



Hotel California – The Eagles – Notes



- **Activity type:** Vocabulary, gap fill
- **Grammar:** Past Simple.
- **Level:** Pre-Intermediate/Intermediate.
- **Note:** This was the title track of The Eagles' 1976 album of the same name, and is an allegory about hedonism and self-destruction in the Southern California music industry of the late 1970's. The May 1977 single release went to Number 1 in the USA, and won a Grammy Award for Record of the Year.

1) Tell students they are going to hear one of the most famous songs of all time. Ask if they can guess what it is. Play the opening chords of the song – do they recognise it?

2) Hand out the worksheet. Ask students to look at the verbs listed and to write the Past Simple form in the lined gaps (the boxes are for the pictures).

3) Ask them to look at the pictures and label as many of them as possible.

Key: (at this stage any correct answer is acceptable)

ceiling, candle, dance, light, highway, feast, courtyard, wine, bell, door, Mercedes Benz

4) Look at the lyrics, and predict which vocabulary goes in which box.

5) Play the song. Students correct the verb exercise and fill in the boxes with the words they hear. Tell them to fill in the box with four spaces with a year.

6) Check in pairs, then (if time permits) play the song again.

7) Check in open class.

8) Sing the song together.





Hotel California – The Eagles



On a dark desert , cool wind in my hair
 Warm smell of colitas, rising up through the air
 Up ahead in the distance, I a shimmering
 My head heavy and my sight dim
 I to stop for the night
 There she in the doorway;
 I the mission
 And I thinking to myself,
 "This could be heaven or this could be hell"
 Then she up a and she me the way
 There voices down the corridor,
 I I them say...

Welcome to the hotel California
Such a lovely place
Such a lovely face
Plenty of room at the hotel California
Any time of year, you can find it here

Her mind is tiffany-twisted, she got the
 She got a lot of pretty, pretty boys, that she calls friends
 How they in the
 sweet summer sweat.
 Some dance to remember, some dance to forget

So I up the captain,
 please bring me my
 He ,
 "we haven't had that spirit here since "
 And still those voices are calling from far away,
 Wake you up in the middle of the night
 Just to hear them say...

Welcome to the hotel California
Such a lovely place
Such a lovely face
They're living it up at the hotel California
What a nice surprise, bring your alibis

Mirrors on the
 The pink champagne on ice
 And she said "we are all just prisoners here, of our own device"
 And in the master's chambers,
 They for the
 They stab it with their steely knives,
 But they just can't kill the beast
 Last thing I remember, I running for the
 I to find the passage back
 To the place I before
 "Relax", the night man,
 "We are programmed to receive.
 You can check out any time you like,
 But you can never leave!"

TO SEE
 TO GROW (x2)
 TO HAVE
 TO STAND
 TO HEAR
 TO BE

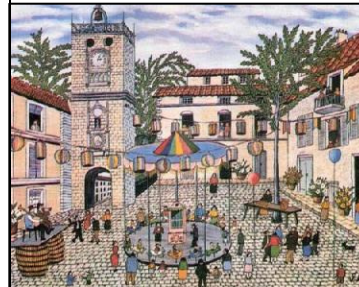
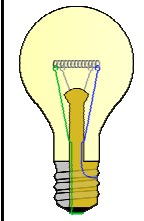
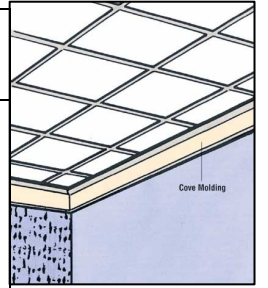
TO LIGHT - TO SHOW
 TO BE
 TO THINK - TO HEAR

TO CALL

TO SAY

TO GATHER

TO BE
 TO HAVE
 TO BE
 TO SAY





Hotel California – The Eagles – Complete



On a dark desert **highway**, cool wind in my hair
Warm smell of colitas, rising up through the air
Up ahead in the distance, I *saw* a shimmering **light**
My head *grew* heavy and my sight *grew* dim
I *had* to stop for the night
There she *stood* in the doorway;
I *heard* the mission **bell**
And I *was* thinking to myself,
this could be heaven or this could be hell
Then she *lit* up a **candle** and she *showed* me the way
There *were* voices down the corridor,
I *thought* I *heard* them say...

Welcome to the hotel California
Such a lovely place
Such a lovely face
Plenty of room at the hotel California
Any time of year, you can find it here

Her mind is tiffany-twisted, she got the **Mercedes Benz**
She got a lot of pretty, pretty boys, that she calls friends
How they **dance** in the **courtyard**, sweet summer sweat.
Some dance to remember, some dance to forget

So I *called* up the captain, please bring me my **wine**
He *said*, we haven't had that spirit here since **1969**
And still those voices are calling from far away,
Wake you up in the middle of the night
Just to hear them say...

Welcome to the hotel California
Such a lovely place
Such a lovely face
They're living it up at the hotel California
What a nice surprise, bring your alibis

Mirrors on the **ceiling**,
The pink champagne on ice
And she *said* "we are all just prisoners here, of our own device"
And in the master's chambers,
They *gathered* for the **feast**
They stab it with their steely knives,
But they just can't kill the beast
Last thing I remember, I *was* running for the **door**
I *had* to find the passage back, to the place I *was* before
"Relax", *said* the night man, "we are programmed to receive."
You can check out any time you like,
But you can never leave!"