

Water for Everyone ★ Unit 3 Resource A

A moral dilemma in Goa

LUCY'S STORY



I honestly think our family's holiday to Goa had been one of the best ever. Everything went right from the beginning. We had the beautiful pool and our own fabulous hotel beach with a lovely little snack bar for drinks and nibbles. It was such great value.

We met up with a lovely family called the Tylers from Kent and got chatting about next year and would we all try to meet up again. They told us they were buying into a new time-share development being constructed nearby so they could keep coming back to Goa. It would be so much more affordable.

Dave and I decided to look into doing the same thing, but on the only day we had left to visit the new development he had promised the children a final snorkelling lesson. The Tylers were busy golfing, so I hired a taxi and went to the new site myself, feeling very adventurous.

I don't think I've ever been so impressed with a holiday venue. I was given a quick tour of the show apartment and saw where the gardens and swimming pool would be. It was absolutely lovely, almost as if you had an English style beach home but with great weather. Within half an hour I was ready to sign on the dotted line. But first I decided to take a walk along the shore.

As I strolled along I could imagine us all here in the coming years – perhaps even with my grandchildren. I passed by a Goan man looking out to sea and said hello – thinking he might be from the village in the trees beyond the beach. He smiled and asked in English if I was enjoying myself.

When I explained how I was hoping to be a regular visitor in the nearby apartments, his expression changed. I seemed to have upset him and asked him why.

"Your new place will suck our village well dry," he said. "We are afraid we'll be left with no water supply." I was quite shocked and said he must be mistaken as the developers had told me it was an eco-friendly enterprise approved by the local council.

He shrugged and moved on, saying "You must do what you think is right."

Walking back, my mind was in turmoil. We've worked hard all our lives for decent holidays and the time-share seemed so right for us. But I began wondering if I should sign the agreement or not.