

A FEW DAYS IN NEW YORK

This is transcript will help you to understand the podcast. Many of the “ums” have been removed for easier listening.

Sue: Hi Laura.

Laura: Hi Sue.

Sue: So here we are sitting in a diner in Brooklyn, which is very exciting.

Laura: Just eating a piece of cheesecake at the moment.

Sue: Lovely, it looks delicious.

Laura: Yes, it is.

Sue: So, this is your first time to New York, I think.

Laura: Yes, it's my first time in the city.

Sue: So, as it is a newcomer to the Big Apple, in a nutshell, what would you say is your biggest impression of New York?

Laura: Well, everything here is huge, it's absolutely amazing, it's buzzing all the time, people everywhere, it's a very crowded city.

Sue: Certainly is. Did you buy a tourist pass when you came here?

Laura: Yes, I bought a tourist pass before I came.

Sue: Oh, right ok, so you've done a lot of touristy things.

Laura: Many, many.

Sue: Right, so what would you say, for you, is the best tourist spot?

Laura: Well it's difficult to say, I've done so many, I've been on a bike ride down Central Park, I've been to see the Empire State Building, visited many districts like Chinatown and Little Italy, of course, I went to see the Statue of Liberty.

Sue: Wow that sounds like a big, big schedule. But out of all that, what would you say was your number one visit?

Laura: Well, the number one visit for me, it's definitely in the Rockefeller Centre.

Sue: Oh yeah, why's that?

Laura: Because we have an amazing view on the whole of Manhattan and we could see all the different spots that we were going to visit, it was my very first visit in the city.

Sue: So, it really opens your eyes it's amazing, or awesome, as they say here. What about, is there a worst tourist spot, as you've done so many things?

Laura: No, everything here is really good, everything is amazing, as I've just said, but I think I was a bit disappointed in the Met Museum because it was very crowded and it's not a very peaceful moment.

Sue: When you say “crowded”, how many people do you think were in the Met?

Laura: Thousands.

Sue: Thousands, thousands in a museum!

Laura: Yes.

Sue: Is it possible to circulate round?

Laura: No, not much. It was very difficult.

Sue: And how are you getting around in terms of transport? Are you getting a cab or walking?

Laura: I have taken a cab, but I took a tube pass for the week.

Sue: Okay yeah, a subway pass, and how have you found it? Is it easy to kinda navigate the subway?

Laura: It is a bit confusing, many different lines, many of them and it's not always easy, it's such a big city.

Sue: Have you had any mishaps on the subway?

Laura: All the time, I've been to the wrong places.

Sue: Well it's a good way to discover,

Laura: It is.

Sue: Except if you're in a hurry! And what about the food? As you live in France with high expectations of food. Quality, what's your impression?

Laura: Food here is very greasy, and everything comes in large proportions, a lot of Fast Food.

Sue: Everything fast Food, is it any good Fast Food or is it always.... ?

Laura: I have been to one, Five Guys, which is Barack Obama's favorite hamburger joint.

Sue: And how was that? How did that compare to the other Fast Food joints?

Laura:it was a bit more healthy, a bit more tasty.

Sue: And is there anything that you miss at all from France, in terms of food?

Laura: Well, vegetables, fruit.

Sue: What! They don't have any vegetables!

Laura: Not many.

Sue: Actually, looking round this diner I must admit, all you see, naturally, is hamburgers and a little bit of salad, but nothing much. What about sodas and water? I mean, do people take water or do they take the soda or..... ?

Laura: Most people take sodas, not many people choose water, yeah yeah, so many different varieties of sodas.

Sue: Alright okay, yeah, it's not the most healthy diet in the world, and what about the people, what's your impression of the people that you've seen? Have you spoken to any people from New York?

Laura: Yes, I've spoken to quite a few. Other than the touristic spots, I've done, if I can say, New York activities, such as a cocktail class or a drawing class in the Met, so I met real New Yorkers from the Bronx and other districts.

Sue: Oh wow, that's amazing, so that's a good idea, a good tip actually, isn't it, to get away from the tourist pass things and do an activity, do a lesson, that's great.

Laura: It is.

Sue: What about people in the street? What's your impression of people in the street?

Laura: Well, people in the street, they are all carrying a glass, well a drink, if I can say, a soda, most of them and they are all connected with these cordless ear phones, so they are talking, walking and drinking all at the same time.

Sue: Oh, my goodness me. It's impressive, so many people doing that. And how did you book your holiday? Did you come through an agency?

Laura: No, I booked it on line on the internet, it was really easy. **Many different offers.**

Sue: Yeah great. And how did you cope with the jet lag when you arrived?

Laura: Not very well! I kept on waking up at three in the morning!

Sue: Oh dear, that's a bit of a pain, isn't it? At least you get to the tourist spots early I suppose.

Laura: Yes, that was good. **There were less people.**

Sue: Yeah, and what about the cost of living here? Is it a good place to come for tourists, is it good value for money?

Laura: Well it's a very expensive city, everything food or clothes or visits.

Sue: Can you give me an example of the cost of things, a kinda ball park price, as they might say here.

Laura: For like a fast food hamburger it would be \$15.

Sue: Wow.

Laura: Which is expensive.

Sue: For something which is bad quality. And what about shopping and things?

Laura: Shopping is very expensive too.

Sue: Did you buy anything?

Laura: I did.

Sue: Ok, say no more! So, you haven't got any money left!

Laura: No, I'm broke!

Sue: What are you doing after this diner, where are you going after this?

Laura: Just after finishing my cheesecake, I'll go to the Brooklyn Bridge and after that I'm going to visit the High Line.

Sue: I'm not sure that's on everybody's top 10 visits in New York.

Laura: I'm not sure, but it's a good place to go.

Sue: What is it, the High Line?

Laura: It's a railway line, an old railway that's been turned into a garden.

Sue: Oh right, ok. So, the railway line, is it the one that's high up?

Laura: Yes.

Sue: That circulates, that used to circulate around.

Laura: Yes, it is, that's the one.

Sue: Well, I'm sure you'll have a great visit there, with great views of New York. And so, when are you heading back?

Laura: Tomorrow afternoon.

Sue: Oh alright, holiday over, or should I say, vacation.

Laura: Vacation over tomorrow night.

Sue: So back to the peace and quiet.

Laura: Yes, and healthy food.

Sue: Healthy food. Thank you very much for your time Laura.

Laura: Thank you.

English-Podcasts.com GRAMMAR CHECK
Did you notice the variety of grammar tenses in this conversation?

Laura is almost at the end of her holiday, her time in NYC is not over yet and so she frequently uses the **Present Perfect Tense** to talk about things she has done in the past few days.

Notice that she uses the **Simple Past Tense** to talk about things she did before her holiday started or for actions which are finished for her.

She uses the **Present Continuous Tense** to talk about (i) something she is doing at the moment, (ii) a current situation (iii) and a planned action in the future.

Try to complete this chart with some examples from the transcript:

An action happening "at the moment"	A current situation.	A planned action in the future.	A complete past event.	A recent past event.

I'm eating cheesecake.	I'm getting around by subway.	I'm leaving tomorrow.	I booked my holiday on line.	I've seen the Empire State Building.

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