

TAPESCRIPT

Ruby: Hi Lucas! How was your week in Berlin?

Lucas: Hi Ruby, Hi Ines. Oh it was so cool! We rented bikes and toured the whole city that way. I loved it! **Ines:** Wasn't that a bit scary? On a bike in a big city ... with all the traffic, I mean?

Lucas: No, not really. They have a lot of bike lanes and the roads are quite wide, anyway. They have traffic lights specially for cyclists at big crossroads. Plus, there are hardly any hills. The city is really flat. The only problem is, it can be quite windy and rainy. At least, it was when we were there. We got wet a few times, but I didn't mind. It must be really hard to cycle there in the winter with the snow and ice, though.

Ines: Yeah. Hey, didn't you and your family ride bikes in Mexico City once, Ruby? Now that sounds stressful to me!

Ruby: No, it wasn't because we only rode bikes on a Sunday, and they close a lot of streets to other traffic on Sundays. It's really fun being out and about with so many other cyclists. I don't know about cycling on other days. It might be stressful, but they do have some cycle lanes. The air isn't great, though, when all the cars are on the streets. But one of the reasons the government wants people to cycle is to help reduce the air pollution.

Lucas: So, Ines, it sounds like you're not a cycling fan, then?

Ines: Well, not in cities. Though now that you mention it, I did borrow a bike and cycle in Lisbon with my cousins once and that was fun!

Ruby: Wait ... stop ... Lisbon? I've been there. It's all steep hills and really narrow streets. It can't be a good place to ride a bike!

Ines: OK, some neighbourhoods are very hilly but you can cycle along the waterfront for miles. It's flat and there's a bike path and it's so beautiful! Also, my cousins live in the suburbs, where cycling is easier than in the old town. But I agree that if you're on holiday in Lisbon and you want to see the famous old neighbourhoods on the hills, a bike is probably not the best way to do it.

Lucas: It's the best way to see Berlin, though. And if you don't want to cycle around alone, you can take a guided bike tour.

Ruby: Most cities have guided bike tours these days, I think. They're a really good idea ...