

English exercises 9

Tuesday 16/02/2021

11:40 – 1:15

Workbook p. 15 b)

Student book p. 104 TF 3 *Australia Signs* number 1 *Signs talk* a) describe each sign shortly + b) write down suggestions where you would expect to find each of the signs, what they mean and what they tell you about Australia

Friday 19/02/2021

11:40 – 12:25

Student book p. 104 number 2 *Funny signs* a) + b) Draw a sign of your own (funny or serious) and bring it to the next online class (Tuesday, 23/02), so that others can try and explain what your sign is trying to say.

b) Write a summary of the following story in about 150 words in your exercise book.

A birthday surprise

It would be Nina's birthday soon. Her brother David and some friends had planned a birthday surprise for her – a trip to Kakadu National Park.

The group left early on their drive, laughing, joking and talking about what they might do there, walking, rock-climbing, fishing, swimming in a freshwater billabong¹, picknicking by the river.

'You must be joking! What about the crocs?' said David, who was always careful and never did anything dangerous.

Cathy said that most of the crocs in the park were freshwater crocs, smaller and not aggressive like 'salties'.

Mike argued that thousands of visitors went to Kakadu, but only two or three died each year in a croc attack. But Mike loved an adventure. He never said no to anything scary.

'I agree,' said Nina, who had always been the wild one in the family. 'The park authorities take visitor safety seriously. Rangers check for crocs, even by helicopter. They can see them easily in the clear water. David, don't spoil² our fun! You're always scared of something. Enjoy yourself more! I always say: No risk, no fun!'

'So they've closed Twin Falls Gorge³ and a few other places for swimming for no reason, have they? Why do you think there are crocodile warning signs everywhere? Nobody can give you a guarantee⁴ that there will be no salties in the area, not even the rangers. There are no guarantees,' David continued in a serious voice.

'Come on, guys, that's enough. No more arguing. It's Nina's birthday tomorrow, and we're going to have a great time, eh, Nina?' said Mike laughing.

The rest of the day went well. In the evening they celebrated Nina's birthday round a campfire at the campsite. Nina was really happy.

The next day they made the short trip to the famous Jim Jim Falls. Nina wanted to see the beautiful plunge⁵ pools. It was hot, and Mike was looking forward to a swim in the cool, clear water. The way there was a difficult climb over rocks. Mike and Nina loved rock climbing, so they soon left the others behind.

Suddenly David noticed that the two had disappeared. Nervously he shouted their names, but they were nowhere. 'This is crazy,' said David. 'We said we would all stay together.' Just then David fell and hurt his foot.

Cathy tried to calm him down, but she was worried too. 'They'll be back soon. We'll just wait here. You can't climb rocks anyway, if your foot hurts.' But after two hours Mike and Nina still hadn't come back. David felt sick with fear. The minutes seemed like hours. The waiting went on...

'Hey, you lazy guys! Where were you? It was great up at the plunge pool!' shouted a familiar⁶ voice at last. It was Mike. They were back. David threw his arms round his sister. Nina didn't say much...

Safely back home after the trip, when she was alone with David, Nina said, 'David, I have to tell you about what happened up at the falls. A huge saltie suddenly appeared on the edge⁷ of the lower pool only ten metres away. I was terrified, Mike too – but he would never admit⁸ it. I couldn't move at first, but the croc came closer, so fast. We just dropped our stuff and ran away over the rocks – lucky that salties are bad climbers. We were too scared to go back, so we had to wait until it had gone – the worst two hours of my life. We could both have been eaten alive if we had jumped in the water. I'm so sorry about – you know. You were right – there are no guarantees. And David, please don't tell Mum and Dad...'



¹ billabong Seitenarm eines Flusses ² spoil [spɔɪl] verderben ³ gorge [gɔːdʒ] Schlucht ⁴ guarantee [ˌɡærən'tiː] Garantie ⁵ plunge [plʌndʒ] Tauch-
⁶ familiar [fə'mɪliə] vertraut ⁷ edge [edʒ] Kante ⁸ admit [əd'mɪt] zugeben