UNIT 6: Accommodation

Warm-up

- **Dictation:** Write the letters you hear.

MONICA	PHOEBE	ROSS	CHANDLER

- **Reverse dictation:** spell the words and read the numbers aloud.

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Listening: Directions

Exercise 1. Listen to the dialogue between Laura and a clerk. Fill in the gaps in the transcript.

Laura: What's the fastest way to get to central London from here?
Clerk: Take the _____ Express. Just follow signs for Trains to reach Heathrow _____ station. From there, take a Heathrow Express service to London _____. Journey time is 15 minutes. Paddington Station is at the heart of London's _____ End and has excellent connections to the rest of the city. Your _____ is near there.
Laura: Oh, good! Thank you very much.

We will practice giving and taking directions more in a future lesson. This listening exercise was to introduce comparatives and superlative.

Usage: comparatives and superlatives

Today we will review comparatives and superlatives—especially in questions. This is very useful for when you must ask for directions, want to compare prices, etc.

Grammar Reference

adjective –	comparative adjective –	superlative adjective
fast	faster	fastest
good	better	best
cheap	cheaper	cheapest

There are two ways to form comparatives and superlatives—depending on the length (number of syllables) of the adjective.

- If the adjective has one syllable (like those above), English speakers add *-er* or *-est* to the end of the adjective.
- If the adjective has two or more syllables, English speakers use the words *more* or *most* before the adjective—as in Spanish. Compare:
  - *more comfortable than—más cómodo que*
  - *the most comfortable—el más cómodo.*
- The exception is 2-syllable words ending in -y (e.g. happy, lazy, etc.). These follow the first rule.

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Exercise 2. Complete the chart with the comparative or superlative forms of the adjectives.

Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
slow	than	the
amazing	than	the
hungry	than	the
patient	than	the
good	than	the
bad	than	the
angry	than	the
strange	than	the
lovely	than	the
interesting	than	the

Note that the comparative is always followed by the word *than* and that the superlative is always preceded by the word *the*.

Exercise 3. Put the adjectives into the comparative or superlative form.

1. Where is the (near) bus stop?	
2. I hope this flight is (calm) than the last one.	
3. This watch is (cheap) than that one.	
4. What's the (fast) way to downtown?	
5. When's the (earliest) flight to Buenos Aires?	
6. Which is (expensive): going by taxi or by train?	
7. The food in Zanzibar was (good) than the food in England.	
8. That was the (bad) hotel I have ever stayed in.	

Listening: At Reception

You will hear a conversation between a guest, Melissa, and a receptionist at the hotel where she's staying. She's at the front desk. Listen and try to understand it without looking at the transcript. Then listen again and fill in the blanks.

Receptionist: Hi, can I help you?
Melissa: Yes, I made a reservation a couple of weeks ago.
Receptionist: What name did you make it _____, please?
Melissa: Simmons. Melissa Simmons.
Receptionist: Ah, yes, a single _____ for two nights.
Melissa: _____, it was a double room for three nights.
Receptionist: Oh, I'm sorry about that. I'll just change the _____. Right, so that's a double room for three nights.

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Melissa: Yes, I'll be checking _____ on Monday morning.

Receptionist: Could I have your credit card and _____ please?

Melissa: Yes, here you are. Thanks.

Receptionist: You're in room _____, which is on the sixth floor. Here's your key card, and the _____ is just over there.

Melissa: Great. What time is the restaurant open for _____, please?

Receptionist: Between _____.

Melissa: OK, and is there a swimming pool here?

Receptionist: Yes, just down those _____ over there on the right. We've got some pool _____ if you need one.

Melissa: Perfect.

Receptionist: And let me know if there's anything else you need. Enjoy your _____.

Melissa: Thanks.

Speaking: FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

What do the following questions mean? Translate them to Spanish.

How much is a single room?	
Can I order **room service**? Is it **available 24/7**?	
How do I **get an outside line**? (to phone someone who is not in the hotel)	
What is **the code for** Argentina? (to make an international call)	
Can I **have breakfast in my room**, please?	
Can I **have a wake-up call** at 6.30, please?	
What time is breakfast / lunch / dinner? *	
Can I (**ex**)**change some money**, please?	
What is the **exchange rate**?	
Would you like **a porter** to help you with your bags?	

*This depends on if you have B/B, half-service or full-service.

