

- 3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Replace the underlined phrases with a suitable form of *make* or *do*, and the **highlighted** phrases with a suitable form of *have* or *take*. You will also need to add a word or phrase from the box, and any other necessary words, as in the examples.

bad job **best** chance charge decision fuss a go good hours and hours journey  
laundry mistake place promise problem research shopping stroll trouble **vacation**

## HIGHLAND HORRORS

This month Jeremy Vegal's 'Hotel Road Test' is the **Trent Castle Hotel** in Scotland.

IN THE BAD OLD DAYS, some country hotels had a reputation of being cold, draughty and dour places which (0) tried hard to make their guests feel as unwelcome as possible – people (00) **going on holiday** there often regretted it.

Well, the tourist industry has moved on and we felt it was time to see if the winds of change blowing through the British hotel world had yet reached our northern extremities. From the catalogues and brochures, it seems that every castle in Scotland has turned itself into a hotel, and it was difficult to (1) reach a conclusion about which one to try. In the end we (2) **risked things** and settled for a little-known but promising place deep in the Highlands.

So, full of optimism, I (3) travelled north on the overnight sleeper, a trip that seemed to (4) **last for a very long time**, jumped into a cab and headed east to the Trent Castle Hotel. I had (5) investigated and I knew that the place had been converted from a sixteenth-century fortress about five years ago. From the outside it certainly looked the part with tall granite walls and looming turrets overlooking the dark waters of Lochtreant. Clearly, many bloody battles had (6) **occurred** there in the past. But the owners had (7) committed an error with their work on the interior. Rather than warm and welcoming, it was just as grim and forbidding as the outside.

I got to my room on the third floor, and despite (8) **experiencing difficulties** with the hot water, managed to have a shower. Always eager to test a hotel's efficiency, I called room service and asked for my (9) clothes to be washed. It took forty-five minutes for the chambermaid to arrive, and when she did, she happily informed me that the hotel would (10) impose a fee for each item of clothing I wished to have cleaned. Never one to (11) complain, I politely declined the offer of instant bankruptcy and decided to ask the woman about the possibility of an extra blanket or ten, as the temperature in my room was hovering around zero and it was only the middle of the afternoon. She (12) guaranteed to bring one straightaway, and that was the last I was to see of her for my entire visit.

Anxious to find some warmth, I decided to (13) **make an attempt** at finding the hotel sauna, sure that some dry heat would (14) **be healthy for me**. But when I asked the receptionist about the location of this facility, she looked at me as though I had invented it. 'It's been closed for months,' she announced. 'If you want something to do you could always (15) **go for a walk** and (16) **buy some things**, there's a lovely souvenir shop six miles down the road.' The prospect was deeply unexciting.

'Look,' I said, 'I don't want to (17) cause difficulties, but the sauna is advertised in your brochure.'

'Oh, that thing's full of mistakes,' she replied, 'The printers really (18) messed it up.'

Rather like the owners, I thought to myself ...

0	<u>did their best</u>	6	.....	13	.....
00	<b>taking a vacation</b>	7	.....	14	.....
1	.....	8	.....	15	.....
2	.....	9	.....	16	.....
3	.....	10	.....	17	.....
4	.....	11	.....	18	.....
5	.....	12	.....		