

Can do write clear, detailed descriptions of recent news in a blog or diary

**1** Read the blog and answer the questions.

- 1 Where is the writer? Why is he there?
- 2 What other people does he mention?
- 3 Who is he writing to?



19th August – Day 1

I'm finally here in India! I've come to do some voluntary work with elephants for four weeks. It goes without saying that it's exciting here – but it's a bit daunting too as I don't know anybody. But I'm staying with a family in the village and they seem very friendly. I know that some things are going to be challenging because everything is different here. The weather was really scorching today, and it's all a bit of a culture shock at the moment! I think the work will be fun but also quite exhausting – we have to work long hours and it's quite demanding physically. The elephants work giving rides to tourists – then they come here and our job is to look after them. They said that we have to do things like feed them, clean out their living areas and even give them massages! Sounds difficult to me!

24th August – Day 6

Sorry to all my blog readers that I haven't written anything for a few days. By far the hardest work I've done for a long time! I've been working an early shift which means setting off for work at 5 a.m. It's tough getting up so early but I love looking after the elephants. Giving them massages is quite tricky because they're so big! But it's really rewarding. They are really amazing animals. I finish the shift at about 11 a.m. so then I've got plenty of time to go and explore the local area. Yesterday, I went to the city of Jaipur with Alex (another volunteer on the project). Fascinating place – we spent hours there and didn't get back to the village until about 7 p.m. I was exhausted but it's hard to go to bed early because there are so many fantastic things to do.

**2** Read the blog again and write true (T) or false (F).

When writing a blog, generally you:

- 1 write about what you've been doing.
- 2 write about how you feel.
- 3 use mostly formal language.
- 4 sometimes address the reader directly.
- 5 always use full, grammatically correct sentences.

- 3** a. To make our writing clearer and more interesting, we choose vocabulary according to the precise meaning the words/phrases convey. Read the blog again and complete the How to... box with six other adjectives which are related to the word *nice* and six other adjectives which are connected with the word *difficult*.

**How to... choose vocabulary according to precise meaning**

*difficult* : *daunting* (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
: (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
: (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_\_

*nice* : *exciting* (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
: (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
: (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Rewrite the blog entry below using more precise vocabulary instead of repeating the words *difficult* and *nice*. Change the word order of sentences if necessary.

So, here I am in a small village somewhere in Mexico! At first, the idea of travelling all the way from the US on my own was difficult. I spent about three days travelling on buses, which was nice but difficult. Then, trying to find my way to the village was difficult, but I managed in the end. I've met a lot of local people already, which has been a nice experience. Everyone I've met has been so nice and really made me feel welcome. I haven't explored the area a lot yet because it's been quite a difficult day. It seems like a nice place here – tomorrow I'll have a good look around. Off to bed now!

- c. Work in pairs and compare your paragraphs. Which different words have you chosen? How do your different choices affect the meaning you convey?

- 4** a. Prepare to write a blog or diary entry. Write about: real events in your life, one of the situations from exercise 13a on page 24, or one of the holidays from exercise 13a on page 27.

- b. Now write your blog or diary entry. Try to use a range of vocabulary and to express yourself as clearly and precisely as possible.