

Green investments in hotels: A Case Study

Learning objectives:

1. to develop problem solving skills;
2. to develop analytical thinking;
3. to develop language skills- reading, speaking, professional lexis, grammar, writing.

Introduction

“Green investments in hotels” is a case-study devised by teachers at Ekonomska šola Murska Sobota for the “Unity in Diversity” project.

Its aim is to develop language skills for learners of English at level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference. It can be used with groups of 4 students, guided by a language teacher. The case study also contains preparation activities which students can complete autonomously on their own, either in a language laboratory or at home. In completing the case-study, learners have the chance to improve the skills of reading, listening, spoken production and spoken interaction. They have access to a number of authentic texts to read, and as regards writing, they are required to write a formal letter. In a section devoted to warm-up activities, learners have the opportunity to do exercises, related to the topic of the case-study, with the dual aim of acquiring knowledge about the topic and improving language skills. Finally, great attention is paid to speaking skills, both production and interaction with learners, having to participate in a discussion, expressing agreement /disagreement, offering a solution to a problem.

Explanation of the tasks

This activity is useful to help learners to fulfil the case-study effectively. By doing the following exercises, they will also learn some useful vocabulary as well as practice grammar. All the activities can be done in a language laboratory or at home in the students’ own time. It is up to the teacher and the learners to decide how many of these activities should be completed, depending on the time available.

Warm-up activities are designed to pre-teach the specific lexis and introduce the student to the situation.

Task 1: Match the given words with their descriptions, the aim is to develop language skills and acquire useful vocabulary.

Task 2: True or false? Reading comprehension based on the case study.

Task 3: Word building: The task offers exercises aimed at helping learners revise and acquire some word building patterns. At first the noun / adjective / adverb has to be changed into a verb; then the student has to use the verb in the correct form in one of the sentences.

Task 4: Revision of adverbs, linking words or phrases. Students read a summary about the case-study and fill-in the missing adverbs, linking words or phrases.

Task 5: Writing. Prepare a list for green investments in your hotels and prepare a plan how to get started.

Background information

You own three hotels, named “The Rose Hotel”, and run a family business. The hotels are located in the countryside, the city centre and the seaside. You have some money to invest and you are thinking about some green investments in your hotels as you are convinced that sustainable hotels have a future. From your company’s balance sheet below it is evident how much money you can invest and from which category of assets or liabilities you can take the money from.

Prepare a list of investments in your hotels and prepare a plan how to start get started. Try to find out the costs for the predicted investments. Before you calculate any costs check how much money there is available and which category you will take it from.

In this case study you will be involved in the general objective of finding a possible solution to the problem

This is your company’s balance sheet:

ASSETS (millions of pounds)

Cash	60		
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Inventory	5		
Debtors	15		
Total current assets		80	
Land	60		
Buildings	40		
Equipment, fixtures and fittings	20		
Total fixed assets		120	
Goodwill	20		
Total intangible assets		20	
TOTAL ASSETS			220

LIABILITIES (millions of pounds)

Creditors	2		
Interest payments	1		
Tax payable	1		
Total current liabilities		4	
Bank loan repayable in five years	10		
Total long-term liabilities		10	
Shareholders' equity	100		

Retained earnings (reserves)	12		
Shareholders' funds		112	
TOTAL LIABILITIES PLUS SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			126