



I. READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)

1. I had always wanted to travel. But after having my son Chris, now 30, I didn't have the money or the time for long exotic trips, so we settled for a week in France or Spain once a year.
2. Then, an email popped up in my inbox to win a trip with an ice cream company. I had to write 200 words about the importance of travelling. I started typing what I had seen on my week-long holidays. I actually did see backpackers spend more time in fast-food restaurants than experience new cultures. As soon as I pressed 'Send', I forgot all about it. I didn't even tell Laurence, my husband.
3. Months later, in December 2005, I checked my email. As I read "Congratulations!" I realised I'd won my lifetime trip. My first thought was what my husband would say. I raced to the kitchen and blurted out "I've won a three-month-round-the-world trip!" "For two?" he asked. But I had to admit it was just for one! Luckily, he was thrilled for me. Besides, he couldn't have got time off his job.
4. The prize was only for flights, which meant I would use my £ 1,750 savings as spending money. I knew it would be worth it. First, I went on safari in Africa. Then, in India, I stayed with a local family for three weeks. There, I learnt how to cook curry the traditional way. Later, I saw Komodo dragons as I toured Indonesia. I even had tea with the Sultan's mother. It was wonderful.
5. Flying back home from Hawaii after 12 weeks, I was eager to go on another trip – this time with Laurence.

Laura Bloom (Woman's Own) March 22, 2010



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Tick (✓) the right option (1 mark)

- The text is mainly about

- a) An unexpected world tour prize. ☐
- b) A couple winning a round-the-world trip. ☐
- c) A 12-week stay in Africa. ☐

2. For each of the following statements, pick out one detail in the text showing that it is FALSE. (4 marks)

- a) Laura Bloom never travelled before. (paragraph 2)

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- b) Laurence reacted selfishly when he heard about his wife's prize. (paragraph 3)

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- c) The prize included all expenses. (paragraph 4)

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- d) Laura was hesitant to waste all her savings on the trip. (paragraph 4)

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3. Fill in the boxes with the names of the places Laura visited during her trip. (2 marks)

Kenya → India → →

4. Find, in the text, words meaning almost the same as (2 marks)

- a) appeared suddenly (paragraph 2):

- b) spoke unclearly (paragraph 3):

5. What do the words underlined in the text refer to? (2 marks)

- a) 'it' (paragraph 3) refers to

- b) 'It' (paragraph 4) refers to

6. Give a personal and justified answer to the following question. (1 mark)

If you were Laura Bloom, would you spend all your savings on a three-month-round-the-world trip? Why? Why not?

I..... because
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