

# City tours



▲ Barcelona bus tour



▲ Barcelona Football Club



▲ Sitges beach

**speaking** 1 Look at the tourist attractions in Barcelona. Which of them would be of interest to these tourists?

a young married couple  
a family with young children

a group of students  
a married couple in their 50s

2 Work in pairs. Which of these attractions would interest your partner? Why?

**reading** 3 Read the article on the opposite page. Which is the best title for it?

- 1 The life of Antoni Gaudí
- 2 The making of the *Sagrada Familia*
- 3 Famous sights of Barcelona

4 Read the article again and answer these questions.

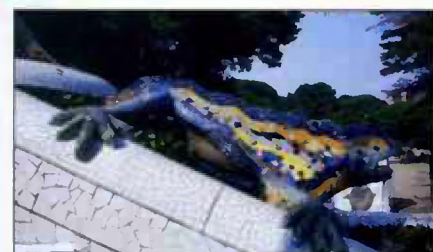
- 1 Which four works by Gaudí are mentioned in the article?
- 2 What works did Gaudí produce after 1909?
- 3 What hours did Gaudí work?
- 4 Why didn't taxi drivers take him to hospital after his accident?
- 5 What was Gaudí's philosophy when he designed his works?





**B**ARCELONA'S MOST famous architect, Antoni Gaudí, was born in 1852. The city is full of his work, including the many houses he built for rich industrialists, like the famous *La Pedrera (Casa Milá)* building and *Palacio Güell*.

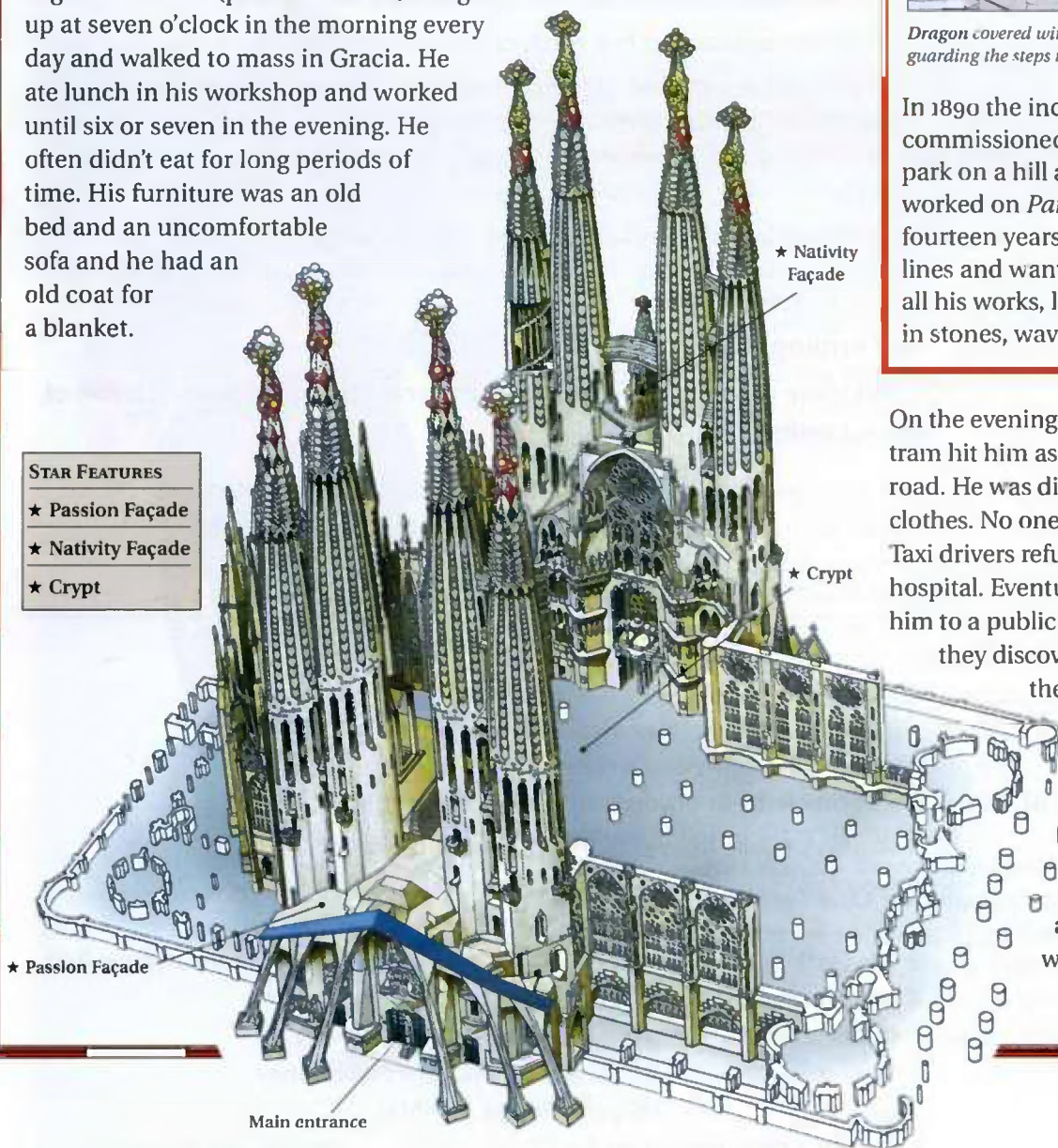
From 1909 until 1926 Gaudí worked only on the *Sagrada Família* (pictured below). He got up at seven o'clock in the morning every day and walked to mass in Gracia. He ate lunch in his workshop and worked until six or seven in the evening. He often didn't eat for long periods of time. His furniture was an old bed and an uncomfortable sofa and he had an old coat for a blanket.



