

Simplified Speech #156 – First impressions of Thailand

Episode description

Greetings from Thailand! Kassy and her husband have finally arrived in Thailand and are starting to get settled in Bangkok. In this episode, Kassy tells Andrew about her first impressions of the new country and shares a couple of funny and interesting stories from her first days there. Tune in to hear about Kassy's adventures in Bangkok.

Simplified Speech is the Culips series that is designed to help you improve your English listening and speaking fluency in a fun and exciting way.

Fun fact

Drinking tap water is not safe in Thailand. Drinking beer, on the other hand, is. The high level of alcohol content in Thai beer makes it impossible for the germs to survive. Apart from that, the cost of Thai beer is relatively low, which is why the drink is so popular around the country.

Expressions included in the study guide

- To go hand in hand
- Apart from
- Piping hot
- To have no words
- To take [something] in stride
- To be drowned out by [something]



Transcript

Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello there, everyone. My name's Andrew.

Kassy: And I'm Kassy.

Andrew: And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Hey there, Culips community. You're listening to Simplified Speech, the Culips series which features clear, natural, and easy to understand conversations in English about interesting topics. Today, helping me with this episode is my cohost, Kassy. Hey there, Kassy.

Kassy: Hey, Andrew. And hey, listeners. Greetings from Thailand.

Andrew: Yeah, greetings from Thailand. Kassy, I'm so glad to hear that you arrived in Thailand safe and sound.

Kassy: Yeah. My husband and I just arrived here like a week and a half ago. And we're just starting to get settled in Bangkok.

Andrew: Yeah, that's great. And I thought that we could dedicate this episode to hear about what your first impressions of Thailand are like. I'm so curious to hear some of your stories about this new adventure that you're on.

Kassy: Yes, and I am so excited to tell you about it as well. But before we do that, I will take a moment to tell everyone about our transcript and study guide available for this episode. So, guys, studying with the transcript and guide is a great way to learn with us. In the study guide, you'll find detailed descriptions and real world examples of all the key vocabulary you'll hear Andrew and I using here today. There are also activities designed to help you build your speaking and writing skills, there's a quiz, and much more. To get the study guide and transcript, you need to be a Culips Member. To learn all the details and to sign up, just visit our website Culips.com.

Andrew: We also want to give a shout out to one of our listeners named Michael who is from Germany. And Michael left us a five-star rating and a fantastic review on Apple Podcasts. And in his review, he wrote, "Hey, dear Culips team. I'm Michael from Germany, and I love your podcast. Together, with my sister-in-law who lives in New York, I will soon start my own business in the USA. For this, it was necessary for me to improve my dusty

school English. I succeeded with your podcast, I'm getting better and better and more and more confident in communicating with our American partners. Please keep up the good work." Wow. Thank you for that awesome review, Michael. And Kassy, don't you think that's pretty fitting that review for this episode because we're going to be talking about starting a new life in a foreign country. And it sounds like that's exactly what Michael just did.

Kassy: Yeah, Michael and I have got a few things in common.

Andrew: I think so. So, thank you for learning English with us, Michael. And good luck on your new adventures in the USA. And Kassy, of course, thank you to everyone out there who's been supporting us by telling their friends to listen to Culips or by leaving ratings and reviews on their favourite podcast apps, because it really does help us a lot and of course, we very much appreciate it. And with that being said, Kassy, I want to jump right into our main topic for today, which is about your first impressions of Thailand. So, let's get into it. You said earlier that you've been in Thailand now for about just a week and a half. So, it's very much still fresh and in the beginning stages. What's it been like so far? Tell us all about it.

Kassy: Well, Andrew, it's been really great so far. And I don't think listeners will be able to hear it but I'm actually experiencing one of the differences between Thailand and Korea. And that is the torrential downpours of the rainy season in Thailand.

Andrew: So, listeners, this is our first time recording where I am in Korea, where I live, and now Kassy is in Thailand, where she lives. And I guess in Thailand right now it's the start of the rainy season and we just pressed record and started getting into this episode and then Kassy said "Andrew, the rain just started can you hear the heavy rain in the background?" And we had to stop and do an audio check just to make sure we weren't getting **drowned out by the sound of the falling rain** in the background. So, I guess that is one major difference that you're experiencing right from the start Kassy, is the difference in weather and climate in Thailand.

