

Talk a Lot

Airport

Multi-Purpose Text

Portugal (Original Text)

Line

1 In February Kathleen and Rob had a romantic break in Portugal. After they arrived
2 and unpacked, Kathleen phoned her daughter. "What a day! You know, everything
3 that could have gone wrong *did* go wrong." "What happened?" asked Maggie. "Well,
4 on the way to the airport, your dad got lost in the one-way system. Then we couldn't
5 find a parking space, and when we did we didn't have any change for the machine.
6 We had to ask some Italian kids to change a twenty-pound note." Maggie could
7 hear her dad snoring loudly on the bed, where he was fast asleep next to Kathleen.
8 "At the check-in desk it turned out that we hadn't brought the email that we needed
9 for automatic check-in. Then they told us that our luggage was overweight by two
10 kilos, and we had to throw away most of the tins of beans that your dad had packed.
11 I set off the alarm at the security check because I'd forgotten to take off my belt, and
12 then at a duty-free shop your dad knocked over five bottles of expensive Latvian
13 vodka." "Wow!" gasped Maggie, absolutely amazed at the story. "After that we took
14 the wrong train to the gate, and had to rush back to where we'd started. We were last
15 in the queue when we got to the gate, and of course, we hadn't bothered to pay for
16 priority boarding. But do you know what, love? Since we took off, everything has been
17 completely hassle-free. 'Plane sailing' is how your dad put it." In the background
18 Maggie could hear Rob talking angrily in his sleep: "But I'm not paying for the vodka!
19 It wasn't my fault!" "Have a great holiday, mum," chuckled Maggie.
(292 words)



Portugal (Text with 20 Differences)

In February Kathleen and Rob **1. went (had)** a romantic break in Portugal. After they arrived and unpacked, Kathleen phoned her daughter. "What a **2. stay (day)**! You know, everything that **3. would (could)** have gone wrong *did* go wrong." "What happened?" asked Maggie. "Well, on the way to the **4. station (airport)**, your dad got lost in the one-way system. Then we couldn't find a **5. car (parking)** space, and when we did we didn't have any change for the **6. ticket (machine)**. We had to ask some **7. French (Italian)** kids to change a twenty-pound note." Maggie could hear her dad snoring loudly on the bed, where he was fast **8. awake (asleep)** next to Kathleen. "At the check-in desk it **9. burned (turned)** out that we hadn't brought the email that we needed for automatic check-in. Then they told us that our **10. baggage (luggage)** was overweight by two kilos, and we had to throw away most of the tins of **11. greens (beans)** that your dad had packed. I set off the **12. arm (alarm)** at the security check because I'd forgotten to take off my **13. bell (belt)**, and then at a duty-free shop your dad knocked over **14. live (five)** bottles of expensive Latvian vodka." "Wow!" gasped Maggie, **15. completely (absolutely)** amazed at the story. "After that we took the wrong train to the gate, and had to rush back to where we'd **16. start (started)**. We were last in the queue when we got to the gate, and of course, we hadn't bothered to pay for priority **17. hoarding (boarding)**. But do you know what, love? Since we **18. put (took)** off, everything has been completely hassle-free. 'Plane sailing' is how your dad put it." In the background Maggie could **19. near (hear)** Rob talking angrily in his sleep: "But I'm not paying for the **20. vodkas (vodka)**! It wasn't my fault!" "Have a great holiday, mum," chuckled Maggie.

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Multi-Purpose Text

Portugal (Gap-Fill – Verbs)

In February Kathleen and Rob had a romantic break in Portugal. After they 1. _____ and 2. _____, Kathleen phoned her daughter. "What a day! You know, everything that could have gone wrong *did* go wrong." "What 3. _____?" asked Maggie. "Well, on the way to the airport, your dad got lost in the one-way system. Then we couldn't 4. _____ a parking space, and when we did we didn't have any change for the machine. We had to 5. _____ some Italian kids to 6. _____ a twenty-pound note." Maggie could hear her dad snoring loudly on the bed, where he was fast asleep next to Kathleen. "At the check-in desk it turned out that we hadn't 7. _____ the email that we needed for automatic check-in. Then they 8. _____ us that our luggage was overweight by two kilos, and we had to 9. _____ most of the tins of beans that your dad had packed. I set off the alarm at the security check because I'd 10. _____ to take off my belt, and then at a duty-free shop your dad 11. _____ five bottles of expensive Latvian vodka." "Wow!" gasped Maggie, absolutely amazed at the story. "After that we took the wrong train to the gate, and had to 12. _____ back to where we'd started. We were last in the queue when we got to the gate, and of course, we hadn't bothered to pay for priority boarding. But do you know what, love? Since we 13. _____, everything has been completely hassle-free. 'Plane sailing' is how your dad put it." In the background Maggie could 14. _____ Rob talking angrily in his sleep: "But I'm not 15. _____ for the vodka! It wasn't my fault!" "Have a great holiday, mum," chuckled Maggie.



