

# Lesson 16: Staying At a Hotel

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*Nolan and Beth are a married couple who are staying at a hotel on vacation. Listen to their conversation and answer these question:*

## **Listening Comprehension**

**1. The hotel that Nolan and Beth are staying at is...**

- a. a luxury hotel
- b. a run-down hotel
- c. a simple hotel

**2. Nolan's main complaint is about...**

- a. the price
- b. the room
- c. the service

**3. What is included with their stay?**

- a. drinks at the bar
- b. meals in the restaurant
- c. a free tour of the city

**4. Beth comments on the beauty of the...**

- a. artwork
- b. chandelier
- c. furniture

**5. Nolan is upset because...**

- a. he didn't get a discount
- b. his bags were lost at the airport
- c. the hotel doesn't have a swimming pool

**6. They are currently vacationing in...**

- a. Chicago
- b. London
- c. Paris

**7. At the end of the conversation, Beth decides to go to...**

- a. the bar
- b. the beauty parlor
- c. the restaurant

**8. Nolan says they shouldn't go out because...**

- a. he and Beth are angry at each other
- b. it's late at night
- c. the hotel is far from everything

**9. Tomorrow they are going to...**

- a. change hotels
- b. go shopping
- c. see the sights

## Conversation Text

**Nolan:** We're really **paying through the nose** for this hotel!

**Beth:** Nolan, please don't start **gripping** about the price. We're on vacation – now's not the time to **pinch pennies**.

**Nolan:** Yeah, but we're **shelling out** two thousand **bucks** for a week here. We'll **be broke** by the end of our trip.

**Beth:** After a whole year of **working like dogs**, don't we deserve to **treat ourselves** to something nice? Besides, there's a **gourmet** restaurant, and the meals are included with the price of our room.

**Nolan:** Hmph... "gourmet" usually means you pay **top dollar** for a tiny **portion** – arranged all artistically on the plate, of course.

**Beth:** Oh, you just don't know how to appreciate the finer things in life.

**Nolan:** I can appreciate them... as long as I can have **seconds**...

### Vocabulary

**paying through the nose** = paying a LOT of money (often too much for what you are getting)

**gripping** = complaining

**pinch pennies** = try to save every little bit of money

**shelling out** = spending (a large amount of money)

**bucks** = dollars

**be broke** = have no money available

**working like dogs** = working very hard, at a job that's difficult or unpleasant

**treat ourselves** = give ourselves something nice

**gourmet** = fancy, very nice quality

**top dollar** = a high price

**portion** = amount of food

**seconds** = a second portion of food after you have finished the first portion

**Beth:** I'm sure the meals are delicious *and filling*, Nolan. Will you stop being so **grumpy**? Just look at this **lobby**. It's so elegant with all the **antique** furniture.

**Nolan:** Probably fake.

**Beth:** **Be that as it may**, it's still **gorgeous**. And you did **brag about** our room to your **pals** back in Chicago.

**Nolan:** Well, yeah. But the daily rate is still **highway robbery**.

**Beth:** You're just **sulking** because you didn't get the discount you wanted. I *told* you it wasn't valid here in Paris.

**Nolan:** But it was at our hotel in London last year! I can't believe this place refused to take my Community Club discount. We do a lot of work for charity. **Is it too much to ask** that we get 10% off travel expenses?

**Beth:** Well, then our next trip will be in the U.S. – how about to a log cabin **in the middle of nowhere**? Then at least you'd get your precious discount.

## Vocabulary

**filling** = substantial; have enough substance to satisfy your hunger

**grumpy** = in a bad mood

**lobby** = the reception/waiting area of the hotel

**antique** = very old

**be that as it may** = even if what you say is true

**gorgeous** = very beautiful

**brag about** = speak arrogantly about

**pals** = friends

**highway robbery** = the charging of a ridiculous high fee or price

**sulking** = be angry and withdrawn because of something bad or unfair that happened

**is it too much to ask** = this is not unreasonable

**in the middle of nowhere** = in a very isolated place

**Nolan:** Hey, no need to get **snippy**! All I said was that two thousand dollars is a lot... but now that we've already paid, I guess we should **make the most of it**.

**Beth:** Exactly. I'm going to go get a **manicure** at the beauty parlor. Why don't you wait for me in the bar? Have yourself a drink, maybe it'll help you **loosen up**. Afterwards we'll try the restaurant.

**Nolan:** Geez, are you planning on seeing Paris at all, or just spending the whole time in the hotel?

**Beth:** You're impossible! Why do you *always* –

**Nolan:** Hey, don't **jump down my throat**! I was just **messing with you**. It's too late to go out now, anyway. We'll just **unwind** tonight and then get an early start on our sightseeing tomorrow morning.

## Vocabulary

**snippy** = saying things that can be “sharp” and hurtful

**make the most of it** = get the most advantage out of this situation

**manicure** = having one's fingernails cared for and painted

**loosen up** = relax, be more friendly and less tense

**jump down my throat** = suddenly and strongly criticize, disagree with, or get angry at someone

**messing with you** = bothering/annoying you

**unwind** = become relaxed after being stressed or tense

## Vocabulary Quiz

*Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Three words are not used.*

be that as it may	gripe	pinching pennies	too much to ask
bragging about	middle of nowhere	portions	treated
broke	make the most of it	snippy	unwind
gorgeous	mess with	sulking	working like a dog

1. A nice, long bath helps me \_\_\_\_\_ after a demanding day at the office.
2. After the kids cleaned up the yard, I \_\_\_\_\_ them to some ice cream.
3. I know this project isn't much fun, but \_\_\_\_\_, we should still try to do a good job.
4. Last year I took a pay cut, and now I'm \_\_\_\_\_ in order to pay rent.
5. My brother is kind of immature; he likes to \_\_\_\_\_ people by playing pranks.
6. My father bought my mother a \_\_\_\_\_ necklace for their anniversary - it's gold with tiny emeralds in it.
7. People who are used to getting everything they want often \_\_\_\_\_ about even the smallest inconveniences.
8. She won first place in the singing competition, and hasn't stopped \_\_\_\_\_ it ever since.
9. The company my uncle started ended up failing, and he found himself \_\_\_\_\_ and jobless with a family to support.
10. Pete has been \_\_\_\_\_ all summer - sometimes from 7 AM to 7 PM without a break.

11. We only have an hour to chat, so let's \_\_\_\_\_ and get straight to the point.
12. When I was a kid and my parents took away my video games, I would spend hours in my room \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ at this cafe are pretty big, so we can order a single dish and split it.

## **Speaking Task**

Imagine that you could go on your “dream trip.” Where would you go, and why? What would you do? Who would you travel with? Let your imagination run wild! Record your answer at [www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish](http://www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish) or send the MP3 to [homework@espressoenglish.net](mailto:homework@espressoenglish.net) for feedback.

## **Answers**

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. a
6. c
7. b
8. b
9. c

### **Vocabulary Quiz**

1. unwind
2. treated
3. be that as it may
4. pinching pennies
5. mess with
6. gorgeous
7. gripe
8. bragging about
9. broke
10. working like a dog
11. make the most of it
12. sulking
13. portions