

## The trip of a lifetime

- A** In April 2004, the Scottish film star, Ewan McGregor, and his friend, the English actor, Charley Boorman, set off on a motorbike trip of a lifetime. Their journey, across three continents and twelve countries, began in London. They travelled through some of the most deserted regions of the world, such as Siberia and Alaska, before ending in New York three months later.
- B** McGregor, who is famous for his role as Obi-Wan Kenobi in Star Wars, embarked on the journey because he was feeling exhausted and needed a change of scene. He has been interested in motorbikes since his first girlfriend, at the age of thirteen, broke his heart by leaving him for a boy with a flashy motorbike. Now Ewan loves motorbikes and he is used to going out on his every day.
- C** The 20,000-mile journey took a great deal of preparation. Before they left, both men had completed a mechanics course and also special survival training with ex-soldiers. They even learned how to perform emergency medical treatment just in case they had a serious accident.
- D** During the trip, the two of them had to get used to a different lifestyle such as living off rice, lentils, dried camping food and fresh fish which they caught. They had taken music with them which they would listen to whilst travelling. However, they soon decided that it was better to concentrate on riding their bikes, particularly when the road and weather conditions were bad.
- E** At the end of the trip, McGregor felt it had been a life-changing experience. They had met so many generous and supportive people who they relied on to help them. But perhaps more importantly, Charley had become a brother to him, rather than a friend.

### 1 Read the text and then choose the correct answers.

- McGregor and Boorman:
  - have the same job.
  - have different jobs.
  - met during a motorbike trip.
- McGregor's first girlfriend:
  - couldn't stand motorbikes.
  - was impressed by someone else's motorbike.
  - bought him a new motorbike.
- McGregor:
  - rides his bike daily now.
  - didn't use to ride a bike before the trip.
  - used to ride a bike daily, but doesn't have time now.
- On the trip, McGregor and Boorman:
  - only ate food which they had brought from the UK.
  - didn't have enough food.
  - ate both dried food and fresh food.
- They stopped listening to music on the trip because:
  - they thought it was dangerous.
  - they wanted to look at the beautiful scenery.
  - it was impossible to hear it.

### 2 Read the text again and answer the questions. Use complete sentences.

- Why did Ewan McGregor decide to go on a motorbike trip?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- In what month did the trip finish? How do you know?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why did the two men learn to do medical treatment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What effect did the trip have on McGregor?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Find words and phrases in the text that mean:

- left (*paragraph A*) \_\_\_\_\_
- tired (*paragraph B*) \_\_\_\_\_
- expensive-looking (*paragraph B*) \_\_\_\_\_
- a lot of (*paragraph C*) \_\_\_\_\_
- surviving by eating (*paragraph D*) \_\_\_\_\_
- depended on (*paragraph E*) \_\_\_\_\_