

# Why a Bad Vacation Can Actually Be a Good Thing

article-based lesson



## GLOSSARY

- **Every cloud has a silver lining.** - Nie ma tego złego, co by na dobre nie wyszło. / Po każdej burzy wychodzi słońce.
- **divine** - boski, cudowny ("*It was divine*" - tak autorka mówi o swoim cudownym czasie spędzonym w Wenecji, choć dzisiaj w języku mówionym rzadko używa się tego przymiotnika w znaczeniu: "splendid/wonderful/amazing" i jest on zarezerwowany raczej do opisywania rzeczy/sytuacji związanych z... Bogiem/bogami (np. a divine plan, a divine punishment - boski plan, kara boska). Domyślam się, że autorka celowo sięgnęła po takie mocne, trochę metaforyczne, przestarzałe słówko, żeby podkreślić swoje emocje :)
- **sweltering** - duszny, parny (e.g. *sweltering summer, a sweltering night*)
- "***I kept hearing about the nearish city of Trieste***" - wciąż słyszałam o pobliskim mieście Triest - do przymiotnika NEAR autorka dodała **-ISH**. Tę końcówkę dodajemy do przymiotników, które da się stopniować, np. *LONG* (długi) - *LONGISH* (długawy), *OLD* (stary) - *OLDISH* (dosyć stary), często do kolorów, np. *GREENISH* (zielonkawy, czyli trochę zielony, wpadający w zielony). Co więc będzie znaczyło **NEARISH**? Że Triest był DOSYĆ, CAŁKIEM niedaleko :)
- **maritime** - morski (w teście: "maritime residents", czyli humorystycznie: mieszkańcy morza, tj. ryby i inne stworzenia morskie :D)
- "*a completely odd menu that as I recall may have been made up of mainly red meats*" - **dziwne menu, które - jak sobie przypominam - składało się głównie z czerwonych mięs**
- **to giggle** - chichotać
- **farcical** - śmieszny, niedorzeczny, absurdalny (możecie skojarzyć z FARSA)
- **relentless optimism** - niesłabnący optymizm (samo słówko *relentless* oznacza: nieustający, nieustanny, np. *relentless pressure*)
- **fondness** - czułość albo sentyment
- **after all** - mimo wszystko, jakby nie było
- **covered in filth / coated in dirt** - pokryty brudem
- **to crawl** - raczkować (o dziecku)
- **to loll (about/around)** - lenić się (przechadzać się gdzieś albo leżeć nie robiąc nic specjalnego)
- **go up in flames** - spalić na panewce, nie wypalić (np. *our plan went up in flames*)
- "**the car engine gave out**" - silnik odmówił posłuszeństwa
- **stranded** - opuszczony, pozostawiony samemu sobie; często w kolokacji z czasownikiem LEAVE (*He left me stranded in town with no car and no money for a bus* - Cambridge Dictionary)

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## WARM-UP

- Try to come up with 10 things that could ruin your holiday.

- |                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| 1. lost suitcase | 6. ....  |
| 2. ....          | 7. ....  |
| 3. ....          | 8. ....  |
| 4. ....          | 9. ....  |
| 5. ....          | 10. .... |

- Have you ever been on a trip that disappointed you in some way? What happened?
- Are there any places you find a bit overrated or overpriced? Why?

## GO TO THE NEXT PAGE, READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

- The author of the text claims that bad trips may actually not be that bad. Why?
- Why Trieste didn't meet the woman's expectations? (Story 1)
- Why did Lauren Mechling's original plan for visiting Paris **go up in flames**? (Story 2)  
What was the **silver lining** to that trip? (the silver lining = the positive aspect)
- How come the problems with the car in Story 3 turned out to be "the best 24 hours in a long time"? (*how come = how is it possible that...*)
- What's the most memorable trip that **you**'ve ever had?

**VOCABULARY PRACTICE:** Translate the sentences using the words and expressions from the text. The glossary section on Page 1 might help you.

