

WARM UP

1 Write YH next to the things you find in youth hostels, DH next to things you find in deluxe hotels and B next to things you find in both.

- 1 games and activities rooms \_\_\_\_
- 2 hair and beauty treatments \_\_\_\_
- 3 master classes \_\_\_\_
- 4 meeting facilities \_\_\_\_
- 5 organised children's activities \_\_\_\_
- 6 outdoor activities \_\_\_\_
- 7 single and double rooms \_\_\_\_
- 8 wi-fi \_\_\_\_

## Accommodation in the UK

The **Youth Hostels Association (YHA)** in England and Wales, non-profit and member of **Hostelling International**, is quite different to the original youth hostel model of budget, self-catering accommodation on bunk beds in large dormitories with shared bathrooms for young backpackers.

Nowadays not only young travellers stay in YHA accommodation, but families, professionals and special interest groups. This is thanks to a wide range of modernised facilities and services such as: single and double rooms; extra shower and bathrooms; personal lockers; cycle storage; on-site parking and catering; games and activities rooms, with cheap or free entertainment; wi-fi, computer and meeting rooms. In addition, many hostels offer an outdoor activity focus like water sports, climbing or hiking as well as volunteer opportunities. There is even a scheme, enabling you to rent a whole hostel and stay there with a group of friends or family for an affordable celebration, short break or holiday.



At the other end of the scale, long-standing **deluxe British hotels** such as London's **Dorchester** and **Claridge's** present a wide range of services and facilities.

These range from: babysitting and organised children's activities; all-day fine dining and traditional afternoon tea; a range of master classes; wedding, meeting and banqueting facilities and services; theatre desks; butler and chauffeuring services; hair and beauty treatments; spas and health clubs; in-room wi-fi, printers and scanners; individually-controlled air conditioning; four-poster beds in a choice of single or double rooms or luxury suites with private balconies and terraces. Prices are high to reflect the quality and quantity of services and facilities provided, so visitors tend to be wealthy tourists, VIPs or business clients. However, you can sometimes indulge yourself thanks to special offer spa or weekend breaks.



[www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk)  
[www.thedorchester.com](http://www.thedorchester.com)  
[www.claridges.co.uk](http://www.claridges.co.uk)  
[www.fihotels.com](http://www.fihotels.com)

ACTIVITIES

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **PET** Read the text and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 YHA does not aim to make a profit.
- 2 YHA is only for young people.
- 3 You can volunteer at a YHA.
- 4 The Dorchester and Claridge's are new hotels.
- 5 Children are welcome in deluxe hotels.
- 6 Accommodation at deluxe hotels is always expensive.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WRITING

3 Write a short review about YHA or deluxe accommodation of your choice. In your review you should include the following information:

- description (type of accommodation, location, typical clients, etc.);
- advantages and disadvantages (price, services, facilities, convenience);
- any other useful information (period to visit, offers, promotions).