Learning English with CBC
Edmonton
Monthly feature story
Bed bugs
January 2012

Lesson plans created by Justine Light & Jennifer Foote
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature Story Objectives</th>
<th>Bedbugs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **CLB competency outcomes** | L: Identify factual details and some implied meanings in extended narration  
**Listening:**  
**Reading:**  
**Speaking:**  
**Writing:**  
R: Demonstrate comprehension of a one-or two page moderately complex extended description, report, or narrative on a familiar topic  
S: (Global Descriptor) Pronunciation errors rarely impede communication.  
W: Can effectively convey an idea, opinion, feeling or experience |
| **Language skills** | Use vocabulary words in context and match words to their correct definitions  
**Vocabulary:**  
**Grammar:**  
Understand and identify different uses of the present progressive  
Understand the use of modals in giving advice  
**Pronunciation:**  
Identify rising and falling intonation in questions |
| **Language Activities (in order of appearance in materials)** | Answering comprehension questions and discussion questions about a short background text on bed bugs  
Completing pre-listening activities to build vocabulary and prepare learners for audio  
Listening to the audio to identify facts and details  
Listening to audio to develop listening transfer skills  
Identifying rising and falling intonation in questions  
Identifying the present progressive and its different uses  
Completing pre-reading vocabulary activity to read a renters and landlords fact sheet  
Identifying facts in a reading activity  
Ordering information in a reading activity  
Giving written advice |
Introduction

Before you read, think about the following questions.

How much do you know about bed bugs? Why do you think bed bugs are becoming more common?

Background Reading: Bed bugs*

Many people think that bed bugs are a new problem in North America. In reality, bed bugs have been around for hundreds of years. In the early twentieth century bed bugs were a huge problem and many homes had bed bugs. However, in the 1950s bed bugs almost completely disappeared. This was largely due to new pesticides, especially a pesticide called DDT, that were very effective in killing bed bugs. However, recently bed bugs have become a big problem again. DDT is no longer thought safe to use and newer pesticides do not work as well on bed bugs. Further, people travel more and many people know neither how to prevent nor how to detect bed bug infestations. Many large cities in North America now have bed bug problems. It is important to learn as much as possible about bed bugs so you can keep your home bed bug free!

1. How long have there been bed bugs in North America?
2. Why did the number of bed bugs decrease in the 1950s?
3. What are two reasons bed bugs are becoming such a big problem?
4. What parts of America now have bed bug problems?

Background Reading: Questions

Food for thought

1. What would you do if you found bed bugs in your home?

2. If you knew someone had bedbugs in their home would you still be comfortable staying overnight? Why or why not?

*information obtained from:
http://www.techletter.com/Archive/Technical%20Articles/bedbugcomeback.html
http://www.bedbugcentral.com/bedbugs101/topic.cfm/history-resurgence
The Audio

In this Audio, you will hear CBC journalists Lydia Neufeld and Rick Harp interviewing Sandra Hamilton about bed bugs in Edmonton and the best ways to deal with bed bugs if you find them.

Predicting

Have you ever heard about bed bugs before? Do you know what the signs of bed bugs are and how to prevent them?

Now listen to the Audio – the introduction is here to help you get started...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>BED BUGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>Bed bugs. Those two words can just set the heart a pounding and make you just feel a little itchy. Turns out with just cause here in Edmonton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>In a recent survey of local landlords, 80% said they’ve dealt with the pest in the past five years. But the problem’s not confined to apartment buildings. Sandra Hamilton wants you to know what to look for where you live. She’s a public health inspector with Alberta Health Services and she joins us now. Good morning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary

The words below are from the audio. The definitions are next to the words. Read the definitions then complete the sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>survey (noun)</td>
<td>a collection of answers from many people about questions on a topic (also called a questionnaire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>confined (verb)</td>
<td>kept in one place and unable to spread.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hatched (adjective)</td>
<td>newly born from an egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barely (adverb)</td>
<td>hardly, only just, very slightly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visible (adjective)</td>
<td>able to be seen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inspect (verb)</td>
<td>check something carefully to make sure it doesn’t have any problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>excrement (noun)</td>
<td>waste from a body (also known as feces and poop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smears (noun)</td>
<td>marks left from rubbing something dirty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clumps (noun)</td>
<td>groups of things that are very close together physically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stigma (noun)</td>
<td>social disapproval of something (which is often unfair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unhygienic (adjective)</td>
<td>unclean (dirty enough to cause illness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transported (verb)</td>
<td>moved from one place to another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>react (verb)</td>
<td>show negative physical effects from a poison or other substance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asymptomatic (adjective)</td>
<td>not showing any physical signs of having an illness or disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skewed (verb)</td>
<td>showing results in favour of one side more than another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mobility (noun)</td>
<td>ability to move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crevices (noun)</td>
<td>large cracks in something hard such as walls or wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discarding (verb)</td>
<td>throwing something in the garbage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use the vocabulary words (questions 1-18) above to complete the sentences. The first one is done for you.
(answers can be found in the appendix)

