

Unit 4 Quiz Reading 3

True/False

Indicate whether the statement is true or false.

An Unusual Place to Spend the Night

People are always looking for unusual destinations for their vacations. They want to have experiences that others have not had, so they travel to a remote location—a faraway jungle or the top of a mountain. That may not be the only way to achieve their goal. Instead, they could have a unique experience just by spending the night in a non-traditional hotel.

Most hotels are made of bricks or steel and concrete. But there are some special hotels that are made of unusual building materials, like ice, sand, or even chocolate. Of course, these structures are not permanent. Ice and chocolate will melt, and sand will blow away. The Palace of Salt in southwestern Bolivia, on the other hand, is quite permanent. It is located on the largest salt flat in the world. A salt flat is a vast area of flat land that is covered with salt and other minerals. In such areas, the most widely available building material is salt. So, the hotel is made of about 1 million blocks of salt. Salt blocks make up the floor, walls, and ceiling, but also all of the furniture, even the beds. The Palace of Salt has just one basic rule: don't lick the walls!

Other hotels offer a unique experience because their structure is non-traditional. You can find hotel rooms in many unexpected places. How about spending the night in a tree house, an airplane, a submarine, or an old wine barrel? Or perhaps a hotel that was once a prison? There are a number of prison-hotels; most have been substantially updated, so they are now modern and comfortable. Others, however, have been left as they once were: uncomfortable, unfriendly, and without heat! At one former prison in Liepaja, Latvia, the guests can experience what life was like as a prisoner first-hand. Instead of hotel staff, there are guards who shout orders. The only thing that guests are allowed to bring to their rooms is a toothbrush. It doesn't seem as if many people would want to stay at a place like this. Nevertheless, staff say that the hotel is popular with tourists and university students, although they do admit that guests usually only stay for one night.

For most people a night in a prison-hotel like this one is probably too extreme. A much more pleasant idea is to spend the night in a hotel with a theme that caters to people's hobbies or interests. Many hotels have themes for specific rooms or even for the entire hotel. A hotel in China recently opened with a panda theme. There is a hotel with a circus theme in Vienna, numerous anime hotels in Japan, and Lego hotels in Denmark, England, and the United States. Theme hotels like these are enormously popular all over the world.

If there is no hotel with a setting or theme that is unusual enough to satisfy your taste, there will probably be one soon. New non-traditional hotels are opening every year. In fact, soon there will be a hotel option that is truly "out of this world." Russia is planning to open a hotel in space, but it won't be for the typical traveler. It will cost about \$800,000 to get there and about \$160,000 for a five-day visit.

Instructions: Refer to the reading "An Unusual Place to Spend the Night." For each statement, answer *True* or *False*.

- _____ 1. The main idea of the reading is that you can have a unique vacation experience at special hotels.

- ___ 2. The Palace of Salt is not permanent; it melts when it rains.
- ___ 3. The beds at the Palace of Salt are made of wood because salt beds would be too uncomfortable.
- ___ 4. The purpose of the third paragraph is to convince readers to visit prison-hotels.
- ___ 5. The prison-hotel in Latvia gives visitors a real prison experience.
- ___ 6. Most visitors to the prison-hotel in Latvia don't stay very long.
- ___ 7. The purpose of the fourth paragraph is to describe different theme hotels.
- ___ 8. The Russian space hotel has welcomed its first visitors.

Completion*Complete each statement.*

Instructions: Refer to the reading "An Unusual Place to Spend the Night." Complete the sentences with the best marker of contrast.

instead	however
nevertheless	on the other hand

- It is not necessary to travel very far for a unique vacation experience. _____, you can try a night in an unusual hotel.
- Some unusual hotels are built out of materials that are temporary. The Palace of Salt in Bolivia, _____, is a permanent structure that is made out of salt and other minerals.
- Even today, some prison-hotels are cold and uncomfortable. _____, a number of brave tourists still seem to want to stay in them.
- Soon there will be a hotel in space. _____, only the very wealthiest people will be able to afford to visit it.