2 A bit of culture

1 Read the article and decide if the sentences below are true (T) or false (F).

When I first went to Britain, a lot things seemed strange to me. There were the obvious ones like people driving on the left and the way most people carried an umbrella all the time, but there were other things that I found really surprising.

The first thing I noticed was how polite people were. When I got on the bus the driver would greet me and when people got off they would say 'Thank you' to the driver. When I went into a shop I would immediately be greeted by a smiling sales assistant who would say, 'Can I help you?'

The family I stayed with were very nice, but their house was full of oddities. Firstly, there were carpets everywhere, even in the bathroom. In fact, the bathroom was full of surprises. The first time I tried to wash my hands I burnt myself. The cold and hot water comes out of different taps! Then, when I tried to dry my hair I couldn't find a socket to plug my hairdryer into. Maybe this isn't such a big surprise. More surprising was the fact that people didn't take their shoes off when they went into a house – can you imagine?!

I guess that for British people all of these things are normal. It's only when you visit a foreign country that you realise that what you think is normal is not. Normality depends on where you are.

1 The writer is British. ☐
2 She already knew that people drove on the left. ☐
3 She wasn't surprised by anything. ☐
4 Bus drivers are the same in her country. ☐
5 She lived on her own in Britain. ☐
6 She was surprised that people left their shoes on in the house. ☐
7 She had a problem when she wanted to dry her hair. ☐
8 You are always aware of the differences between the way people behave. ☐

2 Read the competition details and write.

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'Whenever I visit a new country I always wish someone from that country had told me what to expect.'

Write a short description of what a visitor to your country should expect in terms of cultural behaviour and win a trip to a country of your choice.

3 Talk about travel.

1 If you could visit any country in the world where would you go?
2 Why would you choose that country?
3 What do you know about how people behave in that country?

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