Chain Reaction
Post-reading activity

1. The Independence of the Seas is the biggest cruise ship in the world and it has much to offer. Can you guess some of the facilities you have available on board?

   - ______________
   - ______________
   - ______________
   - ______________
   - ______________
   - ______________
   - ______________
   - ______________
   - ______________

Now look at the following footage from The One Show about the Independence of the Seas in http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9yqZis6Vtk

2. Below are a few excerpts from the footage. Fill in the gaps with the missing words. There is always a small word box to help you out.

Getting to know Independence of the Seas. Join us...

Excerpt 1

Carol Thatcher: There are a lot of wow factor (1) ______________ on board this ship which I’d never thought I’d see at sea. A stunning ice rink, a boxing ring, 8 (2) ______________, massive chandeliers and I’m delighted to report for the thirsty (3) ______________ a choice of 13 bars.

One TV Show: That’s quite a bar crawl you could do there Carol, if you’re so minded to. You’re a (4) ______________ type of person yourself?

Carol Thatcher: I do enjoy it, I’ll tell you why. This ships operates out of Southampton, as many of them do, so you don't have to battle your way to Terminal 5, which is a blast these days. And, you know, you can stop in a few (5) ______________ around the (6) ______________. It’s actually quite relaxing. There’s loads to do; the (7) ______________ is quite good; plenty of fresh (8) ______________ air.
Are you curious about this ship? Let’s find out some more about it. Turn the page…

and WELCOME inside the ship…

Excerpt 2

One TV Show: Carol has been there on (9) ______________ all day, so let’s take a look at what she’s seen so far.

Carol Thatcher: This really is a (10) ______________ of extremes. Size and scale allow more on board than any passenger line has seen before. It oozes (11) ______________. There were (12) ______________ squares feet of windows. The best view of all is from up here, the (13) ______________. It’s crammed full of cutting edge (14) ______________.

Carol Thatcher: Captain, what’s this ship like to drive?

Captain Teo Strazic: You definitely don’t want to scratch it; you don’t want to have any dust on it. You keep polishing and making it pretty, but also very careful when you draw it. I have convenient use of the (15) ______________. They can turn round 360º. She’s quite fast; she can do (16) ______________ knots.

Carol Thatcher: Not bad when you think it’s going to have (17) ______________ guests on board when it’s full.

Can you believe it? There’s even a (18) ______________ wall. And this is a true first. Never before has a cruise ship had a surf pool on board.

Cruising in Britain has always been a passion for many. Let’s find out whether the situation has changed, or not, over the last couple of years.

Excerpt 3

Carol Thatcher: Hello again from the ship’s (19) ______________. I’m here with the travel journalist, Kelly Ranson, who specialises in (20) ______________. Kelly, it seems to me flavour of the month, cruising, at the moment.

Kelly Ranson: Cruising is definitely flavour of the month, at the moment, especially there has been a number of other cruise (21) ______________ having high profile launches, and the Passenger Shipping Association have said that this year there’s 1.555 million (22) ______________ expected to cruise, which is a 14% increase on last year’s. So it’s definitely on the (23) ______________.

Carol Thatcher: Quite a number. Why is cruising so popular?

Kelly Ranson: I think because it’s got everything. You know, it’s (24) ______________ and the cruise lines are putting money into innovation. They really wanna go for (25) ______________.
However, cruising is not that cheap. Or is it? Listen to what Kelly Ranson has to say...

**Excerpt 4**

**Carol Thatcher:** It’s got a bit of an (26) ____________ image, though. Is the average age of passenger’s age coming down?

**Kelly Ranson:** It’s definitely coming down, the age. On a ship like this in the summer, (...) the average age of around (27) _______________ and you’re gonna probably have around a 1000 (28) _______________ on a general cruise. That’s definitely not just for elderly, no.

**Carol Thatcher:** A 1000 children on board, uh oh! Now then, what about the (29) ______________ of cruising, because it has a bit of a pricey image, doesn’t it?

**Kelly Ranson:** Hum well, you know, you get on board this ship and once you pay, pretty much everything is covered: your entertainment, your food and then you get to see all these destinations. You (30) ______________ once and you travel, like you said, into 5 or 6 different ports.

**BIO SECTION**

**Carol Thatcher** was born on August 15th 1953. She is a British journalist, author and media personality. She is the only daughter of Margaret Thatcher, a former British Prime Minister.

From 2006 to 2009, Thatcher was a freelance contributor to the BBC One magazine programme *The One Show*, making regular filmed reports and joining the presenters and guests in the studio for discussions.