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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/02/16

Blogger saves £7.72 on train fare from Sheffield to Essex by flying via Berlin

Recently, teenage blogger Jordon Cox decided to do a return journey from Shenfield in Essex to Sheffield in northern England. Cox, 18, managed to book himself a cheap £19 ticket for the journey north but discovered the cheapest fare home was £47. An open return would have cost him £97.70. He decided to look for an alternative way to get home.

Following some online research he discovered he could save money on the rail ticket if he included a flight via Berlin in Germany. The ticket would normally have cost £47.00 by train and taken 3½ hours. By going via Berlin it took him an extra 1,017 miles and 13 hours to get home. It also included a quick tour of Berlin.

The teenager, who likes to blog on how to save money, is known as 'the coupon kid', as he saves money by using vouchers. So how did he do it?

The normal fare he would have spent going by rail from Sheffield to Shenfield is £47. A ham and cheddar toastie for lunch is £2.99. A bus from Shenfield to Hutton (single) is £1.80. Total cost: £51.79.

Here's what he actually spent. The train from Sheffield to Derby was £4. A bus from Derby to East Midlands Airport cost him £4.20. A Ryanair flight to Berlin cost £11.83. A Berlin return train from the airport to the city centre cost him £5. Jordan had a Currywurst sausage for lunch costing £1.50. A Ryanair flight to London Stansted cost him £9.54. Lastly a bus from Stansted Airport to Hutton (home) cost him £8. The total cost was £44.07. The canny teenager saved himself a cool £7.72 on his journey.

Cox booked the air tickets three weeks in advance. He is now turning his money saving ideas into a job. Good luck to him!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Can you think of a rail journey you have saved money on? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the blogger.
- 2) Where did the blogger's journey start?
- 3) Why did he not book a return ticket?
- 4) Name the airline.
- 5) How much did the blogger save?

Student B questions

- 1) What is the blogger known as?
- 2) What is the blogger now doing?
- 3) Why did the blogger do what he did?
- 4) Describe how the blogger would have originally done the journey, and the costs involved.
- 5) Describe the actual journey and the costs involved.

Category: Travel / Rail Fares / Saving Money
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about the '**Saving money**'. One-two minutes. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs think of three interesting places to see in Berlin, Sheffield, London and London Stansted. Write them below. Talk about them!

Berlin

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Sheffield

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

London

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

London Stansted

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings to the class.

SPEAKING – PRESENTATION 1

In pairs – You are going to do the same journey as Jordon Cox. (Imagine!) Discuss together what you might see on the journey. Write down some key bullet points to help you. You will need to draw a map on the board to show your route! 3 mins prep. 2 mins presentation. **The teacher** can ask some students to describe what they saw on their journey.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever done a similar such journey? If yes, where?
- 3) Have you ever been to Sheffield?
- 4) What is Sheffield famous for?
- 5) Have you ever been to London-Stansted Airport? If yes, when?
- 6) Are air fares to London expensive from where you live?
- 7) When did you last travel to London?
- 8) Have you ever been to Berlin?
- 9) Do privatised rail companies in your country charge more than state run rail companies?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Saving money on rail fares*.

- 1) Jordan Cox
- 2) A blogger
- 3) A rail company spokesperson
- 4) A Ryanair spokesperson

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - Student A is a reporter. Student B is Jordan Cox. Student A is talking to Student B - 3 mins.

SPEAKING - PRESENTATION 2

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

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Now think of a journey you might like to do that includes a bus, a train and a plane! How could you save money?

You will need to draw a map on the board to show your route!

Google it all if necessary!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you collect vouchers? If yes, which?
- 3) Are rail fares expensive in your country?
- 4) What is the best way to book a rail ticket in your country?
- 5) Are rail fares a rip off in your country? Explain.
- 6) Have you ever flown on Ryanair?
- 7) Which is the best rail company in your country?
- 8) Do you look for money saving ideas?
- 9) What makes Berlin interesting?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Blogger saves £7.72 on train fare from Sheffield to Essex by flying via Berlin

Recently, teenage blogger Jordon Cox decided to do a return journey from Shenfield in Essex to Sheffield in northern England. Cox, 18, managed to book himself a (1)___ £19 ticket for the journey north but discovered the cheapest (2)___ home was £47. An open return would have cost him £97.70. He decided to look for an (3)___ way to get home.

Following some online (4)___ he discovered he could save money on the rail ticket if he included a flight (5)___ Berlin in Germany. The ticket would (6)___ have cost £47.00 by train and taken 3½ hours. By going via Berlin it took him an extra 1,017 miles and 13 hours to get home. It also included a quick tour of Berlin.

The teenager, who likes to blog on how to save money, is known as 'the (7)___ kid', as he saves money by using (8)___. So how did he do it?

vouchers / research / via / coupon / cheap / normally / alternative / fare

The (1)___ fare he would have spent going by rail from Sheffield to Shenfield is £47. A ham and cheddar (2)___ for lunch is £2.99. A bus from Shenfield to Hutton (single) is £1.80. Total cost: £51.79.

