

B2 First Reading and Use of English - Part 5: Multiple Choice

You are going to read a short story about the opening of new hotel in 1960s America. For questions 1-6 choose the answer you think fits best according to the text.

April 1, 1966, Ribrock, Tennessee, USA

A new hotel is opening in Ribrock. Local resident, Leola Starling is very pleased. 'It's good for our town,' she tells friends. 'It will bring us jobs and business.'

Then Leola's phone starts ringing.

'Is that the Plaza Hotel?'

'I'm sorry,' Leola says politely. 'You have the wrong number.'

She puts the phone down. Immediately it starts ringing again. 'I'd like a double room please.'

This time Leola is a little less polite. 'You've got the wrong number.'

'I don't think so' says the caller. 'I need Ribrock 78888321.'

'And this is Ribrock 78888321,' says Leola to the caller. And to the next one. And the one after that.

The telephone number of the new hoteis almost exactly the same as Leola's.

The calls keep coming. Many are late at night. The phone never stops ringing.

Leola contacts the hotel. 'Could you please change your number?' she asks. 'I'm getting all your calls.'

But the hotel refuses to cooperate. 'That number is on all our stationery,' they complain. 'It'll cost too much to replace. Why don't you change your number?'

'Because I was here first!' says Leola.

The phone company is not helpful, either. 'A number is a number,' they say. 'It's not our fault if people dial the wrong one.'

Leola is now very angry. She decides to take action. The next call is from Memphis. 'Can I have a room for Tuesday?' the man asks.

'No problem,' says Leola. 'How many nights?'

Then a secretary wants a suite with two bedrooms for a week.

'We have the Presidential Suite on the 10th floor,' she says. 'It's \$600 a night. Elvis Presley stayed there last week.'

'Really? That's perfect,' says the secretary.

The next day Leola takes many more bookings. One lady wants a hall for her daughter's wedding in June. 'Will the hotel arrange the flowers?' she asks.

'Of course!' says Leola. 'Leave it to us.'

Very soon there is total confusion at the Ribrock Plaza Motel. 'But we phoned you,' angry clients tell the receptionists. 'You confirmed our reservation!'

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The next morning the Ribrock Hotel changed its telephone number. The phone calls to Leola stopped. And not long after Leola got went for a job interview at the Ribrock Hotel. The manager looked at her CV. 'We are looking for a receptionist. Have you worked in a hotel before'

'Not exactly,' said Leola. 'But I have a lot of experience in booking hotel rooms.'

1. In the first paragraph how does Leola feel about the hotel?
 - A. She does not want it to open.
 - B. She wants to work there.
 - C. She thinks it will bring employment to Ribrock
 - D. She does not like how they speak to her on the phone.

2. How does Leola respond to the first caller asking for the Plaza Hotel?
 - A. She is apologetic.
 - B. She is angry.
 - C. She is amused.
 - D. She is confused.

3. Why are people phoning Leola and not the hotel?
 - A. The hotel is fully booked.
 - B. The hotel has an identical number to Leola.
 - C. The hotel has a very similar number to Leola.
 - D. The wrong number is on the hotel stationery.

4. Which of these statements is not true?
 - A. The hotel blames Leola for the problem.
 - B. The hotel blames the callers for the problem.
 - C. The hotel will not change its stationery.
 - D. Leola will not change her number.

5. Which of these statements is true?
 - A. Elvis Presley once stayed at the hotel.
 - B. The presidential suite costs £600 per night.
 - C. Leola books someone into a hotel in Memphis.
 - D. Leola quotes a price for a suite of rooms.

6. What happens at the end?
 - A. Leola buys the hotel
 - B. The hotel gives her generous financial compensation.
 - C. Leola applies for a job at the hotel.
 - D. The hotel goes out of business.