



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Which country would you most like to visit – England or France? Why?
- 2 What is the difference between being on holiday and travelling?
- 3 Why do you think people from the USA like visiting Europe?

Miranda Hope is a young woman from the USA. In the 1870s, she visits Europe, on her own. First, she visits England and then France. During her time in Europe she writes to her mother regularly.

- 1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question.
Who do you think William Platt is?

A Bundle of Letters (1879)

Henry James

My dear mother – I sent you my news last Tuesday but my letter will not have arrived yet. I am glad you show my letters to the family, for I like them all to know what I am doing, and I can't write to everyone.

- 5 There is one thing, I hope – that you don't show any of my letters to William Platt. I don't want him to see one of these letters, written for the family, for anything in the world. If he wants one for himself, he has got to write to me first. Let him write to me first, and then I will think
- 10 about answering him. You can show him this if you like; but if you show him anything more, I will never write to you again.
I told you about my **farewell** to England and my first **impressions** of Paris. I have thought a lot about that lovely
- 15 England since I left it and I have come to the **conclusion** that it is not a country in which I want to live. The position of women does not seem to me at all **satisfactory**, something, you know, on which I feel very strongly. But they had a most lovely way of speaking (in England), and
- 20 the men are **remarkably** handsome. (You can show this to William Platt, if you like.)



- 25 I gave you my first impressions of Paris, which I like **greatly**. There are many interesting things here and the climate is cheerful and sunny. I should say the position of woman here was **considerably** higher, though much lower than the American **standard**.

GLOSSARY

farewell	goodbye
impressions	ideas, feelings, or opinions about something or someone
conclusion	the opinion you have after considering all the information about something
satisfactory	good enough
remarkably	in a way that makes you feel surprised
greatly	very much
considerably	large or important enough to have an effect
standard	a level of quality, especially a level that is acceptable

