# 20 Take a Ghost Tour



## Pre-Reading

**Think about the following questions.**

1. What country do you think this castle is in? Why?
2. Does this castle look scary? Why or why not?
3. Do you believe in ghosts? Why or why not?

## Vocabulary Preview

**Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.**

| | |
|---|---|
| a. places to stay or sleep | d. put underground after death |
| b. place to put dead people | e. visited by ghosts |
| c. feast; big and formal dinner | f. parts of the body that give us shape |

1. ___ That old castle is <u>haunted</u>.
2. ___ My grandmother is <u>buried</u> near the sea.
3. ___ There are 206 <u>bones</u> in the human body.
4. ___ My grandmother is buried in a <u>cemetery</u>.
5. ___ The <u>accommodations</u> at the hotel are very comfortable.
6. ___ The king held a big <u>banquet</u> to celebrate the princess's wedding.


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# Take a Ghost Tour

Track 39

It is late at night. You hear a strange noise and feel a cold **rush** of air move past you. Was it a ghost? If you were in Chillingham Castle in Northumberland, England, it may have been! This is because Chillingham is believed to be one of the most haunted castles in England.

For almost 800 years, Chillingham Castle has been the home to ghosts of all different types. In the early 1900s, visitors to the castle reported seeing the ghost of a little boy. They gave him the name "Blue Boy" because he was always seen wearing blue clothes and surrounded by a blue light. Late in the 1920s, workmen fixing a wall in an unused bedroom had an unpleasant surprise. While working, they discovered the bones of a small child wearing blue clothes buried within the wall. Interestingly, after these remains were buried in the local cemetery, the ghost boy was never seen again.

Another ghost that has been seen in the castle is that of Lady Mary Berkeley. She died alone in the castle after her husband left her for another woman. People have heard the sound of her dress **rustling** as she walked by. There is also a painting of Lady Berkeley in the castle that some people say comes to life. Her ghost has been reported stepping out of the painting and following children around.

Then, there is also the "White Lady." This spirit is supposed to be the ghost of a woman who was poisoned to death many years ago. She has been known to go up to people, ask for a drink of water, and then disappear.

With all these reports of ghosts, you might think that people would avoid Chillingham Castle. After all, most people think of ghosts as scary things. But, in fact, Chillingham has now turned into a tourist attraction! Thousands of people visit Chillingham each year. Some just tour the **grounds** and eat in the castle **tea-room**, but others actually stay in the castle itself. A variety of accommodations are available, from rooms in the tower to **suites** in the coach house. For those people who want a more special experience, the castle hosts weddings, complete with a **medieval** banquet. And that's not all. Concerts, operas, and fairs regularly make Chillingham Castle their home. Chillingham Castle has also been used as a background location for movies and TV shows. For a haunted castle, Chillingham certainly appears to be **remarkably** popular.



Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 414 words

1 *rush*: a gust; a blast
14 *rustle*: to move with soft fluttering sounds
23 *grounds*: the outside area; a yard
23 *tea-room*: a place where people can have a snack
25 *suite*: a room that has extra space for socializing
27 *medieval*: related to the Middle Ages, 400s to 1400s CE
32 *remarkably*: amazingly; surprisingly



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## Reading Comprehension

### Choose the best answer.

**1.** What is the main idea of this reading?

a. Castles usually have ghosts.
b. Chillingham Castle has a long history.
c. Many ghosts live in England.
d. Chillingham Castle is an interesting place.

**2.** According to the reading, what is NOT true about the ghosts of Chillingham Castle?

a. There are different types of them.
b. More of the ghosts are men.
c. The Blue Boy is no longer seen.
d. Most of them have been seen over the last 800 years.

