# LEARNING ENGLISH WITH HAPS

FOR THOSE LOOKING TO IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH OR FOR TEACHERS LOOKING FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM, FOLLOW THE LESSON PLAN BELOW ON ONE OF THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES

### WARM UP!

- 1. How often do you get away to the countryside?
- 2. How is your feeling when you are in the Countryside and what makes you feel that way?
- 3. How are the habits, moods, or attitudes of Countryside people from city dwellers?

# **VOCABULARY PREVIEW**

- 1. sprouting (verb) new life growing up out of the ground
- 2. gorgeous (adj.) extremely beautiful
- 3. ample (adj.) a quantity of something more than I need
- 4. locals (noun) people who live in the area of a visited place
- 5. tranquility (noun) a peaceful and quiet mood or feeling



a hectic pace of life modern city life where people move fast, follow tight schedules and have high stress levels

to be spellbound by it has my complete attention and I can't look away, it is like magic!

to be under the radar for something to remain undiscovered or unnoticed by the majority of people (remain a secret)

out in the (rural) sticks to be out in the countryside and far away from a developed town or city area

fast forward a few (days) jump forward in time in a story skipping time that is unimportant to talk about

# **KAMPOT:** A SLICE OF RURAL CAMBODIA

**BY: SIMON SLATER** 

Fast forward a few days, and my brother and I, who had linked up with me on his vacation from England and mine from Korea, were clunking along a dusty road out of Kampot town center and into the rural sticks. Lush green fields of rice paddies dotted with water buffalo surrounded us, as did the country's distinctive pom-esque palm trees sporadically sprouting up into the bold blue sky.



If the journey to get there was like a National Geographic magazine come to life, Ganesha, a guesthouse well and truly intertwined with its surroundings, took the exotic escape feeling one step further. We were spellbound by the picturesque riverside yurt we'd booked, and you know when there are mango trees in your backyard, a giant multicolored gecko chilling on the side of your hut, and fireflies acting as night lights that you've found someplace special. Heaven indeed

It wasn't just Ganesha's beautifully cultivated environment that was worth the journey; rural Kampot is beyond gorgeous. Rent a scooter or push bike and there is ample opportunity to get blissfully lost along the dirt tracks, passing through small settlements whilst interacting with locals, regardless of spoken language differences.

Kampot's tranquility might not last forever. I even heard stirrings

that it's the 'next big spot' for travelers. That's ok, because no visit to the same place is always identical. Change is inevitable and there's always another great spot under the radar. What remains, however, is the overwhelmingly warm and open spirit of the Cambodian people, who are usually willing to engage with you if approached. It's harder to do so in more developed parts of the world with the hectic pace of life and people's heads glued to smart phones, which is why spending time in a place like Kampot isn't just a good idea - it's essential.



# **CHECKUNDERSTANDING**

Preview these questions and reread the article for the answers. The answers are available at the bottom of this page.

## **FOCUS ON CONTENT**

- 1. Kampot is best described as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. urban / hectic B. friendly / peaceful C. hard to find / boring D. peaceful / popular
- 2. What is NOT true according to the article?
  - A. The hotel they stayed at was near the river.
  - C. The locals spoke English very well.
- 3. What can be inferred from the article or this sentence?
  - A. The author does not like the countryside.
  - C. Kampot will remain a secret forever.
- B. The locals were happy to talk with them.
- D. Kampot remains a secret and not many people visit.
- B. The locals in Kampot like to communicate with visitors.
- D. Kampot is not worth the long trip to get there.

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

- 1. Kampot is a well known area to visit in Cambodian Countryside.
- 2. Kampot mostly has small dirt roads to travel on by motorbike or bicycle.
- 3. Because of its beautiful environment the general feeling of Kampot is very tranquil.

TRUE FALSE

TRUE FALSE

TRUE FALSE

# MASTER NEW VOCABULARY

Use the new vocabulary you have learned from the article to complete the following exercise.

sprouting gorgeous ample locals tranquility











2.

4.\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

# **SUMMARY MAPPING** Use the main ideas and supporting information to summarize the article.

# (1)\_\_\_\_\_

- Everyone is friendly to visitors.
- Have lots of (2)\_\_\_\_\_\_ because their lives are not hectic and stressful.

#### KAMPOT

#### **Environment**

- Plants are (3)\_\_\_\_\_up everywhere so its a lush area.
- (4)\_\_\_\_\_\_ river scene.
- It is still (5)\_\_\_\_\_\_ so many tourists don't visit there often.

# **DISCUSS AND WRITE**

What are your opinions about this article and further into this topic? Try to use some of the new vocabulary in your answers.

## **DISCUSSION**

- 1. What do you find most interesting/scary about visiting a small town in the countryside of a foreign country?
- 2. What do you think the people in Kampot do for a living? How might they feel towards foreign travelers in their village?
- 3. Is the progress that tourism brings to destinations always a good things for the local people, environment, economy?

#### WRITING ASSIGNMENT

This story was all about discovery and taking the road less travelled. Think back to a time when you found something by accident while you were traveling abroad, in your country or even just in your city or neighborhood. What made this new place such a unique discovery, how did you come across it, and was it the same when you returned again at a later date.

# **ANSWER KEY**

Vocabulary - 1.ample 2.tranquility 3.tranquility 4.gorgeous 5.locals Summary Mapping - 1.Locals 2.tranquility 3.sprouting 4.gorgeous 5.under the radar

Focus on Content - B,C,B True or False - F,T,T