THE DAKOTA BUILDING

The iconic Dakota building is located on the northwest corner of 72nd Street and Central Park in New York City. This building, which was built from 1880-84, is one of Manhattan’s most prestigious residential buildings, with apartments generally selling for between $4 million and $30 million.

Before the Dakota, apartments were only for the poor. The Dakota introduced the style of communal living to the wealthy people, who used to live in large, single-family houses. Its success prompted the construction of many other luxury apartment buildings in Manhattan.

The Dakota was incredibly opulent. Residents of the Dakota enjoyed a luxury life: there was a private dining room or, if people preferred, they could have meals served to them in their apartment. The building also had electricity and central heating. However, when the Dakota was opened, it was located quite far away from the city.

The building has 65 apartments, ranging in size from 4 rooms to 20 rooms. There was a playroom and a gymnasium under the roof. The top two floors were originally used for servants rooms.

Many celebrities have been residents of The Dakota, including Lauren Bacall, Roberta Flack and John Lennon. The ex-Beatle owned multiple apartments in the building.

The Dakota is best known as the location of Lennon’s murder on December 8, 1980. He was fatally shot by Mark Chapman in front of the 72nd Street entrance to the building. Earlier that day, Lennon had signed an autograph for Chapman as he was leaving the building to go to a recording session with Yoko Ono. When they arrived home around 10:50 pm that night, Chapman shot Lennon multiple times. He was sentenced to 20 years–life in prison.

Adapted from <http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com/dakota-apartments/>

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer. NO marks are given for only true or false. NO marks are given for “V”.

1. The Dakota building was built in the late 1880s.

2. The Dakota was the first apartment building conceived for the rich.

3. Lennon had just one apartment in the Dakota building.

4. Chapman shot Lennon more than once.
II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS):
A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.
   1. emblematic
   2. initially
   4. famous people
   4. possessed

B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
   1. How is the “-s” pronounced in “apartments”, /s/, /z/ or /ɪz/?
   2. How is the “th” pronounced in “wealthy”, /θ/ or /ð/?
   3. Write a word from the text that includes the diphthong sound /aɪ/ as in “nice”.
   4. Write a word from the text that includes the sound /i:/ as in “seen”.

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:
1. There is no other building more luxurious than the Dakota in New York.
   The Dakota building is …………………………………………………………
2. Banderas doesn’t own an apartment in the Dakota building because he doesn’t have enough money.
   If Banderas …………………………………………………………………………..
   Lennon …………………………………………………………………………………
4. “I will go to New York City next summer”, he said.
   He said …………………………………………………………………………………
5. I’m sorry I don’t remember your name.
   I wish …………………………………………………………………………………
6. Write the correct question for the underlined words.
   …………………………………………………………………………………?
   He’s been living in the Dakota building for ten years.

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)
Write a composition of at least 125 words on the following topic:
   Advantages and disadvantages of living in a big city like New York
ZIKA VIRUS RAISES ALARM

Zika virus, which is present in Brazil and in Central America and Mexico, now may jump to the United States. Zika virus infection is not lethal. It typically causes minor or even no symptoms but in pregnant women the virus is extremely dangerous. The reason is clear: it has been linked to a birth defect called microcephaly, which leaves babies with abnormally small heads and partially developed brains. This is why the rapid spread of Zika virus in the Americas raises alarm.

The mysterious tropical virus is transmitted by mosquitoes. Travellers have already brought Zika to Texas, Hawaii and Illinois, though the virus doesn’t seem to have infiltrated U.S. mosquitoes yet. But the United States, with its warm and humid regions, has all the right ingredients for an outbreak of the virus, says Peter Hotez, a paediatrician and microbiologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Scientists first collected Zika virus in 1947 from a monkey that was part of an infectious-disease study in the forests of southern Uganda. For decades, the virus affected monkeys and mosquitoes, infecting humans only rarely — and until 2007, never outside of Africa and Asia. In 2013, the virus was detected in French Polynesia. Then, two years later, in 2015, Zika infected nearly 1.3 million people in Brazil. Zika virus has now spread through 18 countries and territories in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Brazil is fighting the virus in different ways. The government has sent army soldiers on a mission to stop Zika. The soldiers have provided insect repellent to 400,000 pregnant women and distributed leaflets door to door in the fight against the epidemic.

Adapted from <https://www.sciencenews.org>

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.
NO marks are given for only true or false. NO marks are given for “V”.

1. Zika virus may kill the infected person.

2. The virus has already affected U.S. mosquitoes.

3. In 2105 in Brazil the virus infected more than 1.3 million people.

4. The Brazilian government has sent troops to fight Zika.
II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS):

A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. provokes
2. insignificant, unimportant
3. eruption
4. combating

B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

1. Write a word from the text that includes the sound /ɔ:/ as in “port”.
2. Is the “ed” in “developed” pronounced as /t/ /d/ or /td/?
3. How is the “th” pronounced in “though”, /θ/ or /ð/?
4. How is the “-s” pronounced in “leaflets”, /s/ /z/ or /ız/?

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:

1. It is possible that I arrive before midnight.
   I …………………………………………………………………………………………………………

2. The optician repaired my glasses yesterday.
   I had …………………………………………………………………………………………………………

3. My sister gave up going to the gym last month.
   My sister stopped ……………………………………………………………………………………………

4. I started learning Chinese three years ago.
   I have …………………………………………………………………………………………………………

5. Mary couldn’t finish the race because she fainted.
   If …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

6. Write the correct question for the underlined words.
   …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………?
   His brother repairs everything carefully.

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)
Write a composition of at least 125 words on the following topic:

Would you like to work as a doctor? Why? Why not?