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Department of English Language
Real Listening & Speaking
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1st class(6th lecture)
(How about a hostel?)
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Unit 7

How about a hostel?

Get ready to listen and speak

- Match the accommodation in 1 to 4 to the correct description. The first one has been done for you.

1. guesthouse

2. campsite

3. hostel

4. hotel

- a. You usually sleep in a large room with other guests, sometimes called a dorm. There is often a kitchen so you can make your own meals and sometimes there's a bar.
- b. You have your own room and usually your own bathroom too. Breakfast is often included in the price and you can sometimes have other meals too.
- c. These are sometimes called 'bed and breakfasts'. This is usually a private house where you get your own room. Breakfast is usually included and sometimes all meals are included too. Sometimes you have to share a bathroom.
- d. You sleep in a tent here. There are usually toilets and showers. Sometimes there are shops.

- Which of the places above do you think is the cheapest? Which is the most expensive? Put them in order.

cheapest

most expensive

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A Listening - At the Tourist Information Centre

Anke is a German tourist. She has just arrived in Vancouver and is looking for accommodation. She goes to the Tourist Information Office.

- Listen to the conversation between Anke and Dan, the Tourist Information Officer. Tick ✓ the types of accommodation in Get ready that they talk about.

- Listen again and complete the table below. Write the price and yes (✓), no (X) or don't know (?). The first one has been done for you.



Place	Price (\$)	Share room	Share bathroom	Breakfast
The Pioneer	200	X	X	✓
The Vancouver Inn				
BC Lodge				
The Maple Leaf Villa				

Did you know ...?

Dollars (\$) are used in Canada, the US, Australia and New Zealand. A slang term for dollars is bucks (20 dollars = 20 bucks). Pounds (£) are used in the UK. A slang term for pounds is quid (20 pounds = 20 quid).

This conversation is between Anke (a German tourist) and Dan (a Canadian local) discussing accommodation options in Vancouver.

Aim of the Conversation :

The aim of this conversation is for students to learn how to inquire about accommodation options when traveling and to understand how to make decisions based on preferences and budget.

The conversation includes several important aspects:

- Asking for Recommendations: Anke is seeking advice on where to stay in Vancouver and asks Dan to recommend central accommodations that fit her preferences.
- Discussing Budget: They discuss the prices of different accommodations, and Anke makes decisions based on what she can afford.
- Describing Accommodations: Dan provides detailed information about each accommodation option, including the price, amenities (e.g., breakfast, private rooms, shared rooms), and the atmosphere.
- Making Choices: Anke makes an informed choice based on her preferences (e.g., shared vs. private rooms, price).

(Anke = German; Dan = Canadian)

Anke: I've just arrived here in Vancouver.

I'm looking for somewhere to stay.

Dan: What kind of accommodation would you like?

Anke: Can you recommend somewhere central? Near to the city, the shops - yeah.

Dan: OK, well, ah ... let's have a look. How about this one? The Pioneer. It's right in the centre of town. It's nice - it's comfortable, you get your own room and bathroom. So, what do you think?

Anke: How much are we talking about?

Dan: Well, it's about 200 dollars a night. But that includes breakfast.

Anke: Oh, it's too expensive for me.

Dan: Ah, OK, all right. So, let's have a look at something a bit cheaper here. Let's see, well here are some more hotels. They're all quite central and comfortable.

Anke: How much are they?

Dan: Well, the cheapest hotel is ... let's see, The Vancouver Inn - this one's 110 bucks. It includes breakfast, and all the rooms have a bathroom so that's good.

Anke: Oh, it's still a bit too expensive for me.

Dan: OK. How about a hostel? This one here - BC Lodge - you see, it's 30 bucks for a night.

Anke: What's it like?

Dan: Well, it's fairly typical. It's got shared bedrooms and you'll be sharing a bathroom, of course. There are cooking facilities - you can cook stuff there, but breakfast is provided. It's fun, it's lively - good atmosphere.

Anke: Ah OK. Yeah so ... it's a better price for me, but I'm not keen on sharing a bedroom. And I can pay a little more than 30 dollars - no problem.

Dan: OK. Oh well, I know just the thing. Here we go. This is a guesthouse, The Maple Leaf Villa.

Anke: And what about the price? Dan: 60 bucks a night. That's good - that's a good price, yeah. Cheaper than the hotels.

Anke: That sounds interesting. Can you tell me more about that?

Dan: It's very central - it's actually an historic building. Here's a photo. And you can see here that you get your own room. The bathroom's shared, but that's not so bad. You can see it's very comfortable.

Anke: Yeah, it looks good. OK, maybe a good place for me. Could I have a look at it?

Benefits of Learning This Conversation:

- **Practical Language for Travel:** This conversation helps students learn useful phrases and vocabulary when traveling, especially related to accommodation. They will know how to ask about different types of places to stay (e.g., hotel, hostel, guesthouse) and what to expect in terms of amenities and prices.
- **Building Conversation Skills:** Students will practice how to ask for recommendations, clarify information (e.g., what the place includes), and make decisions based on their needs and budget.
- **Understanding Different Accommodation Options:** By discussing hotels, hostels, and guesthouses, students will learn how to compare different types of accommodations, which can be useful when traveling in English-speaking countries.
- **Polite and Professional Communication:** The conversation shows how to discuss preferences politely and professionally, which is essential when dealing with service providers in a foreign country.
- **Cultural Awareness:** By learning this type of dialogue, students become more familiar with the types of accommodations they may encounter when traveling to English-speaking countries, helping them better understand cultural norms related to lodging.

