

Language for ...

Holiday accommodation

Age: Adult

Level: Upper-intermediate

Length: 45–60 minutes

Language Focus: vocabulary associated with holiday accommodation

Skills: speaking, reading

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student; one piece of lined paper per student for exercise 4

Aims: to provide students with the language needed for finding and booking holiday accommodation



What are red words?

Ninety per cent of the time, speakers of English use just 7,500 words in speech and writing. These words appear in the Macmillan Dictionary in red and are graded with stars. One-star words are frequent, two-star words are more frequent and three-star words are the most frequent. 'Language for' lessons are based on red words and encourage students to improve their English through communicative tasks using collocation and commonly used phrases.

- 1 As preparation for the lesson, ask students to explore one or two holiday accommodation and/or hotel websites (e.g. www.booking.com, www.phcompany.com/principal), note down any words they see repeatedly and check their meanings in the Macmillan Dictionary.



Teaching tip: Students could be invited to share their findings in a word cloud platform (e.g. <https://answergarden.ch>) which could be displayed and briefly discussed as the class begins.

Likely keywords: *single/double/twin/family room, en suite, deluxe, superior, standard, full English / continental breakfast, self-catering, apartment, four-/five-star, complimentary, wi-fi, toiletries, linen, room service, location, facilities, parking, rate*

- 2 Start the lesson by asking students to work in pairs and look at the images, discussing which of the three types of accommodation they would prefer to stay in. Listen to their ideas as a class, encouraging students to report what their partner said. Next, tell students that they are going to read some texts about different types of holiday accommodation. Where did they stay when they last went on holiday? Elicit responses from some students.
- 3 Tell students to read the four texts and, remaining in the same pairs, work together to quickly complete exercise 2a. Check answers as a class. Spend a couple of minutes reviewing some useful vocabulary from the texts/exercise, e.g. *caravan* (= holiday home on wheels that can be pulled by car; *trailer* in American English), *static* (= unable to move), *linen* (= the term usually used to describe sheets and bedding in holiday accommodation), *amenities* (= another word for *facilities* that often crops up in this context), *furnished* (= containing furniture), *en suite* (= describing a bathroom connected to another room) and *communal* (= available for everyone to use).
- 4 Ask students to carefully read the texts again and then complete exercise 2b independently. Check answers as a class.
- 5 Ask students to complete exercise 2c independently and then compare their answers with a partner. Encourage them to scan the text for the relevant keywords rather than reading in detail again. Invite the fastest finishers to give their answers and check answers as a class.

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- 6** Now split the students into small groups to discuss the questions in 2d. Encourage them to make notes about their ideas and have one member of the group report back to the rest of the class. Remind them to think about issues such as location, cost, flexibility, the number and type of people staying in the accommodation, etc.
- 7** Ask students to complete exercise 3a independently. Remind them to look back at the bold words in the text and their surrounding context for clues. Check answers as a class.
- 8** Complete the reordering exercise 3b as a class activity, ensuring that the correct answers are available for all to see, as they will form a resource for students in the following productive exercise.
- 9** Direct students to the four pictures of unusual types of accommodation (lighthouse, cabins, Japanese pod hotel and treehouse). What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Which would they prefer to stay in? Why? Next, students either choose one of these pictures or design their own unusual holiday accommodation. They should think about where the accommodation is, what rooms and amenities the accommodation contains and how much it would cost. Using this information, students write one or two paragraphs describing their accommodation and encouraging people to stay in it. Explain that they can look back at exercise 2 for help. Once finished, display the writing around the room.
- 10** Students now read about each of their classmate's accommodation. Which do they prefer? Tell students to imagine that they want to go on holiday. They need to decide when they wish to go on holiday, find an accommodation they like and ask questions of the 'owner' to find out if it is available. Students can also ask for some more details about the property, looking back at exercise 3b for help.

 **Teaching tip:** Students can read about another form of unusual accommodation, *glamping*, in a Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord article at: www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/glamping.html

KEY:

- 1** students' own answers
- 2a** 1 apartment
2 houseboat
3 hotel
4 hostel
- 2b** 1 F
2 F
3 T
4 N
5 F
6 T
7 F

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2c

	Barcelonetta	Canal	The Pemberley	Chillout
air-conditioning				✓
breakfast			✓	✓
en suite bathroom	✓		✓	✓
free wi-fi	✓		✓	✓
linen	✓		✓	✓
kitchen	✓	✓		
satellite TV			✓	

2d students' own answers

3a 1 cook

2 higher

3 free

4 two beds, one larger bed

5 more

6 everything

7 repaired and improved

8 limited

3b 1 What time can I check in?

2 Do you provide linen and towels? /

Do you provide towels and linen?

3 How many people does the property sleep?

4 Is there a cleaning fee?

5 When do we need to check out by?

6 Does that price include breakfast?

7 Do you have free parking?

8 Is the room available on those dates?

4, 5 students' own answers

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1 Warmer

- a Look at the three types of holiday accommodation. Which would you prefer to stay in? Why?