Kassy: Yeah, that's right and I haven't been stuck out in the rain so far. So, I can say I actually really love this weather from an insider's point of view, someone safe inside a dry room, because Korea doesn't really get these big thunderstorms. And I think they are so cool here. We got them back in Pennsylvania in my hometown, but I haven't heard them for a while living in Korea.

Andrew: Yeah, we do get heavy rain. There is, I would say, short rainy season in Korea, and the rain does fall very intensely during that period. But it's not very often that you hear thunder or see lightning. I'd say like, only a couple days a year really, it's quite rare in Korea. So that's cool that you get these big rainstorms there in Thailand. And Kassy, don't you think that is great weather for reading? I always love reading a book in a heavy thunderstorm.

Kassy: Yes, exactly. Or just, you know, taking a nap and then hearing the sound as the rain falls onto the roof.

Andrew: Yes, very, very nice. So, **apart from** the weather and the climate, what are some of your first impressions of Thailand? Is there anything that jumped out at you that was like really interesting or exciting or new? Or gave you like an oh my god moment?

Kassy: Yes. So, I don't know if I was being reckless but I really didn't research Thailand much at all before I came here. I was like, you know what, we're just going to jump into this. So didn't know what to expect. And after being here for a week and a half, I can say there are some things that I found super, super cool. And some things that really scared me at first, but I'm getting used to. I'll start with the scary thing first and then talk about the fun things.

Andrew: Sure.

Kassy: The scariest thing for me here was the—how would you even call it? I would say pedestrian walkways. And a pedestrian is a person who is not driving, who is walking.

Andrew: So, do you mean like the sidewalks or the crosswalks?

Kassy: Both. So, there aren't really a lot of sidewalks in Bangkok, or at least not in my area.

Andrew: So, when you walk around, then you have to walk right on the street with all the vehicles?

Kassy: Yeah, there's like a half foot or you know, maybe like, I don't know, 15-centimeter-wide gap between the cars and you know, the walls in between the buildings and that's where you have to walk. And the motorbikes are, like zooming by inches from my elbow and I was terrified at first. But I saw like, all of my co teachers and little middle schoolers just walking right next to all these cars, and I'm like, I'm being ridiculous if everybody else can do it, so can I.

Andrew: All right, so some traffic culture shock. I'm wondering, like, I have never been to Thailand, but I have visited some other Southeast Asian countries before, which maybe are similar, I'm not exactly sure but I think maybe they're a little bit similar. And I always noticed, like when travelling in countries like Vietnam, for example, which is maybe my closest point of reference, crossing the road can be really nerve racking for people who haven't experienced that kind of traffic before where you have lots of vehicles. It seems at first, from our western perspective, it seems kind of chaotic, like there's no system. After you spend some time in that place you notice, oh, there's a system, it's just different than what I'm used to. But crossing the road when there's no crosswalks, and no stoplights can be harrowing at first. Is that what it's like in Thailand too? Do you just sort of have to cross and be confident and get everybody to drive around you instead of stop for you?

Kassy: Yeah. There are some crosswalks and things like that but there aren't really red lights. So, everybody's still moving all around you. So, yes, confidence is key. If you just get your head out there and start going, then you'll make it through, hopefully.

Andrew: So far, so good, right?

Kassy: Yes.

Andrew: And Kassy, you are also going to share with us a funny story or something?

Kassy: No, just good stories. Before coming to Thailand, so many people told us, "Thai food! It's so delicious. It's amazing. The best part about Thailand is the food." So, my husband made it his mission to find some of the best street stall foods. So not like a typical restaurant. But you know, these really small mom and pop shops just along the side of certain alleyways that have like two or three tables and their little kitchen area, and you know, their meals are **piping hot** , and like \$1.20 or something like that.

Andrew: And have you had some good culinary experiences that way?

Kassy: We have, yeah, we found two or three spots we really love. For Thai listeners out there, sorry, I don't remember the names of any of the foods yet.

Andrew: It'll take a little while before you memorize all of the food names, maybe?

Kassy: Yes. But they've all been really delicious. We have only had one miss when it came to food, it was some sort of green curry. I think it's really popular here. But I don't think our taste buds have adjusted to that yet. It was a little spicy for us.

Andrew: I see. Yeah, I've heard so many good things about Thai food. And I've only really tried Thai food at restaurants like in Canada and here in Korea. So, I don't have that authentic experience yet but definitely Thai food is very, very delicious from what I've tried. So, that's awesome that you get to live in such a great food country. You get to go from Korea to Thailand, Kassy. That's amazing.

