

A story from Anna Galbraith.

A little over three years ago, I spent a weekend in Barcelona with a few friends who were studying with me in Toledo. We were excited to experience a big city, with all of its architecture, markets and beaches. We weren't, however, completely prepared for the full extent of our adventures.

The first surprise occurred on the boardwalk along the beach. We were walking along, enjoying the sun and the view of the ocean, when all of a sudden we spotted a man wearing a backpack. Nothing but a backpack. Coming from a country where this is very illegal, we were of course rather horrified and very much amused.

The second surprise was that nobody wanted to speak Spanish with us. As soon as we walked into a store or a restaurant, everyone switched to English. While it was nice to know what we were ordering off of the menus, it was kind of disappointing to not be able to practice our Spanish. When people weren't speaking to us in English, they were attempting to speak to us in Catalan, which was not very effective. Especially when we were at the bus station, trying to figure out if the papers we had printed off the Internet with our bus information were actually our tickets. It turned out that they were our tickets, but we didn't figure that out until after our bus had left.

So our third surprise was being stuck in Barcelona for another night. But it wasn't just any night. It was the night Spain won the EuroCup. As we wandered around the city, we were greeted with fireworks, drunk Spaniards and street parties. It would have been really fun if we hadn't been so stressed over our situation.

Luckily, we ended up finding a hostel and were able to get back to Toledo safely. It was maybe not the best weekend of my life, but it was definitely one I'll never forget.

Phrasal verbs/nouns  
Vocabulary and idioms  
Passive Voice  
Past Perfect  
Conditionals  
Grammar

We call it a day

"People mess that up all the time."