

Theodore Gross

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Travel

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Unit One

Planning your trip

1 People are always telling us that "getting there is half the fun." But is it true? Is it *always* true? Of course, we can all remember many enjoyable trips we have taken. But haven't we all taken a trip that wasn't fun at all? Can we ever forget the time when we just wanted to come home?

2 Of course, you answer, but that's understandable. Not all trips are holidays. For example, when people travel on business, they don't have the time or the peace of mind to enjoy themselves. But when people take a vacation, they always have fun. Right?

3 Wrong. The fact is, some people who travel for pleasure get no pleasure from it at all. Others, who travel because they must travel, have a lot of fun doing it. What makes one trip more enjoyable than another?

4 The answer is planning. Any trip can be enjoyable if it is well planned. Every minute that you spend planning your trip may save you ten minutes of trouble during your trip. It may also add an hour of pleasure!

Money

5 Before you take any trip, the first question to ask yourself is: How much can I spend? When you decide on a figure, write it down. Now you can decide where, when, and how to go. At home, you can find out what it costs to travel anywhere in the world. Just pick up the phone and call a travel agent.

6 With the help of a travel agent, you can make out a daily budget for your trip. List everything that you will have to spend money on. Try not to forget anything. Once you have made yourself a budget, use it. Don't spend more one day, and then plan to spend less the next day. You may find yourself without any money before the trip is over.

7 If you are traveling to foreign countries, you may want to carry your money in traveler's checks instead of cash. The nice thing about traveler's checks is that if they are stolen or lost, you can get your money back. You just give your check numbers to the bank or company which sold them to you. Be sure to write the check numbers down and keep the list in a safe place.

8 Try not to exchange your traveler's checks at the airport, or at hotels and restaurants. Banks in the city will usually offer a better price.

In Season, Off Season

9 Many resorts and cities around the world are popular during some months of the year and less popular during other months. Find out if the places you are visiting have an "in" season and an "off" season. This may help you to decide when you want to go.

10 There are some very good reasons to travel during the off-season. Usually everything is much cheaper. It is also less crowded, of course. If you don't have a lot of money—or if you don't like crowds of tourists—go in the off-season.

11 Some places are not as exciting during the off-season. The weather may be too cold or too hot. The beaches may be closed. Hotels and restaurants may be shut. Be sure to find out before you go.

Jet Travel

12 Traveling by jet is fast and comfortable, but it is not without its problems. It is possible to spend six hours on a plane and arrive at the same hour that you left. The clock inside you is telling you that it is bedtime. But the clock on the wall is saying that it is time for lunch.

13 This is what people call "jet lag." It is the sleepy feeling you get for a few days after a long airplane trip. To feel as little jet lag as possible, get a lot of sleep before your flight. Don't eat or drink too much on the plane. And once you are there, get a lot of rest during the first few days.

Car Travel

14 If you are traveling by car, it is a good idea to join the auto club. Most countries have clubs to help drivers plan and enjoy their trips. For example, the *Touring Club de France* has been around for over fifty years. It is inexpensive to join. It will give you all the maps you need. It will also give you lists of the garages, hotels, and restaurants along the way.

Passports

15 There was a time when a person could decide to leave the country on Monday and get on a boat on Tuesday. Now everyone must have a passport to go abroad.

16 It is not hard to get a passport, but you should ask for one a few months before you begin your journey. To get one, you must have your birth certificate or another legal document to prove that you are a citizen. You will probably also need to bring a few photographs of yourself and some money. For more information call or write the passport office.

Visas, Health Certificates

17 Sometimes you need a visa to visit a country. If a visa is necessary, you can ask for one at the country's embassy. Sometimes getting a visa takes many months, so it is very important to plan early. The same is true for health certificates. For this information it is a good idea to call or write the embassies. You may also get a lot of other useful information from them.

What to Pack

18 "When in doubt, leave it out!" That is the first rule to follow while you are packing for your trip. Take as little as possible. At the same time, make sure that your suitcases are not too small for the clothes you are bringing. There is nothing worse than breaking a suitcase during a trip.

19 Things you must take:

- A raincoat. It is the most useful kind of coat to take.

- A sweater. Even in hot places, it sometimes gets cold in the evenings.

- A second pair of glasses, if you wear glasses.

- A dictionary. You'll learn the language a lot faster.

- Good books to read. You will often find yourself with nothing to do but read.

