⁸, how did you adjust to the fast-paced city life?

A: _____⁹, I started planning my days better. _____¹⁰, I was extremely disappointed because I felt like I was always running behind.

B: What happened next?

A: _____¹¹, I realized that it wasn't until I stopped comparing city life to my hometown that I started to enjoy living here.

B: _____¹², that seems like a reasonable solution.

A: Yes, _____¹³, it really surprised me but it worked. _____¹⁴, living in the city has its own charm, and I wouldn't trade this experience for anything.

5. Put the conversation in the correct order

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. _____ | a. Jenny: Apparently , we'll just have to wait and see! |
| 2. _____ | b. Jenny: Surely not! What kind of changes? |
| 3. _____ | c. Dave: Yep, as always, the rumor mill keeps turning, but who knows what will actually happen. |
| 4. _____ | d. Jenny: That's nonsense! They rarely make such big changes so quickly. But it would be nice, wouldn't it? |
| 5. _____ | e. Dave: I spoke to Bob, and he told me that they're thinking of implementing a four-day workweek! |
| 6. _____ | f. Jenny: Wow, really? But according to Susan, they were considering more remote work options instead. |
| 7. _____ | g. Dave: Oh, absolutely! A four-day workweek would be a dream come true. |
| 8. _____ | h. Dave: Hey Jenny, you'll never guess what I heard: the company is planning some major changes next week. |
| 9. _____ | i. Jenny: Rumor has it that upper management is really trying to shake things up. |
| 10. _____ | j. Dave: Ah, maybe they're doing both? Let's not get our hopes up too high! |

6. Complete the conversation with the expressions below.

- According to
- That's nonsense!
- Guess what?
- Surely not!
- According to the rumor mill
- Did you hear the latest about
- Apparently,

Maria: _____¹ the company is thinking of merging with a big tech firm!

Liam: _____² We're a small, traditional company. How would that even work?

Maria: _____³ about the CEO? _____⁴, he's been in secret talks for months.

Liam: _____⁵ The CEO has always been about keeping the company independent.

Maria: Well, _____⁶ there's some weight to it. They're exploring all possibilities for expansion.

Liam: I find that hard to believe. Merging would change everything about how we operate.

Maria: I know, it sounds extreme, but these are interesting times.

Liam: _____⁷, interesting times could also mean layoffs, so I'm not sure how I feel about all this.

Maria: True, I guess we'll have to wait and see. But it's certainly a lot to digest.

Liam: Absolutely, and until it's confirmed, it's all just talk.

Maria: Agreed, rumors have a way of spiraling out of control.

Liam: Yeah, let's not jump to conclusions just yet.

7. Put the words in the correct order.

1. Sarah / that / says / Emily / secret / after / work / and / meetings / have / been / having
2. Sam / according / to / might / boss / by / year / the / end / the / of / resign
3. a / There's / that / new / rumor / hire / CEO's / the / actually / the / niece / is
4. never / guess / heard / I / about / You'll / won / the / what / supposedly / Dave; / lottery / he / but / hasn't / told / anyone
5. rumor / According / being / for / to / a / major / Tom / Lisa / the / promotion / mill, / over / the / is / considered
6. that / I / the / chosen / "Employee of the Month" / hear / is / actually / randomly / of / the / the / company's
7. a / is / tell-all / book / about / writing / Apparently, / office / Susan / the / dynamics

8. Complete the conversations with some of the phrases (1-14).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Person A: _____ The CEO is stepping down next month.
Person B: I heard the same thing from John in Finance. 2. Person A: _____ Sarah? Apparently, she's the whistleblower.
Person B: _____! She's one of the most loyal employees here. 3. Person A: _____ that the company might be moving its headquarters to New York.
Person B: Apparently, they've already been scouting locations! 4. Person A: _____, Jo got the promotion because she's the boss's cousin.
Person B: _____! He's earned it through hard work. 5. Person A: _____ Our holiday bonuses are going to be cut this year.
Person B: Oh no! | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ... says that ... 2. According to ... 3. Apparently, ... 4. Did you hear the latest about ... ? 5. Have you heard the news? 6. I spoke to ... and he told me that ... 7. Rumour has it .../ There's a rumor that 8. You'll never guess what I heard ... 9. According to the rumour mill ... 10. Surely not! 11. That's nonsense! 12. Guess what? 13. I hear ... 14. Listen to this |
|---|--|

Giving an explanation

- ... *due to* ...
- *It seems that* ...
- *The reason being that* ...
- *It came about because of* ...

