

Reading comprehension

Read the text

Every year, thousands of teenagers around the world take part in exchange programmes. They spend a few months, or even a whole school year, living with a host family in another country and attending a local school.

Sofia, sixteen, from Bologna, spent five months in Ireland last year. "The first three weeks were terrible," she says. "I could understand almost nothing. People spoke very fast and used expressions I had never studied."

Things changed slowly. By the end of the second month she was following her lessons without difficulty, and she had made friends with two Irish girls in her class. "The strange thing," she explains, "is that I did not learn English in the classroom. I learnt it at dinner, watching television with my host family, arguing about whose turn it was to wash up."

Sofia is now planning to study languages at university. "Living abroad does not only teach you a language. It teaches you that there is more than one normal way of doing things."

Esercizio 1 Answer the questions in English.

1. How long did Sofia stay in Ireland?
2. Why were the first three weeks difficult for her?
3. When did she start following her lessons without difficulty?
4. Where does she say she really learnt English?
5. What does she want to study at university?

Esercizio 2 True or False? Correct the false ones.

- Sofia is from Rome. T / F
- She understood everything from the beginning. T / F
- She made friends with two Irish girls. T / F
- She thinks living abroad only teaches you a language. T / F

Use of English

Esercizio 3 Complete with the past simple or the present perfect.

1. Sofia (spend) five months in Ireland last year.
2. She (never / be) to Scotland.
3. They (arrive) two hours ago.
4. I (already / finish) my homework.
5. We (not see) her since June.

Esercizio 4 Rewrite the sentences using the comparative or superlative.

1. This exercise is easy. That one is easier. (comparative) ->
2. It was the (interesting) lesson of the year. ->
3. My school is (big) than yours. ->
4. She is the (good) student in the class. ->

Writing

Esercizio 5 Choose ONE task and write 100-120 words.

- **Task A** - Write an email to a friend describing a place you visited recently. Say where you went, who with, what you did and how you felt.
- **Task B** - Would you like to spend a year abroad? Write a short text explaining your opinion and giving at least two reasons.
- **Task C** - Describe your typical school day and say what you would change about it, and why.

Soluzioni per l'insegnante

Ex. 1 - 1) Five months. 2) She could understand almost nothing: people spoke very fast and used unfamiliar expressions. 3) By the end of the second month. 4) At dinner, watching TV with her host family, arguing about the washing up. 5) Languages.

Ex. 2 - F (she is from Bologna); F (the first three weeks were terrible); T; F (it also teaches you there is more than one normal way of doing things).

Ex. 3 - spent; has never been; arrived; have already finished; haven't seen.

Ex. 4 - That one is easier than this one. / It was the most interesting lesson of the year. / My school is bigger than yours. / She is the best student in the class.

Ex. 5 - Marking: task achievement (4), organisation (3), grammar (4), vocabulary (4). Total 15.