1. The storm was so bad I could barely see the road well enough to drive home.

2. Someone from the government came to ______________________ the restaurant’s kitchen after people became sick from eating there.

3. My ______________________ has been limited since I broke my leg. My friends need to help me get to and from work each day.

4. I don’t want to have a lot of pets because I don’t like cleaning up their ______________________.

5. A farmer brought some newly ______________________ chicks for the kids in my daughter’s elementary school class to see. They were very cute!

6. There are a few scratches on my car, but they are only ______________________ if get really close to them.

7. I received a ______________________ in the mail yesterday asking me questions about the groceries that I buy.

8. Every time I buy new clothes to wear, I ______________________ an old set of clothes.

9. My son came home from art class with ______________________ of paint all over his new shirt!

10. There were ____________ of people gathered under the trees because of the rain storm.

11. I quit going to my salon because I am worried it is ______________________. I saw the hairstylist use the same comb on two people without cleaning it.

12. I ______________________ my family and my entire business from Vancouver to Edmonton this year.

13. We try to keep our dogs ______________________ to the yard and the basement. We don’t let them come into the kitchen or living room.

14. I react badly to some kinds of ______________________. I often get a rash if I take them.

15. It is hard to detect the illness because it is ______________________ for the first three weeks of infection.

16. There used to be a ______________________ around getting divorced, but now people are much more accepting of it.

17. I think the questions on the test were ______________________ to favour boys over girls.

18. We didn’t buy the house because we found ______________________ in some of the walls that looked like they were going to get bigger.
Listening for meaning

Read the following statements and indicate whether they are TRUE or FALSE. If the sentence is false, write the true statement. The first one is done for you.

1. Eighty percent of landlords have dealt with bed bugs this year.
   TRUE
   FALSE Eighty percent of landlords have dealt with bed bugs in the past five years.

2. Lydia is nervous around bed bugs.
   TRUE
   FALSE

3. New hatched bed bugs are impossible to see.
   TRUE
   FALSE

4. People should inspect their mattresses everyday for bed bugs.
   TRUE
   FALSE

5. Bed bugs can move very quickly.
   TRUE
   FALSE

6. If you get bed bugs you have to buy a new mattress.
   TRUE
   FALSE

7. It usually takes at least three months for an entire house to be infested with bed bugs.
   TRUE
   FALSE

8. Some people do not react to bed bug bites.
   TRUE
   FALSE

9. Putting your sheets in the dryer will not kill bed bugs.
   TRUE
   FALSE

10. You should be careful with the vacuum bag if you vacuum your mattress.
    TRUE
    FALSE
**Listening strategies**

**Listen to the podcast again**

Can you keep track of who said what. Which information and experiences were shared by journalist, Rick Harp and which were from public health inspector, Sandra Hamilton?

Put a check mark in the column in the table under the name of who made the comment. *Answers can be found in the appendix*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rick Harp - journalist</th>
<th>Sandra Hamilton – public health inspector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80% of landlords have dealt with bedbugs in the last 5 years.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult bedbugs are the size of an apple seed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An early infestation looks like little black dots.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedbugs move fast away from the light.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a mattress is in good condition, you just need to vacuum away the bedbugs and put on a cover.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been bitten by a bed bug.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillows can carry bed bugs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedbugs probably wont multiply in office buildings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed bugs seem to prefer some people to others.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building Speaking Skills

Speaking

Thought groups.

When speaking, it is important to consider thought groups. Thought groups are groups of words that together make up an idea. At the end of a thought group there is often a pause and a drop in pitch. It is important not to pause in the middle of a thought group because it makes your speech more difficult to understand.

