Hannah Gooding

Living in America, there are not many cities where it is common to walk everywhere. We are so used to getting in the car to go just two miles. When I went to Granada, Spain, the hardest thing to get used to was walking. To get to school every day, I had to walk 30 minutes briskly to get to school on time. However, as I walked on the sidewalks under the clear blue sky, I often loved the walking. It made me feel like someone who lived in New York and had important places to go. Although walking was one of the things I complained about the most, it was also something that I enjoyed experiencing.

When I first arrived, I quickly grew tired of the walking and wondered how so many women there could wear heels and wedges. When I went shoe shopping, I found out why. The shoes in Spain were made much better than the ones here because the people walk so much. I still love the pair of wedges I bought and they are the most comfortable pair of shoes that I own.

As much as I hoped to become completely fluent in Spanish in the month I was in Spain, I didn’t, but I’m not disappointed. I learned so much about traveling and surviving in a culture that is not my own. My struggles in wanting lemonade made me appreciate it even more as I only let myself buy a few bottles of that precious and hard to find drink. It also made me grow somewhat fond of water, which is something I have never liked. I am glad I was in Granada after hearing they have the cleanest water in all of Spain because it flowed straight from the nearby mountains. I was also thankful I went to Granada because when I visited Madrid, there were so many people who spoke English and they would never give me the opportunity to practice my Spanish. It was so much easier to learn Spanish in a city where you have to get out and use it every day.