

## 1 Describing Thailand

## Pronunciation

Match the words with their correct definitions and then check that you know how to pronounce them. You will hear them in the next exercise.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 endless /'endləs/ adj. ____d              | a a group of different and varied things   |
| 2 variety /və'raɪəti/ n. _____              | b a substance made from plants and added to food to give it a particular flavour, extra interest or excitement |
| 3 spice /spaɪs/ n. _____                    | c covered in trees   |
| 4 tranquil /'træŋkwɪl/ adj. _____           | d seeming to have no end or limit  |
| 5 exuberant /,ɛg'zju:bərənt/ adj. _____     | e shiny, clean, and looking very healthy or new  |
| 6 gleaming /'gli:miŋ/ adj. _____            | f happy, excited, and full of energy   |
| 7 thrusting /θrʌstɪŋ/ adj. _____            | g extending or continuing upwards above the rest of something  |
| 8 ever-changing /,eva'tʃeɪndʒɪŋ/ adj. _____ | h calm, still, and quiet   |
| 9 forest-clad /'fɒrɪst,klæd/ adj. _____     | i a private place where someone goes to be away from other people  |
| 10 hideaway /'haɪdəweɪ/ n. _____            | j very clean, unspoilt, or new   |
| 11 pristine /'prɪsti:n/ adj. _____          | k continuing to transform for a very long time   |

**1 You are going to hear three adverts for Thailand. Read the quotations from the three texts.**

**As you listen, write 1, 2 or 3 next to each quotation to indicate which text you heard it in.**

Quotation	Which advert?
1 '...stresses and strains of modern life ...'	2
2 '...land of oriental wonders ...'	
3 '...experience the irresistible charm ...'	
4 '...the green of the landscape ...'	
5 '...idyllic beaches of the islands ...'	
6 '...kaleidoscope of exotic possibility ...'	
7 '...thrusting new buildings ...'	
8 '...exotic flora and fauna ...'	
9 '...ruins shrouded in mystery ...'	
10 '...pristine island beaches ...'	

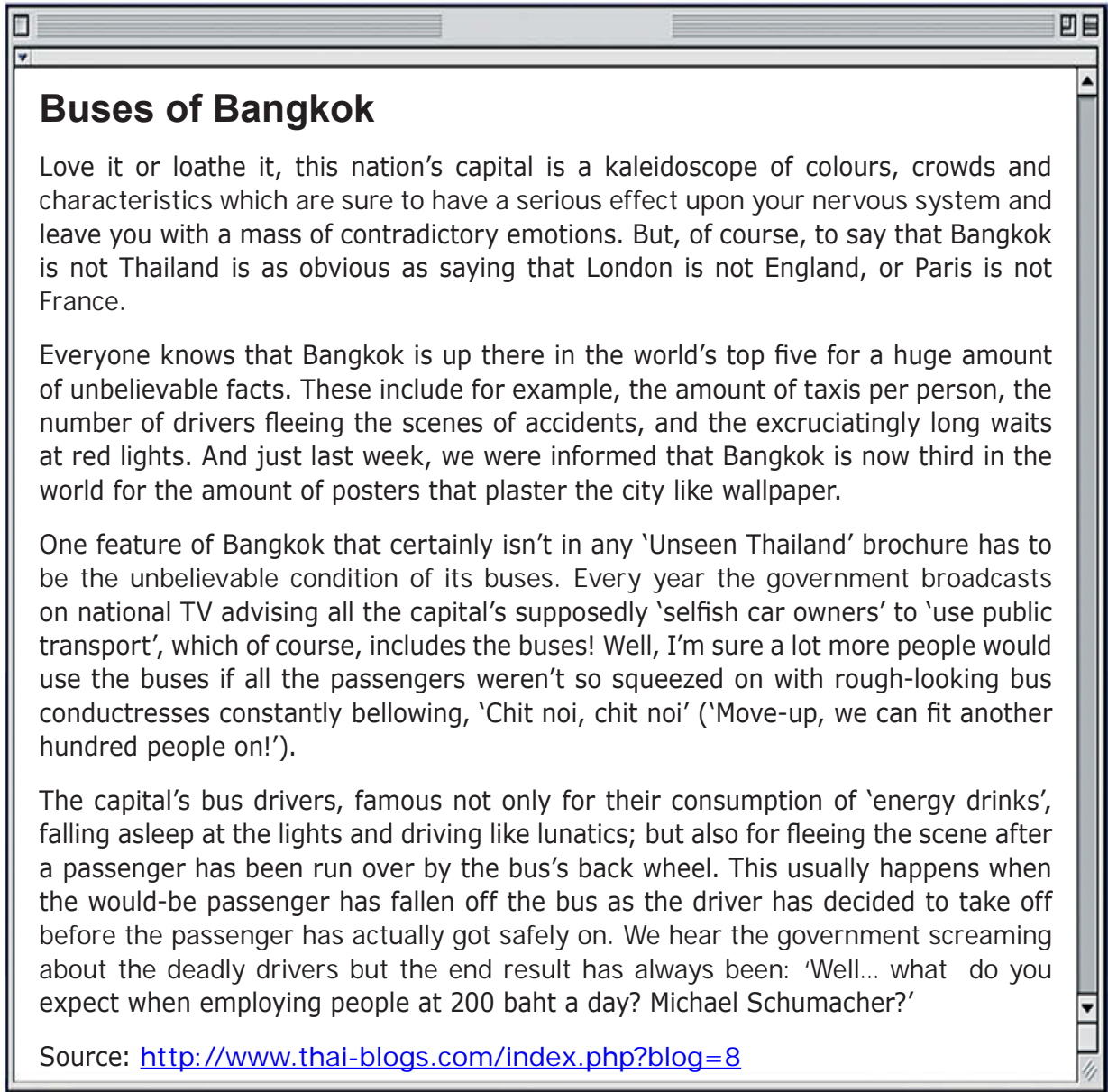
**2 What type of vocabulary do the texts use to attract tourists? Why? Discuss with your partner.**

