Workshop 22: Ghosts ➤

Talking about the past with there was and there were

Name: _____ Date: _____

This workshop goes with unit 8C of your book. You will need four recordings and one video: **8.19**, **8.20**, **8.22**, **8.23**, and the documentary *A haunted castle*.

Your plan for today ▸

- **Part 1** Reading and listening: the hotel with a ghost
- **Part 2** Grammar: there was and there were
- **Part 3** Vocabulary: prepositions of place and movement
- **Part 4** Video: a haunted castle
- **Part 5** Speaking: your video about a haunted place

① Reading and listening: the hotel with a ghost

a. ✎ Before you read. Talk with a partner.

1 Do you believe in ghosts?

2 Are there buildings in your town or city that people think are haunted? What do people say about them?



Photo: The Langham, London.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SLEEP IN ROOM 333?

London is full of old buildings, and some of them have a story. The Langham is one of them.

The Langham opened in 1865, near Regent's Park and opposite the BBC. It was the biggest and most modern hotel in the city, and the first in England with lifts. Today it has 380 rooms.

Many famous people slept there. Napoleon III stayed at the hotel, and so did the writer Oscar Wilde, the composer Dvořák, and Winston Churchill. In 1889 Arthur Conan Doyle met Oscar

Wilde at the Langham, and later he put the hotel into two of his Sherlock Holmes stories. In 1995 you could see the building in the James Bond film *GoldenEye*.

But the Langham is famous for something else: room 333.

In 1973 a BBC journalist slept in that room. He woke up in the night and saw a ball of light near the window. The light slowly changed, and it became a man in old Victorian evening clothes. The journalist got up and ran out of the room.

People say there are other ghosts too. One of them is a doctor who killed his wife and then himself; he appears in room 333 and on the third floor. Another is a German prince who jumped out of a fourth-floor window before the First World War, and who now walks through the door in the early morning. And sometimes, when guests are asleep, something moves the bed.

The English cricket team stayed at the hotel a few years ago. One of the players told a newspaper that the taps in his bathroom turned on by themselves. He turned the lights on, and the taps stopped. He turned the lights off, and the taps started again. He did not sleep well that night.

Is any of it true? Nobody knows. But room 333 is still there, and you can still book it.

b. ✎ Read the article and answer the questions. 5 points

1 What famous people stayed at The Langham?

2 Which film did the hotel appear in?

3 What did the journalist see in 1973?

4 What sometimes happens in room 333 when guests are asleep?

5 What happened to a player in the English cricket team?

▸ **AUDIO 8.19** Two guests at the hotel talk about their night.

c. ✎ Listen. Did they see a ghost? 1 point

d. ✎ Listen again. Who did these things happen to? Tick the correct column or columns. 8 points

	The man	The woman	
1			knew about the ghosts in the hotel
2			woke up during the night
3			heard strange noises

4			felt frightened when he or she heard the noises
5			complained to Reception
6			wrote to the hotel after getting home
7			only stayed at the hotel for one night
8			does not want to stay at the hotel again

e. ✎ Complete the sentences from the article and the listening. 10 points

Five points for the missing word, and five for matching the meaning in the box below.

1 The journalist got _____ and ran.
2 Suddenly the taps in the bathroom turned _____.
3 We woke _____ at about 5.30 in the morning.
4 The noises stopped and we went _____ to sleep.
5 We checked _____ of the hotel the same morning.

verb phrase	what it means
get up	_____
turn on	_____
wake up	_____
go back to sleep	_____
check out	_____

f. ✎ Talk with a partner.

Would you like to stay in The Langham in room 333? Why, or why not?

② Grammar: there was and there were

▸ **AUDIO 8.20** The two guests again. Listen and check your answers to a.

a. ✎ Complete the sentences from the listening with was, wasn't, were or weren't. Then listen and check. 4 points

1 There _____ a strange noise outside our door.
2 There _____ any more strange noises.
3 We knew that people said there _____ ghosts.
4 There _____ anybody in that room last night.

	one thing	two or more things
+	**There was** a big mirror.	**There were** four lamps.
–	**There wasn't** a TV.	**There weren't any** ghosts.

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?	**Was there** a bathroom?	**Were there any** windows?
short answer	Yes, there was. / No, there wasn't.	Yes, there were. / No, there weren't.

