

A Friend Visits New York

Key Vocabulary Phrases

1. We had a great time and hung out a lot
2. I took him to a burger joint
3. He had certain stereotypes in mind
4. We stumbled on some seedy sections.
5. The most respectful way is to say "people of color"
6. Hollywood has fed him the "rags to riches" story
7. ...the idealized story about wealthy people not working much
8. ...it's definitely a myth

A: Hey so wasn't your friend here last week from Spain? How was his visit?

B: Yeah he stayed at my place for, like, a few weeks. **We had a great time and hung out a lot. I took him to a burger joint** that I used to go to, but I guess he was surprised about some of the things he saw here.

A: Oh really, like what?

B: I mean, I guess like a lot of people, he has seen a lot of Hollywood movies and **he had certain stereotypes in mind.**

A: So what did he expect?

B: Well first of all we went downtown and he was shocked that the Lower East Side of Manhattan is safe.

A: Oh yeah downtown Manhattan has never been safer.

B: I guess he heard about it back in the 60'S and 70's when there were drug dealers on

every corner and heroin needles all over Tompkins Square Park.

A: Haha yeah it's totally different now.

B: But we did go out to a party at a loft in Bushwick, Brooklyn and **we stumbled on some seedy sections**. My buddy was surprised by the housing conditions in Bushwick compared with downtown Manhattan.

A: Yeah a lot of my friends from abroad ask me how they should refer to African-Americans, like what is the correct thing to say?

B: Yeah I get that question from my international friends a lot too- I usually just tell them that the **most respectful way is to say "people of color"**

A: Yeah

B: Yeah, anyways, I guess he was surprised by some of the poverty that he saw in parts of Brooklyn because **Hollywood has fed him the "rags to riches" story** for so many years.

A: I know, it's either that or it's the **idealized "Sex and the City" story about wealthy people not working much** and living the good life.

B: Haha true- I think that show is funny, **but it's definitely a myth**. It's pretty unrealistic, isn't it?

A: So I guess, as your friend found out, the best way to learn the truth about a country or a city is just to, ya know, just get on a plane and check it out for yourself.

B: Yeah, that's it. So where are you going next?

A: I think I'm going to take a trip to Sydney.

B: Oh, sounds great- especially at this time of year. It'll be warm down there. Enjoy!

A: Yeah thanks it should be great.