Dragon covered with brightly coloured tiles, guarding the steps in the *Parc Güell*.

In 1890 the industrialist Eusebi Güell commissioned Gaudí to design a park on a hill above the city. Gaudí worked on *Parc Güell* for the next fourteen years. He hated straight lines and wanted to show nature in all his works, like the curved shapes in stones, waves and wet sand.

On the evening of 7 June 1926 a tram hit him as he tried to cross a road. He was dirty and wearing old clothes. No one recognised him. Taxi drivers refused to take him to hospital. Eventually, someone took him to a public hospital. When they discovered who he was, they moved him to a private room. He died three days later. His church is still unfinished but modern architects are continuing the work today.



#### STAR FEATURES

- ★ Passion Façade
- ★ Nativity Façade
- ★ Crypt

### 5 Why are these dates important in the Gaudí story?

1852    1909    1890–1904    7 June 1926    10 June 1926

**speaking** 6 Think of a famous architect from your country. What buildings did he/she design?

## Language focus Past simple

- We use the past simple to talk about events and actions that are finished.  
He **died** three days later.
- We form the past simple of regular verbs by adding *-ed*.  
He **worked** until six or seven in the evening.
- Irregular verbs (see page 131) have a different form in the past.  
He also **built** many houses for rich industrialists in the city.

Find five regular and five irregular past simple forms in the text on page 25.

- We form the negative of the past simple tense with *didn't* + the infinitive.  
Gaudí often **didn't eat** for long periods of time.
- We form questions with *did* + subject + the infinitive.  
**Did** Gaudí **live** in Barcelona?

► For more information turn to page 126.

### pronunciation **-ed endings**

**7** Put these words in the correct groups according to the pronunciation of the *-ed* endings.

worked moved hated walked refused wanted  
discovered needed finished lived opened

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
worked	moved	hated

### practice **8** Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

- Picasso's family (*move*) ..... moved ..... to Barcelona in 1895.
- (*you / go*) ..... to the Picasso Museum when you (*be*) ..... in Barcelona last month?
- We (*eat*) ..... seafood in a great restaurant in the Olympic Port.
- Mary (*want*) ..... to see all the sights so she (*take*) ..... the tourist bus around the city.
- They (*buy*) ..... a lot of souvenirs when they (*go*) ..... shopping in the *Ramblas*.
- Unfortunately, James (*not have*) ..... time to visit Parc Güell when he (*be*) ..... in Barcelona.
- I (*ask*) ..... the hotel receptionist for a good place to eat.
- The taxi driver (*not understand*) ..... us and (*refuse*) ..... to take us to our hotel.
- We (*walk*) ..... to the top of *La Pedrera*. The views (*be*) ..... fantastic from up there.
- (*you / see*) ..... any famous people when you (*visit*) ..... Barcelona Football Club?



9 Complete the text about Barcelona Football Club with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Profile

Barcelona

## More than a club

*Més que un club* is the motto of Barcelona FC: 'More than a club'. It has above all, however, been a symbol of Catalan pride.

