

Read and Practise

Texty a cvičení ke konverzaci

# TRAVEL

(Úroveň B)

Dana Jirků  
Todd Nesbitt

## II

After our stay in Poland, we took a train to Milan, Italy. It was Laura's idea. I wanted to go to Venice, and Cynthia was hoping to see Rome, but we both agreed that Milan would be exciting too. Or rather, she decided and I agreed.

You see, I liked Cynthia very much. Could she notice that I was nervous when I spoke to her? I didn't want to say the wrong things. I don't know when these feelings started. Maybe in Prague? We spent several nights walking through the Old Town. We only walked, nothing more. Then in Poland we often ate together, **just the two of us**. Josh and Laura were usually at one of the known restaurants, like Pizza Planet. Anyway, my plans for Italy only depended on one thing: that Cynthia was a part of them. So, we all went to Milan.

I don't remember much about our stay in Italy. I spent a lot of time and money on nothing. Cynthia wanted to go to Club Americano every night instead of going to see things like we did in the Czech Republic and Poland. **On the one hand**, this was fine with me. I wasn't so nervous talking to her after drinking some Italian wine. **But on the other hand**, I am sorry that I didn't see some cultural things, or different cities in the country. When I think about it now, I feel sorry about how I spent my time. Maybe I was trying too hard. I wanted Cynthia to like me. Laura tried to tell me one night, when we were at Club Americano, but I didn't listen. She told me that my **behaviour** was strange, and that I seemed sad. I said that everything was fine. The conversation went on like this for a while, and then we noticed that Cynthia was coming back to our table. Laura became quite serious. She moved close to me.

"Dan, just be yourself. Don't try to say what you think she wants to hear. You will go crazy, and she will be bored. Understand? Just be yourself," she repeated.

I told Laura that it was her, not me who was going crazy. I said that nothing was happening between Cynthia and I. But I didn't believe it myself.

I think that is all I can say about Milan. I didn't have a very exciting visit there. We began thinking about France. I had beautiful plans

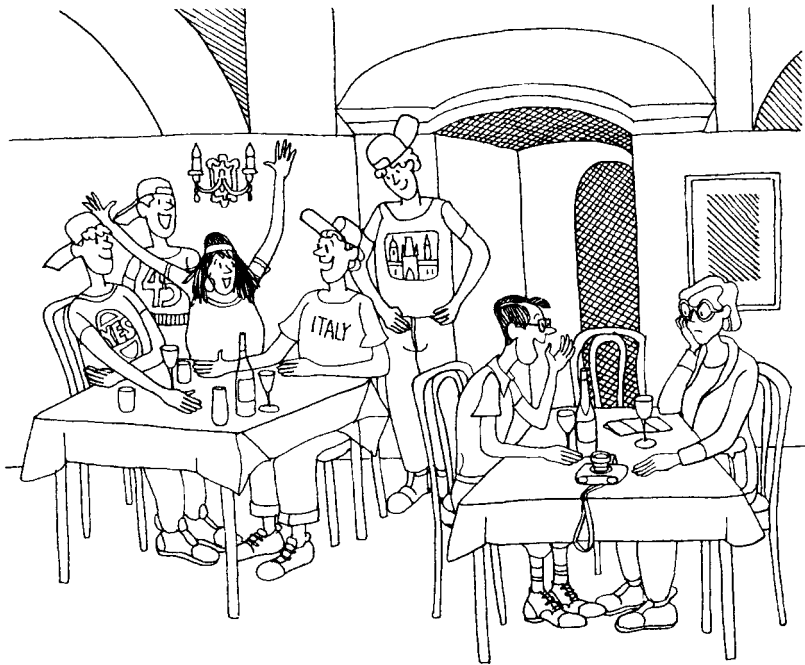
for Cynthia and I. From talking to other travellers at the youth hostel in Italy, I had great ideas about nice places to visit. With their information, and the help of Josh's guidebook, I was sure I could romance Cynthia.

But everything went wrong. Our first full day in Paris I left her alone for two hours while I went to buy tickets to the opera for us. When I returned she was a different person. Did she meet someone new?

**just the two of us** - no one else

**on the one hand ... , on the other hand ...** - used for comparing different things or ideas (see exercise 1)

**behaviour** - the way how people behave



## Exercises (cvičení k textu)

### 1. \* Translate:

(Překládejte.)

- 1) We both agreed that Milan would be exciting too.
- 2) On the one hand, this was fine with me ...
- 3) ... on the other hand, I was sorry that ...
- 4) I suppose I was trying too hard to make Cynthia like me.
- 5) She told me that my behaviour was strange.
- 6) The conversation went on like this for a while.
- 7) I didn't believe it myself.
- 8) I was sure I could romance Cynthia.
- 9) Everything went wrong.



### 2. \* Fill in the missing verbs in past tense:

(Doplňte vhodné sloveso v minulém čase.)

**believe, listen, remember, notice, spend, depend**

- 1) Dan's plans ... on Laura's wishes.
- 2) Laura ... that Dan's behaviour was strange.
- 3) But Dan (NOT) ... to her advice.
- 4) He (NOT) ... much about his stay in Italy.
- 5) He ... a lot of time and money on nothing.
- 6) He said he was OK, but he (NOT) ... it himself.



### 3. \* Transform - follow the example (indirect speech):

(Změňte podle vzoru na nepřímou řeč.)

*Example:*

*Where did the feelings start? - I wonder where the feelings started.*

- 1) Did Cynthia want to go to Rome?
- 2) Was Dan very nervous?
- 3) Did Cynthia notice that?
- 4) Does Dan like travelling?
- 5) What was his problem?



### 4. Make sentences that will illustrate what the following verbs mean:

(Tvořte věty, které znázorní význam daných sloves.)

*Example:*

*to complain: (stěžovat si) - Waiter, the soup is cold!*

*or: There are no clubs to go to here.*

*to guess, to compare, to decide, to agree, to be angry*

5. \* **True or false?** Correct the false statements:

(Opravte nepravdivá tvrzení.)

- 1) There was something Dan liked about going to Club Americano.
- 2) Dan didn't spend much money in Italy.
- 3) Dan's feelings for Cynthia started in Prague.
- 4) Dan is a self-confident person.



6. Give definitions of the following words:

(Definujte následující pojmy.)

*Example: a thoughtful person - a person who thinks of other people  
(or: opposite of "thoughtless" person)*

**different, dangerous, impolite, to sell something**



7. Answer and discuss:

(Odpovídejte a diskutujte.)

- What was Dan's original plan for Italy? Why didn't he like his stay there?
- What were Dan's plans for Paris? What went wrong?
- Which sentence that Laura told Dan was the most important? What did she mean?