There is no rule for where thought groups begin and end, but punctuation is often a clue. Listen to the speech sample below and notice where the thought groups are. They are marked with [/]

| SANDRA | And that’s their excrement //yeah. //It tends to build up into smears //because they nest together// in clumps//. But if you know, if you look for those little black dots that um //sort of don’t brush away,,// you can wash them away -// then you know you’ve probably got bed bugs. //They’re very fast moving away from light. //They like to hide in the dark. //So you know, you need to look //in dark places. //Flashlight helps. | 1:33 |

Now listen to another section of the transcript and mark where you think you hear thought groups. NOTE: Because there aren’t clear rules and speakers differ from each other, answers may vary somewhat. See the appendix for suggestions.

| SANDRA | They go inside…well they’re looking for dark hiding places. Um, to actually multiply to the point where you have a major infestation, i think it’s a minimum of about three months. So you take one home, it lays a few eggs. You know a well-fed bed bug in an ideal environment will lay two to three eggs a day. But the females stop laying eggs if they don’t feed every ten days. So you know, if there’s someplace where it’s not easy to get a meal, then they stop laying eggs. They prefer to feed in the early hours of the morning. So they are, you know, less likely to multiply in office buildings where there’s no-one to eat at three o’clock in the morning. So you know, they’ll come out, look for a meal and, you know, dehydrate. | 3:12 |

Pronunciation Practice:

Next time you are listing to people speak, try to listen for groups. You can also record yourself speaking and check to see if you are pausing in good places.
Grammar Activity

The present progressive aspect

The present progressive aspect – ex: *She is going tomorrow* is common in North American English\(^1\). It is most common in conversation and fiction.

The form of the present progressive is:

\[ \text{Subject} + \text{be} + \text{present participle} \]

\[ \text{I am walking to work today.} \]

The meaning of the present progressive is that it describes an action that is incomplete or is temporary.

Celce Murcia & Larsen Freeman(1999) provide the following different uses for the present progressive:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use for present progressive(^2)</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity is in progress</td>
<td><em>She is talking on the phone now.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity will end and is not permanent</td>
<td><em>I am studying ESL at Macewan University.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A temporary situation</td>
<td><em>I am living in the basement suite until March.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repetition of similar actions</td>
<td><em>She is throwing a stick for the dog.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned future, often with an adverb</td>
<td><em>She is calling me tomorrow.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A changing situation that is happening now</td>
<td><em>She is becoming more confident about speaking English at work.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are at least eight examples of the present progressive in the transcript.

Find those present progressive examples – sometimes they are hard to spot because the verb be form is contracted – *She is* = *She’s*. Also watch out for the gerund form of the present participle – it can look like the present progressive but is acting as a noun.

Can you figure out for each example of the present progressive in the transcript, which use from the table above is correct?

Answers can be found in the answer key in the Appendix

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**Reading Activity - Checklist for renters and landlords**

**Before you read:**

**Pre-Reading Vocabulary**

The following vocabulary activity will help you to understand the reading below.

These are some difficult words from the reading. Match each word to its correct definition.

The first one is done for you. Answers can be found in the appendix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. suite</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>A. a contract to rent something, such as an apartment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. unit</td>
<td></td>
<td>B. legal requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. rights</td>
<td></td>
<td>C. an apartment, house, duplex, condominium, or room that a landlord rents to a tenant to live in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. responsibilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>D. legal protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. outlined</td>
<td></td>
<td>E. a belief that something will happen in the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. ensure</td>
<td></td>
<td>F. explained a summary of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. lease</td>
<td></td>
<td>G. make a room look better by using paint or wallpaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. enforceable</td>
<td></td>
<td>H. possessions or things you own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. expectation</td>
<td></td>
<td>I. a plan for when things will take place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. belongings</td>
<td></td>
<td>J. make sure something happens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. schedule</td>
<td></td>
<td>K. can be made to happen by law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. decorating</td>
<td></td>
<td>L. a group of rooms making up a unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT?

Renting is a big move. Whether you are renting a suite, a room in someone's home or are sharing accommodation, make sure you understand the rules that apply to your situation. Different rental spaces have different rules.

When you rent a unit in an apartment building or a suite in a home, you have rights and responsibilities outlined in provincial law called the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA). But you should also ensure you have a rental agreement in place, signed by you and your landlord.