FC Barcelona (*play*) .....<sup>1</sup> *played* its first ever match on 8 December 1899. They (*lose*) .....<sup>2</sup> 0–1 to a team of British citizens who (*live*) .....<sup>3</sup> in Barcelona at the time. The club (*move*) .....<sup>4</sup> several times but (*not / move*) .....<sup>5</sup> to its present stadium until 1957. The club (*need*) .....<sup>6</sup> a new stadium because the old one (*not be*) .....<sup>7</sup> large enough for the number of supporters going to see matches every week. The new stadium (*take*) .....<sup>8</sup> three and a half years to build. On 24 September 1957, FC Barcelona (*have*) .....<sup>9</sup> their first match against Warsaw. Soon, the Barcelona fans (*give*) .....<sup>10</sup> the stadium its popular Catalan nickname, *Nou Camp*. On the same day, 27 years later, the club's museum (*open*) .....<sup>11</sup>. For the first time, all the club's trophies (*be*) .....<sup>12</sup> in one place. Today, *Nou Camp* is the largest stadium in Europe, with room for 98,000 fans.

21

### webtask Famous buildings

10 Find information about a famous building on the internet or in a travel guide. Write a short text about the building and present it to your class.



Bus Turístic

Barcelona

50

Plaça de Espanya  
La Pedrera



speaking

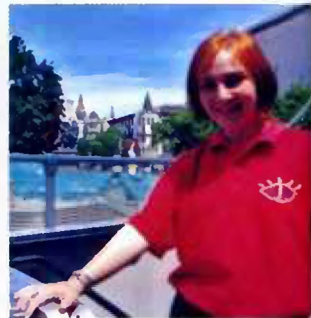
### City bus tour

**11** Work in pairs. Think of five difficulties tour guides have at work.

listening

**12** Jenny is a bus tour guide in Barcelona. Listen and tick (✓) the difficulties she has.

- 1 The tourists asked her a lot of questions. ✓
- 2 She forgot or didn't know some of the information.
- 3 One of the tourists didn't hear her.
- 4 The tourists didn't want to pay for the fountain show.
- 5 A thief stole a woman's handbag.
- 6 A child wanted to go swimming in the fountains.



▲ A Bus Turístic tour guide

vocabulary

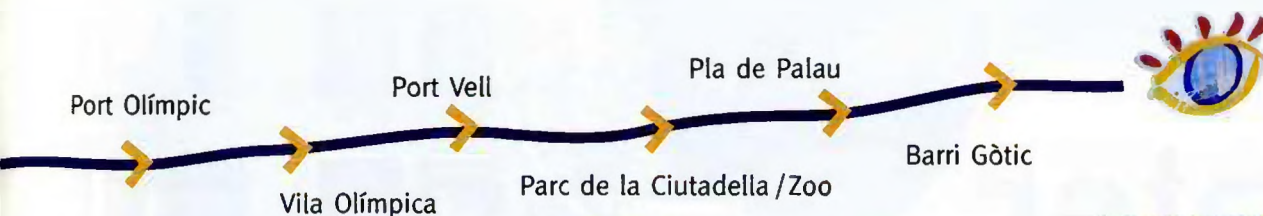
### Question words

**13** Match these question words with the questions.

Where   When   What   How long   How much   Why   Who

- 1 Where..... are the Magic Fountains?
- 2 ..... did the Magic Fountains show first start?
- 3 ..... does the fountain show last?
- 4 ..... does the fountain show cost?
- 5 ..... do the tourists have to be careful?
- 6 ..... time do the tourists have to be back in the bus?
- 7 ..... wants to go swimming in the fountains?





## vocabulary Giving directions

**14** Complete the information from Jenny's tour with words from the box.

opposite over there near from in on up straight ahead in

- 1 ...On... your left you can see the sculpture.
- 2 Our next stop ..... Barcelona is the famous Magic Fountains in *Plaça d'Espanya*, that's 'Spain Square', ..... the National Palace.
- 3 Did you say the Olympic stadium is ..... here?
- 4 The sports stadium we visited this afternoon is further ..... the hill.
- 5 You can see the fountains now, .....
- 6 If you would like to video the show, the best place is ..... the footbridge.
- 7 I'm afraid you can't swim ..... the fountains.
- 8 There is a café .....

**15** Look at the tapescript of Jenny's bus tour on page 134. Underline any useful expressions for giving a bus tour.

*On your left ...*

**16** Do you think Jenny gave a good bus tour? Why / why not?

## speaking Guided tours

**17** Work in groups. Prepare a short bus tour for part of your town or city. Use pictures and draw a map of the route. Consider the following points.

