

Across – Although -Around – As – Beyond- But - Even – Far- For -How- Like - On – Over- Still – Through - To -Up -What - Yet-

Staying grounded

I have always thought of myself as a green kind of person: I recycle, have a home full of energy-saving lightbulbs...but late last year I realised that in the air I was a polluter of Texan proportions.

I used a carbon calculator to see just ...1... bad things were. They were bad.

In 2007 I would make only two personal return flights. Beyond that, if I wanted to go somewhere I'd usually fly..2... I would take a train or stay at home.

In April we grabbed a cheap Eurostar deal to Paris and then Tours where we picked ...3...a low-emission hire car and drove ..4.... the chateaux of the Loire Valley.We weren't entirely green: but then we had achieved ...5... lower CO2 emissions than we'd usually manage.

My friends made it clear that I was being a pain in the neck, I was disrupting their plans and also making some of them uncomfortable.

« It felt..6... you were rubbing in my face the fact that I am7...flying » said my friend Sven.

In June, a friend working in Naples invited me to join him.

I'd always found Deutsche Bahn helpful ..8...booking train tickets that pass9... a couple of countries. So I phoned their London office to see what deals could be had.

London to Naples by train would take....10....24 hours and cost almost £400. So I gave11..... .

I booked a flight with easyJet for £140. ...12.... with the return train fare to Stansted on top of that, the cost saving was huge.

Although I'd used up only one of my two-flight ration, it felt like a defeat. The cost of travelling ...13.... a few EU internal borders make longer train journeys very expensive.

Getting around has been a costly adventure rather than a chore, and my carbon footprint is far lower than if I'd flown.

I think I might keep this up.

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