Portugal (Multiple Choice – Use of English)

In February Kathleen and Rob 1. **a) have, b) had, c) 'd** a romantic break in Portugal. After they arrived and unpacked, Kathleen phoned her daughter. "2. **a) Well, b) How, c) What** a day! You know, everything that could have gone wrong *did* go wrong." "What happened?" 3. **a) says, b) asked, c) thought** Maggie. "Well, on the way to the airport, your dad got lost in the one-way system. Then we 4. **a) couldn't, b) must to, c) can't** find a parking space, and when we did we didn't have 5. **a) some, b) a, c) any** change for the machine. We 6. **a) needed, b) had to, c) musted** ask some Italian kids to change 7. **a) the, b) this, c) a** twenty-pound note." Maggie could hear 8. **a) hers, b) his, c) her** dad snoring loudly on the bed, where he was fast asleep next 9. **a) with, b) to, c) by** Kathleen. "At the check-in desk it turned 10. **a) in, b) out, c) up** that we hadn't brought the email that we needed for automatic check-in. Then they told us that our luggage was overweight 11. **a) by, b) for, c) with** two kilos, and we had to throw away most of the tins of beans that your dad had packed. I set off the alarm at the security check 12. **a) when, b) so, c) because** I'd forgotten to take off my belt, and then at a duty-free shop your dad knocked over five bottles of expensive Latvian vodka." "Wow!" gasped Maggie, absolutely amazed 13. **a) for, b) at, c) with** the story. "After that we took the wrong train to the gate, and had to rush back to where we'd started. We were last in the queue when we got to the gate, and of course, we 14. **a) didn't, b) haven't, c) hadn't** bothered to pay for priority boarding. But do you know what, love? Since we took off, everything has been completely hassle-free. 'Plane sailing' is how your dad put 15. **a) them, b) it, c) us**." In the background Maggie could hear Rob talking angrily in his sleep: "But I'm not paying for the vodka! It wasn't my fault!" "Have a great holiday, mum," chuckled Maggie.

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Multi-Purpose Text

Portugal (Comprehension Questions)

1. Who went on holiday?
2. When did they get lost?
3. Did they have to queue to get on the plane?
4. How many bottles of vodka did Rob knock over?
5. Why did Kathleen set off the alarm?
6. Who phoned Maggie?
7. Where did Kathleen and Rob go on holiday?
8. Why did they have to throw something away when they checked in?
9. Had they paid for priority boarding?
10. By how many kilos was their luggage overweight?
11. What had they forgotten to take to the check-in desk?
12. Did Kathleen phone Maggie before she unpacked?
13. What nationality were the kids who changed their money?
14. Was the vodka that Rob knocked over cheap or expensive?
15. Did they have to queue at the gate before getting on the train?
16. What was the problem with their luggage?
17. What did they need for automatic check-in?
18. What did Rob knock over?
19. How much money did they want to change?
20. What was Rob doing while Kathleen was on the phone?
21. When did Kathleen and Rob go on holiday?
22. When did Kathleen phone Maggie?
23. Where did Kathleen set off the alarm?
24. Where did they go after the duty-free shop?
25. What kind of vodka did Rob knock over?
26. Did they have any problems on the plane?
27. What did they have to throw away?
28. What did Rob say in his sleep?
29. What did Maggie think of their story?
30. Did they have a good journey?

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Portugal (True, False, or Unknown?)

