

Learning English podcasts ... from the
Hellenic American Union©

Level: Lower Intermediate

Lesson: 5

Title: "Hydropolis"

Summary:

Vanessa and Nick talk about Hydropolis, a unique underwater luxury hotel.

In this broadcast Vanessa and Nick are in the middle of a live show. Listen to their conversation and answer the question that follows about the main idea.

Dialogue:

Vanessa: Good morning everyone. Now throughout history there've been visions of colonizing the sea - Jules Verne was my favorite - but **no one has ever managed to realize this dream**. Until now, that is. Nick is with me to tell us about Hydropolis, the first underwater hotel to be built ever. Nick, tell us more about this latest craze.



Nick: Thanks, Vanessa, well as you said; Hydropolis is the world's first luxury underwater hotel. It will offer 220 bubble-shaped suites, with clear glass comprising both the sleeping areas' walls and each room's bathtub. There's also going to be two magnificent translucent domes, which will house a concert hall and a ballroom.



Vanessa: That's incredible; **it must've cost an arm and a leg**. Do you happen to know how long it took them to build?

Nick: Well, it's not quite ready yet. They started building it in 2005, and it will be finished by December 2007. **And the price tag?** 550 million dollars!



Vanessa: Wow, and will it really be underwater?

Nick: Yeap that's right. It sits on the Persian Gulf floor, 20 meters below the surface and covers about 260 hectares, that's about the size of London's Hyde Park.



Vanessa: That's unbelievable, Nick, I'm dying to hear more.



Nick: Well, Hydropolis will include 4 areas; the land station where guests will enter, then the connecting tunnel, the rooms and then the entertainment area. And they are expecting around 3,000 visitors per day in addition to the hotel guests. Their aim is to **inspire** people to develop a new awareness of the sea.



Vanessa: It sounds **awesome**. How will guests get to the Hotel by submarine?



Nick: Actually not. It may sound strange but they'll travel to the main area by underground train.

Vanessa: Okay... and now let's get to the big question. How much is it for a night?



Nick: It could be as much as \$5,500 for a day's **lodging**. But hey, what a place to relax and learn about the world underwater!?

Vanessa: Well it's certainly a very interesting idea, but I don't know if I would ever stay there. I'm afraid we've run out of time, see you again next week.



Now answer the following question...

What are Vanessa and Nick talking about?

They're talking about Hydropolis, the first luxurious underwater hotel to be built ever.

Now listen again to the dialogue in parts. After each part there will be 3 to 4 questions on the details...

Part 1

Vanessa: Good morning everyone. Now throughout history there've been visions of colonizing the sea - Jules Verne was my favorite - but **no one has ever managed to realize this dream**. Until now, that is. Nick is with me to tell us about Hydropolis, the first underwater hotel to be built ever. Nick, tell us more about this latest craze.

Nick: Thanks, Vanessa, well as you said; Hydropolis is the world's first luxury underwater hotel. It will offer 220 bubble-shaped suites, with clear glass comprising both the sleeping areas' walls and each room's bathtub. There's also going to be two magnificent translucent domes, which will house a concert hall and a ballroom.

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Vanessa: Wow, and will it really be underwater?

Nick: Yeap that's right. It sits on the Persian Gulf floor, 20 meters below the surface and covers about 260 hectares, that's about the size of London's Hyde Park.

Vanessa: That's unbelievable, Nick, I'm dying to hear more.

Now answer some questions...

1. Vanessa says "**no one has ever managed to realize this dream.**" What does "realize a dream" mean?

To realize a dream means to make a plan come true.

2. Vanessa says "**It must've cost an arm and a leg.**" What does "cost an arm and a leg mean"?

When something costs an arm and a leg, it means it's very expensive.

3. Nick says "**and the price tag?**". What is 'a price tag'?

A price tag is the label which shows you the total price of a product for sale.

Now listen to the second part of the dialogue.

Part 2

Nick: Well, Hydropolis will include 4 areas; the land station where guests will enter, then the connecting tunnel, the rooms and then the entertainment area. And they are expecting around 3,000 visitors per day in addition to the hotel guests. Their aim is to **inspire** people to develop a new awareness of the sea.

Vanessa: It sounds **awesome.** How will guests get to the Hotel by submarine?