- And most important, a comfortable pair of walking shoes. You may not plan to do too much walking. But believe me, you will do a lot of it.

20 If you are traveling with children, make sure they are in good health. Also it is important to plan to give them meals at their usual times. Another good idea is to plan something every day that the children will be sure to like.

21 Well, now that you have planned your trip, you are ready to take it. Should you expect any surprises? Of course you should. Let's just hope they're pleasant ones!

GLOSSARY OF NEW TERMS

abroad (adv)

outside one's own country

beach (n)

the edge of the sea, usually covered with sand, where people swim

budget (n)

a list of how much money will be spent and how

cash (n)

money in the form of paper or coins

certificate (n)	written proof of certain facts; a birth certificate proves when and where you were born
doubt (v)	not to be sure
embassy (n)	the offices of a country in another country
exchange (v)	to give something in return for something else
foreign (adj)	from abroad; from another country
holiday (n)	vacation
"in" season (n)	the time of year when a place is popular
join (v)	to become a member
leave out (v)	not to take
"off" season (n)	the time of year when a place isn't popular
pack (v)	to put clothes in a suitcase for a trip
pair (n)	two of something
passport (n)	a certificate which lets a person travel abroad
pleasure (n)	enjoyment; fun
trip (n)	a journey
visa (n)	a certificate which lets a person travel inside a country

EXERCISES

A. Answer these questions.

1. How can you have more fun traveling?
2. What is the first thing to decide?
3. How can you get travel information?
4. If your traveler's checks are stolen, how can you get your money back?
5. What are resorts like in the off-season?
6. What is jet lag?
7. Name one way to avoid jet lag.
8. When do you need a passport?
9. Where can you get a visa?
10. Name three important things to pack.

B. Choose the word from the right side which has the same meaning as the word on the left side. Put the letter next to that word in the space on the left.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| _____ 1. pleasure | a. plane |
| _____ 2. cash | b. holiday |
| _____ 3. journey | c. trip |
| _____ 4. auto (mobile) | d. fun |
| _____ 5. jet | e. money |
| _____ 6. vacation | f. car |

Complete each sentence below with a word that you choose from the list on the left.

7. Flying in a _____ is fast and comfortable.
8. Planning can add a lot of _____ to your trip.
9. You want to carry traveler's checks instead of _____.
10. Make a budget before you begin your _____.

C. Look over the story again. Circle the main idea in the paragraphs numbered on the left.

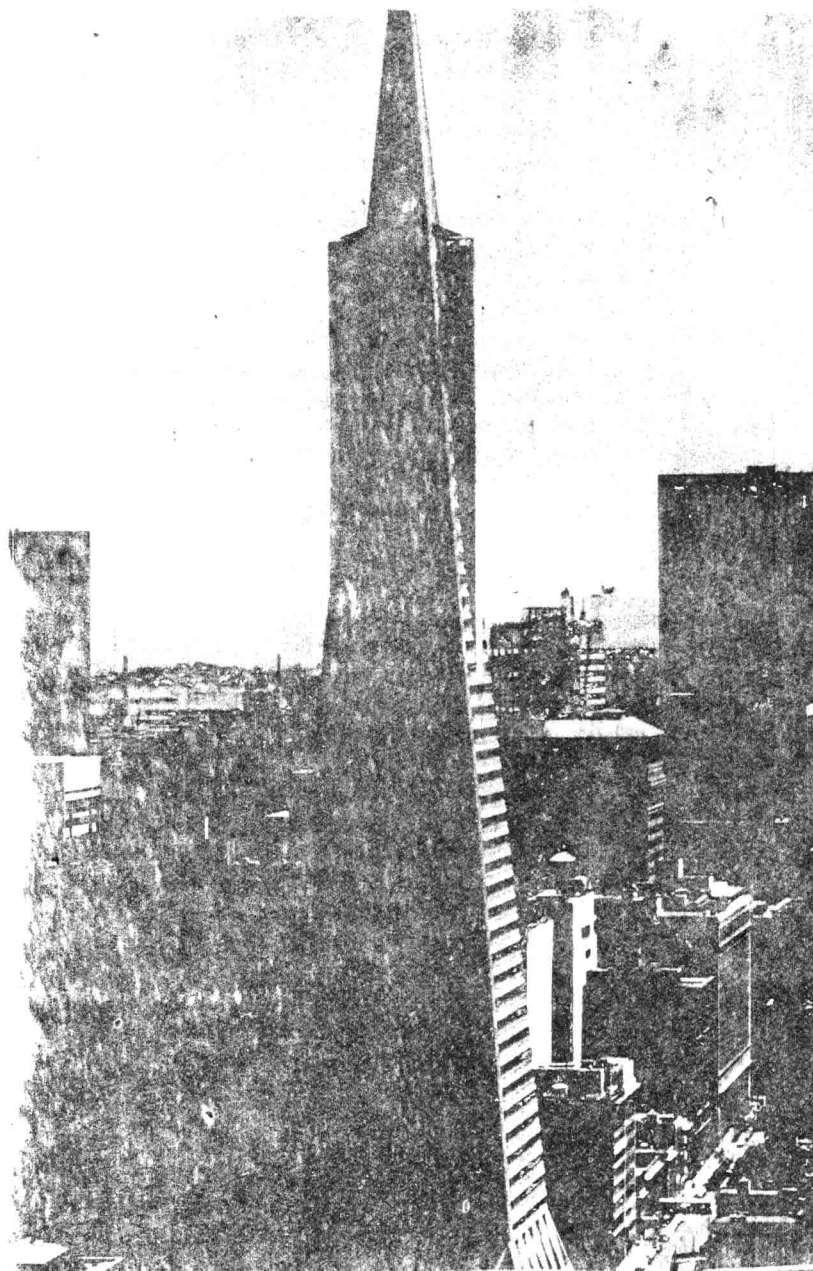
1. 1-4
 - a. We all remember trips that weren't fun.
 - b. Planning can add pleasure to any trip.
 - c. All trips are always fun.
2. 5-6
 - a. You must decide how much you can spend.
 - b. You can get help making a budget.
 - c. Restaurants don't give good rates on traveler's checks.
3. 9-11
 - a. Hotels are cheaper in the off-season.
 - b. There are good reasons to travel in the in-season.

