

# The Erasmus programme

READING

LEVEL  
Intermediate

NUMBER  
B2\_1013R\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English





## Goal

- Can read and understand the main ideas of a text about studying abroad.
- Can explain the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad and express my own opinions on the topic.







## Preview

- In this lesson, you will read a text about the **Erasmus programme**.



**The Erasmus programme** is the easiest, cheapest, and the best way for students to explore the world.



## Developing yourself

**What do these words mean to you?**

self-esteem

happiness

stress

motivation

life satisfaction



## Developing yourself

**What are your future plans?**

**What kind of extracurricular activities do you do, and why?**

**What do you do to make your days productive?**

**What changes can you make for a better lifestyle?**



Do you remember these words?

opportunity

independent  
decision

personal  
development

contrasting

eligibility

criteria

inclusiveness



to explore  
options



Do you remember these words?



The chance to move to another country was a wonderful **opportunity** to meet new people and experience a different culture.

Marriage to a national gives automatic **eligibility** for citizenship.



I'm sorry to tell you that you failed to meet all the **criteria** and we cannot offer you the job.

All schools should promote an attitude of fairness and **inclusiveness**.







Do you remember these words?



Let's **explore** all **options** before we just choose the first one.

Although the cities are right next to each other, the **contrasting** lifestyles of their citizens are vastly different.



Reading books is not only good for passing the time but also for your own **personal development**.

Her parents did not influence her and it was her **independent decision** to become a fire-fighter.





## Your priority when travelling abroad

**There are many things to consider when planning a trip abroad. Some people prefer convenience and leisure while others look for adventures in the wilderness. What type of traveller are you?**

1. Five-star hotels vs youth hostels?
2. Michelin star restaurants vs local street restaurants?
3. Adventurous activities vs relaxing on the beach?
4. Big luggage vs backpack?
5. Early bird vs night owl?



## The Erasmus programme

Many students travel because it not only provides a **boost** to their life experiences and **enjoyment**, but also for their **self-confidence**. Knowing how to book your own hotels and flights and to try local foods in another language is always a great learning experience. You also get to meet new people and experience a new culture. It's probably safe to say that many of those people who travel also wonder about the adventure of living in another place not for just travels, but for an **extended** period of time. Have you ever wondered how it would feel to live in another country for more than just a few days or weeks?





# Where have you been?

**Name some of the countries that you or your family have been to.  
Then answer the questions below.**



**1** What is the name of city/country you have been to?

**2** What are some unforgettable experiences you have had there?

**3** Would you want to go back to the same place to study? Why or why not?



## Pros and cons of being an international student

**Applying for an opportunity to study abroad can be a major life-time decision. Being away from home can bring you loneliness but such valuable experiences can also enhance your lifestyle in many ways.**

**Categorise the words below into pros and cons of being an international student and share your thoughts with your teacher.**



broaden  
perspectives

expanding  
social network

expenses

food

language

being  
independent

CV

culture shock

loneliness and  
homesickness



## The Erasmus programme

One way for European students to **dive into** this new experience is through the Erasmus programme. The Erasmus programme stands for the *European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students*. It is a student exchange programme which operates within 36 different European countries and it started in 1987. Students who are accepted into this programme will study at least three months in another European country or take an internship. They will not have to pay any extra **tuition** fees and they could even be **eligible** for an Erasmus **grant**, which can help cover additional **miscellaneous** expenses.



## The Erasmus programme

Living abroad as a student or worker is much different from being there as a tourist. Meeting local people can be a real **eye-opening** experience. You can discover new foods, attractions and develop new friendships. Of course you might **struggle** at first, but this valuable experience **translates** well into real life after graduation. You might miss your family and friends, but knowing that it is just temporary and that you will return to your home country soon can be comforting if you are someone who finds the experience **somewhat** stressful.







## The Erasmus programme



The Erasmus programme is about the student **mobility** and **internationalisation** of higher education. Having the chance to study, work or live abroad provides the opportunity of a **lifetime** for many and will carry on for the rest of their lives. Many academics **predict** that, as a result of the programme, many of our future leaders and educators will have a completely different **perspective** on globalisation and political **influences**, leading us towards a more **intimate** and shared view of the world.





## Eligibility

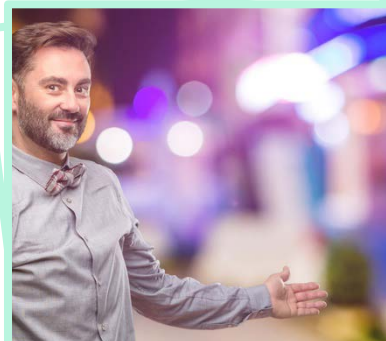
**If you say something is eligible for/to (do) something, you are permitted or qualified for/to (do) certain things. What are some qualifications to be eligible for the four situations below?**

a country leader



a high paying job

discounts on  
your car  
insurance



to enter a  
night club



## The enrolment fee

**You will not be required to pay any tuition fees if you are taking part in the Erasmus programme. However, you may be charged an enrolment fee by the host institution. What do you think are some of the reasons the students have to pay extra?**

**Refer to the words below for your discussion.**

public  
transportation

cafeterias

halls of residence

student union



## Imagine the dialogue

**Imagine the dialogue between these three students.  
Which student do you agree with the most and why?**



It is safer to stay in your home country where everyone speaks your mother language.