- Moja córka miała około 8 miesięcy, kiedy zaczęła **raczkować**.
- Nie było tak źle, **mimo wszystko**.
- Podziwiam go za ten **niesłabnący optymizm**.
- To był naprawdę **parny/duszny** dzień, jak sobie **przypominam**.
- Dziewczynki zaczęły **chichotać**, a ja nie wiedziałam dlaczego.
- Film opowiada historię 8 osób **pozostawionych samym sobie** na bezludnej wyspie. Jest dosyć dobry/całkiem niezły, ale **trochę długi / przydługawy**.
- **Silnik odmówił posłuszeństwa** i straciliśmy 3 godziny próbując go naprawić.

**READ THE TEXT:** "Why a Bad Vacation Can Actually Be a Good Thing: *Vogue* Editors Share Their Horror Stories" by Madeleine Luckel (*slightly adapted*)

### STORY 1: NOT A PARADISE

In college, I spent a summer living in Venice as part of a language-intensive program. It was **divine**. (People may say that Venice in the summer is a **sweltering** island packed with tourists—but I honestly don't know what they are talking about.) During my stay, my classmates and I kept hearing about the nearby city of Trieste. East meets west! Sand meets sea! And so close. You have to go. When else will you ever get there?

It *did* sound really interesting. Bordering on Slovenia, located at the tippy-top of the Adriatic, wasn't this a potential recipe for a dreamy and unique adventure? Well, not for us. Trieste turned out to be a ghost town. The piazzas were empty and the coast was largely inaccessible. We found the beach! But it was about the size of a tiny New York City apartment. We tracked down the aquarium! But it did not seem like a happy or maybe even completely clean place for its **maritime** residents. We found an outdoor café! With a completely **odd** menu that as I **recall** may have been **made up of** mainly red meats. **Giggling**, finally, after our **farcical** day of **relentless optimism**, we were so grateful to find another place for lunch attempt number two. After that, at approximately 5:15 p.m, we ran to the train station (still giggling), grabbed some Magnum ice cream bars, and exchanged our train tickets, as we didn't want to stay there any longer.

However, still to this day, Trieste remains one of my more memorable trips. I look back on that weekend with total **fondness**. So I wondered, is there maybe something to a bad trip **after all**? Maybe it's true that **every cloud has a silver lining**? Some people here at *Vogue* seem to agree with this hypothesis.

### STORY 2: DIRTY APARTMENT

When *Vogue* Senior Editor Lauren Mechling went to Paris a few years ago, she and her husband were surprised to find that the apartment they had rented ended up being completely **covered in filth**. "Our son Henry was still **crawling**, and in the two minutes my husband and I unpacked, Henry managed to become completely **coated in dirt**," Mechling recalls. "Our fantasy vacation of spending our evenings **lolling about** the apartment eating picnic dinners and reading novels **went up in flames** (or should I say dust balls?). Instead, we spent 17 hours a day outdoors. No museum went unvisited, no park went un-picnicked in. Henry became an expert at napping in hotel bars, and I got more exercise than I would have at Canyon Ranch\*."

\*a luxury wellness resort

### STORY 3: ENGINE PROBLEMS

"I was on my way to the Catskills with my boyfriend, a few friends, and my dog, but when we arrived at the house, **the car engine gave out**, leaving us **stranded** until the rest of our friends arrived the following evening," Reese says. "With no cell service and only cookies I had made earlier for food, we spent the next 24 hours playing cards, building campfires, and taking walks in the woods. It ended up being the best 24 hours I've had in a long time."

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## VOCABULARY PRACTICE: KEY

- My daughter was about 8 months when she started **crawling** (TIP: upewnij się, że nie napisał@ś: *my daughter \*HAD about 8 months ;)*)
- It wasn't that bad, **after all**.
- I admire him for this **relentless optimism**.
- It was a really **sweltering** day, **as I recall**.
- The girls started **giggling** and I didn't know why.
- The film tells a story of 8 people **stranded** on a desert island. It's quite good, but a bit **longish**.
- **The engine gave out** and we lost 3 hours trying to fix it.