FAR AHEAD T^le (UNIT8) READING

UNIT 8 : ACROSS CULTURES

SESSION 2 : Reading

LESSON CONTENT:

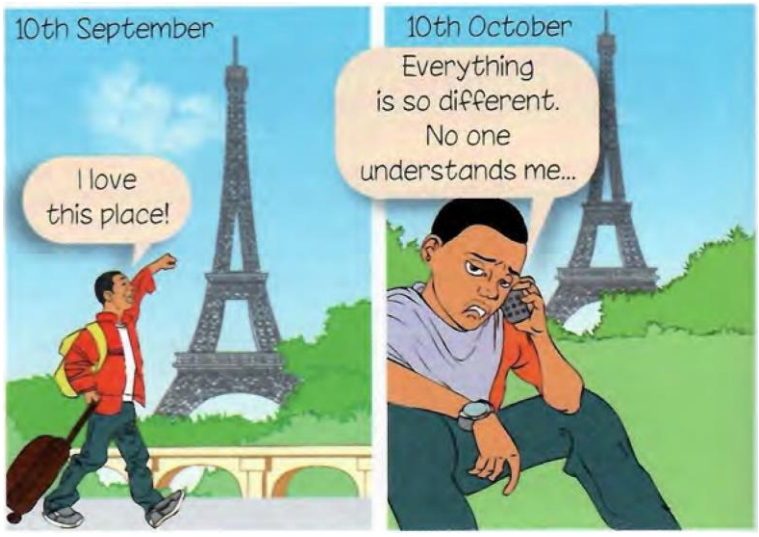
Language function	Expressions and structures	Vocabulary
Asking for and giving advice	*- If you feel homesick, phone home regularly* *- Don't travel home too often* *- You should phone home regularly* *- You should avoid travelling home too often*	*shock, frighten, worry, homesick, disappoint, confuse, lonely, accommodation, self-catering, damp, feel down , leaflet*

Learning Context: On the International Cultural Day, you read a passage about cross-cultural communication in order to get prepared to receive a group of young tourists from an American high school.

BEFORE YOU READ

Brainstorming

1. What do you know about the monument in these two pictures? In which country is it located?
2. Compare the feelings of the young man on September 10, and on October 10. What is different?
3. What is the young man suffering from?



WHILE READING ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Read the passage below and choose the correct ending for each of these two statements.

1. The speaker in this text is
A. a university lecturer B. a student counselor C. an examiner

2. The audience is made of
A. native students B. foreign students from the same country C. foreign students from different countries

Culture shock

Paragraph 1 It's very important to be aware that studying in a new country can be quite a stressful experience even if you have planned your trip carefully. You will find many things that are different from back home. Consequently, it is very likely that you will experience culture shock after a few weeks here in Britain. This is caused by the shock of being in a new environment and is worse if you feel homesick and miss your family and friends. It's essential to realise that this experience is quite normal. This can affect anyone, no matter where you come from or where you go. So if you start feeling depressed or lonely, I encourage you to seek help. You can come at any time to talk things over with counselors here at the Foreign Students' Bureau of the university. They are well aware of the problems facing foreign students and will be able to give you support and advice. Now I'll quickly run through a few things that you may have trouble with and ways of coping.

Paragraph 2 First of all, if you are used to a warm climate, you may find the grey, damp British weather depressing, especially in winter when the days are short. There's nothing we can do about the climate, but we can make you aware that this may make you feel down.

Paragraph 3 Another problem area for overseas students is food. It may taste very different from what you are used to. If you have self-catering accommodation, I suggest you try cooking food you are familiar with now and again. However, I advise you not to eat a lot of fast food, as an unhealthy diet and lifestyle will only make you feel worse. Make sure you eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables and get lots of exercise.

Paragraph 4 Constantly speaking and listening in a foreign language is tiring, and you may miss your own language. You may be able to get satellite TV in your language. I recommend that you read online newspapers or take part in chat groups in your language.

Paragraph 5 If you feel homesick, make sure you keep in touch with home. Phone or skype home regularly. Use email and social networks to exchange news and photos. But don't travel home too often as this can make settling in more difficult. Make friends with fellow foreign students as they will understand your feelings and be able to sympathise.

Paragraph 6 Every culture has unspoken rules which affect the way people treat one another. You may find these confusing and difficult to understand. For example, punctuality is important in Britain, so you should always be on time for lectures. That's why it is important to make friends with as many local students as you can. They will help you learn about British culture.

Paragraph 7 Remember, if you feel unhappy, there's always someone you can talk to here at the bureau. We also have a leaflet for foreign students summarising the things I've been talking about. You can take one as you leave.

ACTIVITY 2: Find in the text a word or phrase for each of the following meanings. The indicated lines or paragraphs will help you. Write your answer like in the example.

Example: 1-be aware

1. know; understand (paragraph 1): ……
2. probable (par. 1) : ……

3. strong desire to go back home (par. 1) : …….
4. solitary (par. 1) : ……..
5. finding a solution (par. 1) : ……
6. humid (par. 2) : ……
7. depressed (par. 2) : …….
8. foreign (par. 3) : ……..
9. private housing (par. 3) : ……
10. familiarity with new lifestyle (par. 5) : ……
11. brochure (par. 7) : ……..

ACTIVITY 3: Read the text again and answer the following questions

1. Who is affected by cultural shock in the text?
2. What causes cultural shock?
3. What are the first signs of cultural shock?
4. What is advisable to do when you are in a foreign country?
5. Why can food be a strong problem?
6. What advice does the writer give to the students who have self-catering accommodation about food?
7. Why is it sensible to make friends with other foreign students?
8. How can local students help international students?
9. What support does the Foreign Students' Bureau offer to the students it works for?
10. Is the author of this text a local student or a foreign student? Justify your answer.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY

You are a tourist guide for a group of young American high school students visiting your country. In order to play your role successfully

- write on a notebook what they can say and do
- indicate what they should avoid saying
- mention the tourist attractions they can visit.