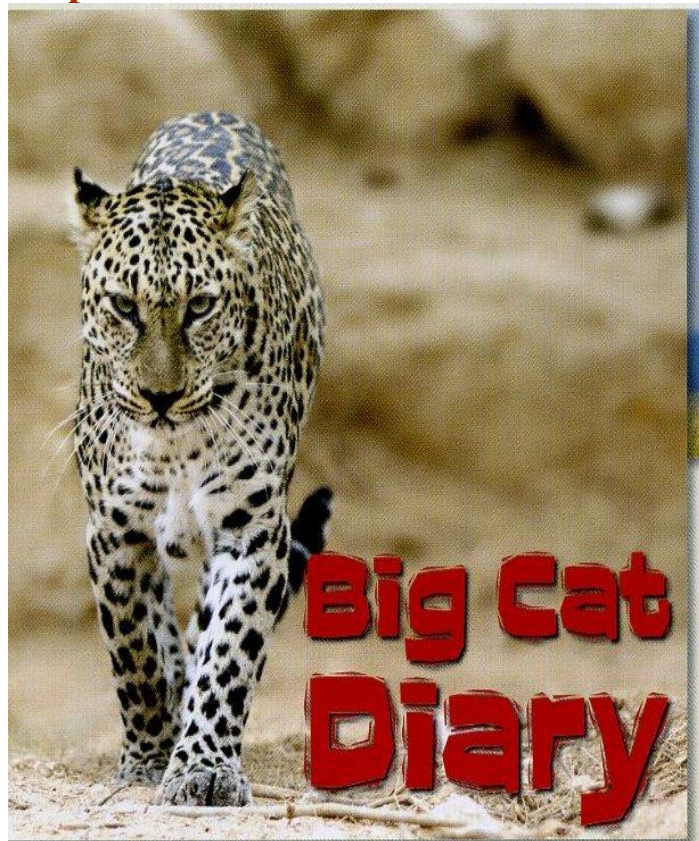


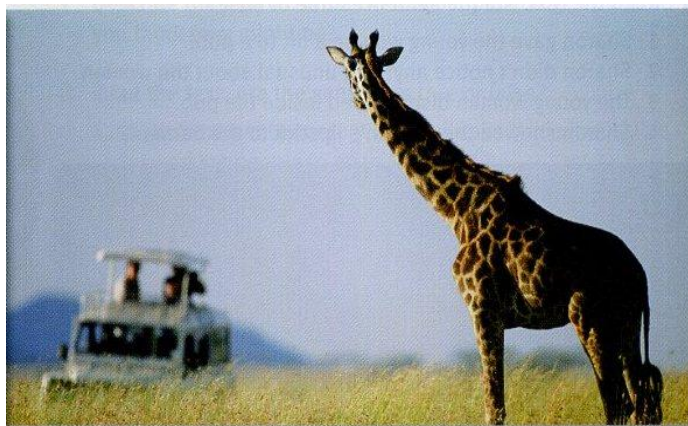
Trip of a Lifetime



I've always dreamed of seeing a leopard face to face ever since I watched a BBC wildlife documentary about them. I like the fact that they're so independent. The females are the boss, basically — they hunt alone, and they're stealthy and strong. The markings are beautiful. The South Luangwa Valley in Zambia has one leopard for every kilometre, and you can do night drives there, which adds to your chances of seeing them. I think the fact they are nocturnal and hard to find makes it more exciting. Dad doesn't agree. He's already worrying about not seeing one, but that's just my dad.

Mfuwe international airport is the smallest I have ever seen. There is a tiny shop selling postcards and that's it. We pay for our postcards and climb into a jeep which takes us to Nkwali, trundling past mud huts and groups of children wearing school uniform or carrying farm tools – sometimes both. Finally, we arrive at the camp – six huts and a bar built round a tree. Our hut has lizard wallpaper – except it's not wallpaper, it's just lizards. I go to sleep and dream about leopards.

On the first game drive, Rocky is our guide. Straight away, we're driving across a plain full of impala and baboons. Now comes the big moment of the first night. We hear something in the trees, and suddenly we are right in the middle of a lion



hunt. In the dark! We listen to the baboons' alarm calls, and when Rocky switches on the light, we see two lionesses on either side, and one tearing after an impala. They miss the kill, but even so, my heart is thumping.

The next morning, we go on a drive and spot baboons crossing the road. Suddenly, a trunk appears from the bush and three elephants, including a baby, stroll across right in front of us.

