

'Maldives resort offers \$30K all-you-can-stay-holiday-'

GAP FILL

We all love and have (1) _____ an all-you-can-eat buffet, but how many of us have had an "all-you-can-stay" holiday? It (2) _____ too good to be true, but a hotel company in the Maldives is offering guests a once-in-a- (3) _____ vacation. The luxury Anantara Veli resort has a special package that includes unlimited use of its (4) _____ for the whole of 2021. Customers will get the use of a two-person bungalow that is (5) _____ above the crystal-clear blue waters of the Indian Ocean. The resort is also throwing in airport transfers, 365 breakfasts, (6) _____ on spa treatments, cooking lessons on Maldivian (7) _____, and scuba diving. However, all this comes at a (8) _____ cost of \$30,000.

sounds
perched
hefty
enjoyed
property
cuisine
lifetime
discounts

The Maldives is a tiny (9) _____ nation in the Indian Ocean, about 700km from the southern tip of India. It has developed into a luxurious, high-end (10) _____. It is famed for its pristine beaches, palm trees and five-star hospitality. The quality of its (11) _____ life has put it on the bucket list of adventure-seeking scuba divers. Many of its resorts are on private islands and (12) _____, making it a perfect choice for holidaymakers who seek (13) _____ and privacy in paradise. The Maldives is highly (14) _____ on international tourism and has (15) _____ during the coronavirus pandemic. A tourism spokesperson said the \$30,000 (16) _____ is good value and cheaper than staying in an average hotel for a year.

seclusion
struggled
destination
dependent
marine
archipelago
package
atolls

"Scientists develop COVID-19 vaccine"

GAP FILL

In a year that has (1) _____ been full of bad and (2) _____ news because of COVID-19, there is finally some good news. Scientists have announced a (3) _____ in the fight against the virus. The scientists are from the U.S. (4) _____ company Pfizer and the German pharmaceutical company BioNTech. Their researchers say they have (5) _____ a vaccine that has a 90 per cent success rate in protecting against COVID-19. The researchers also say the vaccine does not cause serious side (6) _____. Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the USA's National Institute of Allergy and (7) _____ Diseases, said the vaccine was positive news. He said: "The results are really quite good, I mean (8) _____."

breakthrough
developed
extraordinary
tragic
Infectious
drug
largely
effects

Health (9) _____ say it will be months before the vaccine is widely available for people to take. It needs to be (10) _____ at temperatures of -80° Celsius. However, Pfizer CEO Dr. Albert Bourla was (11) _____ about his company's achievement. He said: "Today is a great day for science and humanity...We are reaching this critical (12) _____ in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it most." He added: "Infection (13) _____ are setting new records, hospitals are nearing over-capacity and economies are (14) _____ to reopen. With today's news, we are a significant step (15) _____ to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health (16) _____."

rates
stored
closer
milestone
experts
crisis
upbeat
struggling

Name _____

Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

The Game Show Audition

Entering the TV studio, Rory looked around for the first time at people as smart as she was. And for the first time in her life, she questioned whether she was intelligent enough.

Rory always had a **knack** for **trivia**. Whenever she watched TV trivia shows, she always played along, talking to the contestants on the TV. “How could you not know that Polk was the president during the Mexican-American War?” or “Everyone knows Genesis is the first book of Torah.” Thus, when she saw the ad for Triviastastic Explosion, she was intrigued.

The ad had been forwarded to her email by one of her friends. It read: “Do you know seemingly everything about useless information? Do you, for example, know the names of every vice president? Or the winners of every Academy Award for Best Picture? Or the names of all the moons of Jupiter? If you do, write back to us about why you deserve to be on Triviastastic Explosion, TV’s newest game show, with cash prizes in the hundreds of thousands!”

Rory responded instantly, and the show’s producers called her in for an audition a week later. Now, here she was, waiting in line to do mock games with other potential trivia experts. She stood around nervously.

