Lesson 14: City Breaks & Travel Stories

Target Skill: Narrating weekend trips, finding hidden gems, and handling travel detours • Pronunciation: Storytelling rhythm & contrast

STEP 1 • HOOK & VISUAL PREDICTION

Planned Itinerary or Spontaneous Detour?

Look closely at the two scenes below. Before reading the scripts, discuss with a partner: **What cities are these teens exploring, and when you visit a new place, do you follow a strict schedule or wander off the beaten track?**



Tobi (16, Dublin): Scrolls through street photography shots at a corner café after spending the morning exploring colourful alleyways.



Priya & Owen (17, Edinburgh): Pause on a historic cobblestone lane with a folded city map after taking a wrong turn that led to a hidden viewpoint.

STEP 2 · MONOLOGUE (LISTEN OR READ ALOUD)

Script A: Tobi’s Dublin Photo Walk

Reading Guide: Read Tobi’s monologue aloud at a warm, storytelling pace. Emphasize the **bold** syllables and take a brief pause at each **/** slash mark.

AUDIO TRACK HTE-T114-A · SOLO READ-ALOUD · TOBI (16)

“When my family visited Dublin last **month**, / everyone told us to stick to the main **tour**ist spots. / Instead, I grabbed my camera and wandered off the **beat**en track / down a quiet **cob**blestone street behind the river. / I stumbled across a tiny **book**shop café / with live acoustic music and the best hot **choc**olate ever. / Honestly, skipping the crowded **bus** tour was the highlight of our whole **trip**.”

STEP 2B • PAIR DIALOGUE (READ ALOUD)

Script B: Priya & Owen’s Edinburgh Detour

Reading Guide: Work in pairs. Student A reads **Priya**; Student B reads **Owen**. Sound amused and adventurous as you figure out your route, then switch roles.

> AUDIO TRACK HTE-T114-B · PAIR READ-ALOUD · PRIYA & OWEN (17)
>
> **Priya:** “Okay, admit **it**, Owen—we definitely missed our turn back by the **cas**tle! / According to this map, we’re three **blocks** south of the museum.”
>
> **Owen:** “Wait a **sec**ond—look up those stone steps! / That’s the secret **hill**top view everyone posts about. / Sometimes getting **lost** is the best way to find a hidden **gem**.”
>
> **Priya:** “**Fair** enough! Let’s snap a quick photo before we head **back** down.”

STEP 3 • HOW TO SAY IT

Natural Teen Travel & City-Break Phrases

Natural Phrase	Meaning	Teen Example
Off the beaten track	Away from crowded tourist areas; quiet and local	“We found a great taco spot off the beaten track.”
Stumble across	Discover something interesting completely by accident	“I stumbled across a vintage record fair in town.”
Hidden gem	A wonderful place that few visitors know about	“That rooftop garden is a total hidden gem.”
Highlight of the trip	The single best, most memorable moment of a journey	“Kayaking at sunset was the highlight of the trip.”
Travel light	Pack only a small bag with essential items	“For a two-day train trip, it’s smart to travel light.”
Soak up the atmosphere	Relax and enjoy the energy and sights of a place	“We sat in the square just soaking up the atmosphere.”

STEP 4 • YOUR TURN (WRITTEN & SPOKEN PRODUCTION)

Pitch a 48-Hour Teen City Break



Inspiration — Jun, Camila & Zoe (16, York): Spreading out rail passes and a spiral notebook in the hostel common room to map out their 48-hour budget city itinerary.

Part A: Quick Check & Personalization

1. What did Tobi find when he explored a quiet Dublin street?
2. What lucky discovery did Owen notice after they missed their turn near the castle?
3. Write two sentences about a memorable day trip, holiday, or hidden spot in your own town. Use at least **two phrases** from the Step 3 table:

Part B: 3-Minute Weekend Itinerary Pitch (Groups of 3)

Imagine you and two classmates are planning a **48-hour train city break** like Jun, Camila, and Zoe on a student budget. Pitch your weekend plan in **60 seconds**:

- **The Destination & Vibe:** Name your chosen city and explain how you will travel light by rail or bus.
- **The Hidden Gem:** Recommend one spot off the beaten track where visitors can soak up the local atmosphere.
- **The Highlight of the Trip:** Describe one unforgettable activity or street-food stop that makes the weekend worth it.

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