When you share a living space with a landlord (for example, if you're living in a bedroom and sharing the landlord's kitchen and other common areas) the RTA does not apply. You should be sure you have a written rental agreement in place, signed by you and your landlord. Rental agreements are considered lease contracts and are enforceable through the courts.

All rental agreements should be in writing and include details about the rent, security deposit, inspections, termination notices and other responsibilities.

RENTING OUT SPACE IN YOUR HOME?

If you are planning to rent out a suite in your basement or an extra room in your home, be sure to discuss your expectations with your tenant ahead of time and have a written tenancy agreement in place.

When renting out a suite in your home, you have rights and responsibilities outlined in provincial law called the RTA.

However, if your tenant is renting a room and using other common areas of your home like the kitchen, then the RTA doesn’t apply. In this case, the written tenancy agreement signed with your tenant will be considered a lease contract and will be enforceable through the courts.

All rental agreements should be in writing and include details about landlord and tenant responsibilities, security deposit, inspections, rent and termination notices.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact a post-secondary institution’s off-campus housing registry to find or advertise rental spaces for students.

Renters’ and landlords’ responsibilities are covered by the RTA in Alberta if you are renting a unit in an apartment building or a suite in a home.

Information for Landlords and Tenants
www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca

Laws for Tenants in Alberta
www.landlordtenant.org

Electricity and Natural Gas Contracts
www.servicealberta.ca

Consumer Contact Centre
Edmonton: (780) 427-4088
Toll free in Alberta: 1-877-427-4088
www.servicealberta.ca
Complete the following checklist before you decide to rent or rent out your home.

FINANCES
- How much is the rent?
- Is a security deposit required?
- Does the rent include heat, water, electricity, cable or Internet?
- Will hook-up charges be extra? (Heat and electricity can be purchased through an energy contract. Energy retailers can advise if there is an extra cost to cancel the contract.)
- Will parking cost extra?
- Who has to pay for repairs—big ones and small ones?

QUESTIONS
- Will the agreement be for a fixed amount of time or month-to-month?
- When and where will the rent be paid? What happens if it is late? Receipts are recommended for any cash rent payments.
- Who do you contact if there is a problem?
- Are sublets okay? What about a roommate?
- Are pets allowed?
- How long can guests stay?
- Is decorating allowed? What is the policy about push pins and nail holes?
- When and where are notices delivered when it’s time to move out?
- When will the inspection report be done? Keep your copies.
- Get all promises in writing.

THE SPACE
- Can extra belongings such as bikes, luggage, etc. be stored? Who has access to this space?
- Where is the bus stop?
- Is the rental space close to services that are used regularly? (groceries, bank, fitness)
- Is the rental space clean? Who does the snow shoveling and grass cutting? Who supplies the equipment (shovels, lawn mower)?
- Where can vehicles be parked? Is there good lighting outside and in the parking lot?
- How quiet or noisy is the rental space during studying or sleeping times?
- Are there laundry facilities? Is there a schedule for use? Is there a cost? Is there a laundromat nearby?
- Is there Internet service or can it be installed?

AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS
- Who will sign the tenancy agreement? It’s best that all parties be named on the tenancy agreement.
- What will happen if one person needs to move out before the end of the tenancy?
- How will costs be shared and bills paid?
- Has tenant insurance been arranged?
- How will problems be resolved?
- Know your rights and responsibilities.

Government of Alberta

This checklist is from http://www.servicealberta.ca/pdf/tipsheets/checklist_for_renters.pdf
Reading Strategies

The goal of the reading strategies section of the monthly feature lesson is to help you to become a better reader of all reading texts – not just this text.

Ranking activity

Look at all of the checklist items above. Can you rank them into the ten most important?

Think about your own experiences renting an apartment in Canada or another country.

Which are the ten most important considerations for renting an apartment from the point of view as a renter?

Re-create the list, but this time from the landlord’s perspective. What would be the top ten most important considerations for a landlord?

After you have created the lists, consider how different and how similar the lists are.

______________________________________________________________________________________________

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______________________________________________________________________________________________
Reading for meaning

Now read the text more carefully and answer the following questions
Answers can be found in the appendix

1. What does the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) do?

2. When does this act not apply to a renting situation?

3. What information should be included in all rental agreements?

4. What should you sign if you are renting a room and sharing common areas?

5. Where should you advertise rental space for students?

Food for thought

6. Can you think of some problems tenants might have with landlords?

7. Can you think of some problems landlords might have with tenants?

8. How can a well written rental agreement help solve problems for landlords and renters.
Writing Activity –

Imagine that a family member is coming to Alberta and is planning to rent an apartment. Send them an email giving them advice about what to consider when planning to rent. Use the information from the checklist above, as well as any experiences you may have had with rental units.