Kassy: Yeah, those are two amazing food countries.

Andrew: Yeah, yeah, that's so cool. So, what kind of things have you done so far? Have you done any sightseeing or been to any attractions or anything? Or has it just been kind of settling in?

Kassy: We have done a little bit of sightseeing. And we always combined it with a mission for our everyday life. So, for example, we wanted to go check out—again, I might be butchering this pronunciation, Chatuchak market. I think that's how you call it. It's a really huge open market. But we also wanted to get a bus pass. When you travel around the city,

they have these lines called the BTS line and the MRT line, which are like fast trains that move all over the city. And you can pay for a single ride using cash but you can also get a card that is rechargeable. So, our mission one day was to first, get a bus card that was rechargeable and then, two, find our way to this big open market.

Andrew: Nice. And what was the market like?

Kassy: Huge, just **no other words** besides that. There were stalls for everything: clothes, food, drinks, pets. They had like bunnies there you could buy.

Andrew: Wow, sounds really like probably very busy and bustling place.

Kassy: Yeah, exactly. And I heard it's a little better now because COVID laws are being lifted. So, you can go without a mask some places. It's still good to wear, especially in that busy market. But apparently a few years ago when COVID was really scary, and—but there were all these stalls everywhere. It was just chaos. But it seems like Thailand's really opening up now and tourists are coming back but they're still not too many so, you feel like you can really explore the area.

Andrew: Yeah, that's cool. You might get more of an authentic experience right now, when there are fewer tourists than there usually are. So, you should take advantage of that maybe before crowds come back in full swing, because I know Thailand is a popular tourist destination, right? It's like a huge part of their economy, and so many travellers love to visit that place. Kassy, you talked about getting around, you know, walking on the streets, taking the bus. How has navigating in a brand new foreign country been? Have you gotten lost at all? Are you just using your phone for navigation? What's getting around like?

Kassy: That was one of the other first things we did. We went to the phone store, and we got very large data plans so that I could use Google Maps anywhere I wanted to go. But luckily, the roads are kind of chaotic, but they do have a system. So, this road called Sukhumvit Road where the BTS line is, it's a huge road that cuts through all of Bangkok and continues even further. And then all of the other road's kind of shoot off from that. So, in my area, as long as I know where the main Sukhumvit Road is, I can kind of figure out where I'm at and then move on from there.

Andrew: So, it's a really nice anchor spot or like landmark in the middle of the city that helps you figure out where you are?

Kassy: Yes, exactly. And because it's so hot, I found out that people don't really walk that much here. They do, but most people take a taxi, or a motorbike everywhere.

Andrew: Yeah, so there are probably motorbikes all over the place.

Kassy: Yes, I have not ridden one yet. But my husband has ridden one a couple of times.

Andrew: Oh, really? Already?

Kassy: Yes. Yeah. So, they're motorbike taxis. So, one driver rides on the front, and then he'll ride on the back and he'll hold like this bar that's in the back of the seat.

Andrew: Oh, OK, I see what you mean. Yeah, I've done that before as well, the motorbike taxis they're pretty fun. So, Kassy, I imagine there's got to be some kind of like, culture shock moment for you. I know, you've only been there for a week and a half. But there's gotta be something that you're like, "Oh, my God. Wow, that's wild." Like "That's so different from my home culture," or "That's so different from Korean culture." Has there been anything shocking or surprising to you, **apart from** the traffic?

Kassy: It kind of goes **hand in hand** with the traffic. A lot of streets in my area, are cut off by gates. Like, there are gate guards everywhere.

Andrew: Interesting.

Kassy: Yeah, I don't know if it's because my area is pretty expat heavy. So, there's a lot of high-rise condos with very expensive price tags. And the people who live there want to have a "safety first" kind of policy. So, a lot of these condos are guarded by security guards, and a lot of the streets that—the back streets that they are located on, in order to enter those back streets, you need a pass on your car, or something. So, I found that very interesting. The guards are very friendly towards pedestrians. We can just walk on through usually, thank goodness because I don't speak any Thai. Sometimes I get up to a gate, I'm like, "Oh, I hope they don't talk to me."

Andrew: So that's another thing that I wanted to ask you about, actually, and maybe we'll wrap up with this question—is, what's communication like? Like you said, you don't speak any Thai yet, which is totally natural, only being there for a week and a half. Do Thai people speak English in your experience? Are you able to talk to them in English? Or is it mostly just body language at this point?