- c. Find out when the in- and off-seasons are to better plan your trip.
- 4. 12-13 a. Different places have different times.
b. A big problem with air travel is jet-lag.
c. Jet-lag is a sleepy feeling.
- 5. 14 a. If you go by car, join an auto club.
b. Auto clubs will give you maps.
c. The *Club de France* was started fifty years ago.
- 6. 15-16 a. It costs money to get a passport.
b. A passport proves that you are a citizen.
c. To travel abroad a passport is necessary.
- 7. 17 a. All countries require a visa.
b. You can get a health certificate very quickly.
c. Embassies can give you information about visas and health certificates.
- 8. 18-19 a. Pack everything you can think of.
b. You should take two pairs of shoes.
c. When in doubt, leave it out!

D. Discussion

To be a good travel agent, you must know a lot about many countries. Imagine that you are a travel agent visiting the city where you live. Discuss the answers to these questions:

1. What are some interesting sights in your city? Who would most like to visit them?
2. When would you advise a tourist to visit your city? Why?
3. When would you advise a tourist not to visit your city? Why?
4. Are there any special things a tourist should bring to your city?



Unit Two

My Cousin Because

1 For two weeks every summer I visit my cousin Eileen in San Francisco. Two weeks in San Francisco! Do you have any idea how exciting that is for me? (The rest of the year I live on a farm in Wisconsin.) For me, there are many many things to do in the city. But not for Cuz. Her life is so exciting that nothing is enough for her.

2 "I have two opera tickets for tonight," said my aunt one morning at breakfast. "Do you want to go, girls?"

3 I was ready to say that I have always wanted to see an opera. But before I could answer Cuz said, "No thanks, Mom. Jane doesn't like opera."

4 "Let Jane speak for herself," said my uncle, joining the conversation. Then he turned to me. "Jane," he said, "is it true you don't like opera?"

5 Again I tried to answer, but Cuz was quicker. "Jane's never been to an opera, but I know she wouldn't like it. Also, we are going shopping today. We will both be too tired to do anything this evening." Then Cuz got up from the table to leave the room.

6 My uncle got up, too, and stopped her at the door. "I think it is *you* who doesn't like opera," he said, taking her by the arm. "Would you mind telling us why?"

7 Cuz looked very angry. "Because!" she answered. Then she marched out of the room.

8 I knew that Cuz would not stay angry for long. In fact, as we started out on our shopping trip she was once again as happy as ever.

9 "Where would you like to go first?" she asked pleasantly.

