Villa Vie cruise halts in Cambodia

LEVEL A2/B1



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I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever taken a cruise or a long trip? Where?
2. What would you like to do on a ship for fun?
3. What problems can happen during long travel?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

voyage
a long trip, especially by sea

fuel
energy like oil or gas that powers engines

suspend
to stop something for a period of time

stranded
unable to leave a place

disembark
to leave a ship after a journey

itinerary
the plan of places and times on a trip

restructuring
a process to change a company's finances and plans

port
a town or place by the sea where ships stop

III. READING

The Villa Vie Odyssey, a luxury cruise ship, suspended its voyage because fuel costs rose sharply. The operator, Villa Vie Residences, said passengers were stranded in Sihanoukville, a port in Cambodia. It is working on disembarkation plans and temporary living arrangements.

The ship left Belfast in October 2024 for a continuous world voyage planned for 3.5 years and nearly 150 countries. It was more than 750 days into the trip when operations stopped. The vessel can carry up to 650 people; about 200 were on board.

Fuel costs in parts of Asia rose from about $1,800 to as much as $8,000 per cabin each month. The company said slowing the itinerary and spending more time in port did not save enough. It will spend 60 days on restructuring, but no outcome is assured. Some passengers chose to disembark and travel by land, while others would like the ship to continue soon.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News**: *"Luxury cruise passengers stranded in Cambodia...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Villa Vie Odyssey suspend its voyage?
2. Where are the passengers stranded?
3. When and from where did the ship start its world voyage?
4. How high did monthly fuel costs per cabin rise in parts of Asia?
5. What will the company do for the next 60 days?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Would you like to live on a ship for months? Why or why not?
2. What costs make travel expensive today?
3. What would you do if you were stranded abroad?
4. Which is better for a long trip: sea or air travel?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Would like vs like

Use would like for a wish or polite want now; like for general preferences and habits. Forms: would like + noun / to + verb; like + noun / verb-ing.

*"Right now, some travellers **would like** clearer updates."*

*"Many passengers **like** evenings on deck."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with like or would like (+ to/-ing) as needed.

1. After the delay, passengers (like) ___ a refund now. _____
2. In general, cruise fans (like) ___ long sea days. _____
3. If prices fell, some travellers (like) ___ to continue. _____
4. Families usually (like) ___ booking cabins near the pool. _____
5. Right now, a few people (like) ___ to stay on board. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.



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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8 minutes vocabulary, 10–12 minutes reading, 8–10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes discussion. Fold the separate grammar stage into reading or discussion as needed.
- Pre-teach place names (Belfast, Cambodia, Sihanoukville) and check students know cruise, cabin and per month. Highlight numbers and time phrases before reading.
- Run a first silent read for gist, then a second read to underline facts that answer the five questions. The story involves people stranded far from home; start the discussion in pairs and tell students they may answer generally, not personally.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise the timeline in 3–4 sentences; others match numbers to facts (650, $1,800, $8,000, 60 days) before answering questions.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Most will answer yes/no quickly; ask for one concrete reason and one worry (money, health).
2. Board examples first (fuel, hotels, tickets), then push for one they can cut or avoid.
3. Have students list three steps, then compare in pairs and choose the best first action.
4. Take a quick show of hands, then pair opposite views to swap two pros and two cons.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write a 70-word update from Villa Vie to passengers about the 60-day plan.

Role-play: In trios, act a call: a passenger asks the operator about refunds and housing; switch roles after 5 minutes.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Would like vs like

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Villa Vie Odyssey suspend its voyage?
   Because fuel costs rose sharply.
2. Where are the passengers stranded?
   In Sihanoukville, Cambodia.
3. When and from where did the ship start its world voyage?
   In October 2024, from Belfast.
4. How high did monthly fuel costs per cabin rise in parts of Asia?
   To as much as $8,000 per month.
5. What will the company do for the next 60 days?
   Work on restructuring, with no assured outcome.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with like or would like (+ to/-ing) as needed.

1. After the delay, passengers ___ a refund now. **would like**
2. In general, cruise fans ___ long sea days. **like**
3. If prices fell, some travellers ___ to continue. **would like**
4. Families usually ___ booking cabins near the pool. **like**
5. Right now, a few people ___ to stay on board. **would like**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use would like for a wish or polite want now; like for general preferences and habits. Forms: would like + noun / to + verb; like + noun / verb-ing. (Examples constructed.)

*"Right now, some travellers **would like** clearer updates."*

*"Many passengers **like** evenings on deck."*