



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Picture / Discussion

1. Look at the picture below and match the words with the things in the pictures.



playing cards
handsome steward
elderly woman

- a. How old do you think the woman is?
 - b. Where is she?
 - c. What is she doing?
2. Here is the headline from today's article. Answer the questions about it.
Elderly Woman Living On Cruise Ship
 - a. What is the elderly woman doing? Do you think this is strange?
 - b. Why do you think this elderly woman is living on a cruise ship?
 - c. What do you think are some advantages of living on a cruise ship?
 - d. What do you think are some disadvantages of living on a cruise ship?

Reading Activities

A: Reading for Gist

Now read the article quickly and check your answers from Pre-Reading Activity A. Were you correct?

1. Why is the woman living on a cruise ship?
2. What are some advantages of living on a cruise ship?
3. What are some disadvantages of living on a cruise ship?

Elderly Woman Living On Cruise Ship

1. LONDON Monday July 2 (Reuters) - A retired British woman has decided to live on a cruise ship permanently and sail round the world, because it costs no more than staying in an old people's home, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

2. Beatrice Muller, 82, only pays 55% of the normal price. She gets these loyalty bonuses, because she has already sailed on the QE2 five times.

3. Muller chose to make the QE2 her home after her husband died two years ago. She pays 3,424 pounds (\$4,818) a month. The basic cost of living in an old peoples' home in London is about 2,000 pounds she told the Sunday Express.

4. While other elderly people sit for hour after hour in re-

tirement homes in rainy, damp Britain, Muller travels the seas to different, sunny countries, plays cards and dances with handsome stewards.

5. "This is where I live and I love it," she told the newspaper. "I don't have to do any shopping, I don't need a car and there are no gas or phone bills."

6. She enjoys films from the ship's cinema and communicates with her family by e-mail from the computer room.

7. "I would have to pay about the same [amount of money] to stay in an old peoples' home and it wouldn't be nearly as much fun as it is here," she told the newspaper.

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permanently - going on for a long time and not changing

loyalty bonus - a person gets a discount on their next cruise, because they have already sailed on the cruise ship

B: Vocabulary

Below are some meanings of words. Read the article again and match each meaning with the correct word from the article.

- Paragraph one:** 1. Someone who has stopped work because of their age (adjective)
2. How much you must pay for something (verb)
- Paragraph two:** 3. The amount of money most people pay for something (two words)
- Paragraph three:** 4. Simple, doesn't have anything extra (adjective)
5. A place where people are looked after (noun)
- Paragraph four:** 6. A little wet (adjective)
7. Good-looking (adjective)
- Paragraph five:** 8. Buying food and other things from shops (noun)
9. Tells you how much money you have to pay for something (noun)
- Paragraph six:** 10. When you write or talk to someone (verb)
- Paragraph seven:** 11. Something you enjoy (noun)

C: Paragraphs

Each of these sentences summarizes the ideas of one of the paragraphs in today's article. Read the article again and write the number of the paragraph next to its summary below.

- ___ This paragraph tells us about the things she doesn't have to do.
- ___ This paragraph compares the price of the QE2 and the price of an old people's home.
- ___ This paragraph tells us how she communicates with her family.
- ___ This paragraph introduces the idea of the elderly woman who has decided to live on a cruise ship.
- ___ This paragraph tells us that she knows that living in a retirement home and on a cruise ship cost the same, but she wouldn't enjoy a retirement home.
- ___ This paragraph tells us how many times the woman has been on the QE2.
- ___ This paragraph compares the woman's life and the lives of other elderly people.

D: True or False

Read these sentences about today's article and decide if they are true or false.

1. Living on a cruise ship is cheaper than living in a retirement home in Britain.
2. Beatrice Muller has sailed on the QE2 five times.
3. It costs 3,424 pounds to live in a retirement home in Britain.
4. The weather in most of the countries is better than in Britain.
5. Muller thinks she has more fun than elderly people living in retirement homes.
6. Muller knows how to use e-mail.

E: Interview

You are going to work in pairs. Student A will be Beatrice Muller and Student B will be an interviewer.

Student A: Read today's article again. Think about Beatrice Muller's life on the QE2, then answer Student B's questions.