10 What a difficult choice that was! San Francisco has so many wonderful stores! I love the clothing boutiques filled with the latest fashion in dresses. I like looking in the windows of the expensive jewelry stores. I very much enjoy walking through secondhand bookstores. And nothing interests me more than art galleries.

11 I was still wondering where to go first when Cuz said, "I have an idea! I want to exchange this blue sweater for a green one. Let's go to the same department store we went to yesterday."

12 "But why, Cuz? Yesterday you told me you loved that blue sweater."

13 "Because!" said Cuz.

* * *

14 "Can I help you?" asked the salesperson at the department store.

15 "I want to exchange this sweater for a green one."

16 "May I see the sales receipt?"

17 Cuz shook her head. "I've lost the sales receipt. But here is the sweater itself. Doesn't that prove that I bought it?"

18 The salesperson took the blue sweater from Cuz and gave her a green one. "Next time, don't lose your receipt," she said.

19 Cuz thanked her and turned to me. "Let's look at the shoes while we are here, okay?"

20 "I'll be happy to come with you," I said, "but I don't need any shoes. I have three pairs already."

21 Cuz laughed. "I *never* have enough shoes. Let's go!"

22 But at the shoe department no shoes were good enough for Cuz. The first pair was too small; the second pair was too wide; the third pair was ugly. I could see that the salesperson was getting a little angry.

23 "I've been showing you beautiful shoes, young lady. Why don't you like them?" he asked.

24 "Because!" said Cuz. Then she picked up one of the pairs and said to him, "But I suppose I'll buy them. Will you send them to my house?"

25 "Of course!" the salesperson answered. "What is the address?"

26 Cuz wrote out a check and gave it to him. "Here's my check. My address is written on it. Thank you." Then Cuz turned to me. "Now, Jane, where would you like to go next?"

27 Just then I remembered that I hadn't written home to my parents yet. "I'd like to stop at the post office to buy post cards and stamps," I said. Then I added, "I'd also like to buy a present for your parents."

28 Cuz looked at her watch. "It is four forty-five. The post office closes at five. I don't think we can get there in time. Let's find a nice present for Mom and Dad. Do you have any ideas?"

29 "I saw a nice set of beer glasses downstairs," I said.

30 "Good! Let's go have a look." But just as we got to the stairs, Cuz saw a tall young man leaving the store.

31 "Bill!" she cried, running after him. I followed her as quickly as I could.

32 We reached Bill in the street. "Bill, have you met my cousin, Jane? She's visiting us for a couple of weeks. Jane, this is my friend Bill. He and I go to high school together."

33 "How do you do?" said Bill.

34 "Glad to meet you," I answered, shaking his hand.

35 "Let's have some ice cream," said Cuz. "There's a great ice-cream place in this neighborhood."

36 "I'd love to," Bill answered, "but I don't have any money with me. I just spent my last dollar on an opera ticket

for tonight. They're singing Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. Isn't that exciting?"

37 "How nice!" Cuz cried. "Jane and I are going, too! Aren't we, Jane?"

38 "I - - I suppose we are!" I answered.

39 "Sure we are! I'll tell you what, Bill. I'll buy you an ice cream now and you can pay me back tonight at the opera. How's that? Let me see, I must have money somewhere. A quarter and a nickel? That's only thirty cents. Jane, do you have any money?"

40 "I have a five-dollar bill," I said.

41 "Great! Let's go!" said Cuz.

42 On the way Cuz said to me in a low voice: "Isn't Bill handsome? Give me a dime. I'll call Mom right now. I just hope she hasn't given those two tickets away!"

43 Cuz was too excited to remember that she already had the right change for a phone call. So I handed her a coin and she hurried to the public telephone to call home.

44 When Cuz came back she was smiling from ear to ear. I knew that we still had the tickets. We finished our ice cream, said goodbye to Bill, and hurried home to have dinner and dress for the opera.

45 "So now you've decided to go to the opera," said my uncle to Cuz as we were finishing dinner. "Would you mind telling us why?"

46 Cuz looked at me and then smiled. "Because!" was her answer.

47 I had a wonderful time that night. The singing was very good. After the opera was over, Bill introduced me to a friend of his. The four of us went walking through San Francisco together. We took a long ride on the old streetcar up and down the hills of the city. Then Bill and his friend walked us home.

48 By now you may have guessed why I call Eileen "Cuz." It is short for "cousin," and Eileen *is* my cousin. But that isn't the real reason.