

A Holiday Postcard from Abroad

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

INTERACTIVE ONLINE TEST

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Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

A Dear family, I am having a wonderful time in Spain! The weather is sunny and warm, perfect for exploring. Yesterday, I visited the famous Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, a stunning church designed by the renowned architect Antoni Gaudí, known for his unique style. I took many photos because the building is intricate, with beautiful details that are fascinating to observe. After that, I walked along the beach, feeling the soft sand beneath my feet, and enjoyed the calming sound of the waves crashing against the shore. I also tried some delicious tapas, which are small dishes with different flavors, and I loved every bite. Today, I will visit a local market where I plan to buy souvenirs to remember my trip. I want to bring back special gifts for each of you, so you can share in my experiences. I miss you all very much and wish you were here with me. I will write again soon with more updates. Love, Maria.

Vocabulary Glossary

Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
renowned	known and admired by many people	<i>The artist is renowned for her beautiful paintings.</i>
intricate	having many small and complicated parts or details	<i>The intricate design on the vase was amazing.</i>
stunning	very beautiful or impressive	<i>The view from the top of the mountain is stunning.</i>
calming	making you feel relaxed and peaceful	<i>Listening to the rain is very calming.</i>
souvenirs	things you buy to remember a place you visited	<i>I bought some souvenirs from my trip to Paris.</i>
exploring	traveling around a place to learn about it	<i>We spent the day exploring the old city.</i>
architect	a person who designs buildings	<i>Frank Lloyd Wright was a famous architect.</i>
tapas	small dishes of food, often served as snacks in Spain	<i>We ate tapas at a local bar in Madrid.</i>

Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. The artist is _____ for her beautiful paintings.
2. I bought some _____ from my trip to Paris.
3. The view from the top of the mountain is _____.
4. We spent the day _____ the old city.
5. Listening to the rain is very _____.
6. We ate _____ at a local bar in Madrid.

Comprehension Questions

These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.

Question 1

What is the weather like in Spain during Maria's trip?

- A. Rainy and cold
- B. Sunny and warm
- C. Cloudy and cool
- D. Windy and hot

Question 2

Why did Maria take many photos at the Sagrada Familia?

- A. It was a new building
- B. The church is closed
- C. It has beautiful details
- D. Photography was free

Question 3

What does Maria plan to do at the local market?

- A. Watch a performance
- B. Buy souvenirs
- C. Meet famous people
- D. Eat local food

Question 4

How does Maria feel about her family while in Spain?

- A. She is happy to be away
- B. She misses them
- C. She forgot about them
- D. She is angry with them

Question 5

What activity did Maria enjoy by the beach?

- A. Sunbathing
- B. Swimming
- C. Listening to the waves
- D. Building sandcastles

Discussion & Writing Prompts

Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).

1. The passage mentions Maria visited the Sagrada Familia, a church designed by Antoni Gaudí. What do you know about Gaudí's other works, and how do they reflect his unique style?

2. In the postcard, Maria describes her experience with tapas. Have you ever tried tapas or any similar small dishes from another culture? What was your experience like?

3. Maria plans to buy souvenirs from the local market. How important do you think souvenirs are in remembering your travel experiences, and what types do you prefer to bring back?

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 C

Q3 B

Q4 B

Q5 C

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 renowned

FIB2 souvenirs

FIB3 stunning

FIB4 exploring

FIB5 calming

FIB6 tapas

Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

1. What is the weather like in Spain during Maria's trip?

✓ B — Sunny and warm The passage states that the weather is sunny and warm.

✗ A — Rainy and cold *Rainy and cold is not mentioned in the passage.*

✗ C — Cloudy and cool *Cloudy and cool is not correct as the passage describes sunny weather.*

✗ D — Windy and hot *Windy and hot is not mentioned in the passage.*

2. Why did Maria take many photos at the Sagrada Familia?

✓ C — It has beautiful details Maria took many photos because the building is intricate with beautiful details.

✗ A — It was a new building *The passage does not say it is a new building.*

✗ B — The church is closed *The church being closed is not mentioned.*

✗ D — Photography was free *The passage does not say photography was free.*

3. What does Maria plan to do at the local market?

✓ B — Buy souvenirs Maria plans to buy souvenirs at the local market.

✗ A — Watch a performance *The passage does not mention watching a performance.*

✗ C — Meet famous people *Meeting famous people is not part of her plan.*

✗ D — Eat local food *Eating local food is not mentioned as a plan for the market.*

4. How does Maria feel about her family while in Spain?

✓ B — She misses them Maria mentions she misses her family very much.

✗ A — She is happy to be away *She expresses missing them, not happiness to be away.*

✗ C — She forgot about them *She clearly remembers and mentions her family.*

✗ D — She is angry with them *There is no indication of anger towards her family.*

5. What activity did Maria enjoy by the beach?

✓ **C — Listening to the waves** Maria enjoyed the calming sound of the waves crashing against the shore.

✗ **A — Sunbathing** *Sunbathing is not mentioned.*

✗ **B — Swimming** *Swimming is not mentioned.*

✗ **D — Building sandcastles** *Building sandcastles is not mentioned.*

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