

transcript

level 1

Try not to look at this until you've done all the exercises that go with the listening.

The sapphire story

Jackie: For this week's podcastsineenglish.com I'm talking to James, hello James.

James: Hello.

Jackie: And James is here on holiday in Thailand.

James: Yeah, it's fantastic but very hot.

Jackie: Very hot, yeah, what have you seen already in Thailand?

James: Well, we've been on a trip on the river.

Jackie: Um hum.

James: Uh... on one of the bus boats, which is a great way to move around the city, uh...we've seen a few temples and today we went to Chinatown.

Jackie: And did you enjoy Chinatown?

James: I thought it was fantastic but very busy.

Jackie: Yes lots of people um...but it's one of my favourite parts of Bangkok. Did you go into any of the gold shops that they have there?

James: Uh... I saw lots of gold shops but er... I tried to keep away from shops like that, I don't like jewellery shops in Thailand.

Jackie: You don't like jewellery shops, no?

James: No, I had a bad experience many years ago.

Jackie: Oh dear, what happened?

James: Well, I came to Thailand when I was 18, uh... probably about 15 years ago, and the second day we were here we met a nice man who said that he was a student and wanted to show us a bit of the city.

Jackie: A, a... a local person?

James: Yeah, a local Thai man from Bangkok... very friendly, very nice and he said, "I'll take you on a tour tomorrow".

- Jackie: Right.
- James: So we met him the following day and he took us to a temple, which was closed.
- Jackie: Oh...
- James: Then he took us to the zoo, which was very, very, very hot. And because we were only in Thailand for two days we were very affected by the heat. So he said, 'Would you like to come to a shop I know, which has very good air conditioning?'
- Jackie: Oh, that sounds dangerous.
- James: It was very dangerous, so we said, okay, what a good idea and we went to cool down, so...
- Jackie: He had a taxi, the man?
- James: ...no, but he took us to a taxi.
- Jackie: Right.
- James: So we all jumped in a taxi together and crossed Bangkok to a special government shop.
- Jackie: Right.
- James: Now in the government shop they gave us a tour of how they make blue sapphires.
- Jackie: Ah...so it was jewellery shop that specialised in sapphires?
- James: Um mmm, blue sapphires can only be found, I think, in Thailand.
- Jackie: Right, I think that's true.
- James: So we were very impressed and felt we were very lucky to see how the blue sapphires were made.
- Jackie: So he took, he showed you how they were made and it all seemed very official did it?
- James: Well inside the shop there were two soldiers.
- Jackie: Right.
- James: So it looked very official and it said 'government shop' outside and, uh... they gave us a coca cola to drink and we were very happy and

felt very lucky. But then they took us upstairs and showed us some sapphires, which were for sale.

Jackie: Oh....

James: And that's where every thing went wrong.

Jackie: And they tried to sell you some sapphires?

James: Well it's very strange because afterwards we felt that it was our idea to buy some sapphires, we asked them if we could buy some sapphires.

Jackie: Oh, they were very clever then?

James: Very clear, yes.

Jackie: So they gave you the idea that you could buy some sapphires?

James: Exactly.

Jackie: Right.

James: And they said, they told us they explained that we would be very rich because we could sell the sapphires in England later for five times the money.

Jackie: Oh, oh... and you were tempted, you, you agreed to buy some sapphires?

James: Yes, unfortunately we did buy some sapphires.

Jackie: Oh...not a lot I hope?

James: Well around 2000 US dollars.

Jackie: Ah! You spent 2000 US dollars on sapphires?!

James: Between three of us.

Jackie: Oh, no!

James: So this was very bad news because this was most of the money we had for the rest of our holiday...

Jackie: You spent your holiday money on the sapphires?

James: Yes.

- Jackie: And then, so, you, you left the shop with 2000 dollar's worth of sapphires?
- James: No, we left the sapphires in the shop...
- Jackie: Uh!
- James: ...and they promised to send them to England. In fact they did send the sapphires to England but when they arrived in England, uh... my friend's mother took them to a jewellery shop in London, who said that they weren't worth very much money.
- Jackie: Oh, no, James that's terrible.
- James: It was terrible.
- Jackie: So you're having a good time here but no more jewellery shops?
- James: No more jewellery shopping, I learnt a very important lesson, but I was 18, I was on holiday and too young to know better.
- Jackie: [Laughs], okay great, thanks a lot James.
- James: Okay.