

Reading skills practice: Foreign exchange emails – exercises

Look at these emails between a student and his friend who is studying in Scotland, then do the exercises to improve your reading skills.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

- | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|----|--|
| 1..... | a classmate | a. | a student who goes to another country to study for a short time |
| 2..... | a school trip | b. | a family which lets a foreign student stay in their home and live and eat together with them |
| 3..... | a street performance | c. | a visit by students to a place to learn something about it |
| 4..... | a foreign exchange student | d. | a special time or event when people celebrate something |
| 5..... | a host family | e. | somebody who studies with you in the same class |
| 6..... | a festival | f. | a show by an actor, musician or other performer in a public place |

10:37
Send
Cancel
New Message

Simon Allen to Fran Romero
Subject: How's it going?
19 August, 12:31

Hey Fran

I haven't heard from you since you arrived in Edinburgh. How are you getting on? Is the family you're staying with OK? What are your English classes like?

Write soon!

Simon

Fran Romero to Simon Allen
Subject: Re: How's it going?
20 August, 10:37

Hi Simon

Sorry I haven't written till now. Since I got here I've been really busy with the course and making new friends. I'm speaking English all the time and going out in the evenings with my classmates. We're a real mix of nationalities: Chinese, Russian, Thai, Italian, Spanish, Brazilian ... We all talk in English but I'm learning loads about other languages and countries too.

My host family are really nice. The parents, Susan and Paul, are very friendly and kind. The children are called Lewis and Amy. They're both in primary school and are very sweet but they can be a bit annoying too. If I have to watch the film Frozen with them one more time, I'm going to go crazy! I know all the songs by heart now. Ahhhh!

We live pretty near the school so I walk there every day. It's only a short bus ride from Edinburgh city centre, and there are loads of shops and cafés there. There's an ancient castle too and we're going there on a school trip next week. Edinburgh is a really interesting place to be and there's a festival on at the moment. It's awesome but a bit expensive for us students, so we've been hanging out in the streets watching the free street performances from actors and musicians. Yesterday I saw a magician doing card tricks – it was so much fun!

I'll send some photos of Edinburgh Castle next time. Take care and let me know how you are doing.

Fran

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Fran is in Edinburgh now. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Fran is staying at Simon's house. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Fran has been busy since he arrived. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Fran strongly dislikes the host family's children. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Fran has been to Edinburgh Castle. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Fran thinks the street performances are expensive. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Write the informal word or phrase in the box next to the word or phrase with the same meaning.

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| pretty | loads of | How's it going? | a bit |
| Hi ... / Hey ... | OK | nice | hang out |

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Dear ... | _____ |
| 2. | How are you? | _____ |
| 3. | lots of | _____ |
| 4. | quite | _____ |
| 5. | slightly | _____ |
| 6. | pleasant | _____ |
| 7. | spend time with friends | _____ |
| 8. | all right | _____ |

Discussion

Have you ever studied abroad?

If you have the chance in future, where would you like to study?

How would you keep in touch with your friends and family?