



A Weekend Away

Juliet Stubbs enters the kitchen and screams with **delight**.

"Oh, George, you remembered!" she cries.

"Of course," replies her husband with a smile, "you **reminded me** every day last week."

"What pretty flowers!" she continues, excited.

Exactly twenty-five years ago, Juliet Sprout married George Stubbs. Today is their silver **wedding anniversary**. Twenty-five white roses are standing in a new crystal vase on the breakfast table. There is also a silver **envelope** next to the teapot. Juliet smells the roses and looks nervously at the envelope.

"Open it," he says, "it won't bite."

His wife picks up a knife and cuts the paper. George turns around and takes some bread from the toaster.



delight	Freude, Entzücken
to remind sb.	jmd. erinnern (an)
wedding anniversary	Hochzeitstag
envelope	Briefumschlag
to exclaim	(aus)rufen
to raise sth.	etw. (an)heben; erhöhen
to read aloud	laut (vor)lesen
Roman Baths pl	Römisches Bad

"Bath!" his wife **exclaims**. "I love Bath, it's such a charming city!"

George **raises** his eyebrows. "Keep reading," he says and takes some milk from the fridge.

She **reads aloud** a letter from a five-star hotel and looks at two tickets to the city's famous **Roman Baths**.



to grunt	brummeln; grunzen
celebrity gossip	Promiklatsch
delighted	erfreut, entzückt
to enjoy sth.	etw. genießen, Freude haben an etw.
↔ culture vulture	Kulturfanatiker(in)

"What's wrong?" her husband asks when she stops talking.

"It's perfect!" she cries, "Thank you so much. I love you."

They kiss and sit down to eat, listening to the morning

news on the radio. It is not very interesting, but Juliet has something to say about each report between mouthfuls of breakfast. George sits in silence; he sometimes smiles at his wife or **grunts** in agreement, but his food interests him more than political scandal and **celebrity gossip**.

Less than an hour later, they are in the car on their way to Bath. As a police inspector, people imagine that Inspector George Stubbs is an organized man. In fact he is usually the opposite, a chaotic and forgetful person who loses his car keys almost every day. His wife is still surprised that he remembered their wedding anniversary. She is **delighted** that they are going somewhere special to celebrate. They live in Devon, a beautiful part of south west England with low, green hills and wild moors. Although the countryside is full of pretty tourist attractions and peaceful walks, living in the country makes it more difficult to find enough time to visit a city and **enjoy** the culture it has to offer.

Exercise 1: Adjectives. Lesen Sie weiter und unterstreichen Sie alle acht Adjektive!

Juliet calls her husband a "**culture vulture**". He loves history, literature, classical music, museums, art and a good bottle of French wine. She usually has to follow him around

exhibitions and old bookshops in the city. It is important to spend time together, though. George is always so busy at work these days that it is a **blessing** whenever he has free time. They do everything together, even if she would really prefer to shop for expensive clothes or visit the cinema.

"You can decide what we do today," her husband says when their car is on the motorway. "We can go anywhere you want and do anything you want. You're the boss."

Juliet picks up the tourist brochure for the city of Bath and looks once again at all of the pictures inside. Her husband is a very kind man indeed, she thinks.

"Well, we have to visit Bath **Abbey**,¹ of course. It's a special day for both of us, and I know you've wanted to see it for a long time," she says. "Let's go there first, then we can spend the rest of the afternoon in the shops, go out somewhere **posh** to eat and maybe see a musical tonight, if we can still get our hands on some tickets."

Im Englischen werden Eigennamen und Titel, die als Teil eines Namens verwendet werden, großgeschrieben.

The abbey is old. - Die Abtei ist alt.
Aber: *Bath Abbey is famous.* - Die Abtei von Bath ist berühmt.



exhibition	Ausstellung
blessing	Segen
abbey	Abtei
posh	vornehm, schick
to suppose	annehmen, vermuten

George opens and closes his mouth without saying a word. He puts another sweet in his mouth.

"We can just eat at the hotel if it's easier," his wife says.

He laughs and says that anything at all is fine by him.

"It sounds like a long day," he adds, "but I **suppose** we'll get all

the **rest** we need in the Roman Baths on Sunday, won't we?"

"Yes, absolutely!" Juliet agrees.

She looks through the brochure and finds the page with Bath's most famous **sight**. "I think I could spend all day there. It's a pity they don't let the public

use the old building, it looks so wonderful. But the new **thermal spa** looks just as beautiful. Have you seen this picture, George?"