Giving advice
The text above gives a list of questions for a potential renter and/or landlord to think about when renting a unit.

In your email, think about some ways to give advice. You could use modals, such as:

Could: *You could ask how quiet the apartment is in the evenings? –* Could here is a friendly suggestion. It shows that the issue of quietness is important but not a legal matter or a highly important matter.

Must: *You must check if pets are allowed. –* Must here is much stronger than could and emphasizes that rules about pets are important.

Should: *You should check if your cousin can stay in the apartment for such a long visit. –* The modal should includes a kind of moral emphasis to your advice.

Need: *You need to get all promises in writing. –* The modal need emphasises that it is the person receiving the advice will get some internal benefit from the advice.

A sample email can be found in the answer key.
Links

Links to the community

For more information on landlords and renting, check out this website:


For more information on the Edmonton Apartment Association, check out this website:

http://www.eaa.ab.ca

For more information on bed bugs and clean up, check out this website:

http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3426.asp

For more information on tenants’ rights, check out this website:


Links for language learning

For pronunciation practice with different English sounds, please visit this link:


For extra listening practice, visit this link:

http://www.esl-lab.com/

For different types of English practice including online forums, visit this link:

http://www.eslcafe.com/students/

To learn more idioms, visit this site:

http://www.idiomconnection.com/
Answer Keys

Introduction

Before you read, think about the following questions.

Answers will vary.

Background Reading: Questions

Understanding the reading

1. How long have there been bed bugs in North America?
   There have been bed bugs for centuries.

2. Why did the number of bed bugs decrease in the 1950s?
   There were pesticides (especially DDT) that were effective against bed bugs.

3. What are two reasons bed bugs are becoming such a big problem?
   DDT is no longer used and new pesticides don’t work as well. Also, people travel more
   and people are less aware of how to detect and prevent bed bug infestations.

4. What parts of America now have bed bug problems?
   Many large cities have bed bug problems.

Food for thought

1. What would you do if you found bed bugs in your home?
   Answers will vary.

2. If you knew someone had bedbugs in their home would you still be comfortable staying
   overnight? Why or why not?
   Answers will vary.

Pre-listening vocabulary

1. The storm was so bad I could barely see the road well enough to drive home.

2. Someone from the government came to inspect the restaurant’s kitchen after people
   became sick from eating there.
3. My mobility has been limited since I broke my leg. My friends need to help me get to and from work each day.

4. I don’t want to have a lot of pets because I don’t like cleaning up their excrement.

5. A farmer brought some newly hatched chicks for the kids in my daughter’s elementary school class to see. They were very cute!

6. There are a few scratches on my car, but they are only visible if get really close to them.

7. I received a survey in the mail yesterday asking me questions about the groceries that I buy.

8. Every time I buy new clothes to wear, I discard an old set of clothes.

9. My son came home from art class with smears of paint all over his new shirt!

10. There were clumps of people gathered under the trees because of the rain storm.

11. I quit going to my salon because I am worried it is unhygienic. I saw the hairstylist use the same comb on two people without cleaning it.

12. I transported my family and my entire business from Vancouver to Edmonton this year.

13. We try to keep our dogs confined to the yard and the basement. We don’t let them come into the kitchen or living room.

14. I react badly to some kinds of antibiotics. I often get a rash if I take them.

15. It is hard to detect the illness because it is asymptomatic for the first three weeks of infection.

16. There used to be a stigma around getting divorced, but now people are much more accepting of it.

17. I think the questions on the test were skewed to favour boys over girls.

18. We didn’t buy the house because we found crevices in some of the walls that looked like they were going to get bigger.

Listening for meaning

Listening for meaning
Read the following statements and indicate whether they are TRUE or FALSE. If the sentence is false, write the true statement. The first one is done for you.

1. Eighty percent of landlords have dealt with bed bugs this year.
   TRUE
   **FALSE** Eighty percent of landlords have dealt with bed bugs in the past five years.