**3 Do you think the texts describe real life in Bangkok? Why or why not? Discuss with your partner.**

**4 Search the internet for more adverts describing Thailand. Then search for adverts that entice visitors to your own country. Write an advert for your country based on those for Thailand that you have heard.**

1 Work in pairs. Student A: read Text A. Student B: read text B. Make a note of the most interesting points and advice and report back to your partner.

### Text A



**Buses of Bangkok**

Love it or loathe it, this nation's capital is a kaleidoscope of colours, crowds and characteristics which are sure to have a serious effect upon your nervous system and leave you with a mass of contradictory emotions. But, of course, to say that Bangkok is not Thailand is as obvious as saying that London is not England, or Paris is not France.

Everyone knows that Bangkok is up there in the world's top five for a huge amount of unbelievable facts. These include for example, the amount of taxis per person, the number of drivers fleeing the scenes of accidents, and the excruciatingly long waits at red lights. And just last week, we were informed that Bangkok is now third in the world for the amount of posters that plaster the city like wallpaper.

One feature of Bangkok that certainly isn't in any 'Unseen Thailand' brochure has to be the unbelievable condition of its buses. Every year the government broadcasts on national TV advising all the capital's supposedly 'selfish car owners' to 'use public transport', which of course, includes the buses! Well, I'm sure a lot more people would use the buses if all the passengers weren't so squeezed on with rough-looking bus conductresses constantly bellowing, 'Chit noi, chit noi' ('Move-up, we can fit another hundred people on!').

The capital's bus drivers, famous not only for their consumption of 'energy drinks', falling asleep at the lights and driving like lunatics; but also for fleeing the scene after a passenger has been run over by the bus's back wheel. This usually happens when the would-be passenger has fallen off the bus as the driver has decided to take off before the passenger has actually got safely on. We hear the government screaming about the deadly drivers but the end result has always been: 'Well... what do you expect when employing people at 200 baht a day? Michael Schumacher?'

Source: <http://www.thai-blogs.com/index.php?blog=8>

## Text B

**A quick guide to Bangkok, from an insider**

Dear Celeste,

Okay. With 3–4 days in the city, you're going to have a lot to do. But before you start exploring, remember these two things:

First, remember that in anything written with "Ph" and "Th" or "Kh", the "h" is silent. Once you know that, communicating with the locals gets much easier, e.g. Chao Phraya River - reads Chao PRAya River, not FRAya.

Secondly, always offer half the asking price if you're buying at a stall or night bazaar or market. You must fake that you're not really that interested. If you show any signs of: "Oh wow, I s-o-o-o want this!", you just lose your haggle power and you'll end up paying much more.

Now, where to go in Bangkok depends on what day you're in town. Check with the local English language papers. But whatever happens you just must not miss these:

**1. Trip round Bangkok**

Standard Bangkok trip. It will cost you a few dollars plus the cab fare. You can spend most of the day wandering around the historical area. In the same area, there's the National Theatre and the National Museum. And of course, Chao Phraya River.

**2. Soi Lalai Sap**

This is a local secret spot. Nestled in the alleyway of Bangkok Bank in Silom Road, the heart of the financial district, is a strip of shopping paradise that comes alive from 11a.m.–2p.m. on a weekday. The whole alley plus a few air-conditioned ground-floor spaces are packed with everything from clothes, suits, shoes, dresses and evening gowns, jewellery and gemstones, to food and fresh fruit. A must!

**3. The Red Cross Snake Farm**

Just around the corner from Patpong and Silom is the Thai Red Cross. They have a snake farm which is open in the morning and is quite cheap. The money goes toward the operations and other functions of the Red Cross.