The producers told her to use her “big TV voice” and to smile for the camera. They paired her off with another contestant, a middle-aged science teacher named Chuy. Then the producers asked them questions in rapid-fire succession. She and Chuy used electronic buzzers to chime in when they knew the answers.

Rory missed the first three questions, each of which was about science (she would later remark about how unfair it was, given her background). However, after that, she got into a rhythm. She answered fourteen straight questions correctly (they were about films, authors, history, and current events—all subjects she knew well). She and Chuy split the remaining questions, and in the end, she had won the mock game.

“Great job, both of you,” one of the producers told them. “Rory, you were the first contestant to know what the FAA acronym stood for, and Chuy, you seem to know your science.” Everyone exchanged pleasant goodbyes on their way out of the studio, and Rory drove home anxiously.

A week later, she received a call. She was invited to be an actual contestant on the show. Finally, she would have the chance to show off how smart she was to the world. She only hoped she didn’t get as nervous on the actual show as she did at the audition!



1) Which of the following best describes **trivia**, as it is used in the passage?

- A. useless information
- B. complicated questions
- C. uncertain opinions
- D. self-doubt

2) According to the passage, Rory was nervous at the audition because

- A. she had never auditioned for a game show before
- B. she was surrounded by other trivia experts
- C. she missed most of the questions asked
- D. she was paired with a science teacher

Complete the phrases and collocations with a word from the box. There may be more than one correct answer.

DO - GET - GIVE - HAVE - MAKE - TAKE

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ calm | 24. _____ divorced |
| 2. _____ a seat | 25. _____ a decision |
| 3. _____ a noise | 26. _____ responsibility |
| 4. _____ harm | 27. _____ sb. a chance |
| 5. _____ a speech | 28. _____ an exercise |
| 6. _____ in mind | 29. _____ breakfast |
| 7. _____ quiet | 30. _____ an exam |
| 8. _____ the bed | 31. _____ lost |
| 9. _____ notes | 32. _____ in touch |
| 10. _____ permission | 33. _____ a mistake |
| 11. _____ business | 34. _____ a rest |
| 12. _____ trouble | 35. _____ progress |
| 13. _____ a lecture | 36. _____ a chance |
| 14. _____ no doubt | 37. _____ a diary |
| 15. _____ a degree | 38. _____ sb. a lift |
| 16. _____ money | 39. _____ a break |
| 17. _____ sb. a favour | 40. _____ dinner |
| 18. _____ a promise | 41. _____ a chat with |
| 19. _____ a shower | 42. _____ sb. place |
| 20. _____ your time | 43. _____ away from |
| 21. _____ a job | 44. _____ a picture |
| 22. _____ homework | 45. _____ rid of |
| 23. _____ a secret | |

Form questions which ask for the underlined words.

1. This is my laptop.

2. I usually have lasagne for dinner.

3. My sister lives in the house over there.

4. I am leaving early because my son is ill.

5. My dad likes the blue jacket best.

6. The street festival takes place on the first Friday in August.

7. I use a lot of salt in my cooking.

8. The new hotel is located near the seaside.

9. My sister usually helps me with my homework.

10. They are very worried because they failed the test.

11. Physics is Mary's favourite subject.

12. My best friend is a year older than I am.

13. The new apartment costs \$ 300 a month.

14. Pete's car always makes such a terrible noise.

15. I take the underground to work.

Match the words in the left column with their synonyms.

A	ability
B	ban
C	capture
D	rude
E	detach
F	dubious
G	encourage
H	certain
I	enough
J	demolish
K	combine
L	difficult
M	complex
N	show
O	comprehend
P	defy
Q	evil
R	extravagant
S	depart
T	conflict

	secure, seize
	complicated
	doubtful, questionable
	skill, talent
	hard, challenging
	positive, sure
	bad, wrong, wicket
	luxurious
	forbid
	fight, battle
	display
	understand
	leave, exit
	promote, urge
	unite, join
	destroy, wreck
	impolite
	separate, unfasten
	resist, challenge
	sufficient, ample