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Summer Days sample
NOT FOR SALE

SUMMER DAYS

Level 3 - A2/B1 Intermediate (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

Copyright

Summer Days

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I Talk You Talk Press contact: info@italkyoutalk.com

Website: <http://www.italkyoutalk.com>

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Introduction

There are five short stories about summer for learners of English in this book.

Story 1: Paul has a bad idea

Story 2: A rainy vacation

Story 3: At the campground

Story 4: The summer festival

Story 5: A small Hawaiian drama

1. Paul has a bad idea

Paul's girlfriend's name was Stella. Her birthday was on Saturday. He wanted to take Stella to a romantic restaurant on Saturday night. He didn't tell her. He wanted it to be a big surprise. He planned to ask her to marry him.

But on Thursday night, Paul and his girlfriend, Stella, had a big fight on the telephone.

"I never want to see you again!" she said. She put the phone down very hard.

Paul was very unhappy. He talked to his brother Damien.

"I bought a ring! I planned to ask her to marry me. I was sure she would say 'yes'.

"What was the fight about?" asked Damien.

Paul was surprised. "I don't know. The dinner in the restaurant was going to be a surprise. When she asked me about my plans for Saturday night, I said 'We can go to my friend's house and watch TV'. Then she started shouting. I don't understand," said Paul.

"I don't understand either," said Damien.

Paul was very sad, and Damien was worried about him.

Damien had a good idea. "Why don't we go to the lake?" he said.

Paul and Damien's family had a small house next to a lake. When they were young, their parents often took them there for holidays.

When they were older, Paul and Damien wanted to spend time with their friends. They played sports and rode motorbikes. They had girlfriends. They always said they were too busy to go to the lake.

"The lake?" said Paul.

"Yes," his brother answered. "The lake! Our parents are on holiday. My girlfriend is going to help a friend who has a new baby. We can go to the lake. We can swim and lie in the sun. It will be great."

Paul didn't care what he did. "OK," he said. "We'll go to the lake."

On Friday after work, the brothers put clothes, food and drink in the car and drove to the lake.

It was summer, and the weather was very hot. The days were long. But the lake was about three hours' drive from their town, so it was dark when they arrived at the bumpy road that went down to the lake.

There were only two houses on that side of the lake. One belonged to their parents and the other belonged to a woman called Mrs Bingley. Their parents were good friends with Mrs Bingley, but Paul and Damien didn't like her. She was a retired schoolteacher. When they were young, she often shouted at them. If they were playing football or cricket in their garden and their ball went into Mrs Bingley's garden, she never gave it back.

Damien drove slowly down the narrow road. They could see the two small houses. There were no lights on in Mrs Bingley's house.

"Good," said Damien. "Mrs Bingley's not here. We can play music loudly. We can do anything we want to do."

"Mrs Bingley! She must be dead!" said Paul. "If she were alive, she'd be more than one hundred years old!"

"I don't think so," said Damien. "We thought she was very old. But I don't think she was much older than our parents."

They unpacked the car and opened up their parent's lake house. They cooked sausages and beans and took their meal outside. They sat in front of the house looking at the lake. It was very late but the air was still warm.

Paul was very quiet. Damien knew Paul was thinking about Stella, but he didn't know what to say.

-----END OF SAMPLE-----