Here's what he (3)___ spent. The train from Sheffield to Derby was £4. A bus from Derby to East Midlands Airport cost him £4.20. A Ryanair (4)___ to Berlin cost £11.83. A Berlin return train from the airport to the city centre cost him £5. Jordan had a (5)___ (6)___ for lunch costing £1.50. A Ryanair flight to London Stansted cost him £9.54. Lastly a bus from Stansted Airport to Hutton (home) cost him £8. The total cost was £44.07. The canny teenager saved himself a cool £7.72 on his journey. Cox booked the air tickets three weeks in (7)___. He is now turning his money saving (8)___ into a job. Good luck to him!

sausage / actually / advance / toastie / flight / ideas / Currywurst / normal

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Blogger saves £7.72 on train fare from Sheffield to Essex by flying via Berlin

Recently, teenage blogger Jordon Cox decided to do a return journey from Shenfield in Essex to Sheffield in northern England. Cox, 18, managed to book himself a cheap £19 ticket for the journey north (1)___ discovered the cheapest fare home was £47. An open return would have cost (2)___ £97.70. He decided to look an (3)___ alternative way to get home.

Following (4)___ online research he discovered he (5)___ save money on the rail ticket if he included a flight via Berlin in Germany. The ticket (6)___ normally have cost £47.00 by train and taken 3½ hours. By going via Berlin it took him an extra 1,017 miles and 13 hours to get home. It also included a quick tour of Berlin.

The teenager, (7)___ likes to blog on (8)___ to save money, is known as 'the coupon kid', as he saves money by using vouchers. So how did he do it?

how / him / who / for / but / would / some / could

The normal fare (1)___ would have spent going (2)___ rail from Sheffield to Shenfield is £47. A ham (3)___ cheddar toastie for lunch is £2.99. A bus from Shenfield to Hutton (single) is £1.80. Total cost: £51.79.

Here's what he actually spent. The train from Sheffield to Derby was £4. A bus from Derby to East Midlands Airport cost (4)___ £4.20. A Ryanair flight to Berlin cost £11.83. A Berlin return train from (5)___ airport to the city centre cost him £5. Jordan had a Currywurst sausage for lunch costing £1.50. A Ryanair flight to London Stansted cost him £9.54. Lastly a bus from Stansted Airport to Hutton (home) cost him £8. The total cost was £44.07. The canny teenager saved himself a cool £7.72 on his journey. Cox booked the air tickets three weeks (6)___ advance. He is now turning (7)___ money saving ideas into (8)___ job. Good luck to him!

him / he / in / by / his / a / the / and

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Blogger saves £7.72 on train fare from Sheffield to Essex by flying via Berlin

Recently, _____ Jordon Cox decided to do a return journey from Shenfield in Essex to Sheffield in northern England. Cox, 18, managed to book himself a cheap £19 ticket for the journey north but discovered the cheapest fare home was £47. An open return would have cost him £97.70. He decided to look for _____ to get home.

Following some _____ discovered he could save money on the rail ticket if he included a flight via _____. The ticket would normally have cost £47.00 by train and taken 3½ hours. By going via Berlin it took him an extra 1,017 miles and 13 hours to get home. It also included a quick tour of Berlin.

The teenager, who likes to blog on how to save money, is known as '_____ ', as he saves money by using vouchers. So how did he do it? The normal fare he would have spent going by rail from Sheffield to Shenfield is £47. A _____ for lunch is £2.99. A bus from Shenfield to Hutton (single) is £1.80. Total cost: £51.79.

Here's _____. The train from Sheffield to Derby was £4. A bus from Derby to East Midlands Airport cost him £4.20. A Ryanair flight to Berlin cost £11.83. A Berlin return train from the airport to the city centre cost him £5. Jordan had a _____ for lunch costing £1.50. A Ryanair flight to London Stansted cost him £9.54. Lastly a bus from _____ Hutton (home) cost him £8. The total cost was £44.07. The canny teenager saved himself a cool £7.72 on his journey.

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WRITING / SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs/As a class, list 10 ways to save money on travel. One-two minutes. Talk about each of them. Which is best?

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The blogger _____
- 2) I travel _____
- 3) Rail tickets _____

3) Write down 50 words about: Saving money on rail tickets. Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Saving money on rail tickets.** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----|----------|
| 1) | fare | 11) | actually |
| 2) | teenager | 12) | sausage |
| 3) | cheap | 13) | tickets |
| 4) | journey | 14) | ideas |
| 5) | blogger | 15) | job |
| 6) | research | 16) | would |
| 7) | canny | 17) | could |
| 8) | coupon | 18) | himself |
| 9) | single | 19) | vouchers |
| 10) | normal | 20) | normal |

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

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