

Listening script 1

Listen to Mr. Henderson checking into a hotel and choose the best answer for the following questions.

Jennifer: Good evening Sir, can I help you?

Mr. Henderson: Yes, I have a single room booked for tonight and tomorrow night. The name's Henderson.

Jennifer: Henderson....Henderson...oh yes, here you are. You are in room 344, that's on the beach side so you should have a nice sea view.

Mr. Henderson: Oh that's nice. I have a lot of work to do but I'll have time to enjoy the view I'm sure.

Jennifer: Here is your key card. You know how to use it, don't you?

Mr. Henderson: Oh yes. Do I have to give it back to you on Tuesday morning?

Jennifer: No, that's not necessary. It will only work until Tuesday noon which is our checking out time anyway. You can keep it after that. You can see it's got a handy little calendar on the other side so you might find that useful.

Mr. Henderson: Hey, I've never seen that before. That's a neat little idea.

Jennifer: Now I just need to run through some of our regulations with you. You may also find them on the back of your door in your room but we need to tell our guests some of the most important information.

Mr. Henderson: OK, no problems.

Jennifer: Now, I've already told you about the key card. Let's see, the fire exit is at the north end of the corridor, so that is to the right as you come out of your room, 344. Follow the green signs on the corridor walls. The restaurant you can see behind you. That's open from 7 in the morning until midnight.

Mr. Henderson: How do I get an external line from my room?

Jennifer: Oh, good question. You'll find all the information you need on a plastic card next to the phone. Just dial 1 to speak to the hotel switchboard or 1 followed by a room number to ring another room directly. If you ring 9 and wait for a dial tone, that puts you onto an external line.

Mr. Henderson: OK, is there anything else?

Jennifer: As I said before, check out time is midday. If you have any complaints, please come directly to me, Jennifer, or to my husband Gary. We hope you have a great stay here at The Strands. Do you need some help with your bags, Mr. Henderson?

Mr. Henderson: No, it's fine. Just this small briefcase. Thanks very much for your help.

Jennifer: Bye for now, have a nice evening.

Listening Script 2

Listen to a speaker talking to a class on a trip to a marine aquarium and decide whether the following statements are true or false.

(Man): Hello, everyone. Thank you for visiting the aquarium today. I hope you've enjoyed seeing the thousands of fish we have here, as well as the other sea animals. During the next hour, we're going to show you some more sea creatures. They all come from a body of water called the Sargasso [sahr-GAS-so] Sea. The Sargasso Sea is actually part of the Atlantic Ocean. What I mean is—it isn't a separate body of water; it's more like a sea within an ocean. It's located off the southern half of North America, and it is very large—it covers millions of kilometers.

Now, a couple of things make it distinctive. First, and probably most important, the waters there are very calm—calm and warm. There's also very little wind there. Surrounding the Sargasso Sea are water currents in the Atlantic that move in a circular motion, counterclockwise. This water swirls around the Sargasso Sea. Because of the way these currents move, the water in the middle of the Sargasso Sea doesn't move much at all. Because of the still waters and the lack of wind, sailing ships crossing the Atlantic travel much more slowly when they get to the Sargasso Sea. Without wind, sailboats can get stuck there for long periods. Something else that's unusual about the Sargasso Sea is the seaweed floating on its surface. Large amounts of a kind of seaweed float on top of the water there. And because of the currents, the seaweed stays in the Sargasso Sea—it's kind of held in place by the rotating currents. Now this seaweed is what interests us most here at the aquarium, because it supports all kinds of sea life, like shrimp, crabs, and fish. This type of seaweed creates an ecosystem for them to live in. What makes this ecosystem quite remarkable is that the creatures there are ones you'd expect to find much closer to shore, much closer to land, not out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Most likely, the seaweed and some of the ecosystem it supported drifted out into the Sargasso Sea long ago and became trapped there by the currents. From there, it simply spread all over the Sargasso Sea.