

## DIRECTED WRITING PHRASES

*A selection of phrases which you could use in the Directed Writing section of the exam. Try to build your own bank of phrases which you could easily adapt in the final exam.*

### **Expressing when you went**

El verano pasado	last summer
El invierno pasado	last winter
El año pasado	last year
En las vacaciones de Semana Santa/ Navidad	during the Christmas/Easter holidays
Hace dos años	two years ago
El pasado junio	last June
Las navidades pasadas	last Christmas
La Semana Santa pasada	last Easter

### **Expressing where you went and with whom/ who came to stay**

Fui a España	I went to Spain
Fuimos a Argentina	we went to Argentina
Fuimos a León	we went to León
Estuve en un pueblecito	I stayed in a small village
12 chicos vinieron a nuestra escuela en un programa de intercambio	12 people came to our school on an exchange trip
Fui con mi familia	I went away with my family
Fui en una excursión del colegio	I went away on a school trip
Fui por mi cuenta	I went on my own
Había 20 personas en el grupo	there were 20 people in the group
Éramos un grupo de 20 personas	there were 20 of us in the group
Alquilamos una casa de campo en el norte de España	we rented a country house in the north of Spain
Fuimos a esquiar a los Pirineos	we went skiing in the Pyrenees
Una chica estuvo conmigo	a girl was with me

### **Expressing how you travelled**

Viajamos en tren/autobús	we travelled by train/by coach
Tomamos el ferry de Dover a Santander	we took the ferry from Dover to Santander
Tomamos un avión	we took the plane
Atravesamos el Eurotúnel	we went through the Eurotunnel
Tomé el avión y el barco	I took the plane and the boat

### **Expressing what you did during the journey**

Durante el trayecto me dormí	during the journey I fell asleep
En el viaje me quedé dormido	
Hablé con otros viajeros	I talked to other travellers
Miré por la ventana	I looked out of the window
Pasé el tiempo leyendo	I spent my time reading

### **Expressing how long you stayed**

Pasé una semana en Madrid	I spent one week in Madrid
Pasamos 15 días en España	we spent a fortnight in Spain

Trabajé (durante) 2 meses allí  
Estuve/ me alojé 15 días con...  
Mi amigo por correspondencia / mi corresponsal

I worked for 2 months there  
I stayed a fortnight with...  
my pen friend

### Expressing where you stayed

Nos alojamos en un hotel de 3 estrellas  
El hotel estaba en una estación de esquí  
Nos alojamos en un albergue juvenil  
Me alojé con una familia española  
Me alojé en casa de una familia española  
Fuí a la casa de mi amigo  
Había 4 personas en la familia  
Fuimos de acampada al campo  
Acampamos en el campo

we stayed in a 3-star hotel  
the hotel was in a ski resort  
we stayed in a youth hostel  
I stayed with a Spanish family  
I went to my friend's house  
There were 4 people in the family  
we went camping out in the country

### Describing your accommodation

Vivía en una casa grande  
El hotel era feo/ cutre/ horrible  
El piso era pequeño  
Compartía habitación con...

he/she lived in a big house  
the hotel was ugly  
the flat was tiny  
I shared a room with...

### Expressing how you got on with people

Me llevé realmente bien con...  
la familia/ mi jefe/ sus amigos  
No me llevé demasiado bien con...  
Hice amigos  
Mi jefe era muy simpático  
los profesores eran más acogedores que los míos

I got on really well with...  
the family/my boss/ his/her friends  
I did not get on very well with...  
I made friends  
my boss was very nice  
the teachers were more welcoming than mine

### Giving your general opinion on your stay

Me divertí mucho  
Nos lo pasamos muy bien  
Me aburrí un poco  
Tuve morriña  
Me entró la morriña  
Eché de menos a mi familia  
Hice muchos amigos  
El trabajo estaba mal pagado

I really enjoyed myself  
we had great fun  
I got a bit bored  
I felt homesick  
I missed my family  
I made lots of friends  
the job was badly paid

### Expressing what you did (on one occasion)

Un día fui de compras  
Decidimos organizar una fiesta  
Fuimos de bares una noche  
Una mañana fui al pueblo  
Me perdí en el pueblo  
El primer día (él/ella) vino a mi colegio...

one day I went shopping  
we decided to organise a party  
we went clubbing one night  
one morning I went into town  
I got lost in the town  
the first day he/she came to my school...