"I'm trying to drive, Juliet!" he **complains** when his wife **waves** the brochure in front of his nose. "Yes, I've seen it, and it does look lovely. But please let me get us there alive!"

Juliet laughs and sits back in her seat. One of her favourite songs is just starting. She rolls the window down a little and begins to sing **at the top of her voice**.

rest	<i>hier:</i> Ruhe, Pause
sight	Sehenswürdigkeit; Anblick
thermal spa	Thermalbad
to complain	sich beschweren
to wave	schwenken; winken
at the top of one's voice	aus vollem Hals, mit lauter Stimme

Exercise 2: True or false? Welche der folgenden Aussagen sind wahr? Kreuzen Sie an!

1. It is the Stubbs' golden wedding anniversary.
2. Juliet opens the envelope with a knife.
3. George is an organized man.
4. Mr and Mrs Stubbs have the same interests.
5. Devon is in south east England.
6. The abbey is not the most famous sight in Bath.
7. The Stubbs travel by train.
8. People can have a bath in the antique Roman Baths.

entrance	Eingang
tip	hier: Trinkgeld
crowded	gedrängt, überfüllt
enormous	riesig, enorm
carving	Schnitzerei
impressive	beeindruckend
cute	niedlich

"It's very posh," he replies and hands the car keys to the pageboy. Another young man is standing by the main **entrance** and welcomes the couple to the hotel. Moments later, while they are checking in, the pageboy returns with the Stubbs' car keys and suitcase.

"You are a helpful young man," says Juliet thankfully. She puts a handful of sweets in his hand instead of a **tip**. Most guests give him a £2 coin or a £5 note. He smiles politely, turns around and looks unhappy as he puts the sweets into his pocket. After a short rest and a cup of tea, Mr and Mrs Stubbs leave the hotel and begin their tour of Bath with a visit to the abbey. It is a short walk up Cheap Street under a clear, blue sky. There are a lot of shoppers about, but it is not too **crowded**. They are soon standing at the **enormous** West Front, which reminds George of Turner's early painting of the abbey. ¹ He is silent; even his wife stops talking. They look at the detailed **carvings** and **impressive** windows.

"Oh my God, is this a **cute** church or is this a **cute** church?" says a loud, American voice that makes George and Juliet both turn around in surprise.

William Turner (1775-1851) ist einer der berühmtesten britischen Maler. Als führender Vertreter der Romantik ist er besonders für die ausdrucksstarken Farben und Lichtstimmungen seiner Aquarelle und Ölgemälde bekannt. Die Westfront von Bath Abbey malte er im Jahre 1796.



Shortly before midday, George parks in front of the Malvern Hotel. His wife gets out of the car and looks up at the sky, then at the architecture of the building.

"Oh, George," she says quietly, "isn't it a posh hotel!"

The speaker is a tall, blonde woman in a jacket and a short, black skirt. George notices that she has long, **slim** legs and shoes with very high heels. She is attractive, too, he thinks. The woman takes off her sunglasses and walks up to the two statues on either side of the church entrance.

"Who are these?" she asks, still speaking **incredibly** loudly. George thinks she is talking to herself.

Two well-dressed men then pass Mr and Mrs Stubbs and stand next to the American. They look up and down at the statues, look across at each other and then **shrug**, almost **irritated**.

George **approaches** the three tourists with a smile and explains that St. Peter is on the left, and St. Paul on the right.

"You can see that the sculptor made Paul too large," he continues, "which is why the **halo** is sitting on his head like a dinner plate."

He does not normally talk to strangers, but he is in a good **mood** and decides to share his knowledge. **Besides**, he likes meeting foreigners and has nothing against attractive ladies either.

"This is the third church to be built in this place," George says. All three strangers look at him with interest. "The French pulled down the original church after the invasion in 1066. It was ruined again twice and what you see here is from the early seventeenth century."

The two men begin talking to each other quietly. The woman sees them, rolls her eyes and says something to George.

"I'm sorry?" he says, not listening. He is looking for his wife.

"I said you know a lot about this place. It's impressive."

"Oh, I..." George turns a little red and does not know what to say.

slim	schlank
incredibly	unglaublich
to shrug (one's shoulders)	die Achseln zucken
irritated	verärgert, genervt
to approach	sich nähern
halo	Heiligenschein
mood	Laune
besides	außerdem