

Lost in London

Een Engelse easy reader voor beginners

Charlotte Dincher



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Molengouw 36
1151 CJ Broek in Waterland
info@arcospublishers.com
www.arcospublishers.com

Auteur: Charlotte Dincher
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Contents

Chapter One	Best Friends	5
Chapter Two	In London	9
Chapter Three	A Big Problem	14
Chapter Four	What to Do?	18
Chapter Five	Asking for Help	22
Chapter Six	Walking and Talking	26
Chapter Seven	A Jackal Family	31
Test your comprehension		36
Woordenlijst		40
Dankwoord		50
Over de auteur		50

Chapter One

Best Friends

Hey Vlad! This is Malick, on my mom's mobile phone. Wow, what a trip! London is super, but... wow! It was wild. And scary.

Hi Malick. :-O What happened? Why are you on your mom's phone?

Oh yeah, I don't have my phone. :-(((
I'll tell you about it. You will be shocked!
I was so scared. Amina was with me.

Oh, no! is your sister ok?

Yeah, we are ok. Now :-D. Tomorrow we are back in Bremen. Let's meet up. My mom wants her phone.

Ok, tell me all about your London trip tomorrow! CU

Three weeks before the trip, Vlad and Malick meet at Malick's house in Bremen. They are eating. Vlad is eating with his hands. Malick eats with his hands, too. Malick's mother, father and sister, Amina, also eat with their hands. It is normal for them, because Malick's father is from Senegal. Senegal is a country in West Africa.

In Senegal, you wash their hands and after that you eat with your hands. You eat together from one big bowl. You don't have your own bowl. There is one bowl for the family. When you have a big family, there are two bowls. The girls and women have their own bowl and the boys and men have their own bowl. That's how it is in many families in Senegal. Malick's family eats with their hands from one bowl. That's how it is in Malick's family in Bremen.

It's normal for Malick and for Vlad, Malick's best friend. It is not normal in Bremen. Malick wants his friends from school to come to his house. But he is scared. Maybe his friends don't like to eat with their hands. Maybe a friend doesn't want to eat from one bowl. Maybe they want their own bowl. That is why Malick is scared. That is why not many friends from school come to his house. Only Vlad comes to his house. Vlad is a very good friend. Vlad can always come because Vlad doesn't want his own bowl.

Vlad says, “This is nice.”

Malick’s mom says, “Thank you, Vlad.” She is happy. Malick is happy, too. Vlad likes Malick’s family.

Now, Vlad and Malick are with Amina and her cousin Awa. Amina and Awa are one year younger than Malick. Awa and her family eat with Malick’s family, because in Senegal, families eat together every week. The women and men sit together and eat from one big bowl. After eating, the families always talk. The parents talk and the children talk. They talk for thirty minutes or more. After half an hour, the boys and girls all go and play together. They play and talk.

Malick plays a musical instrument. He plays the harmonica. His friends and cousins always love it when he plays. He plays his music for twenty minutes. After the music, they go back with the family and talk.

Malick’s dad says, “You can tell Vlad about our trip, Malick.”

Malick is happy: “Oh, yes, our trip! We are going to London in three weeks! We are going there during the summer holidays.”

Vlad says, “Wow, holidays in London, that’s so cool! My family loves London. My dad works there sometimes. It is really interesting.”

Malick's mom says, "Oh, that's good. Tell Malick about London. We don't know London."

Malick: "I don't know much about London. But I want to know more."

Vlad: "Oh, you have to see the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum. They are so interesting. In the Natural History Museum, you can see big dinosaurs. And in the Science Museum, you can see really cool machines."

Malick: "Oh no. My mom and dad don't want to go there. They don't like museums. I want to go but my mom and dad don't want to."

Vlad: "Oh, but you have to go. The museums are sooo cool. And they are free. You don't need money for them. Many museums in London are free. They are the coolest things in London."

Malick wants to see the museums, but his parents don't want to. It's a problem.



Chapter Two

In London

It is summer and the holidays are here. Malick and his family are in London for their holiday. In the morning, they eat at the hotel. The food is good. This is the first day. They leave the hotel in the morning and go to Hyde Park first. Hyde Park is near the hotel. It is a very big park.

From Hyde Park they take the bus to go to Buckingham Palace. The Queen lives at the palace. You can't go in when the Queen is there. It is her home and the Queen doesn't want tourists in her home when she is there. But she doesn't always live there. The Queen isn't there now, so they can go in and look at Buckingham Palace.

After Buckingham Palace, they go to Piccadilly Circus and Chinatown. In Chinatown they eat chicken and more Chinese food. Malick's parents like Chinese food, but Malick and Amina don't like it. They don't hate it but they want to eat something English.

The next morning, the family takes the Underground to go to Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. They take a selfie and send the photo to Malick's aunts,

uncles and eight cousins in Germany. The cousins, two boys and six girls, all like the photo. They want to be in London, too.

Malick's mother says to Malick and Amina, "Your dad and I want to go to St. Paul's Cathedral. We want you to come with us."

Malick says, "I don't want to go with you. Cathedrals are boring. I want to go to the museums. They aren't boring."

Amina says, "I want to go too. Vlad says there's a really big dinosaur in the museum."

Their mother says, "I don't want you to go alone. It is not safe. London is a big city. You are not old enough. I don't want you to go."

