6 Answer the questions about the words and expressions.

- 1 Is a *warden* likely to be (a) a teacher at the college, or (b) someone who looks after the hall of residence?
- 2 Is a *tutor* likely to be (a) a teacher, or (b) a student?
- 3 If you *go along* somewhere, do you (a) go to a place and join other people there, or (b) walk a long way to get to a place?
- 4 If you *rent out* a room, do you (a) paint and decorate it, or (b) allow it to be used by someone who pays you regularly to use it?

Reading and interpreting

Humour through exaggeration

The passage is meant to be humorous, and the writer achieves this effect through exaggeration.

I can lie on the bed and touch three walls without moving a muscle. The writer doesn't really mean the room is too small to the extent that she can't move a muscle, she is exaggerating.

7 Work in pairs. Look at the sentences from the passage and answer the questions.

- 1 As he speaks, he moves his head from side to side, which makes his coffee spill into the saucer. Is this the real reason the coffee spills into the saucer?
- 2 ... "splendid," he says, without waiting for the answer, and moves on.
 - Is the tutor really interested in the students he's talking to?
- 3 ... today's menu includes chicken, rice, potatoes, salad, vegetables, cheese, yoghurt and fruit. The boy in front puts it all on his plate, pays for it, and goes to sit down.

Is this a usual amount of food to eat at one meal?

4 She impresses me, and I feel so ignorant that I shouldn't even breathe the same air as her.
What does the writer think of Sophie?

Developing critical thinking

8 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you think the diary extract is funny?
- 2 Have you had any similar experiences during your first weeks at university?
- 3 What are the main differences between the writer's university and yours?
- 4 Which aspects about the writer's university do you like or dislike?

Talking point

