

## COMPRENSIÓ DE TEXTOS ESCRITS

### READING COMPREHENSION. TRUE / FALSE.

Decide whether the following statements are **TRUE** or **FALSE** according to the information found in the text.

#### **Harrods: all things for all people - everywhere**

Many visitors to London know that Harrods is the largest department store in the world, with no less than 92,000 square metres of selling space. But do they also know some other interesting facts about the company that, according to its motto, prides itself on selling 'all things for all people – everywhere'? Attracting over 15 million visitors each year, Harrods is ranked in the top 3 tourist attractions in London, after Buckingham Palace and St Paul's Cathedral.

Today's much-loved trading giant started out very differently when the company's founder moved his grocery shop to its current location in 1849. Initially, it consisted only of a single room with two shop assistants and a delivery boy. It took forty years to grow into a company employing one hundred people.

It was Harrods at the end of that century that installed the world's first escalator. Brave travellers on the moving staircase were rewarded with a glass of brandy when they reached the top.

Harrods' success in Britain did not extend to other countries. In 1912, they opened their only department store in a foreign country in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which became independent about thirty years later, but still continued to use the name. Finally, in 1997, a British court ordered the Argentinian shop to stop trading under the Harrods brand.

Famous customers of Harrods include author A. A. Milne, who bought the original Winnie-the-Pooh in the store, and film director Alfred Hitchcock, who ordered his favourite fish there, which had to be flown to him for one of his films in Hollywood.

And what do Darth Vader and James Bond have in common? Well, they both worked at Harrods! Actor David Prowse had been a fitness consultant in the sports department before he became the most hated Jedi in the galaxy, and 007, Pierce Brosnan, worked as a shop assistant in the pharmacy.

And Harrods truly sells everything you can think of. At the beginning of the 20th century, they made yachts, sold planes, built homes – you could even hire an ambulance with a trained nurse! Today, it has 330 departments – including a bank, a beauty salon, and 28 restaurants. What more could you want?

1. Harrods is the largest department store in the world with over 92,000 square metres of selling space.
2. Harrods started out as a grocery shop.
3. The company's founder moved his grocery shop to its current location in 1859.
4. Harrods initially consisted only of a single room with three employees.
5. The company grew to employ one hundred people by 1889.
6. Harrods installed the world's first escalator in the 20th century.
7. Harrods has opened department stores in several foreign countries.
8. Author A. A. Milne was a famous customer of Harrods.
9. Film director Alfred Hitchcock ordered food from Harrods for his Hollywood productions.
10. Harrods sold various goods beyond luxury items at the beginning of the 20th century.

## KEY

1. Harrods is the largest department store in the world with over 92,000 square metres of selling space. (TRUE)
2. Harrods started out as a grocery shop. (TRUE)
3. The company's founder moved his first business to its current location in 1859. (FALSE)
4. Harrods initially consisted only of a single room with three employees. (TRUE)
5. The company grew to employ one hundred people by 1889. (TRUE)
6. Harrods installed the world's first escalator in the 20th century. (FALSE)
7. Harrods has opened department stores in several foreign countries. (FALSE)
8. Author A. A. Milne was a famous customer of Harrods. (TRUE)
9. Film director Alfred Hitchcock ordered food from Harrods for his Hollywood productions. (TRUE)
10. Harrods sold various goods beyond luxury items at the beginning of the 20th century. (TRUE)