A



B



C

2 Text

- a Read the four texts below. What kind of holiday accommodation is each text describing? Complete the texts with the words in the box. There is one word that you don't need.

apartment	caravan	hostel	hotel	houseboat
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01

Located in the Barcelonetta district, this large 1. _____ sleeps up to five people (one double bedroom with en suite shower room, and three singles). Offering views of the sea from a private balcony, this is the perfect location for a family getaway, close to the beach and yet within very easy access of the metro and city centre attractions. The accommodation is bright and comfortably furnished, with a **fully-equipped** kitchen (fridge, freezer, microwave, dishwasher, kettle), a second bathroom and a utility area with washing machine and tumble drier. All linen and towels are provided. Free, secure wi-fi and flat screen TV with DVD player. Please note: This is a first-floor property. There is no lift. Please check the calendar for availability and rates.

02

Sitting on the Avon canal, our 2. _____ offers accommodation with a difference. Suitable for up to four adults, this holiday home is static, so no danger of floating away as you doze! A short walk from local amenities, this cosy living space is fully-equipped for a **self-catering** holiday, with cooking and eating area, shower room and sleeping area (one double sofa bed in the living area). Please bring your own linen and towels. Prices from £350 per week. Tel: 0333 759248.

03

Wake up to fresh sea air and spectacular sunlight, surrounded by the finest furnishings and fittings for ultimate luxury. With 50 bedrooms available, including **standard** double and twin rooms, sea-view deluxe rooms and a number of luxury suites, The Pemberley 3. _____ offers top-quality accommodation on the South West Coast. Should you choose a bed and breakfast option, this is available in our restaurant where we serve both continental and full English breakfasts, cooked to order.

Our guest rooms include free wi-fi, tea- and coffee-making facilities, flat screen TV with satellite channels, and a safe for your comfort and convenience. All our linen is made from the finest Egyptian cotton. Our contemporary and stylish **deluxe** rooms include a **complimentary** mini-bar for your enjoyment. Our recently **refurbished** suites have a double bedroom with en suite bathroom, in addition to a relaxing separate lounge area. Free parking on-site. Prices start from £150 per night for a standard double/twin.

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04

Chillout 4. _____ is located in the old city of Istanbul and is only a few minutes from the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and other key attractions. It's also just ten minutes from the Grand Bazaar and Taksim Square. Our rooms are simple, stylish and inexpensive. We offer convenient accommodation for international travellers **on a budget**.

Guests can choose from six- or four-bed dormitories, private **double/twin rooms** and private family rooms. All rooms are fully air-conditioned with heating and hot water. In dormitories, each bed has a curtain for your privacy. Private rooms have private bathrooms and TV. You can meet people from all around the world in our communal roof top terrace where a free breakfast is served. Free wi-fi throughout. Prices as low as €25 per night (linen hire available).



b. Read the texts again. Are the following statements true (T), false (F) or not mentioned (N)?

1. Chillout isn't suitable for families with children.
2. Everyone staying in the canal accommodation has a separate bedroom.
3. You need to climb stairs to enter the accommodation in Barcelonetta.
4. Suites in The Pemberley have a view of the sea.
5. You can watch TV in all of the accommodation described.
6. One of the types of accommodation is near to public transport.
7. You cannot leave your car near The Pemberley.

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3 Language in use

a Look at the words and phrases in bold in the text and circle the correct option to complete the sentences.

1. In self-catering accommodation, you *cook* / *don't cook* your own food.
2. A deluxe room is *lower* / *higher* quality than a standard room.
3. If something is complimentary, it is given to you *for a fee* / *free*.
4. A twin room has *one bed* / *two beds* in it, and a double room usually has *two smaller beds* / *one larger bed*.
5. If an apartment sleeps up to five people, no *more* / *less* than five people can stay in it.
6. If a kitchen is fully-equipped, it has *some things* / *everything* you are likely to need.
7. If accommodation is refurbished, it is *repaired and improved* / *a cheaper price*.
8. If someone is travelling on a budget, they have a *large* / *limited* amount of money to spend.

b Put the words in order to make questions people often ask about holiday accommodation.

1. time / what / I / in / check / can / ?

2. provide / do / linen / towels / and / you / ?

3. many / how / sleep / property / does / people / the / ?

4. fee / there / cleaning / a / is / ?

5. check / when / we / out / by / need / do / to / ?

6. include / the / does / breakfast / price / ?

7. free / do / you / have / parking / ?

8. the / available / those / on / dates / is / room / ?

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4 Communicate



The images above show five types of unusual holiday accommodation. What are they? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Which one would you prefer to stay in? Why?

Choose one of the photos above or think of your own unusual type of holiday accommodation. Decide where it is, what rooms and facilities are included in the accommodation and how much it costs. Now write one or two paragraphs about your accommodation to encourage people to come to stay in it. Look back at exercise 2a to help you.

5 Discuss

Read what your classmates have written for exercise 4 above. Imagine you want to go on holiday and choose some dates. Choose which of their accommodation you like the most and ask some questions about it. Use exercise 3b to help you. Answer other people's questions about your own accommodation.

Red Words

accommodation**

apartment*

bathroom**

breakfast***

budget***

double***

facilities***

hotel***

kitchen***

location***

parking*

private***

room***

standard***