

Unit 19

Catherine (England)

Well, I've just got back from a business trip to Korea— it was quite a short trip. I had three intense days of meetings and it was the first time I've been to Korea and it was slightly different to some of my other trips because I've travelled a lot in previous roles, I've spent a lot of time in South America, I've been to the Middle East, other parts of Asia, a lot of trips to Europe. And most of the time on most of those trips I've been visiting a local office or we have some kind of local representation; that wasn't the case on this trip to Korea, so I set up all my own appointments. I was following up on a trip a colleague made earlier in the year so these people were known to the company and they had already met us but, I hadn't met any of them before. And once I got out there I was very much on my own, which— I— never really occurred to me - it was almost on my way to the airport that I realized that ... uh ... you know, my evenings were going to be my own, that I wasn't going to have to spend a lot of time in a car with somebody I've never met before, who was going to be taking me to every single one of my appointments, which is what happens when you— when you have an agent or a— a local office, you— you often get thrown together with someone who you end up spending four days solid with, from breakfast in the morning to dinner in the evening.

So that was quite nice in some ways, but equally in the evenings ... um ... you know, I don't speak any Korean and I was in a hotel that was very expensive and I didn't particularly want to order room service every evening, partly because of the cost, partly because it's boring. So I went out every evening on my own and a few of those evenings I discovered was a food hall in a department store that was part of my hotel and they had all these different counters where you could get lots of different types of Asian dishes and the only interaction you needed to have was to just say the number of the dish you wanted to a person at a central till. And that was great because everyone ate communally on big tables, no one was looking at me thinking 'oh dear, she hasn't got anyone to talk to,' there she is with her book, and it was fun because there were lots of different people there, families out together on a Sunday night ... um ... when I first went down there.

Vincent (French-Canadian)

Well, I am not really proud of— well I'm proud but I'm not really proud of our typical meal, because our typical meal is really the— junk food at its perfection. It's called poutine, it's like— it's with fries, melted cheese and some gravy. It's really good in Quebec, and the rest of the world they don't seem to know how to do it. It's really simple too ... uh ... it's really junk food— I mean, it's really, really, really, fatty I think it's like one pound of butter each bite you take. But what I would really recommend, it's called paté chinois ... um ... it's steak, potato and corn mixed together to form like some kind of a pie— patty and it's really good, well in— it's healthier. Well, it— it's a Canadian meal— it's not really from Quebec. Quebec, we only have poutine and I don't know why we're so proud of it, it's really— nah— yeah.

Grant (England)

Um, well the— the Italian was ... um ... exc— su— superb food, it was extremely convenient for us and it was just a very nice and relaxing place to go. Um, the Japanese restaurant, well that was partly the food ... um ... and the air conditioning. In the height of summer, in our tiny apartment ... um ... it

was very nice to get out and get some cool air blown over one. Um, but yes, it— it was the— the— it was the food and ... uh ... the pricing was very reasonable actually in the Japanese place. The Italian was surprisingly expensive if that makes sense, because it was actually very, very good food— people would travel from quite far.