

Postcards from Provence – 1

Text

Read the postcards written by three members of a family on holiday together.

Hi Liz and Phil

It's great to be back here in this lovely corner of France for four glorious weeks. Our days have settled into the usual pattern of early morning trips to the local patisserie for fresh baguettes and croissants before visiting a nearby market – my favourite pastime. In the heat of the day, we relax in the shade of the trees by the river. The only thing that moves faster than a snail is my bookmark. I've read three books already! By late afternoon, we're ready to amble around one of the old towns, steeped in the history of a bygone age.

George and Will prepare dinner each evening, giving me time to stroll along the nearby lanes and inhale the delicious scent of wild lavender. It's a good trade-off and I don't mind clearing up after them.

The converted cowshed we're staying in has many of the original features including the mangers, chains and, believe it or not, dung channels! It's all very rustic but spotlessly clean. The kitchen is well-equipped and the beds are comfortable so we have no complaints!

I could stay here forever. We're even talking about buying our own place to renovate. It makes perfect sense to me as we do come here every year. What do you think?

Bye for now,

Kate



Hi Harry and Charlie

Greetings from somewhere in France! I'm having a great time. My reward for not complaining about being dragged around the local markets every morning is visiting one of the nearby river beaches. There are always a few other kids to hang around with. We don't all understand each other as we come from different countries, but who cares? Having fun jumping into the water from a rock or a tree rope is the same in any language!

The old folk just sit around reading and sleeping because it's so hot but we're on the go all the time. If there's enough of us, we'll have a game of football; it's probably a good job we can't speak each other's languages or we might end up arguing about who's got the best national team!

After a couple of hours, I'm dragged away to one of many old towns Mum and Dad want to visit.

I have to admit, they're pretty interesting, with their many alleyways and narrow cobbled streets. Some towns don't allow any cars and others have one-way streets because there's no way two cars would fit. Then it's back to the house for some French cuisine. Dad and I create, leaving poor old Mum to clear up afterwards!

See you guys on my return,

George



Dear All

I go for a bike ride early each day while Kate and George do the bakery run. Cycling's a great way to explore the area and soak up the atmosphere. Then it's off to a market where I'm tempted by loads of delicious, fresh produce; I'm enjoying my role as celebrity chef, trying out traditional recipes for each evening's meal. George is turning out to be a keen kitchen hand and it's become a 'men only' zone ... until cleaning up time!

We go to the river beach every day where George has made a great collection of cosmopolitan comrades. I'm hoping this will

encourage him to study foreign languages at school. It's great to see the kids having so much fun together, without any techno toys. I dive in occasionally for a refreshing swim but mostly I enjoy a snooze with an open book resting on my lap.

Later in the day we head to one of the many medieval towns – they are so amazing! Kate always makes a beeline for the estate agents ... I hope she's not getting any ideas!

I don't miss the office at all,
Will

My learning log

When I read these postcards, I could read: all of them. most of them. parts of them.

Postcards from Provence – 2

1. Do you think the family will return to France for another holiday? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

2. Write a fact and an opinion from each postcard.

Postcard	Fact	Opinion
Kate		
George		
Will		

3. As a historian in the future, what information would these postcards give you about Will, Kate and George?

Will	
Kate	
George	

4. Add the events that occur during each part of the day. State who takes part in each event.

Early morning	Mid-morning	Early afternoon	Late afternoon	Early evening	Late evening

5. What clue does the sentence, 'The only thing that moves faster than a snail is my bookmark', give you about the location of Provence compared to the rest of France?

6. On a separate sheet of paper, paraphrase the text from all three postcards to write a single postcard from the whole family, written by either Kate, Will or George.

My family postcard is written by _____ .

My learning log	While doing these activities:		
	I found Q _____ easy.	I found Q _____ challenging.	I found Q _____ interesting.

Postcards from Provence – 3

1. Write and explain the meaning of the example of alliteration in the postcard written by Will.

2. *Cuisine* is a French word meaning 'kitchen'. When it is preceded by an adjective, as in *French cuisine*, its meaning changes.

What does *French cuisine* mean? _____

3. Circle the word that could be used to replace 'not complaining about', in the first paragraph of the postcard written by George.

enduring	endearing	enforcing
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4. (a) Separate each word into its root word and inflection(s).

(i) settled _____ (ii) giving _____
 (iii) beaches _____ (iv) occasionally _____

(b) Separate each word into its root word and prefix.

(i) encourage _____ (ii) refresh _____

5. Write the two words from the postcard written by Kate that mean 'to walk slowly'.

6. A homophone of the word 'great' is *grate* which has a few different meanings as a noun and a verb. Use a dictionary to find these meanings and write a sentence that includes both words.

7. Separate each word into its syllables. Circle the stressed syllable.

(a) favourite _____ (b) delicious _____
 (c) medieval _____ (d) cobbled _____

8. From each postcard, write a phrase containing evaluative language that describes how the person feels about something.

Will	
Kate	
George	

9. (a) Are these postcards examples of formal or informal writing? _____

(b) Explain your answer.

My learning log	<p><i>Colour:</i> I understand / need more practice on alliteration.</p> <p>I can / can't recognise stressed syllables in words.</p> <p>I understand / need more practice on evaluative language.</p>
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