



2 Postcards From Taiwan

Dear Becky,

Taiwan is even cooler than I imagined. The people are friendly, the landscapes are beautiful, and the desserts are **to die for**.

Do you remember how I was so nervous about riding a bicycle? Well, that was silly. Lots of people ride their bikes around Taiwan. They call it a “huandao” here. The word means “around the island.” There are great facilities on the road, too. It’s easy to find a place to fix your bike or buy a cup of coffee. You can even spend the night in a temple **if that’s your thing**.

My favorite thing about Taiwan so far is the convenience stores. This has got to be the most convenient country on Earth. There is a store on almost every corner, and they all sell these little rice triangles. They’re such great snacks after a long day of riding.

I know you should be here with me and can’t control what happened. But don’t worry: I’ll just come back with you and do it again next year!

Yours,

Linda



🌱 convenience store



🌱 rice triangles



✧ Lots of people ride their bikes around Taiwan.

Questions

1. What is the main idea of this article?

(A) Taiwan has temples.	(B) Taiwan is convenient.
(C) Taiwan is great for biking.	(D) Taiwan has beautiful landscapes.
2. Which of the following is not something the writer says about Taiwan?

(A) There are convenience stores.
(B) There are places to fix your bike.
(C) The food there is cheap.
(D) Lots of people bike there.
3. What does it mean when Linda writes that Taiwan's desserts are "to die for"?

(A) They are dangerous.	(B) They are delicious.
(C) They are expensive.	(D) They are hard to find.
4. Which is most likely the reason Becky did not come on the trip?

(A) She thought Taiwan was too far away.
(B) She had an unexpected accident.
(C) She decided to go to Japan.
d. She doesn't like biking.
5. What does Linda mean by saying "if that's your thing"?

(A) If you're scared of it.	(B) If you like doing it.
(C) If you own it.	(D) If you don't care about it.

3 School Dance



It's almost time for spring vacation, and our school is having a disco to celebrate. I'm really looking forward to it. My friend Billy is playing with his band. They're really good.

And some guys from the older grades are DJing, though I heard that Danny Malone has terrible taste in music. I also heard that Kenny Wallace is going.

He's so cute! I wonder if he'll ask me to dance . . . It's kind of embarrassing, but I'll have to ask my mom for money for the ticket. I spent all my allowance on that new top I bought at the mall last weekend. Oops!

DISCO!

**SCHOOLS OUT
FOR
SPRING
VACATION!**

TICKETS: \$5
BUY YOUR TICKETS
FROM Mr. Jones
IN Classroom 25B
AT BREAKTIMES
AND LUNCH



- ⤴ DJ (disk jockey)
- ⤵ disco dance

WHEN: Friday, March 30, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Old Gym (5th Floor, East Building)

LIVE MUSIC FROM 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

LET'S PARTY!

FEATURING:

Billy Matthews & The History Boys
The Bright Sparks

A++

DJs From 7:30 – 9:00
DJ Danny Malone (Grade 8)
DJ Lenny Smalls (Grade 9)

3

School Dance

Questions

- _____ 1. What is the point of the poster?
(A) To tell students where the graduation party is.
(B) To give directions to the school gym.
(C) To let students know when spring vacation begins.
(D) To tell students about a school dance.
- _____ 2. How much money does the writer need to borrow from her mom?
(A) Twenty dollars. (B) Ten dollars.
(C) Five dollars. (D) One dollar.
- _____ 3. What does "A++" on the poster mean?
(A) It's the name of a band. (B) It's the writer's school grade.
(C) It's a special VIP ticket. (D) It's the number of a classroom.
- _____ 4. What can we guess about Danny Malone?
(A) He's a great singer. (B) He's a teacher.
(C) He's a student. (D) He's a world-famous DJ.
- _____ 5. What does the phrase "school's out" mean?
(A) School's finished. (B) School's starting.
(C) School's cancelled. (D) School's open.



<< giraffe



4 Idioms to Make You Mad as a Hatter

Bob: What are you studying?

John: The origins and meanings of English idioms.

It's for my exam.

Bob: Oh! I'm good at these. **Try me.**

5 **John:** What does it mean when someone has his or her
"head in the clouds"?

Bob: He or she has an especially long neck, like a giraffe.

John: Not even close. It means someone is being unrealistic.
Like you are when you think Jessica will go out with you.

10 **Bob:** Very funny! Try another one.

John: What does "raining cats and dogs" mean?

Bob: That's easy. It's just a way of saying it's raining hard.

John: But do you know where it came from?

Bob: Nope.

15 **John:** There are different theories, but some say it's from when
floods used to wash up the dead bodies of cats and dogs.

Bob: Yuck. Now I have one for you.

What does it mean to be "**mad as a hatter**"?



^ raining cats and dogs



>> hatter

John: You've got me.

20

Bob: It means you're crazy. It's from when hats were made with dangerous chemicals.

John: That's how I feel when I study these idioms!



⚡ flood

Questions

1. What is the main idea of this article?

- (A) English has a lot of idioms.
- (B) Idioms are an important part of language.
- (C) Some idioms are older than others.
- (D) English idioms can be difficult to understand.

2. Which of the following is true?

- (A) "Head in the clouds" means you're tall.
- (B) "Raining cats and dogs" means you're unrealistic.
- (C) Bob is studying for an exam.
- (D) "Raining cats and dogs" has an uncertain origin.

3. What does Bob mean when he says "**try me**"?

- (A) He wants John to ask him about idioms.
- (B) He doesn't want to study at all.
- (C) He thinks idioms are hard to learn.
- (D) He is not familiar with any English idioms.

4. From the dialogue, what can we guess about the idiom "**mad as a hatter**"?

- (A) Hat-making chemicals used to make people crazy.
- (B) Hat makers used to earn a lot of money.
- (C) It's one of the oldest idioms in the English language.
- (D) Its meaning has changed a lot over the years.

5. Which of the following is probably true about Bob?

- (A) He doesn't like John.
- (B) He doesn't go to school.
- (C) He likes a girl named Jessica.
- (D) He has never seen a giraffe.