1. Rob and Kathleen went on holiday
2. They travelled by car, train, and plane.
3. They wanted to change a ten-pound note.
4. Kathleen felt embarrassed when she set off the security alarm.
5. When they arrived in Portugal it was sunny.
6. Rob and Kathleen had to pay for the five bottles of vodka.
7. They went on holiday to Portugal.
8. Rob set off the alarm at the security check.
9. They took the train to the airport.
10. They had a good flight.
11. Rob chatted to Maggie on the phone.
12. They got lost in the one-way system on the way to the airport.
13. Their luggage was too heavy.
14. They bought some duty-free perfume.
15. Maggie was bored by their story.
16. Kathleen loves Portugal.
17. Rob was angry about throwing away his tins of beans.
18. Maggie was in the garden when Kathleen phoned.
19. Rob took some tins of beans to Portugal.
20. Their luggage was overweight by four kilos.
21. Their hotel was expensive.
22. Rob and Maggie went on holiday.
23. They booked their hotel online.
24. They got lost in the one-way system on the way back from the airport.
25. Rob often talks in his sleep.
26. Rob knocked over five bottles of cheap Latvian vodka.
27. They parked at the airport.
28. The Italian kids wouldn't change their money.
29. Kathleen told Maggie that she set off the alarm at the security check.
30. They went on holiday to Spain.

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Multi-Purpose Text

Glossary of New Words

Here are some words and phrases from the text that may be new to students. You could either pre-teach them, or encourage your students to find translations in a bilingual dictionary and write them in the gaps below. Stressed syllables are underlined.

1. **break** (*noun*: short holiday) _____
2. **one-way system** (*noun*: urban road network) _____
3. **change** (*noun*: low-value coins, e.g. 20p, 50p, £1, etc.) _____
4. **to snore** (*verb*: to breathe loudly whilst asleep) _____
5. **fast asleep** (*adjective phrase*: in a deep sleep) _____
6. **luggage** (*noun*: bags and suitcases that you take on holiday) _____
7. **tin of beans** (*noun*: baked beans – a delicious, nutritious food, loved by Britons) _____
8. **to knock over** (*phrasal verb*: to make sthg. fall on the floor) _____
9. **to gasp** (*verb*: to make a surprised noise) _____
10. **amazed** (*adjective*: very surprised; astonished) _____
11. **to bother to do sthg.** (*phrasal verb*: to make an effort to do sthg.) _____
12. **hassle-free** (*adjective*: easy; problem-free) _____
13. **plane sailing** (*pun*: “plain sailing” means that something is going well. Rob’s pun works because “plane” and “plain” are homophones – same sound but different spellings and meanings) _____
14. **in the background** (*adverbial*: not in the foreground; not prominent) _____
15. **to chuckle** (*verb*: to laugh softly) _____

Answers

Portugal (Gap-Fill – Verbs)

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. arrived | 6. change | 11. knocked over |
| 2. unpacked | 7. brought | 12. rush |
| 3. happened | 8. told | 13. took off |
| 4. find | 9. throw away | 14. hear |
| 5. ask | 10. forgotten | 15. paying |

Portugal (Multiple Choice – Use of English)

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. b) | 6. b) | 11. a) |
| 2. c) | 7. c) | 12. c) |
| 3. b) | 8. c) | 13. b) |
| 4. a) | 9. b) | 14. c) |
| 5. c) | 10. b) | 15. b) |

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Portugal (Comprehension Questions)

1. Kathleen and Rob.
2. On the way to the airport.
3. Yes.
4. Five.
5. Because she forgot to take off her [metal] belt at the security check.
6. Kathleen.
7. Portugal.
8. Because their luggage was too heavy.
9. No.
10. Two kilos.
11. The email that they needed for automatic check-in.
12. No – after she unpacked.
13. Italian.
14. Expensive.
15. No.
16. It was overweight (too heavy).
17. An email.
18. Five bottles of expensive Latvian vodka.
19. Twenty pounds (a twenty-pound note).
20. He was sleeping.
21. In February.
22. After they arrived at their destination and unpacked.
23. At the security check.
24. To take the train to the gate.
25. Expensive Latvian vodka.
26. No. Everything was completely hassle-free.
27. Most of Rob's tins of beans.
28. "But I'm not paying for the vodka! It wasn't my fault!"
29. She was absolutely amazed at the story.
30. Before they took off, no. But after they took off, yes.

Portugal (True, False, or Unknown?)

(T = True, F = False, U = Unknown)

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. T | 11. F | 21. U |
| 2. T | 12. T | 22. F |
| 3. F | 13. T | 23. U |
| 4. U | 14. U | 24. U |
| 5. U | 15. F | 25. U |
| 6. U | 16. U | 26. F |
| 7. T | 17. U | 27. T |
| 8. F | 18. U | 28. F |
| 9. F | 19. T | 29. T |
| 10. T | 20. F | 30. F |

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