Tip: ***there was*** and ***there were*** are simply the past of *there is* and *there are*. Everything else works the same way, including **some** for yes and **any** for no and for questions.

b. ✎ Complete with there was, there were, there wasn't or there weren't. 10 points

1 (+) _____ a big mirror in the hall.
2 (+) _____ four people at dinner.
3 (–) _____ any lights in the corridor.
4 (+) _____ an old key on the table.
5 (–) _____ any towels in the bathroom.
6 (+) _____ two dark paintings on the wall.
7 (–) _____ a telephone in the room.
8 (+) _____ strange noises at midnight.
9 (–) _____ anybody at Reception.
10 (+) _____ a cold wind under the door.

c. ✎ Complete with there was / there were / there wasn't / there weren't + a, some or any. 8 points

1 She didn't have a shower because _____ hot water.
2 We couldn't watch the film because _____ television in the room.
3 I was frightened because _____ noises under the bed.
4 They couldn't cook because _____ cooker in the kitchen.
5 He took a lot of photos because _____ beautiful view.
6 We couldn't sit down because _____ chairs.
7 I slept very well because _____ noise at all.
8 The children were happy because _____ biscuits.

d. ✎ Write the question and the short answer. 6 points

1 *a bathroom / in the room?* (yes)

2 *any ghosts / in the hotel?* (no)

3 *a key / on the door?* (no)

4 *any people / at Reception?* (yes)

5 *a lift / in the building?* (yes)

6 *any windows / in the bathroom?* (no)

③ Vocabulary: prepositions of place and movement

a. ✎ Two sentences from the article. Complete with the correct preposition. 2 points

1 A Victorian doctor appears _____ room 333.

2 A German prince walks _____ the door in the early morning.

Now the whole set. **Open your book at page 162 and keep it beside you: the pictures with the numbers are there.** Write the number of each word in the box. The first one in each group is done for you.

▸ **BOOK page 162** Prepositions. The ghost is in, on, under and behind things.

b. ✎ Place. Match the words and pictures 1 to 9. 9 points

____	**in** /ɪn/ (the wardrobe)	____	**in front of** /ɪn frʌnt ɒv/ (the table)
____	**on** /ɒn/ (the chair)	____	**under** /ˈʌndə/ (the bed)
1	**behind** /bɪˈhaɪnd/ (the sofa)	____	**between** /bɪˈtwiːn/ (the windows)
____	**opposite** /ˈɒpəzɪt/ (the woman)	____	**next to** /nekst tuː/ (the armchair)
____	**over** /ˈəʊvə/ (the mirror)		

▸ **AUDIO 8.22** Place. Listen and check, then repeat.

c. ✎ Movement. Match the words and pictures 10 to 15. 6 points

____	**from ... to** /frɒm/ /tuː/ (the bedroom to the bathroom)	____	**into** /ˈɪntuː/ (the wardrobe)
____	**out of** /aʊt əv/ (the wardrobe)	____	**through** /θruː/ (the window)
____	**up** /ʌp/ (the stairs)	____	**down** /daʊn/ (the stairs)

▸ **AUDIO 8.23** Movement. Listen and check, then repeat.

Tip: ***above*** is similar to *over*, and ***below*** is similar to *under*.

④ Video: a haunted castle

▶ **VIDEO** A haunted castle. The four ghosts of Portchester Castle.

a. ✎ Watch the documentary. How many of the four ghosts are frightening? 1 point

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b. ✎ Watch again and complete the sentences. 8 points

1 Portchester Castle is more than _____ years old.
2 The castle is part of a charity called _____ Heritage.
3 Some workers at the castle leave their jobs because of the _____.
4 The ghost of a Roman _____ guards the walls of the castle.
5 The ghost of a monk disappears when people _____ at him.
6 The White Lady is the ghost of a woman who died when she tried to save her _____.
7 One of the staff who saw the ghost of the man on a horse screamed and ran _____.
8 One visitor to the castle heard the sound of _____ on the video that he filmed.

c. ✎ Talk with a partner.

Would you like to visit Portchester Castle and see a ghost? Why, or why not?

⑤ Speaking: your video

Make a short video, one to two minutes, about a hotel, a house or a place that people say is haunted. It can be somewhere in Colombia, somewhere you have visited, or somewhere you have only read about. For example; *The Salto del Tequendama*, Armero, *San Juan de Dios Hospital,* among others.

a. ✎ What has to be in it

☐ Where the place is, and how old it is.
☐ Three sentences with there was or there were about how it looked.
☐ One negative: there wasn't or there weren't.
☐ What people say happened there.
☐ Two prepositions from Part 3, for example in, under, behind, through.
☐ Whether you believe the story, and why.

Hay una casa vieja en mi pueblo...

There is an old house in my town. It was built in 1890. There were twelve rooms and a big garden. There wasn't any electricity. People say a woman in white walks down the stairs at night, and that she goes through the door into the garden. I don't believe it, but I don't want to sleep there.

Before you film

Write your notes first, then practise twice out loud before you press record. Speak slowly. A mistake does not matter; not being heard does.

Post it on our class Facebook page and watch two of your classmates' videos before the next class. Write one comment on each, in English. One sentence is enough.