2. Lydia is nervous around bed bugs.
   TRUE
   FALSE ________________________________

3. New hatched bed bugs are impossible to see.
   TRUE
   **FALSE** New hatched bed bugs are very difficult to see.

4. People should inspect their mattresses everyday for bed bugs.
   TRUE
   **FALSE** People should inspect their mattresses every time they change the sheets.

5. Bed bugs can move very quickly.
   TRUE
   FALSE ________________________________

6. If you get bed bugs you have to buy a new mattress.
   TRUE
   **FALSE** You should only buy a new mattress if the pest control company suggests it.

7. It usually takes at least three months for an entire house to be infested with bed bugs.
   TRUE
   **FALSE** ________________________________

8. Some people do not react to bed bug bites.
   TRUE
   **FALSE** ________________________________

9. Putting your sheets in the dryer will not kill bed bugs.
   TRUE
   **FALSE** The heat of the dryer will kill bed bugs.

10. You should be careful with the vacuum bag if you vacuum your mattress.
    TRUE
### Listening Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Rick Harp - journalist</th>
<th>Sandra Hamilton – public health inspector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80% of landlords have dealt with bedbugs in the last 5 years.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult bedbugs are the size of an apple seed.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An early infestation looks like little black dots.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedbugs move fast away from the light.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a mattress is in good condition, you just need to vacuum away the bedbugs and put on a cover.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been bitten by a bed bug.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillows can carry bed bugs.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedbugs probably won't multiply in office buildings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed bugs seem to prefer some people to others.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Building Speaking Skills

| SANDRA | They go inside...//well they’re looking for dark hiding places.// Um, to actually multiply to the point where you have a major infestation,// I think it’s a minimum of about three months. //So you take one home, //it lays a few eggs. //You know a well-fed bed bug in an ideal environment //will lay two to three eggs a day. //But the females stop laying eggs if they don’t feed every ten days. //So you know, //if there’s someplace where it’s not easy to get a meal, //then they stop laying eggs. //They prefer to feed in the early hours of the morning. //So they are// you know, //less likely to |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

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multiply in office buildings where there’s no-one to eat at three o’clock in the morning. //So you know, they’ll come out,// look for a meal and, you know// dehydrate.

Answers may vary somewhat.

**Grammar Activity –**

The present progressive aspect

Examples of the present progressive from the transcript:

1. Lydia: Heart’s pounding. Use = A temporary situation  
2. Sandra: We’re really encouraging people... Use = Repetition of similar actions  
3. Sandra: People are often throwing away the wrong things... Use = Repetition of similar actions  
4. Sandra: They’re eventually going to die... Use = Planned future, often with an adverb  
5. Sandra: well, they’re looking for dark hiding places...Use = Repetition of similar actions  
6. Rick: you’re saying it’s just asymptomatic...Use = Activity is in progress  
7. Sandra: We’re still getting an awful lot of phone calls...Use = Activity is in progress  
8. Rick: What are some of the ways you’re suggesting...Use = Activity is in progress  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity is in progress</th>
<th>She is talking on the phone now.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity will end and is not permanent</td>
<td>I am studying ESL at Macewan University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A temporary situation</td>
<td>I am living in the basement suite until March.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repetition of similar actions</td>
<td>She is throwing a stick for the dog.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned future, often with an adverb</td>
<td>She is calling me tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A changing situation that is happening now</td>
<td>She is becoming more confident about speaking English at work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading Activity – Pre-Reading vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. suite</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>A. a contract to rent something, such as an apartment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. unit</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B. legal requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. rights</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C. an apartment, house, duplex, condominium, or room that a landlord rents to a tenant to live in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. responsibilities</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>D. legal protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. outlined</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>E. a belief that something will happen in the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. ensure</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>F. explained a summary of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. lease</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>G. make a room look better by using paint or wallpaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. enforceable</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>H. possessions or things you own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. expectation</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>I. a plan for when things will take place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. belongings</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>J. make sure something happens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. schedule</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>K. can be made to happen by law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. decorating</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>L. a group of rooms making up a unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading Activity**

**Reading Strategies Answer key**

**Reading for meaning**

Now read the text more carefully and answer the following questions

Answers can be found in the appendix

1. **What does the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) do?**
   
   It outlines your right and responsibility as a tenant.

2. **When does the RTA not apply to a renting situation?**
   
   It doesn’t apply if someone is renting a room and sharing a living space with his/her landlord.