Nick: Actually not. It may sound strange but they'll travel to the main area by underground train.

Vanessa: Okay... and now let's get to the big question. How much is it for a night?

Nick: It could be as much as \$5,500 for a day's **lodging**. But hey, what a place to relax and learn about the world underwater!?

Vanessa: Well it's certainly a very interesting idea, but I don't know if I would ever stay there. I'm afraid we've run out of time, see you again next week

Now answer some questions...

1. Nick says "Their aim is to **inspire** people to develop a new awareness of the sea." What does "inspire" mean?

To inspire means to give someone new ideas and a strong feeling of enthusiasm.

2. Vanessa says "It sounds **awesome**". What does 'awesome' mean?

Awesome can be used to describe something really impressive.

3. Nick says "It could be as much as \$5,500 for a day's **lodging**". What does 'lodging' mean?

Lodging is a place to stay for a period of time,

Please visit our site at www.hau.gr to find the transcripts, explanations and activities.

GLOSSARY

Throughout (preposition, adverb): in every part, or during the whole period of time.

e.g. People throughout the country are out of work.

Realize (verb): to understand a situation, sometimes suddenly.

e.g. They didn't realize the danger they were in.

Comprise (verb): to have as parts or members, or to be those parts or members:

e.g. The course comprises a class book, a practice book and an audio tape.

Suite (noun): a set of connected rooms, especially in a hotel.

e.g. The singer was interviewed in his £1500 a night hotel suite.

Dome (noun): a round roof.

e.g. the Dome of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Translucent (adjective): If an object or a substance is translucent, it is almost transparent, allowing some light through it in an attractive way.

e.g. This china is so fine and delicate that it's translucent.

Magnificent (adjective): extremely good, beautiful or impressive

e.g. We had a magnificent time at the party.

House (verb): to provide accommodation for someone to live.

e.g. The authorities must house homeless people.

Surface (noun): the outer or top part or layer of something:

e.g. There were tiny waves on the surface of the water

Inspire (verb): to give you new ideas and a strong feeling of enthusiasm to do something.

e.g. His confident leadership inspired his followers.

Aware (adjective): knowing that something exists, or having knowledge or experience of a particular thing

e.g. Were you aware of the risks at the time?

Develop (verb): change over a period of time that usually become more advanced or complete.

e.g. This exercise is designed to develop the shoulder and back muscles.

Lodging (noun): a place to stay for a period of time.

e.g. He was given money for travel expenses and lodging, while he was away from home.

A submarine (noun): a ship that can travel both above and below the surface of the sea.

e.g. a nuclear submarine

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

Practice using the words in the glossary. Choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blanks.

1. Olivia's dreams were _when she won the gold medal.	A. aware
2. He was not __that his marriage was breaking up	B. comprised
3. Jenny's new flat is fantastic. It has a _view of the San Fernando valley.	C. housed
4. The new building is roofed with _____plastic.	D. lodgings
5. The class is __mainly of Italian and French students.	E. inspired
6. The war continued __the 1970s	F. magnificent
7. Mike changed his ____leaving no address.	G. realized
8. Sadly, many refugees are ___in these inadequate flats.	H. throughout
9. The writer of the book was _by the life of Nietzsche.	I. translucent
10. A new block of office _is being built next to the train station.	J. suites

Activity 2

Complete the sentences with **may/ could / must / will**

1. "How much are the repairs going to cost?"
"Well, it _____ cost as much as 2000 Euro"
2. There _____ be other problems that we don't know about, but we'll have to face them when we meet them.
3. You _____ finish this report by tomorrow or the manager is going to be really angry.
4. Here's a suggestion. Instead of eating out we _____ make an omelette instead.
5. What a fantastic dress, it _____ have cost a fortune.
6. "How long will it take to get the results?"
"Oh I think it _____ take as long as two weeks."
7. "Where did you meet your wife?"
"Well it _____ sound strange but we met in a train."
8. I've made an appointment and _____ meet him tomorrow.

KEY TO ACTIVITIES

Activity 1. 1. g. 2. a. 3. f. 4. i. 5. b. 6. h. 7. d. 8. c. 9. e. 10. j.

Activity 2. 1. could 2. may 3. must 4. could 5. must 6. could 7. may 8. will