Kassy: Yes, a lot of people speak English. And even if it's not perfect, they try their best. Everybody's been super, duper, duper nice to us. We haven't had any bad experiences with that. And I actually feel sad I can't speak it more. My mission is to learn at least a—kind of an advanced beginner level of Thai.

Andrew: Yeah, well, it will take a little bit of time, but I'm sure you'll get there. And I think it always does go a long way to be able to speak some of the local language, even if you can't speak it fluently, right? Even when I travel, I always like to try and learn like "Hello," and "Thank you" just to throw it out there and putting in a little bit of effort goes a long way, I think. But that's great to hear that you haven't had any negative experiences with the people or any kind of communication issues so far. That's great.

Kassy: Yeah, there is one more thing I'll add. This is kind of a funny anecdote. One, we've actually come across a bunch of Korean speakers in Thailand.

Andrew: Oh, yeah?

Kassy: Yeah. Every time I hear them, I'll hear like a sentence of Korean. And I'll go "Oh, there's one. Oh, there's one. Oh, there's one."

Andrew: Isn't that weird how that happens? That happens to me when I'm abroad as well. Like, I'll be back home in Canada and then suddenly I hear Korean and it's like, it's weird when that happens, because compared to other foreign languages, it just stands out. And it's like, "Oh, I understand what you're saying." It's very strange.

Kassy: Yes, that's true. Also, my husband, his skin is a little bit darker than the average Korean I would say. And we were surprised by this, a lot of Thai people will kind of similar to Koreans and their haircuts are kind of similar but a lot of their skin is more of my husband's skin tone. So, a lot of times when we go out they see me and they're like, "Oh, yep foreigner, she doesn't know anything." And then they turn to him and start speaking Thai and he's like, "I have no idea what you're saying."

Andrew: I know what that feeling is like, because I have some Korean American friends who don't speak Korean very well. And I also have some friends who were born in Korea, but adopted out to the USA as babies and have come back as adults. And these friends don't speak Korean very well but ethnically they are 100% Korean, so of course, they look Korean. And when we go out to restaurants or something, you know, I actually speak Korean better than them. But they get all the attention because the staff sees me and it's like automatic foreigner, I'll just talk to the Korean person. And yeah, it creates some awkward experiences sometimes. That's funny. I'm sure your husband's a little bit panicked in those situations.

Kassy: He **takes it in stride**. I have been so surprised at how well he's adjusted. But he's like, oh, yeah, I love this place. Even one day when we move back to Korea, I want to bring my future kids here so they can experience Thailand too.

Andrew: Oh, that's awesome. Well, I'm happy to hear that you guys are settling in all right. And I'm sure you'll have many more stories for us and a lot more to share in the future. And we'll keep coming back to you for more sources of entertainment and fun stories, Kassy, going forward.

Kassy: Sounds great.

Andrew: For now, I think that will bring us to the end of today's episode, everyone. So of course, thank you for listening, as always, and great job on completing an English study session with us. And of course, we would love you to add to the conversation. So now it's your turn and maybe you have something to share with us about a visit that you've taken

to Thailand before? Or maybe even you have a question for Kassy about what it's like to live in Thailand. Please leave a comment on Culips.com or on our discussion forum, or even on our Instagram page and share those comments and questions with us.

Kassy: And if you liked this episode, please support us. Your support allows us to keep making English lessons for learners all over the world and we can't do Culips without you. The best way to support us is by signing up and becoming a Culips Member. For all the details just visit our website Culips.com.

Andrew: You can also support us by following us on social media, telling your friends who are learning English to check us out or by leaving us a positive review and five-star rating on Apple Podcasts or wherever you listen to Culips. That is it for us for now, but we'll be back soon with another brand new episode and we'll catch you then. Goodbye.

Kassy: See ya.

Detailed Explanations

To go hand in hand Idiom

The idiom **to go hand in hand** is used to talk about two things that are closely connected to each other and complement each other

For example, most people would agree that a person's happiness **goes hand in hand** with a person's health. You can't be happy unless you are mentally and physically healthy first. Another example is a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The peanut butter and the jelly are a delicious combination that **goes hand in hand** with each other.

Here are a couple more examples with **to go hand in hand**:

Shirley: I'd like to be able to speak English fluently. I spend so much time reading and building my vocabulary but I don't think it is very helpful—it's still really difficult to understand other people.

Donna: I think you should try working on your pronunciation a bit more. Did you know that practicing your listening abilities **goes hand in hand** with how well you can pronounce words?