- places of interest in the area
- factual information (opening and closing times, prices)
- historical information
- any other interesting facts

**18** Listen to the bus tours of the other people in your class and ask questions about the places of interest.

What time does it open/close?  
How much does it cost?

How long does the tour last?  
Can I ... ?

### GUIDED TOURS

When giving a guided tour always remember **PIE**:

- **Politeness**, especially when answering questions.
- Give clear and accurate **information**.
- Show **enthusiasm**.

# Water cities



▲ Londra Palace



▲ Hotel Marconi

**speaking** 1 Look at the pictures of hotels in Venice. What do you think their star ratings are? What kind of rooms, facilities and services would you expect to find in these hotels?

**listening** 2 Listen to two guests and choose the best hotel for each of them.  
 Guest 1 ..... Guest 2 .....

**vocabulary** **Hotel facilities**

3 Match the words to make hotel facilities and services.

- |               |   |                 |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 en suite    | → | a) dryer        |
| 2 24-hour     |   | b) bathroom     |
| 3 quality     |   | c) furnishings  |
| 4 spacious    |   | d) telephone    |
| 5 hair        |   | e) service      |
| 6 direct-dial |   | f) room service |
| 7 satellite   |   | g) cleaning     |
| 8 porter      |   | h) rooms        |
| 9 dry         |   | i) TV           |

**speaking** 4 What are the most important facilities for you when staying in a hotel?



reading 5 Read the hotel descriptions and match them to their star ratings.

one star<sup>3</sup> two star three star four star five star

1

A degree of luxury is included at this level. Public areas and bedrooms are more spacious with quality furnishings and décor and satellite TV. The en suite bathrooms are fully equipped. A variety of services is provided, such as porter service, 24-hour room service, laundry and dry-cleaning. Staff will have very good technical and social skills, anticipating and responding to guests' needs.

2

Hotels in this category provide luxury and exceptional comfort. The restaurant has a high level of technical skill, producing dishes to the highest international standards. Staff are well trained in customer care and are especially attentive, efficient and courteous.

3

Hotels in this category offer practical accommodation and are probably small with a family atmosphere. Facilities and meals are simple. Some bedrooms do not have an en suite bath or shower room, although maintenance, cleanliness and comfort need to be of an acceptable standard.

4

In this classification hotels are typically small to medium sized and offer more extensive facilities than at the one-star level. Guests can find more comfortable and well-equipped accommodation, usually with an en suite bath / shower room and colour TV. Hotel staff will offer a more professional service than at the one-star level.

5

Hotels are usually larger and provide a greater quality and range of facilities than at the lower levels. All bedrooms have a complete en suite bath / shower room and offer a better standard of comfort and equipment, such as a direct-dial telephone, a hairdryer and toiletries in the bathroom. Room service is also provided and staff respond well to guests' needs.

6 Read the text again and underline examples of the following.

- 1 room facilities
- 2 hotel facilities
- 3 three adjectives used to describe hotel staff
- 4 five adjectives used to describe hotels

speaking 7 What are the best hotels in your city or area? What makes them special?



**8 Which of these facilities would you expect to find in a two-star hotel?**

minibar    satellite TV    en suite shower room    bar  
 24-hour room service    laundry service    restaurant

**listening**

**9 Renee Toonen, owner of the Omega Hotel in Amsterdam, talks about the recent upgrading of the hotel from two to four stars. Number the following in the order that Renee mentions them.**

24-hour room service    reception area    fully-equipped bathrooms  
 bar    food service    minibar and colour TV

**10 Listen again and match the two parts of the sentences:**

- |                                    |   |                                            |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 People want                      | → | a) a lot more comfortable.                 |
| 2 The rooms are now                | → | b) a higher standard of accommodation.     |
| 3 The furniture is                 |   | c) range of food.                          |
| 4 Bedrooms in two-star hotels are  |   | d) as friendly as before.                  |
| 5 The reception area has been made |   | e) bigger.                                 |
| 6 We offer a wider                 |   | f) not as spacious as in four-star hotels. |
| 7 We want the atmosphere to be     |   | g) better quality.                         |



▲ Omega Hotel, Amsterdam

In comparative sentences, we put *than* after the adjective. In superlative sentences, we put *the* before the adjective.

