

## READING AND SPEAKING

**29** What do you think people can learn while travelling around the world? Read a traveller's blog in Exercise 30 and see whether any of your predictions are correct.

**30** Match the subtitles 1–6 with the paragraphs A–E. There is an extra subtitle.

- 1 You don't need a lot of stuff
- 2 A universal language
- 3 People are generally good
- 4 Culture changes
- 5 Culture matters
- 6 Travelling doesn't have to be expensive

### Five things I've learned from travelling around the world

Some time ago, I headed out to travel around the world with nothing but a backpack, my laptop and a camera. Now, four years and nearly a 100 countries later, I've become more knowledgeable and tolerant about the people and places of our planet Earth. Here are some of the things I've learned ...

**A** Many people are afraid of the world and people outside their circle of family and friends, yet most of those whom we don't know are not criminals, murderers or thieves. They are ordinary people just like you and me, they live ordinary lives, work and help their families. This applies to people of all races, religions or nationalities. Their lives might be different, but their general goals and hopes are the same.

**B** As I started travelling only with my backpack and left behind a house which was big, spacious and full of stuff, I began to understand what really matters. I found I could get by without 95% of the things I had in my home. Now, if I buy something, I think twice before doing it because anything I buy I will have to physically carry around.

**C** If when you decide to travel you choose to fly in business class and stay in five-star hotels, you will spend a fortune. However, it is possible to visit many countries and continents without spending much money. It is not impossible to travel cheap. In addition to travelling cheap, you can also earn

money on the road doing different jobs, like working on a farm.

**D** It is not always that values and attitudes of people in the West are similar to those in other countries. Once I was passing a fast food restaurant in China and it looked like people there were having a funeral. It turned out that it was a celebration of the grand opening of a restaurant. Opening a business was a reason for a whole crowd of people to bring in wreaths of flowers and decorate them with ribbons.

**E** English has become the language of international communication in the world. We now actually need only two languages to know: the language your parents speak ... and English. Many countries with polyglot nations use English as a unifying language. In some countries in the Pacific all schooling is done in English because there are no textbooks in their local languages.

**31** Read the text again and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Why are many people afraid of the world and the people they don't know?
- 2 What things that you have in your house you can do without when travelling?
- 3 How can we travel cheap?
- 4 Why did the author think that there was a funeral in a fast food restaurant in China?
- 5 Can you give an example of a foreign tradition which may seem strange to Russian people?
- 6 Why does the author think that now we need to know only two languages?

**32** Which ideas expressed in the texts do you agree with? Why? Which ones do you disagree with? Why?

**33** Choose any idea and get ready to express your opinion supporting it with 2–3 arguments.

**34** Think about the extra subtitle. How can you interpret this idea? Do you agree or disagree with it? Why?

**35** Write your comments on the blog (5–6 sentences).

