



Reading

- Which of these documents do you need if you want to travel around the world?
 - passport • visa • insurance
 - tickets • driving licence
- Which of the documents do you not need if you are hitchhiking?
- Read the text and decide on the best title.
 - Around the World in eighty Vehicles
 - A Hitchhiker's Guide to Europe
 - Round-the-World Adventure

Half way through his journey around the world, a hitchhiker looks back at his trip so far

In 2007 Jeremy Marie set out to live his dream of going around the world by the means of transport he calls 'the most social', in other words, hitchhiking. His preparations included planning a route and setting up his website. He travels light, but he carries a backpack which contains the essential things for his journey.

Before they saw him off, his friends warned him that it would be difficult, even impossible to hitchhike around the world. If he had listened to them, he would never have left his home country, France.

For most people, hitchhiking means hanging around at the side of the road and holding your thumb out. This does not always work, as Jeremy quickly found out. In some countries people consider it rude. In other places, if there is no traffic, a hitchhiker will wait for hours. So Jeremy often goes to petrol stations to look for lifts, or tries to catch a driver's attention as he slows down or stops at traffic lights or crossroads.

The most difficult countries to find a lift were Italy, where he often had to wait for hours, and the USA, where hitchhiking is actually against the law in many states. The easiest places to get a lift, Jeremy says, were the Sudan and Syria. Generally he had little trouble in Africa. If the country is poor, people seem more open to picking up strangers. Also if there are few tourists, a foreigner like Jeremy will make local people curious. Most of the time, if he is in the right place, one of the first ten vehicles will stop.

For Jeremy hitchhiking is a means of transport which helps him to understand the world a little better. He says, 'If you are in a small space with a person, it encourages you to talk to them and you learn from this conversation. If you hitchhike, you can meet all kinds of people who may be rich, poor or unemployed. Everyone has their own opinion about their country, which they are keen to share with a curious traveller.'

In some countries, where there are almost no private cars, Jeremy has travelled in trucks, on little home-made vehicles, on



5 Read the article again and choose the best answer a, b, c or d.

- Before Jeremy started his journey, he
 - took his friends' advice.
 - packed his laptop in his backpack.
 - knew which way he intended to go.
 - prepared his suitcase.
- What does 'travels light' in paragraph 1 mean?
 - He only travels in the day time.
 - He travels very fast.
 - He travels with little luggage.
 - He travels without eating much.
- How does Jeremy hitchhike?
 - He waits for drivers to find him.
 - He looks for people to pick him up.
 - He makes drivers slow down.
 - He puts his hand out.
- According to the text, which place would be good for hitchhikers?
 - a famous Italian city
 - a busy north American road
 - a place popular with tourists
 - a road between African villages



Be careful of choosing an option that contains the same words as the text. The answer is not usually so obvious!

- For Jeremy, hitchhiking is the best way to
 - learn about a country.
 - talk to large groups of people.
 - make friends for life.
 - meet other travellers.
- When Jeremy needed to go by sea, what problem did he face?
 - He had to pay for a ticket.
 - He had to wait a long time.
 - He had to stay on the boat for weeks.
 - He had to persuade the crew to let him board.

6 Complete the sentences with these verbs in the correct tense.

go around hang around pick up
pull up see off set out slow down

- Drivers need to _____ if the road is wet.
- The school bus _____ to let some students get off.
- The tourists _____ Europe in a camper van.
- If your flight is delayed, you'll have to _____ the airport for hours.
- The taxi driver _____ his passengers from the hotel.
- Before they _____ their daughter, they kissed her goodbye.
- If cyclists _____ early, they will avoid the traffic.

7 Look at this list of items. Which ones do you think Jeremy put in his backpack and why? What other things do you think he needs?

- a camera • family photos • dollars
- an address book • a small atlas
- plastic cups • a first aid kit • a torch
- a two-man tent • a sleeping bag



tractors and even on a donkey. Often he meets other foreigners who are exploring the same country. In Italy, an Australian who rescued him from a long wait in the rain took him on a tour of the country in his camper van for several days!

If there is a road, there will usually be vehicles. But what happens if there is no road and he has to cross a lake, a sea or an ocean? The most difficult lifts were those which needed a boat. It sometimes took him weeks to hitch a ride on a boat. He couldn't get a lift unless the captain agreed.

After travelling in over a thousand vehicles, Jeremy is still on the road, and still excited at every new lift he gets. Each time a driver pulls up and invites him into his vehicle, it is the start of a new adventure.