Language Points to Focus On:

- Asking for Recommendations:
- "Can you recommend somewhere central?"
- "What kind of accommodation would you like?"

- **Describing Accommodation:**
- "It's right in the centre of town."
- "You get your own room and bathroom."
- "It's got shared bedrooms."
- "It's very central - it's actually a historic building."
- **Discussing Price:**
- "How much are we talking about?"
- "It's 200 dollars a night."
- "The cheapest hotel is 110 bucks."
- "It's 30 bucks for a night."
- "That sounds interesting. Can you tell me more about that?"
- **Making a Decision:**
- "It's still a bit too expensive for me."
- "I'm not keen on sharing a bedroom."
- "That sounds interesting."
- **Clarifying Details:**
- "Could I have a look at it?"
- "What's it like?"
- "Can you tell me more about that?"
- **Discussion Questions:**
- For Students: Have you ever stayed in a hotel, guesthouse, or hostel while traveling? What did you like or dislike about it?
- For Practice: Role-play this conversation. One student can act as Anke, and the other as Dan. Then switch roles.
- Comprehension: What is the price of The Maple Leaf Villa? What amenities does it offer?
- **Additional Activities:**
- Price Comparison Exercise: Create a worksheet where students compare different types of accommodations based on factors such as price, amenities, and type of room. They can use this conversation as a model for practicing the language.
- Survey Activity: Have students ask each other about their preferences for accommodation when traveling. They can practice asking questions like "Would you

prefer a private room or shared room?" or "How much are you willing to pay per night?"

- By learning this conversation, students will gain confidence in navigating travel-related situations, helping them understand and discuss accommodation options, which is very useful for practical communication while traveling.

B Speaking – At the Tourist Information Centre**Speaking strategy**
Asking about accommodation

- 1 Anne uses different expressions to get more information about accommodation. Put them in the table below. The first one has been done for you. There are two expressions for each.

- a I'm looking for somewhere to stay.
b Can you recommend somewhere central?
c It's too expensive for me.
d What's it like?
e I'm not keen on sharing a bedroom.
f That sounds interesting.
g Can you tell me more about that?
h Could I have a look at it?

making a general enquiry	a.
asking for more detailed information	
saying 'no'	
showing interest	

- 2 The sentences below are from Exercise 1. Replace the words in *italics* with an expression from the box.

cooking my own breakfast really good
far from the centre

- a It's too *expensive* for me.
b I'm not keen on *sharing* a bedroom.
c That sounds *interesting*.

Now complete these expressions.

- sleeping in a tent far from the airport great
d It's too
e I'm not keen on
f That sounds

Learning tip

When you learn a new expression, it's a good idea to practise it with different words, like in Exercise 2.

Sound smart
Word stress

- 1 Listen to the word stress in *noisy* and *quiet*. Which syllable is stressed?
- 2 Repeat these words and mark the stress. Which word has different stress from the others?
noisy *quiet* *hotel* *central* *luggage* *private* *hostel*
- 3 Where do you think the stress is in these three-syllable words?
expensive *convenient* *interesting* *possible*
- 4 Listen and check. Then listen again and repeat the words.

Learning tip

When you look up a new word in the dictionary, remember to check which syllable is stressed. A ' is put in front of the stressed syllable e.g. *noisy* /'noɪzi/. This means the stress is on the first syllable.

Speak up!

- 3 Listen to Dan speak then use the words below to help you answer his questions. Choose one of the three words or expressions in *italics*.

Example: A: Hello. Can I help you?
Dan: Hello. Can I help you?

You say: I'm looking for somewhere *cheap*.

- a Dan: Hello. Can I help you?
You: looking / somewhere / *cheap* / *quiet* / *private*
b Dan: Hi there. How can I help you?
You: looking / somewhere / *central* / *inexpensive* / *convenient*
c Dan: How about the Vancouver Inn? It's \$110 a night.
You: too expensive / *far from the centre* / *close to the airport*
d Dan: You could try a hostel.
You: not keen on sharing a bedroom / *cooking my own meals* / *staying somewhere noisy*
e Dan: How about this guesthouse – the Maple Leaf Villa? It's very central, but it's not too expensive.
You: sounds / *interesting* / *possible* / *good*

- 4 Now try to do Exercise 3 again with this book closed.

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Speak up!

- 2 Look at the pictures below. Use the words to help you describe them to another person.

Example: A: This is my bedroom. It's got a really big bookcase. As you can see, it's pretty *untidy*.

**Class bonus**

Describe objects that you own or have photos of to your classmates.

Extra practice

Go to the Tourist Information Office in your city or town. Ask the information officer in English about accommodation there.

Can-do checklist

Tick what you can do.

- ☐ I can ask about different kinds of accommodation.
☐ I can understand important information about accommodation.
☐ I can describe rooms and objects.

Can-do

Need more practice