**SERGE ON HOLIDAY IN THE USA**

Serge is a new learner and so makes some mistakes in this conversation, especially when pronouncing verbs in the past tense. These mistakes are highlighted in red and corrections are given at the end of the text. Nevertheless, this is a useful podcast to learn how to use the Simple past tense.

The objective of this Learning Path is to focus on how Chris asks the questions about actions in the past and notice how he corrects Serge to keep the conversation going.

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| Many of the “ums” and repetitions have been omitted from this transcript to make for easier reading.  |

Chris: So, continuing the theme of holidays and travel, I’m here with Serge today who’s going to tell us about a holiday he had recently. Serge, where did you go on holiday?

**Serge: We went to American West to visit some parks.**

Chris: Ok, and how long did you stay for?

**Serge: We stayed three weeks.**

Chris: Ok and how long did it take to get there?

**Serge: To go to Denver, that takes 15 hours.**

Chris: Ok, door to door, 15 hours, I guess you had some stopovers etc?

**Serge: Yes 2 stopovers. One at Heathrow and another one at Chicago.**

Chris: So, when you got to Denver where did you stay during your holiday?

**Sege: In Denver?**

Chris: During all of your holiday.

**Serge: We stayed on campground (1) because we rent (2) an RV.**

Chris: What’s an RV?

**Serge: An RV is a Recreational Vehicle, it’s like a camping car in French.**

Chris: A small camping car?

**Serge: Not a small camping car, our camping car had long of (3) 9 metres.**

Chris: 9 metres, wow! Was it easy to drive?

**Serge: Yes, very easy, it’s like a car.**

Chris: I guess the roads are a lot bigger than here in Toulouse, at least. Ok, so how far did you travel in total in your RV?

**Serge: We travel (4) around 4,000km.**

Chris: Wow, and that’s how many, roughly around how many per day on average?

**Serge: Per day, it’s around 250km.**

Chris; OK, so you saw a lot of the west of America, I would guess, but then again, it’s a big place isn’t it, 4,000km. Anyway, so did you book all this in advance, cos I guess you had to book campsites, but I don’t think they call them campsites in America, do they?

**Serge: It was mandatory to book a campground in advance.**

Chris: Oh really.

**Serge: Yes, because when we arrived in campgrounds, the campgrounds were always full.**

Chris: Really!

**Serge: It’s mandatory to book in advance.**

Chris: So, a campsite in America is called a campground. Ok, and how long did you stay at each campground?

**Serge: In fact, we stayed one night or 2, and depend (5) of what we had to visit.**

Chris: Were they good? The campgrounds, were they good?

**Serge: Very good. In the RV we had enough space, and each time we had a BBQ, and a big table, and it’s very nice.**

Chris: Excellent. What do you think of the food there?

**Serge: American food?**

Chris: Yeah.

**Serge: American food, There is no food in America.**

Chris: Oh dear, oh dear!

**Serge: Not very good. We make (6) self-catering and it was easier for us, because we cook (7) in the camping car. It’s very funny.**

Chris: Good fun, yeah. And you bought the food from supermarkets, I guess, from markets etc, what you wanted.

**Serge: Yes, exactly.**

Chris: Fabulous. Did you meet any of the locals?

**Serge: Yes, in the campground. Some neighbour was (8) very nice, and we spoke just a little with them.**

Chris: Did you speak much English?

**Serge: Not very much, but the people spoke English and we listen (9) a lot. And we spoke just a little with them.**

Chris: Did any speak French?

**Serge: No, nobody, no and we met a couple, two people, from Canada to Denver. It was ….**

Chris: So, they probably travelled as far as you did, coming all the way from Canada. They probably had the same distance travel to the West from France, from the North to the South. Possibly…. anyway. So, what was the best part of the holiday?

**Serge: The best part, for me, and for us, I think it was Yellowstone.**

Chris: This is a National park, yeah?

**Serge: A National Park, yes. I think 1.5 higher (10) than the Haute Garonne. It’s very large, the park.**

Chris: So, you mean one and a half times bigger than the whole of the Haute Garonne department in France.

**Serge: It’s bigger.**

Chris: And this is just a national Park, cool !

**Serge: There is (11) a lot of hot springs,**

Chris: Right

**Serge: A lot of ……**

Chris: Did you see Old Faithful? Yeah, you have to, don’t you! Did you, because it’s nice to go in these national parks and it’s good that they’re free, the National Parks.

**Serge: The National Parks are not free. We have to buy a card, to pay to enter in the national parks.**

Chris: There’s a toll to enter?

**Serge: Yes.**

Chris: Because they’re all free in Europe.

**Serge: Yes, but in America no, you have to pay, and before going we bought a specific card, a pass card, it’s cheaper than pay (12) each time.**

Chris: Ok, right

**Serge The pass is around 80 dollars for one vehicle.**

Chris: Wow **!**

**Serge: We was (13) 7 in the RV. It was only 80 euros.**

Chris: Is it per person or per car?

**Serge: Per car.**

Chris: Right, per vehicle. Can you just stop anywhere and camp in the National Parks?

**Serge: In the national park there is some campground (14). So, you can stop in the campground.**

Chris: But you can’t stop outside the campground.

**Serge: Just to visit, yes.**

Chris: You can park up, yeah? But not for the night.

**Serge: No, it’s forbidden.**

Chris: Oh really.

**Serge: There is some beer, (15) a lot of beer.**

Chris: Beer or Bears?

**Serge: Bears !**

Chris: Did you see any?

Serge: Yes,

Chris : Really !

**Serge: On the trail, we have seen a bear, across the trail, it was very amazing.**

Chris: Were you in the RV at the time or walking?

**Serge: We were walking.**

Chris: Were you frightened? Because it must be pretty impressive.

**Serge: Yes, it was a very big bear.**

Chris: Yeah.

**Serge: And always in the trails, we had a paneau, a sign saying “Be Bear Aware”.**

Chris: Did they tell you how to act if you see a bear?

**Serge: Don’t move and any noise and if you have a spray…**

Chris:.. get it ready.

**Serge: Yes !**

Chris: The pepper spray, yeah? Wow, Ok ! So, it’s not very cheap to travel in the national parks. Would you recommend this type of holiday to anybody who’s listening?

**Serge: Yes, of course, if somebody want (16) to see the parks in the American west, the better (17) way is to do it in an RV. Because there is no restaurant, there is only wildlife. You are alone. And with an RV we can stop everywhere and the campgrounds are very nice. The people also. And you can visit, the roads are very large. It’s very easy.**

Chris; Ok and I guess the key would be to organise in advance, because it’s best to buy as you say the pass to go into the national park and to book the campground in advance because otherwise you won’t be able to stop.

**Serge: Yes.**

Chris: Thank you Serge, thank sounds excellent.

**Serge: Thanks Chris.**

**Corrections**

(1) Campgrounds (2) Rented (3) was 9m long (4) Travelled (5) It depends on (6) Made

(7) cooked (8) some neighbours were (9) Listened (10) Bigger (11) There are (12) paying

(13) There were 7 of us. (14) There are some campgrounds (15) There are some…

(16) If someone wants to see… (17) the best way