Shirley: Interesting. I didn't think those two were in any way connected with each other. I'll make sure to give it a try. Thanks, Donna.

Lucy: Are you watching videos on YouTube again, Janet? Don't you have something better to do?

Janet: Not really. Things are pretty slow today. I just watched this cool video talking about how exercise and a healthy diet **go hand in hand**. Once you start exercising a bit more, your food habits change as well, and then you no longer crave fast food and prefer healthier options.

Lucy: That sounds interesting, but I really don't recommend you watch YouTube videos at work. If the boss finds out, you'll get in trouble!

Apart from preposition

We use the preposition **apart from** when we want to make an exception to a general statement. For example, imagine that you're describing a person that you like or admire. In this situation, you could say something like, "I've met Jack a couple of times. He makes a good first impression; he's polite, well-mannered, and very considerate. Actually, **apart from** his wacky sense of humor, he seems to be perfect."

What this means is that Jack is great in every respect, except for his sense of humor. The speaker thinks that Jack's jokes are a little bit strange and maybe even rude. Therefore, the only thing that separates Jack from perfection is his strange jokes.

Here are a few more examples with **apart from**:

Braxton: So, Dean, how did you do on the test? Do you think you were successful?

Dean: The test was super easy. **Apart from** the last question, there was nothing that caused me any difficulties.

Emerson: What do you think of our new patio? Do you like it?

Sutton: No, I don't like it. I love it! It looks absolutely amazing!
If I were you, however, I'd add a couple of umbrellas to block out the sun, but **apart from** that, it's perfect!

Dad: Everyone, **apart from** you, is already on the bus. Unless you want to be late, you'd better hurry up. Come on and give your old man a big hug. I'm gonna miss you, bud.

Son: I'm gonna miss you too, dad. Bye!

Piping hot

Adjective

When you say that your food or your drink is **piping hot**, it means that it's extremely hot. When a food or drink is served immediately after cooking—it may even have steam rising from the top—it can be described as **piping hot**.

The origin of this term is believed to have come from the sizzling and whistling sound that are made when steam escapes from very hot food when it's being cooked. It's somewhat similar to the sound of musical pipes, hence: **piping hot**.

You could also use the term **steaming hot** in the same way. Pizza is usually served **piping hot**, straight out of the oven. The same is true for some coffees and teas, and pretty much anything that tastes best when it's hot.

Here are a few more examples with **piping hot**:

Carter: I think I know why I messed up the turkey the last time that I was cooking one. It's supposed to be baked in the oven until **piping hot**... I think I took it out too early. Should I try to make it again today?

King: I don't think I'm ready for another cooking experiment yet. Let's order in instead. It's on me this time.

Scott: Alright, mate, give this a try. Be careful, though, it's **piping hot**. I don't want you to burn yourself. Tell me what you think of it. I added a little bit of cinnamon this time.

Green: It is a bit too hot! Let me take a smaller bite to get a better taste. Actually, it tastes great, and I definitely like the cinnamon flavor. Nice job!

Turner: You know what? I'm thinking of giving up drinking coffee in the morning. There are so many other, healthier alternatives out there. Ever heard of drinking lemon water before breakfast?

Evan: Yeah, I guess I've heard a few things about that. People say it's helpful for digestion, right? To me, however, there's nothing better than a cup of **piping hot** coffee early in the morning.

To have no words

Idiom

Can you think of a time when you weren't able to find the right words to describe something? Sometimes, when we're experiencing strong emotions such as happiness, surprise, or shock, we can't seem to clearly express our feelings and thoughts. The expression **to have no words** is used to describe exactly that kind of situation.

At the times you don't feel as articulate and eloquent as you usually are and you can't think of suitable words to address a certain experience in your life, you could say that you **have no words** in that moment.

In this episode, Andrew asks Kassy to describe the local market that she and her husband visited. She is unable to think of anything else besides the word "huge", and explains that she really has **no other words**. She was so impressed with the size of the market that upon reflection, she couldn't find a better word to describe her experience at the market.

Here are a few more examples with **to have no words**:

Aine: I literally **have no words** to describe how beautiful this is. I'm speechless.

Aliz: There's no need for words. Let's just enjoy the sunset.

Buffy: I **have no words** to express my gratitude for you, Cia, and what you and your team have done for us.

Cia: You have nothing to thank us for, ma'am, we were just doing our job.