3. **What information should be included in all rental agreements?**
   
   There should be details about the rent, security deposit, inspections, termination notices, and other responsibilities.
4. Where should you advertise rental space for students?
   You should contact a post-secondary institution’s off-campus housing registry.

Food for thought

5. Can you think of some problems tenants might have with landlords? (answers will vary)
   The tenants might feel harassed by landlords, landlord may want to enter the rental property
   frequently, the landlord may keep up with repairs, the landlord may refuse to give back a
   security deposit.

6. Can you think of some problems landlords might have with tenants? (answers will vary)
   Tenants may be noisy or messy. They may not pay rent on time. They may cause a lot of
   damage to the place they are renting.

7. How can a well written rental agreement help solve problems for landlords and renters.
   (answers will vary). A well written rental agreement ensures that everyone’s rights and
   responsibilities are clear and known. It can help settle arguments that arise later.
Writing Activity

Sample email giving advice:
Hi there, Gregor,

We are so excited that you are coming to Calgary in June, and the kids can’t wait to meet their cousins! I have been thinking about where you are going to live when you arrive and I know you are planning to rent an apartment. I want to give you some advice about renting apartments in Alberta, as we have had a lot of experience with some good, some not so good.

When you meet the landlord, you must ask about how much the rent is and also how much the security deposit will be? The security deposit is usually equal to one month’s rent. You must also ask if the rent includes heat and electricity. Winters can be long and cold here so this is important.

You can also ask the landlord if the unit is quiet in the evening, when the children go to bed, and when you will be studying English!! Some rental units have laundry facilities and you can ask about the cost and schedules for that.

You should ask about whether family members can stay for extended visits. Sometimes, my wife’s family stay with us for 3 months at a time. And one last thing, you must ask if you are allowed to paint and hang pictures; every landlord is different on this.

Whatever the landlord says, you need to get it in writing, just in case!