Vlad, we have a problem. My parents don't want to go to the museums, but Amina and I want to go.

Maybe your parents can take you there. They can go to a café & you can go to the museums.

You can go from the Science Museum to the Natural History Museum in 3 minutes.

Malick sends a message to Vlad.

Malick's mom doesn't like the idea: "No, we don't want to sit in a café, Malick. And you are too young to go alone."

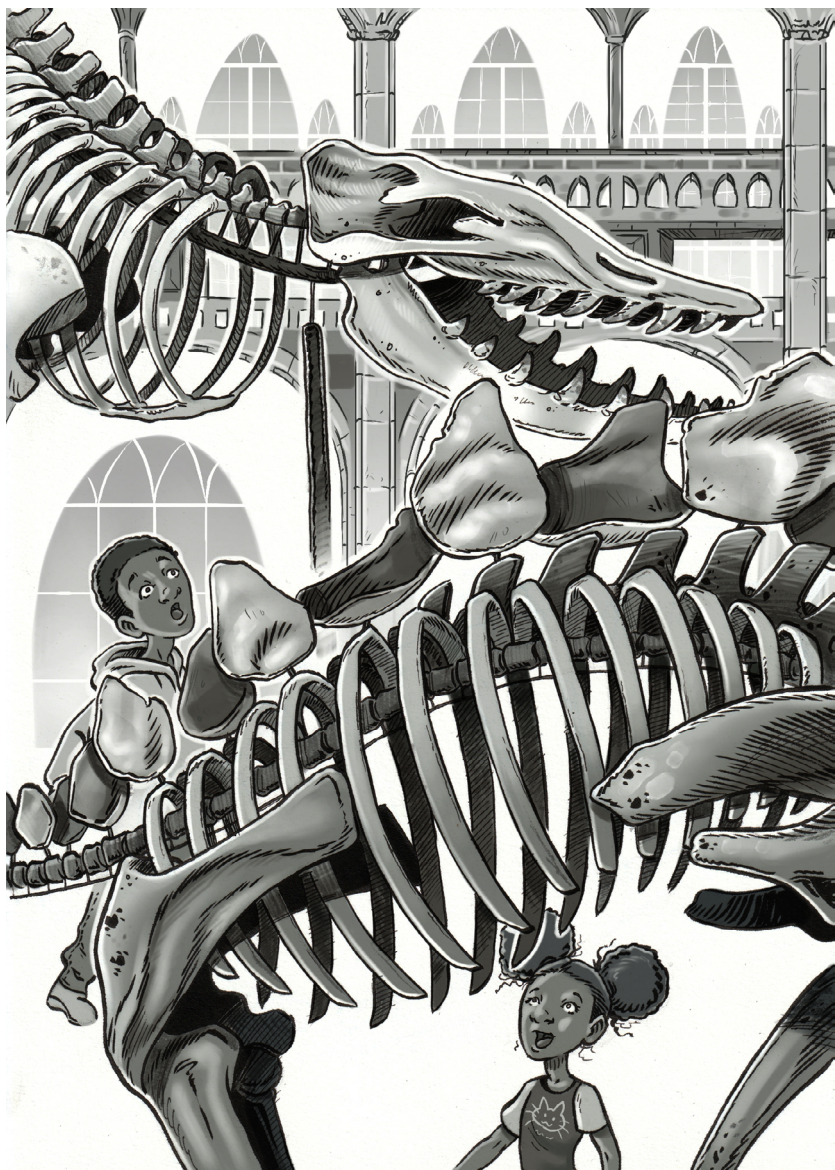
Malick says, "Mom, I am not too young. We are old enough. Amina and I can go. I have my phone. I can call you when I need help. I have an app about London, too. The app tells me where to go. It is very safe. We can meet back at the hotel after the museums."

Amina: "Yes mom, we are careful. We have Malick's phone, so it is very safe. Can we go, please?"

Their mother says, "Ok, then. But I want you to be back at six thirty. It is now eleven o'clock. You have enough time to see the museums."

"Later, please, mom. We can eat at the museum. Can we meet you at the hotel later? At seven thirty? Half past seven is good."

Malick's mom is not very happy, but she says, "Ok, maybe you are old enough. But you have to be very careful. You have to be careful because this city is new and big. It isn't like Bremen. It is much bigger and much louder and much more chaotic. You have to be careful because your English isn't perfect. You also have to be more careful because you have your sister with you. Ok?"



“Ok, mom,” say Malick and Amina. They are very, very happy.

“And do you have internet on your phone in London?”

“Yes, mom. We do.”

“Is your battery full so you can call us if there is a problem?”

“Yes, mom, it’s full. We can call you.”

Malick’s mom gives him thirty pounds. She says, “That is for your food and the bus or the Underground. The museum is free. Now, I want you to be together all the time! Call us if there is a problem. And please be careful!”

They leave the hotel together. It’s eleven a.m. Amina and Malick are very happy. They are happy because they aren’t with their parents. They are alone in London. But they aren’t scared. They are happy. They can do what they want.

First, they go to the Natural History Museum. It’s twelve o’clock and they are hungry. They eat fish and chips at the museum. The chips are not the chips you eat as a snack when you see a movie. Malick understands now. They are the chips that you eat with ketchup. He likes it. It is good English food.