Student B: Read the article again. What questions would you like to ask Beatrice Muller? When you have thought of some questions, interview Student A.



Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Language

In today's article, there were these words: "...she has already sailed on the QE2 five times."

The sentence is an example of the present perfect with 'already'. 'Already' in this sentence means 'before now'.

Write the verb in italics in the present perfect form to make sentences.

Example: She already **(visit)** North America, Australia and South America.

Answer: She has already visited North America, Australia and South America.

1. She loves Europe. She _____ already _____ **(be)** to Italy and France. Next year she is going to Spain.
2. I'm sorry, you're too late. Your plane _____ already _____ **(leave)**.
3. I _____ already _____ **(get)** the pasta. Could you buy the tomatoes?
4. I _____ already _____ **(buy)** all my Christmas presents and it's only August!

B: Discussion

Work in pairs and answer the questions.

"She pays 3,424 pounds (\$4,818) a month. The basic cost of living in an old people's home in London is about 2,000 pounds she told the Sunday Express."

Do you think Beatrice Muller has made a good choice?

Why do you think it costs so much money to live in an old people's home?

Who do you think should pay for old peoples' homes? (e.g. The government, the family of the old person etc.)

How do you feel about old peoples' homes?

C: Gap fill Dictation

1. Below are two paragraphs from today's article. There are some words missing. Fill in the gaps with the words below.

round the world it costs 82 has decided has already sailed old people's home

A retired British woman (1)_____ to live on a cruise ship permanently and sail (2)_____ because (3)_____ no more than staying in an (4)_____, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

Beatrice Muller, (5)_____, only pays 55% of the normal price. She gets these loyalty bonuses because she (6)_____ on the QE2 five times.

2. Now listen to the teacher and check your answers.

D: E-mail

Part 1

Fill the gaps in this (imaginary) email from Beatrice to one of her family. Use the words and phrases below.

ship how are you Sydney dance pink dress love to everyone fine Beatrice

Dear Jane,

(1) _____? I'm (2) _____. Yesterday the ship visited (3) _____. I took a tour of the Opera House. In the evening there was a party on the (4)_____. I had lots of fun. I danced all evening. I wore my (5) _____ and my pink hat - I felt so happy!

I have to stop now! Tonight I'm going to another (6) _____ - and I don't know what I'm going to wear!

Give my (7) _____.

Love 8)_____

Part 2

Now imagine you are Beatrice and fill the gaps in this second email from Beatrice to one of her family. Use your own ideas.

Dear Jane,

Thanks for the email. I'm pleased you liked the shirt. Yesterday the ship visited _____. The city looked beautiful. I saw _____ and _____.

I went shopping and bought _____ and _____. I hope you like it! _____.

Last night there was another big party on the ship. The weather was warm and there were lots of stars. It was a beautiful night. I _____ and _____. I am feeling tired today!

It's lunchtime so I have to go.

Love Beatrice.

Teachers' Notes and Answer Key follow this page



TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Picture / Discussion - Notes

Focus the students on the picture. Ask them to match the words with the things in the picture. Go over the answers as a class, then focus them on the questions.

You may like to talk about what a 'cruise ship' is like and how it is different from other kinds of vessels. Most people, when they think of a cruise ship, think of sunshine, elaborate dinners, parties, dances and deck or board games.

Number 2 is a prediction activity. Encourage your students to use their imagination. Don't go over the answers, as they will check their predictions in the next activity.

A: Picture / Discussion - Answers

- The woman could be 70 years upwards. Students may give different answers.
 - On a cruise ship.
 - Playing cards.
- She is living on a cruise ship. Accept a variety of answers for the second part of the question. Students may say that most people don't 'live' on a cruise ship, as living suggests 'permanency' (just as we don't talk about 'living' in a hotel). Others may question her age.
 - A voyage on a cruise ship is normally seen as being a very comfortable experience, where people with plenty of money visit interesting places while enjoying all the services of a good hotel.
 - Students may suggest that it is a very relaxing way to travel, you have few worries, as you are looked after all the time, you are given good food and can meet interesting people, etc.
 - students may suggest it is expensive,
- if you don't like some aspect of it, it is difficult to leave,
- it would be difficult if you don't like the other passengers,
- you could feel a little trapped,
- if the weather is bad, you won't have such a good time,
- you can only take a few possessions, as cabins are usually quite small.