**Language focus Comparatives and superlatives**

Look at the examples in exercise 10 and complete the information below.

- One-syllable adjectives
  - To form the comparative, add *-er*.....
  - To form the superlative, add .....
  - When an adjective has a consonant after a vowel, double the final consonant:  
*big- ..... biggest.*
- Two- and three-syllable adjectives
  - To form the comparative, put ..... before the adjective.
  - To form the superlative, put ..... before the adjective.
- Two-syllable adjectives ending in -y
  - To form the comparative, change -y to -ier.
  - To form the superlative, change -y to -iest.
- Comparing equals
  - To say two things are equal, use *as + adjective + as*.  
*We want the atmosphere to be **as friendly** and informal **as** before.*
  - To make a negative comparison, use *not as + adjective + as*.  
*Bedrooms in two-star hotels are **not as spacious as** in four-star hotels.*
- There are some irregular adjectives
 

good	→	better	→	best
bad	→	worse	→	worst
far	→	further	→	furthest

► For more information turn to page 127.

practice 11 Complete the text using comparatives, superlatives, *as ... as*, or *not as ... as*.

## Getting Around Amsterdam



### TRAMS

The tram is (*convenient*) the most convenient form of transport. The Circle Line 20 is (*popular*) .....<sup>2</sup> line for

tourists because it is (*easy*) .....<sup>3</sup> to move between attractions without changing lines.

### BUSES

The buses generally start from Centraal Station and serve areas that are (*far*) .....<sup>4</sup> from the city centre.

### TICKETS

Tickets can be bought on the trams and buses but (*cheap*) .....<sup>5</sup> way to travel is to buy a *strippenkaart*, a strip of fifteen tickets, sold at tourist offices and newsagent's.

### BICYCLES

Amsterdam is a city for bicycles and more and more tourists are adopting this way of exploring the city. Remember always to ride on the right and that trams have priority if only because they are a lot (*big*) .....<sup>6</sup> you!



### WALKING

(*good*) .....<sup>7</sup> way to see Amsterdam is on foot. Almost everything of interest is within comfortable walking distance. But a word of warning – walking is (*not safe*) .....<sup>8</sup> in other cities – watch out for the almost silent trams and stay out of the cycle lanes!

### BY CANAL

And finally, what could be (*enjoyable*) .....<sup>9</sup> a trip on a canal boat? Boat trips are (*suitable*) .....<sup>10</sup> for people with limited time to

explore the city and for the elderly and families with young children.



speaking 12 Compare three hotels in your town. Include the following.

size price location facilities special features restaurant



vocabulary Describing hotels

13 Look at this information about hotels in Venice. Replace the words in italics with the adjectives in the box. Use a dictionary to help you.

famous high-class historic excellent modern attractive  
spacious value for money charming impeccable delightful

### Venice's Best Hotels

**H**OTELS IN VENICE range from the *luxurious* and renowned, which are mainly clustered along the Grand Canal, to simple, family-run places in the quieter parts of the city.



**1 Giorgione**  
This *quality, large* hotel, with its *good* facilities, offers every *new* comfort at lower prices than others of similar standard.