## Expressing what you did (on more than one occasion)

A menudo iba a los cafés/ las cafeterias  
Normalmente me acostaba a medianoche  
A menudo invitaba a amigos a casa  
Cada tarde/ todas las tardes comíamos  
en el albergue  
Por la tarde descansaba  
Cada mañana/todas las mañanas  
empezaba a trabajar a las...  
Por la mañana tomaba el sol en la playa  
Salíamos a comer juntos  
A menudo íbamos a hacer turismo  
El fin de semana visitábamos todos  
los lugares de interés  
Limpiaba el piso  
Todas las mañanas pasaba la aspiradora  
Por la noche ayudaba a mi madre a  
preparar la cena  
tenía que...  
solíamos organizar unas actividades

I often went to cafes  
I usually went to bed around midnight  
he often invited friends over  
every evening we ate in the youth hostel  
  
in the afternoon I relaxed  
every morning I started work at...  
  
in the morning I sunbathed on the beach  
we went out for a meal together  
we often went touring/ sight-seeing  
at the weekend we visited all the sights  
  
I cleaned the flat  
every morning I did the vacuum cleaning  
in the evening I helped my mother  
prepare the meals  
I had to...  
we usually organised activities

## Expressing likes and dislikes

No me gustó la comida  
La comida era deliciosa  
La comida era muy buena  
La familia era muy simpática y acogedora  
El trabajo era estresante  
A él/ a ella le gustó mucho mi colegio  
A él/a ella no le gustó la comida escocesa  
A él/ a ella le gustó mucho mi casa  
Lo que más me gustó fue... ( + sing noun)  
Lo que menos me gustó fue... (+sing noun)  
No podía soportar...

I did not like the food  
the food was delicious  
the food was really good  
the family was very nice and welcoming  
the work was stressful  
he/she really liked my school  
he/she did not like Scottish food  
he/she really liked my house  
what I liked the most was...  
what I liked least was...  
I couldn't stand...

## Giving a reason for your opinion

El viaje fue demasiado largo  
No me llevé bien con...  
la familia/ los profesores/ mis  
compañeros de clase  
Hacía demasiado calor para mi  
No teníamos nada en común  
Los profesores eran demasiado estrictos  
Gasté demasiado dinero  
Me picaron/comieron los mosquitos  
Tuve una insolación  
Tuve dificultades para entender el idioma  
Los españoles hablan demasiado rápido  
Desde el punto de vista del idioma  
Aproveché al máximo mi estancia  
La fiesta fue un desastre

the journey was too long  
I did get on well with...  
the family/the teachers/my classmates  
  
the weather was too hot for me  
we didn't have anything in common  
the teachers were too strict  
I spent too much money  
I was bitten by mosquitoes  
I had sunburn  
I had difficulty understanding the language  
the Spanish talk too fast  
from a linguistic point of view  
I really made the most of my stay  
the party was a disaster

## Describing the job you did

Trabajé de lavaplatos/ camarer-o/-a  
El trabajo era fácil/ duro  
Tuve que trabajar duro

I worked as a dishwasher/waiter/waitress  
the work was easy/hard  
I had to work hard

## Describing the weather

Hacía un tiempo espléndido  
Nevaba todas las mañanas  
Hacía buen tiempo la mayor parte del tiempo  
Hubo tormenta una tarde

the weather was marvellous  
it snowed every morning  
the weather was nice most of the time  
it was stormy one evening

## Suggesting whether or not you would repeat the experience

Me gustaría volver a Madrid  
No me gustaría volver a León  
Preferiría ir por mi cuenta o con amigos  
Preferiría viajar en avión  
Recomendaría pasar un tiempo en el extranjero  
Nunca volveré allí  
Nunca volveré a viajar con mi familia  
Preferiría no invitar a un español a mi casa

I'd like to go back to Madrid  
I would not like to go back to León  
I'd rather go on my own or with friends  
I'd prefer to travel by plane  
I'd recommend a spell abroad  
I'd never go back there  
I'd never go away again with my family  
I'd prefer not to invite a Spanish person to my house

- Si tuvieras la oportunidad diría que...  
*If you had the chance I would say that...*
- en mi opinión merecería la pena hacer un intercambio  
*in my opinion it would be worth doing an exchange*
- pasar tiempo en el extranjero trabajando tiene una amplia gama de ventajas tales como...  
*spending time abroad working has a wide range of advantages such as...*
- ir a España para trabajar es la mejor manera de dominar la lengua y experimentar la cultura, además ganas dinero a la vez  
*going to Spain to work is the best way to become fluent in the language and experience the culture as well as earning money at the same time*