

An Email from London



Read the following email.

To: Susan Jones

From: John Smith [john.sm1@eltworld.net]

To: Susan [s.jones@xyz.co.uk]

Sent: 19 August 2010 14:25

Subject: Hello from London!

Hello from England! London is amazing! I love it here. The weather is really good, but it's very hot.

Londoners are very busy people: the city is very hectic. However, I'm really enjoying life here. The food is wonderful and I think I'm gaining weight!

How is New York? Do you miss me?

Love,
John xxx

Write the questions. Check with a partner.

1 _____ ?

He's in London.

2 _____ ?

It's amazing.

3 _____ ?

It's really good, but hot.

4 _____ ?

They are very busy.

5 _____ ?

The food is wonderful.

Role-play Cards

<p>You are in Milan (A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The flight was ok, but delayed. · The hotel is old, but beautiful. · The shops are wonderful and you can buy anything. · The food is good, though restaurants in Milan aren't very cheap. 	<p>Your partner is in Milan (B)</p> <p>Ask about...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The flight · The shops · The museums · The food
<p>You are in Sydney (A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The food is great - you love the seafood. · The beaches are really fantastic. · Sydney is a very international city. · Australians are really easy-going, friendly people. 	<p>Your partner is in Sydney (B)</p> <p>Ask about...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The beaches · The food · The city · The people
<p>You are in Paris (A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The food is really good. · The people are quiet, but friendly. · The weather is pretty nice. · The hotel is wonderful - it's near The Eiffel Tower. 	<p>Your partner is in Paris (B)</p> <p>Ask about...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The food · The people · The weather · The hotel

An Email from London: Teacher's Notes

Target Structure: What's xxxxx like?

Vocabulary: Asking about / describing a place

Level: Elementary

Time: 30 minutes

Preparation: You need to cut out the role-play cards for the second activity.

Teaching ideas

Lead-in: If you haven't looked at the target structure before in class, try to elicit it. You could write this on the board:

_____? London is very *expensive*.

Explain that the answer to 'What...like' questions is an adjective: we use this question when we want a description.

1. Prepare a copy of the first page 'email' for each student. Ask them to read the email. Be ready to answer any questions about vocabulary.
2. Ask the students to read the directions. You could do question one as an example (or ask a student to do it). Students then complete the exercise, and check each other's answers in pairs.
3. If the students look like they need more controlled practice, cut out the role-play cards on the second page. This is in the Present tense, meaning that the students are still 'on vacation'. You could set this up as a telephone conversation. Student A is in the hotel room and student B needs to ask questions.

Teaching unplugged

4. Encourage additional questions, and take the opportunity to go through basic telephone language ("Hi, is that Emilio?" etc.).
5. Develop scenarios where students can use this language.

Answer Key (Other answers may be possible)

1. Where is John?
2. What is London like?
3. What is the weather like?
4. What are the people like?
5. What is the food like?

Image courtesy of ELT Pics - www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/