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Key Words

- **reception / front desk** — the area in the hotel entrance where you can book rooms or ask questions :: recepción / mostrador de recepción
- **guest** — a person who is staying in a hotel :: huésped
- **lobby** — the large area near the entrance just when you walk into a hotel :: vestíbulo
- **room service** — if a hotel has "room service", it will bring food / drinks to your room :: servicio a la habitación
- **bill** — a piece of paper with information about how much you have to pay for the hotel room :: factura
- **wake-up call** — a telephone call from the hotel that will wake you up at a certain time :: servicio de despertador
- **porter** (US: bellboy) — the person who takes your bags to your room :: portero
- **lift** (US: elevator) — shaft with housing to take someone from one floor to another :: ascensor
- **view** — what you can see from the hotel window: the land, sea, mountains, etc. :: vista
- **floor** — the second "floor" of a building (for example) refers to the second level of that building with all the rooms on it :: planta
- **check in** — when you "check in" to a hotel, you go to the front desk and tell them that you've arrived :: registrarse
- **check out** — when you "check out", you go to the front desk to tell them that you're leaving and pay :: hacer el check out
- **single room** — a hotel room or bedroom designed to be used by just one person :: habitación individual
- **double room** — a hotel room or bedroom designed to be used by two people :: habitación doble
- **key card** — a small plastic card, sometimes used instead of a door key in hotels, bearing magnetically encoded data that can be read and processed by an electronic device :: tarjeta llave
- **reservation** — an arrangement in which something, especially a seat or room, is reserved for a particular person :: reserva
- **outside line** — a telephone connection with an external exchange :: línea telefónica externa
- **exchange rate** — the value of one currency for the purpose of conversion to another :: tasa cambiaria

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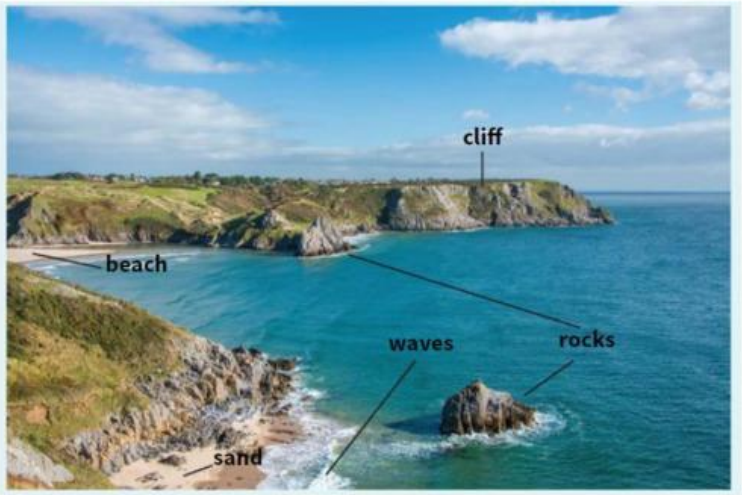
Homework



Fill in the gaps with the proper word from the box.

shore	coast
stroll	sunshine
sandy	breeze
resorts	spend

Many people ___pasan___ their holiday at the ___costa___, where there are a lot of seaside ___balnearios___ and they can go to the beach every day. Generally, people prefer beaches that are ___arenoso___, where you can go for a ___paseo___ along the ___orilla___ in the ___sol___. On the beach, you also sometimes get a ___brisa___ that blows off the sea.

Match what you want on the left with what you need on the right.

You want:	You need:
to have a drink in your room _____	A. the lift
to go to the top floor _____	B. an outside line
to open your door _____	C. a mini-bar
to get up at 6 am _____	D. a shower
to phone your country _____	E. a hairdryer
to use Google _____	F. a key or keycard
to wash your hair _____	G. a wake-up call
to dry your hair _____	H. an internet connection

Choose the right words to complete these sentences.

At ***reception / reservation*** you can order ***room / lift*** service.

We'd like a ***two / double*** room with a ***view / see*** of the garden, please.

The lift is ***after / over*** there. Take it to the second ***floor / room***.

Please ***fill / write*** in this ***form / bill***.

I'd like a ***sit-up / wake-up*** call at 7.30 and I'd like to ***make / have*** breakfast in my room, please.

I have a ***luggage / reservation*** for a ***single / one*** room with a bathroom.

Can I ***cash / have*** the bill, please? I'll ***check / change*** it now.

I'm leaving today. Can I ***exchange / order*** some dollars here before I ***pay / check*** out?

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