Time expressions

- *While / When* ...
- *At first* ...
- *After that* ...
- *As time went by* ...
- *In the end* ...
- *And then, to top it all*
- *Way back in* ...
- *This was around the time of* ...

Linking the narrative

- *It wasn't until ... that* ...
- *Luckily* ...
- *And / But then* ...
- *What's more* ...
- *Despite* ...
- *And the strange thing was* ...
- *But that was nothing compared to* ...

Summarizing the narrative

- *That was when* ...
- *So that was the first problem* ...
- *All in all* ...
- *It really surprised me (but it worked).*
- *I was extremely disappointed.*
- *To cut a long story short* ...
- *Seems funny now, but it didn't at the time* ...

Encouraging more information

- *So what did you do?*
- *What had you done?*
- *And what did (she) say?*
- *What happened (next / then / after that)?*
- *That's (understandable).*
- *Go on. / Oh?*
- *What was (her) view?*
- *So how did you ... ?*

Past continuous

1. The past continuous (*was doing, were doing*) is often used to set the scene and give background information at the beginning of a narrative.

*When I got to the conference room, it was quite early. The IT team **was testing** the screen and audio, the secretaries **were moving** chairs and **were** also **making** coffee.*

BUT the past continuous is not used with stative verbs or when describing permanent features.
*The project **required** a lot of work and time, but the team **seemed** very positive on the deadline.*

2. The past continuous is also used for an action in progress that is interrupted by another shorter action. (Use the past simple for the action that interrupts.)

*I **was talking** with the client on the phone when you **arrived**.*

Past simple

The past simple (*did*) is used for the main actions and events in a story that happen one after the other.

*Traders **lost** a fortune when markets **collapsed**.*

*The attendees **arrived** on time, they **picked** a seat, and they **watched** silently the short, which **explained** how our product is manufactured.*

Past simple

The past perfect (*had done*) is used when we are already talking about the past and want to refer to an earlier action, event or state.

*When I got to the meeting room, I realized I'd **left** my laptop at home.*



1. Choose the correct option in italics.

1. While I (*was reading / read / had read*) the book, the phone rang.
2. By the time she arrived, the meeting (*was starting / started / had started*).
3. He (*was playing / played / had played*) soccer all afternoon yesterday.
4. I (*was eating / ate / had eaten*) dinner when she called me.
5. They (*were traveling / traveled / had traveled*) to Paris before they moved to London.
6. She (*was studying / studied / had studied*) for four hours, so she was tired.
7. The sun (*was setting / set / had set*) by the time we reached the hilltop.
8. When he walked into the room, everybody (*was looking / looked / had looked*) at him.

2. Choose the correct option to complete the exchanges.

1. Why did you miss the meeting yesterday?

- a) I was attending another important event.
- b) I had attended another meeting.
- c) I attend another event.

2. How come you knew all the answers in the quiz?

- a) I studied hard.
- b) I was studying all night.
- c) I had studied the material before the quiz.

3. Why didn't you answer my call?

- a) I was taking a shower.
- b) I had taken a shower.
- c) I took a shower.

4. How did you know the restaurant was closed?

- a) I was checking the website.
- b) I checked the website.
- c) I had checked the website before we left.

5. Was the exam difficult for you?

- a) Yes, I struggled.
- b) Yes, I was struggling through most of it.
- c) Yes, I had struggled before but not this time.



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Business Upper Intermediate

Unit 13: Culture

Homework – Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. **Hierarchical: (e)** Ordered by rank or authority.
2. **Formal: (g)** Following established rules or ceremonies.
3. **Liberal: (h)** Open to new ideas and favoring reform.
4. **Egalitarian: (f)** Advocating for equal rights for all.
5. **Individualistic: (i)** Valuing individual freedom and self-reliance.
6. **Collectivist: (d)** Valuing group goals over individual ones.
7. **Cautious: (a)** Careful to avoid risk or danger.
8. **Strict: (c)** Adhering rigidly to rules or standards.
9. **Open: (b)** Receptive to new ideas or experiences.
10. **Accepting: (j)** Willing to tolerate or welcome different views.

Exercise 2

Hierarchical: (h) The manager reports to the director, who in turn reports to the vice president.

Formal: (c) Guests at the gala wore tuxedos and evening gowns while observing traditional etiquette.