**3.** According to the reading, what does the ghost of the White Lady ask people for?

a. Her painting
b. Her husband
c. Water
d. Poison

**4.** What can you do at Chillingham Castle?

a. Eat a meal
b. Rent a room
c. See a ghost
d. All of the above

**5.** The author implies that burying the bones found in the wall _____.

a. put the ghost to rest
b. made no difference
c. was scary
d. was funny

## Idiomatic Expressions

### Find these idioms in the reading.

- **left (someone) for another man/woman** — [ to break up because of loving another person ]
  His girlfriend left him for another man.
- **complete with** — [ including ]
  Every graduation picture we sell comes complete with a frame.
- **make (somewhere) (someone's) home** — [ to stay or live somewhere ]
  We've made LA our home for the last two years.

### Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

**1.** This new knife set comes _____ a cutting board.
**2.** IBM has _____ the US their _____ for its head office.
**3.** Mary, don't ever _____ me _____!


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## Summary

Scan the passage and complete the notes with the correct information.

### I. Castle ghosts

A. Blue Boy

i. Wears blue, 1 _____ by a blue light

ii. 2 _____ of a boy dressed in blue were found within a wall

iii. After the remains were buried in a 3 _____, the ghost stopped appearing

B. Lady Mary Berkely

i. Died alone in the castle after her husband 4 _____

ii. Steps out of a 5 _____ and follows children

C. The 6 _____ Lady

i. Is thought to be a woman who was 7 _____ in the castle

ii. Asks people for a drink of water and then 8 _____

### II. Castle attractions for tourists

A. Facilities: tours of the grounds, meals in the 9 _____, and rooms and suites for guests

B. Events: weddings with medieval 10 _____, concerts, operas, and fairs



## Listening

### I Didn't Know That!

Track 40 Listen to the dialog and complete each sentence.

1. A ghost haunts _____, but a poltergeist haunts _____.

2. Ghosts are not _____, but poltergeists can be _____.

3. Ghosts are thought to be _____, but poltergeists are thought to be _____.



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## Discussion

### Discuss the following questions.

1. Would you like to stay in a castle like Chillingham? Why or why not?
2. What are some places believed to be haunted in your country?
3. If ghosts do exist, why do you think they appear in certain places and not others?

## Grammar

### Verbs of Perception

Verbs of perception like *hear, feel, see, watch*, or *listen to* are used with objects followed by the base form of a verb or a participle. When the verb of perception, however, is put into a passive voice, it should be followed by a to-infinitive or a participle, but not by the base form of a verb.

*You hear a strange noise and feel a cold rush of air (move / to move) past you.*
*They gave him the name "Blue Boy" because he was always seen (wear / wearing) blue clothes and surrounded by a blue light.*

## Writing

### Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

**A Place with a Ghost**

**(1)** What place have you heard has a ghost? **(2)** Who was the ghost? **(3)** What do you know about the place or the ghost? **(4)** Have you been to this place? **(5)** Do you believe there really is a ghost there?

**Example**

I have heard that a house in New Orleans's French Quarter has a ghost in it. The ghost was a rich man from the Middle East. He and the women in his harem were murdered in the house. I have seen this house. I don't think there are any ghosts there. I think they just want to attract tourists to that place.


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## Vocabulary and Idiom Review

### A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

**1.** The rose garden on the castle _____ is magnificent.
a. bones b. categories c. grounds d. remains

**2.** Hiking trails on the mountain will open after the winter snow _____.
a. recedes b. recovers c. represents d. reveals

**3.** The workbook comes _____ an audio CD and answer guide.
a. complete with b. for another c. my home d. prior to

**4.** If you are not planning to attend the _____, you don't need to RSVP.
a. attraction b. banquet c. existence d. trophy

**5.** There is a small _____ in the yard behind the old church.
a. accommodation b. castle c. cemetery d. suite

**6.** People say the old house on the hill is _____, so they are afraid to go into it.
a. buried b. haunted c. official d. remarkable

**7.** This message is _____. Please reply immediately.
a. dishonest b. duplicate c. rustling d. urgent

### B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

**8.** All of the _____ on the tour were top-rated hotels.
a. accommodations b. accommodate c. accommodating

**9.** It is much easier to cook the recipe using _____ chicken, rather than a whole chicken.
a. bone b. boney c. boneless

**10.** She had to _____ the laptop hidden under all the papers on the desk.
a. burial b. buried c. unbury



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