Eddie: So, what do you think of today's performance? There're still a few things that need to be finalized before it can be staged in the theater, of course.

Ella: I **have no words**. I am so proud of you, guys.

To take [something] in stride

Idiom

To take [something] in stride is a common idiomatic expression that means that you're not upset or troubled by something that is unpleasant. When you **take [something] in stride**, you're able to stay calm and collected, regardless of the troubles of life..

For example, imagine you're stuck in a traffic jam. That's a stressful situation and it's natural to feel upset about it. You could react to that situation in several different ways. A negative reaction would be to get angry, honk your horn a lot, or yell at other drivers. On the other hand, if you **take being stuck in the traffic jam in stride**, then you realize that you can't change the situation and just accept that you'll have to wait patiently until the traffic clears up.

This expression was originally used to talk about the stride of horses. A horse would have to avoid different obstacles while walking without changing its gait (the way it walks). So, even though the road of life can be bumpy, walk like a horse and **take it in stride**, so that you can deal with a bad situation without letting it stress you out too much.

Here are a couple more examples with **to take [something] in stride**:

Faith: I've been meaning to tell you this for quite some time, but I really admire how you're able **to take criticism in stride**. Even though the boss didn't seem to like your presentation too much, it didn't seem to affect you at all.

Greta: I've taught myself to never let other people's opinions ruin my day. My failures don't make me a failure. I just try to learn from my mistakes and do better the next time.

Hazel: Sorry you didn't get the job you wanted. I know you really hoped that they would hire you.

Ivy: Thanks, but I'm doing OK. I'm just going to **take it in stride** and keep on applying to different companies. I know sooner or later I'll find my dream job!

Hazel: With that attitude, I think you'll find a great job quickly.

Ivy: I hope you're right!

To be drowned out by [something]

Phrasal verb

The expression **to drown [something] out** or **to be drowned out by [something]** is used to talk about loud noises. When a sound is **drowned out** by another noise, it can't be heard, because the other noise is so loud that it makes it impossible to hear anything else.

For example, when Kassy and Andrew started recording this episode, they had to stop recording and do a quick audio check to make sure their voices weren't being **drowned out by** the sound of the falling rain in the background. If the rain was too loud and **drowned out their voices**, all you would be able to hear in the podcast is the sound of the rain.

Here's another example. Imagine watching a movie on your living room TV while someone next to you is vacuuming the floor. You wouldn't be able to hear anything, right? In this situation, the sound of vacuuming would make it impossible for you to hear what's being said by the characters in that film. The sounds from the TV would **be drowned out** by the vacuum.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be drowned out by [something]**:

Gary: Are you on the phone with Jane? Should I turn the TV down a bit?

Lee: Don't worry about that, Gary. You know Jane, she's a loud talker, and no sound is loud enough for her voice **to get drowned out by** it.

Gary: You're hilarious, man. I hope she didn't hear that, though.

Kathleen: I hate going to clubs! I will never—and you can take my word for it—ever again go to another night club!

Tiffany: What happened last night?

Kathleen: I met a guy and we hit it off right away. I gave him my number, but he hasn't called me yet. The music must have **drowned my voice out** and he probably didn't hear me correctly!

Quiz

1. If two things go hand in hand, they...

- a) are two separate, unrelated things
- b) are connected to each other
- c) also go back-to-back
- d) have nothing in common

2. Which of the following words is synonymous with the preposition “apart from”?

- a) around
- b) besides
- c) additionally
- d) intentionally

3. If the food you’re eating is piping hot, it’s...

- a) been cooked inside a pipe
- b) a little hot
- c) not hot at all
- d) very hot

4. If you have no words, you...

- a) have a poor vocabulary
- b) have said everything already
- c) are experiencing strong emotions
- d) are forgetful

5. When you take somethings in strides, you...

- a) have a lot of things
- b) should be careful
- c) memorize them
- d) deal with challenging situations calmly

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been to Thailand? If so, what was your visit like? If not, would you like to go someday?
2. If a tourist visited your hometown, what do you think their first impression of it would be?
3. Are there any kinds of food that you like to eat piping hot? What about when you take a shower, do you like to shower with piping hot water?
4. Have you ever experienced culture shock when visiting a new place? What was it like?
5. In this episode, Kassy talked about how traffic is quite different in Thailand compared to what she is used to. What is traffic like in your country? Is it calm or chaotic? Do you think people in your country are good drivers?

Quiz Answers

1.b 2.b 3.d 4.c 5.d

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