

HOLIDAYS

Reading

Tip Read the questions carefully and underline the key words. Scan the texts for the information you need. As you are reading, underline parts of the texts which are related to the questions. When you finish reading, go back to the questions and try to answer them one by one referring to the texts. Keep in mind that some information may be rephrased.

Reading

- 3 a. Look at the subheadings of the article. In which country are these places situated? What information do you expect to read?

b. Ask questions about the hotels, using the key words: situated? shops? countryside? sea? modern? room service? activities? facilities?

- c. Read the article and answer the questions 1-13. Write A, B, C or D.

Which place(s):

- is not a hotel? ☐ 0 ☐ D
- are perfect for a luxury break? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐
- offers the chance to visit a famous person's home? ☐ 3 ☐
- is situated on a hill? ☐ 4 ☐
- are not far from shops? ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐
- offers the chance to eat outdoors? ☐ 7 ☐
- is suitable for fitness fanatics? ☐ 8 ☐
- is near the sea? ☐ 9 ☐
- is not in the countryside? ☐ 10 ☐
- was built more than 100 years ago? ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐

- d. Read the article again and explain the words in bold. Then, give a synonym for the highlighted words. Can you find any words in the text similar to your language?
- e. Which place would you like to stay at? Why?

Getting away from it all

A Radisson SAS Portman Hotel, London

For those who enjoy the **finer things in life**, a break at the Radisson SAS Portman Hotel will be right up your street. This deluxe four-star hotel is just a minute's walk away from Marble Arch and a **stone's throw** from the stylish boutiques of Oxford Street. After spending a day shopping and sightseeing in London's trendiest area, you can relax in your room, watch cable TV and enjoy something from the **extensive** room service menu. At this hotel, you will also be in the ideal place to visit the many sights of London such as Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament. You must also be sure to allow yourself the time to enjoy the leisure facilities of the hotel itself. The hotel has a **fully equipped** gym and two fantastic restaurants where you can **sample** gourmet cuisine.

B Langley Castle Hotel, Northumberland

For a touch of medieval magic why not take the time to visit Langley Castle Hotel. Set in its own ten-acre **woodland** this fabulous castle hotel **dates back** to 1350. All guest rooms have got private facilities and are luxurious. Some have special features such as four-poster beds, **stained glass** windows and window seats. The hotel is the perfect base from which to explore Hadrian's Wall and the Northumberland countryside, as well as the Scottish Borders and the Lake District. At night, relax in the hotel lounge in front of the **roaring** log fire or dine in style in the **award-winning** restaurant. During your stay, you can go hot-air ballooning or try your hand at **archery**. You can even have a picnic especially prepared for you by the hotel's chefs. However you choose to spend your time, you will never forget your stay.

C The Metropole Hotel, Cornwall

This Victorian Hotel, situated in one of the most **scenic** areas of the British Isles, stands on a hilltop with an amazing view out over Padstow Harbour. Walk along the **waterfront** or one of the area's many **unspoiled** beaches. Try some fabulous seafood – the local speciality. Wander through Padstow's narrow streets and buy some **handmade** souvenirs from one of the many colourful shops. This is an area with a fascinating history. Take a short trip to Tintagel where you can visit the ruins, claimed to be those of the legendary King Arthur's castle. You can end the day with a **swim** in the hotel's heated outdoor pool. The Metropole Hotel is ideal for those who want to experience the mystery of Cornwall.

D Old Oxenhope Hall Cottage, West Yorkshire

Fans of English Literature should not miss the opportunity to spend a few days at Old Oxenhope Hall Cottage. This attractive 17th century building is just five minutes from the village of Haworth, where the famous Brontë sisters lived. Their house, **Haworth Parsonage**, is **open to the public** and is well worth a visit. The **moors**, where they would wander for hours, are perfect for those who enjoy walking. The cottage itself is fully **self-contained** and has been **restored** to a high standard of comfort. It is furnished with all the **modern conveniences**, and will certainly appeal to history lovers and **aspiring** writers alike.

Follow-up

- 4 a. Read the article again, choose one hotel and make notes under the headings below. Then, use your notes to talk about it.
- name • location • description • facilities • things to see etc
- b. Make notes under the same headings for a place you have stayed on holiday. Then use your notes to write a short article about it. You can use the article in Ex. 3 as a model.

- 10 You are going to read some geographical information about different English-speaking countries. For questions (1-12), choose the country (A-C). There is an example at the beginning.

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD

A Ireland

LAND: The Republic of Ireland takes up about 83% of the island of Ireland, which is located in north-western Europe. Ireland is a small country with an area of just 70,285 km². Although there are high mountains near the coasts, the central part of Ireland is flatter and used for farmland.