Why do you think English has become the global language? We should definitely go to any English speaking country for education or work.



Since I am an EU passport holder, I should only stay in Europe and get all the benefits I need.



## Inga the exchange student in Australia

Inga is an **enthusiastic** English teacher who works at an English-German bilingual school in Berlin, Germany. Seeing lots of job opportunities at a young age, she decided to continue her education after school and **specialised** in business engineering. She was having a **blast** learning new things that she was completely **captivated** by and she was **acing** every class she took. One day, one of her favourite professors asked her to go to her office. The professor suggested that Inga should apply for an exchange student programme in order for her to gain valuable experience abroad. Inga **hesitated** to accept the offer thinking that it was going to cost too much. However, the professor told Inga that if she gets accepted, she won't have to pay for tuition or accommodation. She left the office with the biggest smile on her face and started preparing for all the documents she needed for the application process.

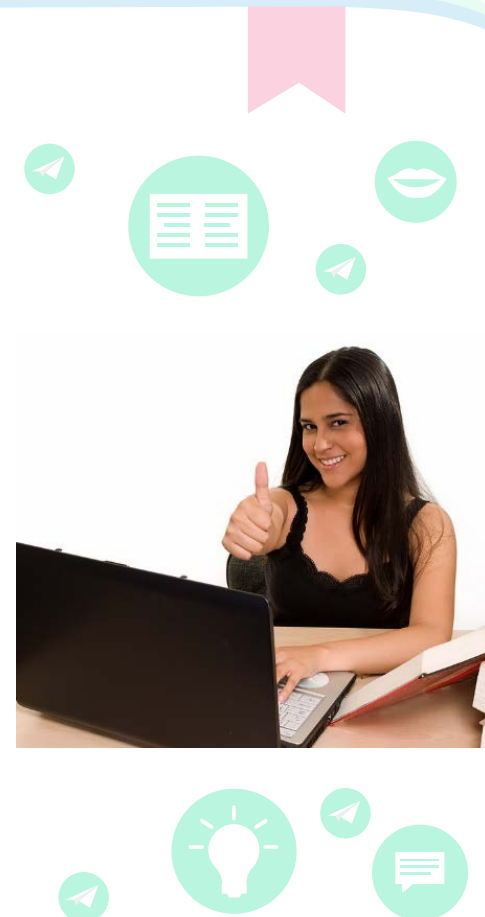


## Inga the exchange student in Australia

She has always been interested in learning new languages, and English was her favourite of all. To prove her English **proficiency**, she bought herself some books to study the TOEFL and after a month of **self-studying**, she scored 115 out of 120.

Thanks to the professor's help and her letter of **recommendation**, many universities all over Europe accepted her, but she chose to go to the one in Australia.

She loved every moment in Australia and was **expanding** her social network not only by partying but also by attending seminars, taking short trips to **neighbouring** cities, and doing language exchanges. A lot of her class mates from other parts of Europe seemed to be having problems with the language, but Inga's **persistence paid off** as her English skills improved **dramatically**.





## Inga the exchange student in Australia

As usual, she was **heading** to the cafeteria after her morning class when an advertisement poster **attracted her attention** on the bulletin board. It turned out that the English department was hiring ESL assistants who are willing to **help out** teaching English to students from all over the world. The university was offering free English learning opportunities where native, or advanced English speakers, led group discussions and explained grammar topics, when necessary. Inga was one of the best candidates for the position so she got the job **straight away**! Sharing her knowledge, **witnessing** her students get better in English, and learning all those cultural differences from her students brought her **joy**.

It was then that she **acknowledged** that she had the **potential** to become a great teacher, and guess what happened when she returned home from the programme? She switched her major to English education to **pursue** her new dream **to become** an English teacher.



## True or False

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Inga has always wanted to be a teacher since she was young.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Inga decided to apply for an exchange student programme because she did not have to pay anything.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The professor offered to pay for the tuition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Inga was enjoying her life in Australia.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Inga asked the professor to write a letter of recommendation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Inga is a business engineer graduate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Beyond the reading passage. Answer the questions below.

1. Why do you think she hesitated to accept the professor's offer?



Because her family is not well-off and always had financial problems.

2. Why do you think Inga chose to go to the university in Australia over Europe?



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3. What do you think her friends and professors think of her?



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4. What do you think made her the best candidate for the ESL assistant?



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5. How did studying abroad change her life?



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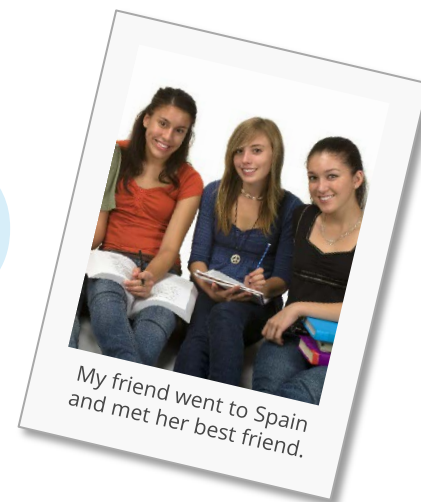
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Finally...