That's how it is on the drives: a new creature every time. We get giraffes, then a crocodile, then a buffalo. But my favourite morning is the walking safari. We set off across the plain with an armed guard. Rocky tells us The Golden Rule: 'Never run ... unless I say so. And if I say get up the tree, get up the tree.' The next morning, two other guests boast about having seen a leopard and her cub. We look at pictures on their digital camera. I'm really cross, because there probably won't be another sighting for ages, and tonight is our last night here. But I'm still hoping for a lucky break.

This time, we're out with Zebron, but after just a few minutes, our jeep gets stuck on a muddy trail. It takes ages to dig us out, and my heart is sinking. Then it starts pouring. We sit in the dark while my dad complains about the rain. And then, suddenly, two impala hurtle from the bushes.

Moments later, the leopardess springs out behind us. We all sit in absolute silence and stare at her. Leopards are much stronger than lions, and she looks incredibly powerful. After giving us a long show, she darts back into the bush. Awesome. We're soaked through, but I don't care about that. Mum and I sing and dance as we head for camp: 'We saw a leopard, we got a picture ... ?'



1. Describe the photos. Answer the questions.

1. What animals can you see?
2. What are the people doing?
3. What kind of holiday is it?
4. Would you like to go on this kind of holiday? Why? / Why not?

2. Read the text quickly. Are the verbs in the past, present or future? Complete the reading tip.

Reading tip

We sometimes use _____ tenses to tell a story. This makes the story sound more exciting and immediate.

3. Read the text. Put the events in the correct order.

- Daisy got very close to some elephants.
- The jeep got stuck in the mud.
- Daisy saw baboons.
- The plane landed in Mfuwe.
- Daisy saw some lions.
- Two other guests saw a leopardess and her cub.
- Daisy saw a leopard.
- They travelled by jeep to their camp.

4. Choose the best answers.

- 1 Daisy first got interested in leopards
 - a when she had a dream about them.
 - b when she saw a TV programme about them.
 - c because they live alone.
 - d because she once saw one face to face.
- 2 South Luangwa valley is a good place to look for leopards because
 - a there are a lot of leopards there and you can look for them at night.
 - b there are more leopards there than anywhere else in Africa.
 - c it's easy to find leopards at night.
 - d it's exciting looking for leopards at night.
- 3 Daisy's hut at the camp is
 - a built around the tree.
 - b full of lizards.
 - c covered in strange wallpaper.
 - d made of mud.
- 4 Their first excursion is
 - a exciting because they see lions hunting.
 - b frightening because it is very dark.
 - c exciting because the baboons make a lot of noise.
 - d sad because they see lions killing an impala.

- 5 Rocky's Golden Rule for the walking safari basically means
 - a never run if an animal is chasing you.
 - b if an animal chases you, climb a tree.
 - c don't climb a tree unless I tell you to.
 - d always do exactly what I say.
- 6 How does Daisy feel when she hears that two other guests have seen leopards?
 - a She feels sad because she wasn't with them.
 - b She feels angry because it means she probably won't see any leopards herself.
 - c She feels pleased that somebody has seen leopards.
 - d She feels hopeful because it means that there are leopards in the area.
- 7 When Daisy finally sees a leopard, it
 - a stays nearby for a while and then disappears suddenly.
 - b runs quickly behind them and disappears into the bush.
 - c walks close to them, but leaves before they can take a photo.
 - d stays close until somebody shouts, then it runs away.

5. Match the movement verbs highlighted in the text with the definitions below.

- 1 to walk slowly and calmly
- 2 to move very quickly (3 verbs)
- 3 to move slowly on wheels
- 4 to jump

LEARN THIS!

Verbs + prepositions

1 Some verbs are often followed by certain prepositions.

Let's listen to some music. She smiled at her mother.

2 In questions, we often put the preposition at the end.

What are you waiting for?

6. Read the *Learn this!* box. Then find the verbs in the box in the text and underline them and the prepositions which follow them. Which verb appears twice, with two different prepositions? How are the meanings different?

dream worry pay arrive listen boast look
hope complain stare care head

7. SPEAKING Work in pairs. Complete the questions with the correct prepositions. Then ask and answer the questions.

- 1 Before the holiday, what does Daisy's dad worry ___?
- 2 Before leaving the airport, what do they pay ___?
- 3 Just before seeing the lions, what do they listen ___?
- 4 What do two other guests boast ___?
- 5 On the last night, what does Daisy's dad complain ___?
- 6 After seeing the leopardess, where do they head ___?