CLIMATE: Most of Ireland is mild and wet throughout the year, giving Ireland its green countryside and earning it the name *The Emerald Isle*.

PEOPLE: Dublin is both the capital and the largest city. However, only about 57% of the Irish people today live in urban areas. The first Irish people probably came from Scandinavia to Scotland and then to Ireland about 8,000 years ago. Since then, Ireland has been invaded and colonised by Celts, Vikings, English and Scots. Today, most of Ireland's 3,500,000 population are of Celtic origin. It was the Celts who first introduced the language we know today as Irish, which is one of the country's official languages. English is the other official language.



B New Zealand

LAND: Located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, New Zealand is a small country of about 270,543 km². It is made up of two main islands, the North Island and the South Island, as well as a number of smaller islands. The North Island is famous for its volcanoes and many hot springs as well as its many forests, hills and mountains. The South Island has many high, snow-capped mountains.

CLIMATE: Most of the country is mild and rainy throughout the year, with the South Island much cooler than the North.

PEOPLE: Although Wellington is the capital city, it is not the largest. About one third of New Zealand's population lives in Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand. Today, only about 15% of all New Zealanders live in rural areas.

Most of New Zealand's 3,683,000 population are descendants of British settlers. There are also increasing numbers of people of Asian and Pacific island descent living in New Zealand. About 526,000 Maoris also live in New Zealand. Their ancestors came from the Polynesian Islands about 1,000 years ago. Today, the official language of New Zealand is English, although many Maoris speak their own language, Maori, as well.



C Canada

LAND: Canada, with an area of 9,970,610 km², is the second largest country in the world, spread across the top of North America. Canada is perhaps best known for its vast size, and variety of natural wilderness areas. The high mountains in the west of Canada are covered with green forests and crystal clear lakes, while in the centre are flat lands known as prairies. Further south, there are rolling hills.

CLIMATE: The climate ranges from temperate in the south to arctic in the north. In fact, the far north arctic landscape is so cold that trees cannot grow there. In the north the winters are cold and summers are short and quite cool, whereas in the south the winters are cold, and the summers are warm. It is wet on the coasts and dry in the centre.

PEOPLE: Ottawa is the capital of Canada, but Toronto is the largest city, with a population of over 4 million. More than one third of Canada's population of 29,450,000 are the descendants of British immigrants and there are almost as many descendants of French immigrants. This is why both English and French are the official languages of Canada. Other large immigrant groups include German, Italian and Asian people. Native American Indians and Inuit make up only a small part of Canada's population.



Which country(ies)

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| • is smaller than only one other country? | 0 <input type="checkbox"/> | • has an area where there are no trees? 6 | |
| • are islands? | 1 2 | • are made up of many different cultural groups? 7 8 | |
| • has one official language? | 3 | • have a population of about three million? 9 10 | |
| • have a constant climate throughout the year? | 4 5 | • have minority racial groups? 11 12 | |

(15 marks)

5 Read the text about hotels in India. Are the statements true (✓) or false (X)?

- 1 There are always lots of empty hotel rooms in Delhi. _____
- 2 People usually visit the area when the weather is cool. _____
- 3 All the hotels in Rajasthan are cheap. _____
- 4 Visitors can sleep in some unusual places. _____
- 5 The Maharajas wanted to make their palaces into hotels. _____
- 6 Being impatient will make things happen more quickly. _____

2 points for each correct answer

12

Most visitors to Rajasthan fly into the Indian capital, Delhi. During the busy winter months it might be difficult to find a hotel when you arrive so you should book at least one night in advance. Hotels can quickly change from wonderful to awful so it's a good idea to ask a recent visitor to recommend somewhere.

In Rajasthan you will find hotels and guest houses to suit all pockets – some are as cheap as \$5 a night while others are as luxurious as any hotel you can imagine. For the adventurous traveller there is the option of staying in a traditional mud hut, tree houses or, if you go on a camel safari in the desert, you can sleep out under the stars. For the traveller who likes luxury, the old fort or palace hotels give an idea of what life was like for the Maharajas before modern life forced them to open their doors to the travelling public.

If you are hoping to do a lot during your visit, bear in mind that things move slowly in India. There is no point in becoming impatient, just change your way of thinking. Checking out of a hotel can take an extraordinary amount of time so, if you want to leave at a particular time in the morning, ask reception to prepare your bill the night before. Also, room service can be spectacularly slow. When you place your order, ask when it will be delivered and be ready for a long wait.