Liberal: (f) She advocates for social change and values personal freedom.

Egalitarian: (d) In the community circle, every voice is given equal weight and respect.

Individualistic: (e) She prefers to work alone and takes pride in solving problems by herself.

Collectivist: (j) The team prioritized their shared mission over personal ambitions.

Cautious: (i) He double-checks every detail before making a decision.

Strict: (a) You'll be grounded for a week if you break curfew.

Open: (b) He eagerly tried the exotic food and participated in unfamiliar customs.

Accepting: (g) She welcomed her new neighbors, who had different cultural practices, with warmth and kindness.

Exercise 3

1. In Japanese society, a **hierarchical** structure is often observed, where seniors are given a lot of respect by juniors.
2. British events can be quite **formal**, with an emphasis on proper etiquette and dress code.
3. The Netherlands is often considered a **liberal** country, particularly in terms of social policies like drug use and sex work.
4. Scandinavian countries like Sweden have **egalitarian** social systems, where there is a strong focus on equality and social welfare.
5. American culture is often described as **individualistic**, where personal achievement and independence are highly valued.
6. In many parts of Africa, there is a **collectivist** mindset, prioritizing community well-being over individual gains.
7. Swiss culture often emphasizes being **cautious**, especially when it comes to punctuality and following rules.
8. Saudi Arabia has **strict** laws governing public behavior and personal conduct.
9. Brazil is known for its **open** and friendly atmosphere, especially during social gatherings and celebrations.
10. Canada is often seen as an **accepting** nation, welcoming immigrants from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

Exercise 1

1. **To adjust to** - A. **To accommodate oneself to**
2. **To be aware of** - B. **To be cognizant of**
3. **To be familiar with** - C. **To have knowledge of**
4. **To be used to** - D. **To be accustomed to**
5. **Be respectful of** - E. **To hold in esteem**
6. **To be informed about** - F. **To be briefed on**
7. **To be tolerant of** - G. **To show acceptance for**
8. **To be sensitive to** - H. **To be responsive to**

Exercise 2

1. **To adjust to (5)** She struggled to adapt away from the new time zone after her international flight.
2. **To be aware of (3)** He chose to ignore the warning signs despite them being clearly displayed.
3. **To be familiar with (8)** Though she had lived there for years, she was unacquainted with the local customs.
4. **To be used to (6)** New to the cold weather, he was not accustomed to wearing layers of clothing.
5. **To be respectful of (1)** During the meeting, he disregarded his colleagues' points of view, interrupting them frequently.
6. **To be informed about (2)** The student entered the exam lacking knowledge of the topics that were going to be covered.
7. **To be tolerant of (4)** Despite the social norms, he showed narrow-mindedness toward other people's religious beliefs.
8. **To be sensitive to (7)** She showed a lack of empathy for her friend's emotional state, making jokes at inappropriate times.

Exercise 3

1. to adjust to
2. to be aware of
3. to be familiar with
4. to be used to
5. be respectful of
6. to be informed about
7. to be tolerant of
8. to be sensitive to

Exercise 5

1. Being familiar with local customs and social norms before traveling to a new country is unnecessary. **(False)**
2. In Japan, people are used to a hierarchical structure in society. **(True)**
3. To be a responsible traveler, it is important to be aware of local laws and traditions. **(True)**
4. Being tolerant of different lifestyles and beliefs is not important when you are traveling. **(False)**
5. You don't need to adjust to different cultural norms when you are in a new environment. **(False)**

Exercise 4

Traveling the world exposes you to a myriad of cultures and traditions, making it crucial **to be informed about** the places you visit. Before landing in a new country, it helps **to be familiar with** its customs and social norms. For instance, while the Japanese are **used to** a hierarchical structure in their society, people in Sweden value an egalitarian approach. When you're in a different environment, it may take some time **to adjust to** these cultural norms, such as how to greet people or what to wear.

Being a responsible traveler also means **to be aware of** local laws and traditions. For example, many places in the Middle East have conservative dress codes that you must follow. Similarly, some cultures have specific expectations about punctuality or direct eye contact, and it's important **to be respectful of** these practices to foster positive interactions.

Moreover, showing openness **to be tolerant of** different lifestyles and beliefs is a sign of a well-rounded individual. Whether you're exploring the food in Thailand or attending a ceremony in Africa, it's always beneficial **to be sensitive to** the customs and emotions of those around you. This sensitivity not only enriches your own experience but also leaves a positive impression, making the world a smaller, friendlier place.

