

2B

Down under

SPEAKING

- 1 Work in groups. Look at the photos on the website below and share all that you know about Australia. Use the ideas in the box to help you.

sports, film and music personalities
 climate history cities things to do
 animals well-known sights and landmarks

- 2 Now prepare a short quiz about Australia. Use your questions to test students from another group.

READING

- 1 Read the first part of a web diary about a trip round Australia and answer the questions.

- 1 Who is the author? What does she do?
- 2 What is she going to do?
- 3 What is the purpose of her website?

- 2 Now read the extract from Nerina's web diary and say if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 She didn't see Uluru until the morning after her arrival.
- 2 Uluru was the most important part of the trip.
- 3 The trip has not been very interesting.
- 4 She enjoyed the experience of walking around the Rock.
- 5 The Rock is very small.
- 6 She didn't want to have a guide.
- 7 She spent a whole day at the Rock.

- 3 Find the adjectives in the web diary that Nerina uses to describe these things.

- 1 the people that she has met *incredible*
- 2 her experiences during the trip
- 3 the Rock at the start of the day
- 4 the Anangu caves and sacred art
- 5 the way that the Rock changes colour

NERINA KLEIN'S TRAVEL WEBLOG



During my 35 years as a travel writer, I've visited more countries than I can count. I've backpacked through Asia, cycled through Europe, driven across Africa, but I've never explored my own home, Australia. So the time has come to put this right. Over the next six weeks, I'm planning to cover as much of the outback as I possibly can in a second-hand four-wheel drive, and I'll be accompanied by my two grandchildren. They, unlike me, want to get to know their own country before they start exploring the rest of the world. What follows is a diary of our travels and adventures. I hope it inspires people to leave the coast and find out what the real Australia is all about.

20 **DAY 33** We camped out last night near the best place to watch the sunrise. After a bottle or two of beer and an hour or two of looking at the stars, we turned in and got some sleep before the climax of our six-week trip: our first sight of Uluru (Ayer's Rock).

In the last five and a half weeks, we've seen and done some amazing things. We've been blinded by the salt lakes of Curara Soak, we've relived history in the goldfields of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and we've been guests at the campfires of Aboriginal communities. But nothing compares to the spectacular sight of the famous Uluru, shining purple in the light of dawn. Over the years, I've heard plenty of people talk about the wonderful changes in the colour of the Rock, but until you see it yourself, it's impossible to imagine. We were absolutely spellbound.

We spent a good part of the day walking the 9.4 kilometres around the base of the Rock. It's well worth it. The caves and rock art are fascinating. If you get a chance to join one of the tours given by the Anangu guides, do it. They explain everything about Uluru and all its sacred sites.

35 At sunset, we settled down to watch the Rock turn red against the darkening sky and planned the last leg of our trip – 450 kilometres across the desert to the modern town of Alice Springs. We talked about all the incredible friends we've made during our trip and about the things we're going to miss once we leave the bush behind.

GRAMMAR: present perfect & past simple 2

1 Look at the highlighted phrases in the web diary. Choose the correct phrases to complete the notes.

- They are all expressions that refer to a (1) *specific time in the past / period of time that hasn't finished*.
- The verb form that we use with them is the (2) *present perfect / past simple*.

2 Mark the phrases finished time (F) or unfinished time (U).

in the last few days	last month
last year	up till now
two days ago	during the last two weeks
over the past year	yesterday

3 Complete the text. Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect or the past simple.

We (1) _____ (*arrive*) in Alice Springs yesterday. It's the biggest town we (2) _____ (*see*) over the last two months. Up till now, we (3) _____ (*camp*) under the stars. Last night, we (4) _____ (*sleep*) in a four-star hotel. We (5) _____ (*have*) a hot bath before we went to bed. We (6) _____ (*not / watch*) TV in the last six weeks.

4 Use the time expressions in exercise 2 and these verbs to make five sentences that are true for you.

do eat go to have make see

I haven't been to a café in the last few days.

5 Make questions from your sentences in exercise 4. Then work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions.

Have you been to a café in the last few days?

No, I haven't. Have you ... ?

Use the past simple to talk about actions in the past that happened at a finished time.

*We **camped** out last night.*

*At sunset, we **settled** down to watch the Rock turn red.*

Use the present perfect to talk about actions in the past that happened in a period of time which is unfinished.

*During my 35 years as a travel writer, I've **visited** more countries than I can count.*

(= She is still a travel writer now.)

*In the last five and a half weeks we've **seen and done** some amazing things.*

(= The last five and a half weeks includes now.)

Here are some common expressions to describe unfinished time:

<i>during</i>		<i>the last</i>		<i>few months / two years, etc.</i>
<i>in</i>				
<i>over</i>				

➤ FOR OTHER USES OF THE PRESENT PERFECT, SEE PAGE 74

➤ SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 24

SPEAKING

1 Work in pairs. You are going to plan a journey across your own country. Discuss the topics below and prepare your route.

- from where to where?
- transport: motorbike/car/train/bicycle?
- how long?
- how many stops?
- places to stay?
- things to see/do?

2 Describe your route to the class. Who has the most interesting route?

Useful language

Our route begins in ...

We travel by ...

Our first stop is in ...

In ... we visit the ...