

Writing & Vocabulary

A narrative

1 Discuss the questions in small groups.

- What do you think is the most challenging aspect of visiting another country?
 - Different food
 - Not speaking the language (well)
 - Different customs or behaviour
 - Different weather
 - Not understanding the money
- Do you enjoy these differences? Why? Why not?
- What do you think a foreigner might find challenging about visiting your country?

2 Read the following narrative essay and answer the questions.

- 1 What was the writer's first impression of London?
- 2 What was it that the taxi driver found amusing?
- 3 Why did the writer decide that 'for the rest of my stay in London, I would simply point at my destination on a map'?

Tripped up on a trip to London

As I came out of the railway station it was raining heavily and the wind was blowing hard. The sky was glowing a dark bronze, lit up by the streetlamps, and all around me people were rushing to get home, huddled under umbrellas or half hidden by their hoods and hats.

It was my first visit to London and I had stupidly arrived there at rush hour. Keen to start seeing something of the city, I hailed a cab and asked to be taken to Leicester Square. 'What square?' grunted the taxi driver. 'Lee-kester,' I replied, pronouncing it carefully. 'Oh,' he laughed, 'You mean Lester Square. The pronunciation is a bit strange, I suppose.'

We drove off slowly through the rush-hour traffic. By now the sun was setting, like a big scarlet ball behind the black silhouettes of the London skyline. I looked out of the window, hoping to catch a glimpse of some of the famous sights. Big Ben, perhaps, or Buckingham Palace.

'First time in London, is it?' asked the taxi driver, chattily. I nodded, catching his eye in the mirror. 'Nice day tomorrow, they say' he added helpfully.

'That'll be good,' I said. 'I was thinking of going to Greenwich.'

This time the taxi driver laughed so hard that I began to worry we would have an accident.

'Green witch!' he snorted, 'That's a good one! Do you mean *Grenitch*'?

Oh dear, would I ever master the English language? I decided that, for the rest of my stay in London, I would simply point at my destination on a map.