Exercise 1

- a. **As time went by**, the journey presented more challenges, both physical and emotional. **While** crossing through various countries, language barriers and different currencies made daily life more difficult. **And then, to top it all**, my backpack was stolen in Brazil, leaving me without essentials and valuable documents. **But that was nothing compared to** the warmth and help I received from locals, who assisted me in replacing what I'd lost.
- b. **Way back in 2015**, I decided to undertake a backpacking journey across South America. **The reason being that** I had always been fascinated by diverse cultures and landscapes. **At first**, the trip was everything I had dreamed of: magnificent vistas, rich history, and the kindness of strangers. **So that was the first problem** solved; my initial hesitation about the trip was unfounded.
- c. **To cut a long story short**, the journey was an adventure in the truest sense, full of highs and lows. **All in all**, it was the hardships that made the beautiful moments even more poignant. Now, whenever I think about that adventure, I feel a sense of accomplishment and a deeper understanding of the world around me.
- d. **That was when** I realized the real essence of travel isn't just in seeing new places but in experiencing humanity's shared kindness. **In the end**, despite all the problems and challenges, the trip was a rewarding experience. I learned to be resilient, adaptable, and appreciative of the smaller things in life.
- e. **After that**, I encountered my first real obstacle. I got seriously sick while crossing the Andes. **It came about because of** my lack of preparation for high-altitude conditions. **What's more**, local medical facilities were far from advanced. **Luckily**, a group of fellow backpackers had some first-aid essentials and knowledge, allowing me to recover enough to continue.

Exercise 2

1. Way back in 2015, I decided to undertake a backpacking journey across South America. The reason being that I had always been fascinated by diverse cultures and landscapes. At first, the trip was everything I had dreamed of: magnificent vistas, rich history, and the kindness of strangers. So that was the first problem solved; my initial hesitation about the trip was unfounded.
2. After that, I encountered my first real obstacle. I got seriously sick while crossing the Andes. It came about because of my lack of preparation for high-altitude conditions. What's more, local medical facilities were far from advanced. Luckily, a group of fellow backpackers had some first-aid essentials and knowledge, allowing me to recover enough to continue.
3. As time went by, the journey presented more challenges, both physical and emotional. While crossing through various countries, language barriers and different currencies made daily life more difficult. And then, to top it all, my backpack was stolen in Brazil, leaving me without essentials and valuable documents. But that was nothing compared to the warmth and help I received from locals, who assisted me in replacing what I'd lost.
4. That was when I realized the real essence of travel isn't just in seeing new places but in experiencing humanity's shared kindness. In the end, despite all the problems and challenges, the trip was a rewarding experience. I learned to be resilient, adaptable, and appreciative of the smaller things in life.
5. To cut a long story short, the journey was an adventure in the truest sense, full of highs and lows. All in all, it was the hardships that made the beautiful moments even more poignant. Now, whenever I think about that adventure, I feel a sense of accomplishment and a deeper understanding of the world around me.

Giving an explanation	Time Expressions	Linking the narrative	Summarizing the narrative
The reason being...	As time went by...	But that was nothing compared to	So that was the first problem
After that	While	What's more	To cut a long story short
It came about because of	And then, to top it all	Luckily	All in all
----- -----	Way back in...	----- -----	That was when
----- -----	At first	----- -----	----- ----
----- -----	In the end	----- -----	----- ----

Exercise 3

1. The narrator decided to backpack across South America because they had always been fascinated by diverse cultures and landscapes.
2. The narrator got seriously sick while crossing the Andes due to a lack of preparation for high-altitude conditions.
3. Locals in Brazil assisted the narrator by helping them replace the essentials and valuable documents that were stolen.
4. The narrator realized that the essence of travel is not just seeing new places but experiencing humanity's shared kindness.
5. Overall, the narrator feels that the journey was a rewarding experience, full of highs and lows that made the beautiful moments even more poignant.

Exercise 4

Person A: "**Way back in**, when I moved to the city, everything was so overwhelming."

Person B: "So what was your first problem?"

Person A: "The hustle and bustle of city life was so different from my hometown. At first, I had difficulty adjusting to the fast pace."

Person B: "**So what did you do?**"

Person A: "Well, I **ended up** joining a local club to meet new people. It was a struggle **but that was nothing compared to** my shyness."