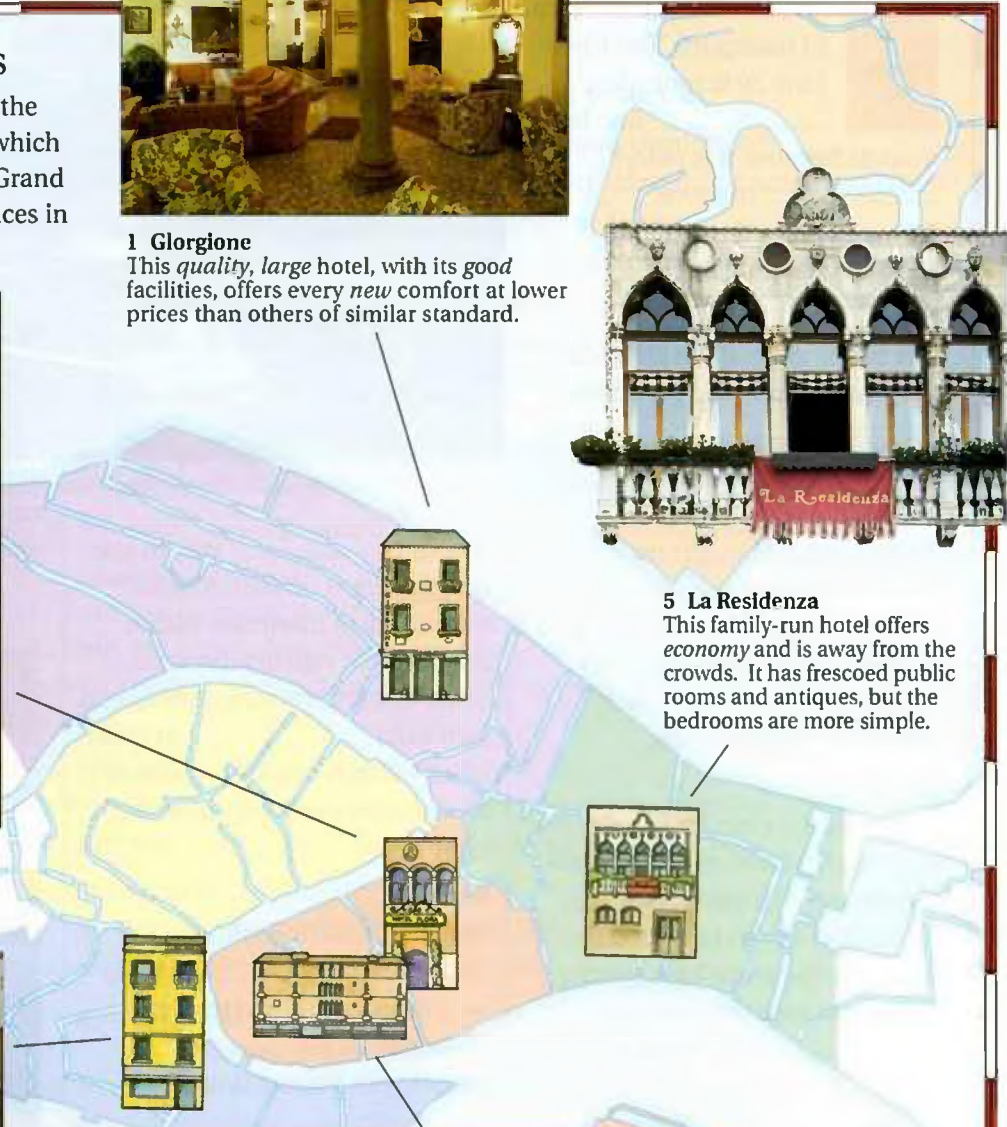
**2 Flora**  
A flower-filled garden is just one of the attractions of this *nice* hotel.



**3 Agli Alboretti**  
This *nice* hotel in a central location has *nice* rooms and a garden courtyard.



**5 La Residenza**  
This family-run hotel offers *economy* and is away from the crowds. It has frescoed public rooms and antiques, but the bedrooms are more simple.



**4 Gritti Palace**  
One of Venice's most *well-known* hotels, the Gritti offers rooms and service of *perfect* standard in an *old* palazzo on the Grand Canal.



## Professional practice Dealing with new words

Try to guess the meaning of a word before you look it up in the dictionary or ask your teacher. We can guess the meaning of words from other words in a text.

- Is it an adjective, noun or verb?
- Does it have a positive or a negative meaning?
- Is it formal or informal?
- Is there a picture to help you guess?

Look at the hotel Agli Alboretti. What do you think *charming* means? What kind of a word is it? (Verb, adjective ...?) Find a similar word in the box opposite.

Do the same thing for other words you don't know in the hotel descriptions.

**speaking** 14 Work in pairs. Student A turn to page 115. Student B look at the information below and ask your partner for information about the hotel Giorgione. Then answer your partner's questions. Write five sentences comparing the hotels.



### Europa e Regina

Calle Larga XXII Marzo, San Marco 2159.

☎ 041 520 04 77 FAX 041 523 15 33

@ marcomilocco@sheraton.com

Rooms: 182 🏠 📺 🚰 🚿 📺 📺

🚤 🛥 boat service, private beach 🚰

€€€€€€

The Europa offers the best value of all the deluxe hotels. The rooms are large and many of them have views across the Grand Canal. The magnificent public rooms are sumptuously ornate in typical Venetian style. There is a garden where people can eat and drink and a canalside terrace with breathtaking views.

**writing** 15 Find information about a hotel in Amsterdam or Venice on the internet. Write an email giving general information about the hotel in reply to an enquiry. Use positive adjectives and remember to include the following.

rooms facilities location price restaurant special features