

cubanomics: **papa** vs lizard

Cuba is famous _____ charm. I decided to _____ a guide _____ all. Maybe he could find me some. **Roberto**, as I'll call him, took me to Hemingway's house. It's a plantation-style manor with a guest cottage and a swimming pool. I must remember _____
_____. There's a three-story tower with a small room _____ the top where **Hemingway**
_____ go and think big thoughts ("Where is that gin bottle?").

And in the toilet _____ the main bedroom, there's a pickled lizard on a shelf. The lizard
_____ a fight with one of Hemingway's cats. The cat won, but the **reptile** _____ so
_____ that Papa felt the need to immortalize it. The liquid in the container was low, I
noticed. It looked like somebody _____ a few **sips** out of the lizard _____. And, on
_____, I'm not sure I have _____ to be a _____ author.

Roberto was _____, full of official, government-_____ **information**. On the way to
Hemingway's house we passed the _____ worker housing that everywhere _____
the Cuban landscape. The buildings are nothing _____ concrete _____ - six-story-
high, hundred-yard-long stacks of tiny **apartment** boxes. "The workers made these!" said
Roberto. _____, if you think about it, workers make everything, "The government gives
them the construction material. Then they rent for 12 years. And then they own them!"
_____, you get a **free home** in Cuba _____ you build it and pay for it.

When we drove into La Habana Vieja, Roberto _____ out a gutted **hotel**: "Those are
special worker brigades doing this construction. They can work 16 hours a day." This
_____ one of the other eight. Everyone was sitting _____ smoking cigarettes.
"In 1959 there were 6,000 **doctors** in Cuba," said Roberto, referring to nothing. Three
thousand of them left after the revolution. Yet we are training new doctors. _____ the year
2000 there will be 60,000 doctors in Cuba!" But Roberto could only talk **government talk**
_____. He couldn't _____ the real _____, what's _____ every Cuban's mind all the
time: the economic _____. "You see these cab drivers?" he said, pointing to a line of tourist-
only taxis. "People need to earn **dollars**. These drivers _____ be doctors." How
_____. I have a cough, Doc, and take me to the airport when you're done.