*Continued on next page*

#### 4. The Floating Market

See what tour packages your hotel offers. We found one years back that offered a cheap day trip to the Floating Market, just outside Bangkok, and some other attractions all over the city. Really worth the money!

#### 5. Ayuttaya

See if your hotel does a day trip to Ayuttaya. Ayuttaya was once the capital of Siam. The city was massive and grand before it got destroyed and all its gold stolen 200 years ago. Some tours drive you out there or you can go by boat. Brilliant!

Hope this helps. See you here!

Source: <http://www.thaitravelblogs.com/bangkok/oakmonsters-quick-guide-to-bkk-2.html>

## 1 Describing Thailand

## Pronunciation

Students match the words with their explanations and practise pronunciation.

- 1 d    2 a    3 b    4 h  
5 f    6 e    7 g    8 k  
9 c    10 i    11 j

## 2 Advertising Thailand

## Listening

Students listen to or read the three adverts for Thailand, and then write 1, 2, 3 next to each quotation to indicate which advert they heard it in.

## Listening script

## Advert 1

Do you yearn for a magical getaway in a faraway land? Are you bored of your regular European holiday destination? Thailand is the place you have been dreaming of! With its incredible variety of places to see and things to do, Thailand is a fantastic kaleidoscope of exotic possibility that will add spice to your life. From the idyllic beaches of the islands to the exhilarating treks in the jungle, from the reclining golden Buddha in Bangkok to the reclining chairs on our exclusive resorts, from ancient ruins shrouded in mystery to majestic temples and forest-clad mountains.

Thailand's ever-changing landscape will delight all your senses as you travel through our country surrounded by the scent of flowers and the pungent aroma of spices from restaurants serving our world-renowned dishes. With our attention to beauty in everything you will feel pampered wherever you go. Whether you are a regular visitor or a newcomer, Thailand will hold a surprise for you and will leave you feeling exuberant and renewed. Come and experience the irresistible charm of Thailand for yourself!

## Advert 2

Thailand, this mysterious and ancient land of oriental wonders, blesses the visitor with the best that nature has to offer. The green of the landscape will dazzle you as you explore the exotic flora and fauna of over 60 national parks and 32 wildlife sanctuaries. The pristine island beaches will overwhelm you with their endless beauty. Our island resorts provide tranquil hideaways from the stresses and strains of modern life. You could get a massage on the beach, lulled by the sound of the waves, or simply lie back and sip from a whole coconut as you watch a magnificent sunset.

**Advert 3**

Thailand is also very much a part of the modern world, from the moment you land at Bangkok's space-age airport and are whisked into a city full of thrusting new buildings and gleaming spires, you will be able to choose from an endless variety of Thailand's modern amenities with exclusive opportunities for accommodation, dining and shopping and professional service - always with the smile that is our trademark. For whatever your idea is of the perfect holiday Thailand is the place you have been looking for!

Quotation	Which advert?
1 '...stresses and strains of modern life...'	2
2 '...land of oriental wonders ...'	2
3 '...experience the irresistible charm...'	1
4 '...the green of the landscape...'	2
5 '...idyllic beaches of the islands...'	1
6 '...kaleidoscope of exotic possibility...'	1
7 '...thrusting new buildings ...'	3
8 '...exotic flora and fauna...'	2
9 '...ruins shrouded in mystery...'	2
10 '...pristine island beaches...'	2

- 1 Students should notice that all the language in the adverts is exaggerated, in order to entice tourists to visit the country.
- 2 In their discussions, students should come to the conclusion that 'real life' is not like this in Thailand, and that there are many poor and unemployed people both in the towns and the country.
- 4 Encourage students to find ads for Thailand and for their country that exaggerate the attributes of these places. Start a discussion on the ways in which their own countries attributes could be highlighted and exaggerated. Students can use the adverts they have found and heard as a template to create their own adverts.

## Advice and information extracted from texts.

Student A	Student B
<p><b>Buses of Bangkok</b></p> <p>Bangkok is a very diverse, bustling and interesting city that will leave the visitor feeling contradictory emotions: both love and hate.</p> <p>Bangkok is notorious for having too many taxis per person, having irresponsible drivers and being plastered with unsightly posters.</p> <p>The main piece of advice from this text is that you need to be very careful when using Bangkok's buses because they are very overcrowded and, in the opinion of the blogger, the bus drivers are also very irresponsible.</p>	<p><b>A quick guide to Bangkok, from an insider</b></p> <p>The blogger informs us that you do not pronounce the 'H' in Thai words with the letters 'PH' in them.</p> <p>Also, you need to haggle when buying anything at a stall or bazaar. It is standard practice to offer half the asking price and act as if you were not really interested in buying anything.</p> <p>The blogger advises Celeste to go on a trip around Bangkok, to go to Soi Lalai Sap - a local shopping centre - and visit The Red Cross Snake Farm.</p>