**Do you know anyone  
who has completed the  
Erasmus programme?  
Can you describe their  
experience?**



*My friend went to Spain  
and met her best friend.*



*I would go to Berlin  
and study...*

**If you could study any course,  
without worrying about  
tuition fees or  
accommodation costs, what  
would it be and why? Which  
country would you go to?**



## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

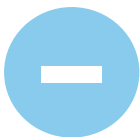
no





## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

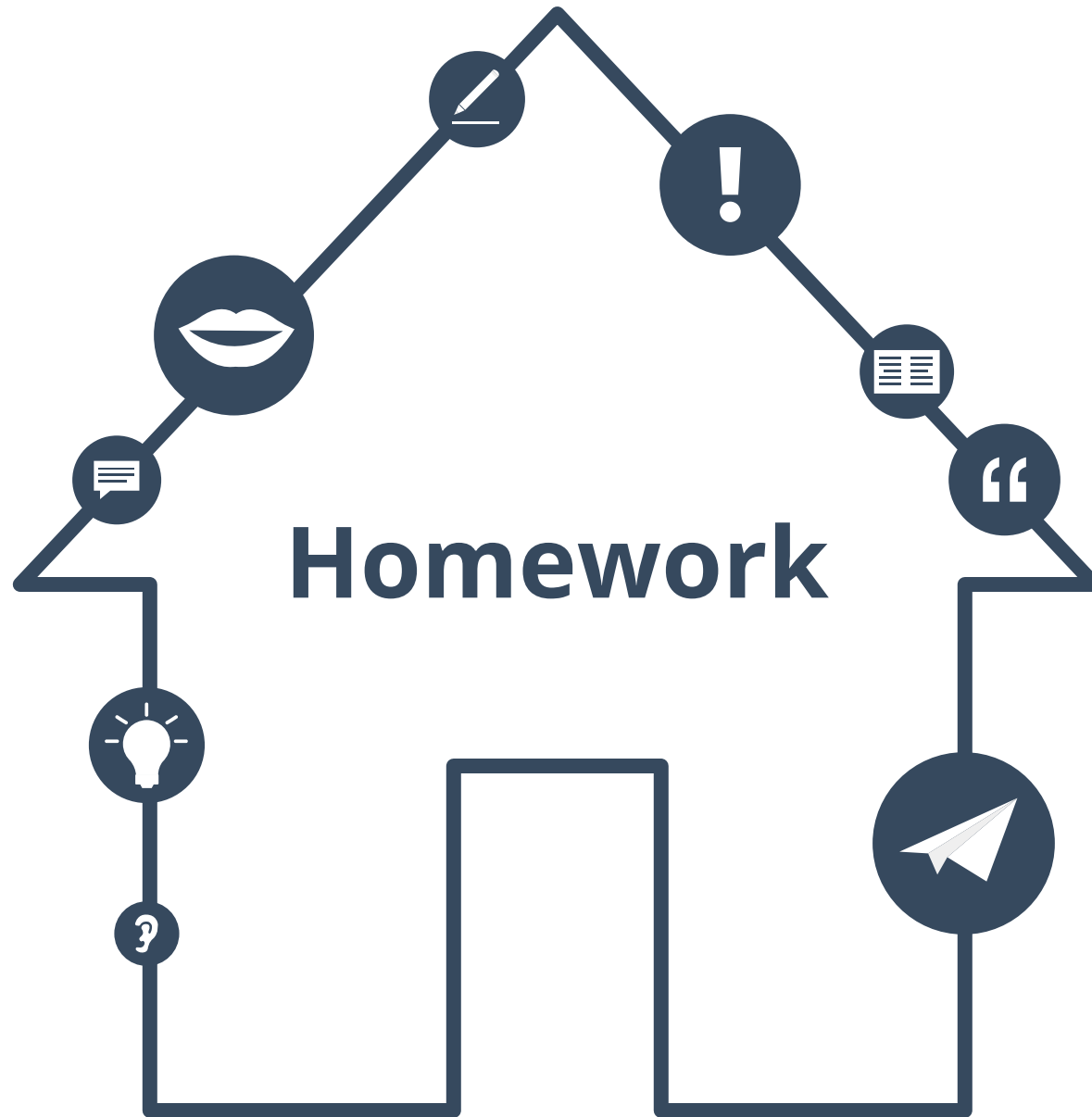


If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again



## Answer key

**Exercise p. 23**  
1F, 2T, 3F, 4T, 5F, 6F





## Homework: make your own sentences

**Review the words we have learned in this lesson.  
Then, write your own sentences with the phrases provided  
below.**

1. A window of opportunity

2. Independent decision

3. Explore options

4. Contrasting lifestyle

5. Personal development



short on  
spending  
money

cannot catch up  
with your  
classes

cannot get used  
to the food

your host family  
is too strict

people think  
you are weird

lost your  
passport

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