

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from. If I could only visit one place in your country, where should I go?

## **A Family Road Trip, Part 2**

The kids began to whine again. They were bored and tired of riding in the car. I tried to **kick start** some excitement by describing all the great scenery we would see. There would be mountains, well maybe not mountains, but perhaps hills. There might be snow. Not very likely since it was just October, but it was possible. The kids were not impressed. Every five minutes they wanted to know when we would get there. I remember **tormenting** my dad with that exact question on our family vacations.

1. *How did the dad try to get the kids excited?*
2. *What did the dad remember about road trips when he was a child?*

As the noise level from the back seat increased, I began to wonder why I wanted **to start a family** in the first place. If my wife and I didn't have kids, we could be doing this trip on my motorcycle. We could be enjoying the freedom of the road with the wind in our face instead of listening to our kids complain.

*What does the dad daydream about?*

We finally reached our destination, a resort in New Mexico. I had **started out** thinking it would be great to bring the kids here. We could finally have some family time away from all the activities that kept us busy at home. No soccer games, no dance recitals, just enjoying the family. But once we got checked in, I realized there really wasn't anything here for the kids to do. The weather was too cool to swim in the pool. After 2 hours of board games, the kids were ready for something else. We went for a walk in the desert, but my daughter almost stepped on a rattlesnake and we decided it was safer to stay inside. We flipped on the TV thinking we'd watch a movie, but the resort didn't have cable, so there wasn't anything for the kids to watch.

1. *What was their destination?*
2. *Why did the dad plan this vacation?*
3. *Why didn't the kids swim?*
4. *Why couldn't they watch movies?*

We decided to go to bed early so we could get **an early start**, exploring the area in the morning. About that time, my cell phone rang. It was my next door neighbor. It was dark at home and she saw a flashlight moving around inside my house. She asked if I'd left a door unlocked. I had to admit that I probably had. She said she had **started to call** the police, but then decided to wait to talk to me. I told her to go ahead and call 911. It turns out, by the time

the police arrived, the burglar had **cleaned us out**. Gone was our new 60" flat screen TV and all our electronic devices, as well as the \$1000 in cash I kept in under the cookie jar.

1. *Why did they go to bed early?*
2. *What did the neighbor tell him?*
3. *What had happened by the time the police arrived?*
4. *What was stolen?*

I didn't get much sleep thinking about all the money I was spending at the resort that no one really liked. The kids were bored. My wife was mad at me for leaving the door unlocked. **So the next morning**, we packed up and checked out. We **headed** home. Since I didn't give 24 hours notice, I had to pay for the next night at the hotel even though we wouldn't be staying there. The car was quiet as we drove home. My great plans for a family vacation were a bust. Before you plan a family vacation, **think it through**. It might be better to stay home and watch the football game on TV.

1. *Why did the dad have to pay for the room for the next day?*
2. *What was the atmosphere in the car when they drove home?*
3. *Did you take road trips when you were a kid? Where did you go?*
4. *Have you ever been on a vacation that didn't turn out the way you thought it would?*
5. *Does a road trip on a motorcycle sound fun?*

### **Adjectives and Adverbs**

- a. Adjective modify nouns. EX: a **heavy** box, a **bad** day, a **quick** dinner, a **nervous** student, a **thoughtful** husband.
- b. Adjectives frequently follow a "to be" verb. EX: Janet is **smart**. Jim is **lazy**. We are **tired**.
- c. Adverbs modify verbs. EX: He ate **quickly**. I played **badly** today. The wind **suddenly** shifted. The door opened **slowly**. She **nervously** opened the lid of the cage.
- d. Adverbs frequently end in LY. EX: heavily, noisily, happily, frequently.
- e. Some words are both adjectives and adverbs. EX: It is a **hard** job. Jim works **hard**. Ben is a **fast** runner. He runs **fast**.

### **Choose an adjective or an adverb.**

1. Can you speak (slow / slowly). I can't understand you.
2. She (angry / angrily) yelled at the boy who was throwing rocks at the dog.
3. She felt (angry / angrily) about the boy who threw rocks at the dog.
4. That coat looks (nice/ nicely) on you.
5. Bill is a (careful / carefully) driver. He drives (slow / slowly) and (careful / carefully).
6. Dan was here, but he left (sudden / suddenly).
7. Jackie is a nice girl, but I don't know her (good / well).
8. You speak English very (good / well).