Person B: "And what did the club members say?"

Person A: "Luckily, they were very welcoming! **What's more**, I made a few good friends."

Person B: "That's understandable. **So how did you** adjust to the fast-paced city life?"

Person A: "**After that**, I started planning my days better. **At first**, I was extremely disappointed because I felt like I was always running behind."

Person B: "What happened next?"

Person A: "**It wasn't until** I realized that it wasn't until I stopped comparing city life to my hometown that I started to enjoy living here."

Person B: "**Go on**, that seems like a reasonable solution."

Person A: "Yes, **despite** the initial struggles, it really surprised me but it worked. **All in all**, living in the city has its own charm, and I wouldn't trade this experience for anything."

Exercise 5

- [1](h) Dave: Hey Jenny, you'll never guess what I heard: the company is planning some major changes next week.
- [2](b) Jenny: Surely not! What kind of changes?
- [3](e) Dave: I spoke to Bob, and he told me that they're thinking of implementing a four-day workweek!
- [4](f) Jenny: Wow, really? But according to Susan, they were considering more remote work options instead.
- [5](i) Dave: Ah, maybe they're doing both? Rumor has it that upper management is really trying to shake things up.
- [6](d) Jenny: That's nonsense! They rarely make such big changes so quickly. But it would be nice, wouldn't it?
- [7](g) Dave: Oh, absolutely! A four-day workweek would be a dream come true.
- [8](a) Jenny: Apparently, we'll just have to wait and see!
- [9](c) Dave: Yep, as always, the rumor mill keeps turning, but who knows what will actually happen.
- [10](j) Jenny: Exactly, let's not get our hopes up too high!

Exercise 6

1. Guess what?
2. Surely not!
3. Did you hear the latest about ... ?
4. Apparently, ...
5. That's nonsense!
6. According to
7. According to the rumor mill

Exercise 7

1. Sarah says that Emily and Mark have been having secret meetings after work.
2. According to Janet, the boss might resign by the end of the year.
3. There's a rumor that the new hire is actually the CEO's niece.
4. You'll never guess what I heard about Dave; he supposedly won the lottery but hasn't told anyone.
5. According to the rumor mill, Lisa is being considered for a major promotion over Tom.
6. I hear that the company's "Employee of the Month" is actually chosen randomly.
7. Apparently, Susan is writing a tell-all book about the office dynamics.

Exercise 8

- [1]
 Person A: **(5) Have you heard the news?** The CEO is stepping down next month.
 Person B: I heard the same thing from John in Finance.
- [2]
 Person A: **(4) Did you hear the latest about** Sarah? Apparently, she's the whistleblower.
 Person B: **(11) That's nonsense!** She's one of the most loyal employees here.
- [3]
 Person A: **(7) Rumour has it** that the company might be moving its headquarters to New York.
 Person B: Apparently, they've already been scouting locations!
- [4]
 Person A: **(9) According to the rumor mill**, Jo got the promotion because she's the boss's cousin.
 Person B: **(11) That's nonsense!** He's earned it through hard work.
- [5]
 Person A: **(8) You'll never guess what I heard:** our holiday bonuses are going to be cut this year.
 Person B: Oh no!

Exercise 1

1. Was reading
2. Had started
3. Played
4. Was eating
5. Had traveled
6. Studied
7. Had set
8. Looked

Exercise 2

1. a) I was attending another important event.
2. c) I had studied the material before the quiz.
3. a) I was taking a shower.
4. c) I had checked the website before we left.
5. b) Yes, I was struggling through most of it.

Exercise 3

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Founded | 8. Cut |
| 2. Was struggling | 9. Eliminated |
| 3. Had accumulated | 10. Were flocking |
| 4. Had reached | 11. Were questioning |
| 5. Hired | 12. Had proved |
| 6. Studied | 13. Worked |
| 7. Decided | 14. Had surpassed |

Exercise 4

1. **False:** Tony Ryan founded Ryanair in 1984.
2. **True:** Michael O'Leary was hired as the new CEO to implement a new strategy.
3. **True:** By 1991, the airline had accumulated significant debt and was on the brink of bankruptcy.
4. **False:** Critics were questioning the quality of service while customers were flocking to the airline.
5. **False:** By the early 2000s, Ryanair had surpassed its competitors to become the largest low-cost airline on the continent.