Reading Activities

A: Reading for Gist - Notes

These are the questions from the previous activity. Here the students are checking their predictions. If you are worried that students may take too long, set a time limit and then ask students to compare answers in pairs whether they have finished or not. This encourages them to look for the answers rather than trying to work too slowly through the article.

A: Reading for Gist - Answers

- Because it costs about the same as living in a retirement home in Britain.
- Sailing round the world, enjoying good weather, seeing different countries, playing cards and being looked after by handsome stewards, there is no need to do shopping, nor own a car and there are no gas or phone bills.
- No disadvantages are mentioned in the article.

B: Vocabulary - Answers

- retired, 2. cost, 3. official price, 4. basic, 5. home, 6. damp, 7. good-looking, 8. shopping, 9. bills, 10. communicate, 11. fun

C: Paragraphs - Notes

Make sure students understand exactly what they have to do before they begin.

C: Paragraphs - Answers

- This paragraph tells us about the things she doesn't have to do.
- This paragraph compares the price of the QE2 and the price of an old people's home.
- This paragraph tells us how she communicates with family.
- This paragraph introduces the idea of the elderly woman who has decided to live on a cruise ship.
- This paragraph tells us that she knows that living in a retirement home and on a cruise ship cost the same but she wouldn't enjoy a retirement home.
- This paragraph tells us how many times the woman has been on the QE2.
- This paragraph compares the woman's life and the lives of other elderly people.

D: True or False - Answers

- F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. T.

E: Interview - Notes

Students should prepare for this activity by reading the article again carefully. (You can ask the interviewers to write their questions beforehand if you wish.) You may like to focus on fluency for this activity and get students focussing on trying to answer as freely as possible rather than worrying too much about how accurately they are speaking. This offers a chance for students to put a little of themselves into the roles and to use their own knowledge of the subject and the article to answer questions. Circulate and note down any common errors that students are making. Go over these once the activity has finished.

For a more controlled version of the actual interview, you could work with the class to prepare 5 or 6 questions. The students then do the interview using these questions.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Language - Notes

The word 'already' can suggest an element of surprise or unexpectedness (especially in questions or negative statements). Here it emphasizes what the woman has completed.

You may like to focus on 'already' and also look at the way it can be used to suggest that something has happened earlier than expected. (e.g. It's only 8 am and I've already had breakfast and cleaned the house.) (The last sentence in the exercise also suggests this.)

A: Language - Answers

- She has already been to Italy and France.
- Your plane has already left.
- I've / I have already got the pasta.
- I have / I've already bought all my Christmas presents and it's only August!

B: Discussion - Notes

- Approach this topic with sensitivity, as some people feel quite strongly about this topic.

C: Gap-fill Dictation - Notes

Once the students have had some time to fill in the gaps, read the paragraph below up to 3 times. If the students find the task difficult, go over the answers on the board.

C: Gap-fill Dictation - Answers

- has decided, 2. round the world, 3. it costs, 4. old peoples' home, 5. 82, 6. has already sailed

C: Gap-fill Dictation - Text to be read aloud to students

A retired British woman has decided to live on a cruise ship permanently and sail round the world because, it costs no more than staying in an old people's home, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

Beatrice Muller, 82, only pays 55% of the normal price. She gets these loyalty bonuses, because she has already sailed on the QE2 five times.

D: E-mail - Answers

Part 1

- How are you 2. fine 3. Sydney 4. ship 5. pink dress 6. party 7. love to everyone 8. Beatrice

Part 2

Answers will vary.

Please Note: If your students want more information about this ship, the QE2 homepage is at this address: <http://www.qe2.org.uk/index.html> (Among other things the home page gives a list of the facilities available: these include 5 restaurants and 2 cafes, 3 swimming pools, a night-club and several bars, 481 seat cinema, Casino, Shopping Promenade and a branch of Harrod's, Health Club, Beauty Salon, Library, Hospital and Computer Learning Centre.)