Let me know if you need any other advice,

Peter
### Appendix – Transcript

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>TITLE: BED BUGS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>Bed bugs. Those two words can just set the heart a pounding and make you just feel a little itchy. Turns out with just cause here in Edmonton.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>In a recent survey of local landlords, 80% said they’ve dealt with the pest in the past five years. But the problem’s not confined to apartment buildings. Sandra Hamilton wants you to know what to look for where you live. She’s a public health inspector with Alberta Health Services and she joins us now. Good morning.</td>
<td>0:09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Good morning.</td>
<td>0:26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>Now you’ve brought some friends with you.</td>
<td>0:27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>0:28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>What am I, what am I looking at?</td>
<td>0:29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>They’re dead bed bugs that have been collected in an apartment here in the city.</td>
<td>0:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>They’re not, they’re not very big. Lydia, are you okay? You doing alright?</td>
<td>0:35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>Yeah, I’m good. Heart’s pounding. I’m a little sweaty. I’m surprised at how big they are.</td>
<td>0:41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>The adults are about the size of an apple seed. The brand new hatched bed bugs are barely visible. They’re about the size of the head of a pin. But the adults are quite easy to find.</td>
<td>0:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>Both equally bad, though?</td>
<td>0:57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Yes. Yeah.</td>
<td>0:59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>And so let’s talk about how we can be preventative about this. How do we, first of all, inspect our home or our apartment suite for them?</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>I think everybody should learn what they look like. And I think everybody should be keeping an eye on their living quarters. And that is as easy as inspecting your mattress every time you change your sheets. And if you know, mostly what you will see in an early infestation is little black dots that look like a felt pen has made a dot on something and its run around the edges.</td>
<td>1:08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>That’s their excrement?</td>
<td>1:32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>And that’s their excrement yeah. It tends to build up into smears because they nest together in clumps. But if you know, if you look for those little black dots that um sort of don’t brush away, you can wash them away - then you know you’ve probably got bed bugs. They’re very fast moving away from light. They like to hide in the dark. So you know, you need to look in dark places. Flashlight helps.</td>
<td>1:33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>And if you see this, do you...is your mattress basically done? Throw it out?</td>
<td>2:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>No, no. We’re really encouraging people not to throw things away unless the pest control company advises them to. People are often throwing away the wrong things. If a mattress is in good condition, then it can be vacuumed to get rid of most of the bed bugs and then you can encase it. So you can buy a cover for it that is six sided cover with a zip and it should say “bed bug proof cover” on the packaging.</td>
<td>2:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>Okay? And bed bugs don’t chew holes in things. So if you put a cover on and there’s a couple of bed bugs inside there, they’re eventually going to die. And the covers are smooth on the outside.</td>
<td>2:32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>I got bit by a bed bug. I’m not, I’m not afraid to admit it. Cause I think there’s a lot of stigma. People think “ugh, you’re filthy, you’re unhygienic” and whatnot. It was a pillow belonging to a friend who lived at another suite. It transported, you know. It was a passenger as it were, and so I guess pillows too, we should be looking at as well.</td>
<td>2:44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Okay? And bed bugs don’t chew holes in things. So if you put a cover on and there’s a couple of bed bugs inside there, they’re eventually going to die. And the covers are smooth on the outside.</td>
<td>2:33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Anything.</td>
<td>3:04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>How quickly can bed bugs move from one spot to infesting the whole house. Cause I’ve hear they go inside books, they go inside pieces of wood and whatnot.</td>
<td>3:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>They go inside...well they’re looking for dark hiding places. Um, to actually multiply to the point where you have a major infestation, I think it’s a minimum of about three months. So you take one home, it lays a few eggs. You know a well-fed bed bug in an ideal environment will lay two to three eggs a day. But the females stop laying eggs if they don’t feed every ten days. So you know, if there’s someplace where it’s not easy to get a meal, then they stop laying eggs. They prefer to feed in the early hours of the morning. So they are, you know, less likely to multiply in office buildings where there’s no-one to eat at three o’clock in the morning. So you know, they’ll come out, look for a meal and, you know, dehydrate.</td>
<td>3:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>And sometimes the wound from a bed bug bite doesn’t show up for a while, is that right?</td>
<td>3:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Yes, some people react within a couple of hours, some people react within days, and some people don’t react at all. I’ve had some interesting conversations with “They bite me but they don’t bite her.” Um, the truth is they, you react, she doesn’t.</td>
<td>4:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>Oh, that’s what it is. Because we were speaking before this show about how they seem to prefer one person over the other, but you’re saying it’s just asymptomatic in the case of one.</td>
<td>4:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Yeah.</td>
<td>4:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>Oh wow, okay so how big is the problem? We’ve talked about this survey, four out of five in the last five year uh...</td>
<td>4:24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Well, the survey was done over a year ago, and it was a voluntary survey. So it’s probably skewed in favour of the landlords who had dealt with bed bugs. Because if you’re going to fill out a two-page questionnaire and you’ve never dealt with them you probably think it’s a minor problem you don’t have to deal with, but I don’t think the problem has got any less. We have had less complaints in the last year. Our number of complaints have increased but the number of complaints that say bed bugs has decreased. But we’re still getting an awful lot of phone calls from people looking for information. I think a lot of people, especially you know landlords and tenants in apartment buildings are more educated than they were. So the treatment happens faster and people are more aware of what they should be doing.</td>
<td>4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>When it comes to their mobility, are they typically confined to one suite or is it very easy for them to move within a building?</td>
<td>5:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>It’s very easy for them to move within a building. It depends on the building. Like a concrete and steel building has less crevices in the walls than you know, 3-floor walk up that’s made of 2 X 4s and drywall. So they, underneath baseboards is a favourite hiding place. So once they get in the wall cavity, they can go in both directions.</td>
<td>5:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>What are some of the ways you’re suggesting and resources you’re offering in this regard?</td>
<td>5:41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Well, resources we’re offering is advice and information. The vacuuming and discarding your vacuum cleaner bag. Or at least taking it out of the vacuum cleaner and storing it in, you know, plastic bag in the freezer. Uh, the dryer is probably your best tool, because heat kills all stages of bed bugs. All your bedding should go in the dryer once a week if you’re dealing with bed bugs. So that’s you’re bedsprad, you know, anything.</td>
<td>5:44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>Thank you so much for coming in. I understand there is a booklet available through your department so…</td>
<td>6:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>Uh, you can find it at eaa.ab.ca it’s the Edmonton Apartment Association site and they represented the landlords on the committee that put this booklet together.</td>
<td>6:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>Thank you so much for coming in.</td>
<td>6:29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>You’re welcome.</td>
<td>6:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>and talking about this uh… this subject.</td>
<td>6:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>Very educational. Thank you.</td>
<td>6:36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>