

1 WHAT ARE YOU LIKE?



? ABOUT YOU

▶ 01 Watch the video and then answer the questions.

How do you think your friends would describe you?
 What are your best and worst personality traits?
 Are there any personality traits you would like to have?

VOCABULARY AND READING

PERSONALITY

- EP 1** Read the personality test questions. Which word or phrase from the box has a similar meaning to the verbs in the test?

depend on disagree with not be included
 seem understand

PERSONALITY TEST

Say 'Yes' or 'No' to each statement.

- You don't like being alone – you have lots of friends and hate to **feel left out**.
- You accept different ideas and are willing to change your views.
- You sometimes **clash with** people you don't agree with.
- You don't like being the centre of attention and prefer not to be noticed.
- You **come across as** shy and enjoy being alone.
- People can **rely on** you to look after their valuables.
- You never forget your homework and always do it carefully.
- You can **relate to** other people and their problems.

- 2** Answer the questions in the personality test and then turn to page 128 to discover what personality characteristics you have. Compare your answers with a partner.

- EP 3** Complete the sentences with a word from the box in the correct form.

clash with come across as conscientiously
 extroverted feel left out introverted
 open-minded relate to rely on
 self-conscious trustworthy

- Due to difficulties in finding work, many people their parents for financial support until well into their thirties.
- Iago works in class, paying great attention to detail.
- My sisters are twins and much older than me, so I sometimes
- My mother is – always chatting to everyone she meets, whereas my father is more He mostly likes to listen.
- People in my country have become more in recent years. They are more willing to accept people with different beliefs.
- The person I best in my family is my grandmother – we share the same sense of humour.
- I used to my brother when we were growing up, but now we get on brilliantly.
- Sofia a bit unfriendly, but she's lovely once you get to know her.
- Freddy is so – he hates giving presentations in class.
- It is important to find someone to look after your pets when you go on holiday.

- 4** Discuss the questions with a partner.

- What do you think personality tests are used for?
- Have you ever done one?
- How accurate do you think they are?

- 5** Read the article on the opposite page quickly. Which statement best summarises the writer's view?

- A Personality tests are a complete waste of time.
 B Some personality tests may be useful.
 C Personality tests are only useful in work contexts.

- 6** Read the article again and match the views 1–4 to the experts.

Aurelio Da Silva Margarita Fonseca
 Michael Robson Wendy Barnett

- Companies are not very concerned about dishonesty in personality tests.
- The Big Five Personality Traits test is better than other tests.
- Only tests which acknowledge individual differences should be used.
- Tests should not ask abstract questions.

How reliable are PERSONALITY TESTS?



We've all done it. Answered a few questions in an online quiz to 'reveal the secrets' of our personality. It's just a bit of fun, right? Or is there more to it? After all, some employers rely on these tests to hire staff, which means people's futures can be at stake. Here we explore the accuracy of personality tests with those who have used them and those who best understand them.



19-year-old students Jenny and Beth from London were looking for summer jobs last year. Jenny had never believed in personality tests, so was quite concerned when she had to take one before being offered an interview. 'I knew Beth was going to give false answers,' explains Jenny. 'She was very shy and self-conscious and didn't think she'd do well at interview, so the personality test was all-important. Beth thought that if she came across as too introverted, she wouldn't get selected.' Having given the answers that she thought the company wanted, she was rejected. Jenny, who had been completely honest in her responses was rejected too. 'I'm extroverted, which must have come through in my answers, so I've no idea what they were looking for,' she complains.

According to psychologist **Wendy Barnett**, it is not that hard to detect either random answering or fake responses. People used to believe that tests which rely on people defining their own personalities would be easy to cheat on, but due to sophisticated algorithms, that is no longer the case. Although people see questions in isolation, they are, in a good test, part of a set, and it is the analysis of all of a person's answers that gives insight into their true character. Strangely enough, detecting that someone has given false answers doesn't automatically eliminate them from some selection processes. Barnett claims that employers accept that exaggerating or 'stretching the truth' can sometimes be an advantage in a business situation. The ability to 'play' the personality tests can actually demonstrate that the applicant is self-aware and conscious of the situation they are in. It is not necessarily a sign that they are not trustworthy in their day to day life.

The company that rejected Jenny and Beth will never know if they made the right decision, but what do the experts say about the reliability of such tests? Well, there is a huge difference between a professionally produced test and a quiz in a magazine. Personality researcher **Margarita Fonseca** of the Trent Institute favours the Big FIVE

Personality Traits, scientifically developed over many decades. The test claims to reveal how conscientious, open-minded, calm and agreeable people are, as well as how extroverted or introverted they are.

22-year-old Anil took this test last year because he had read about it and was curious. 'All my friends had been talking about it for ages and I was feeling left out,' he says. Anil, initially doubtful about personality tests, was stunned by the accuracy of the Big FIVE. In particular, he was impressed that it provided insight into how he related to others. 'I would frequently clash with friends,' he admitted. 'I had never realised before that I had a tendency to insist I was right and didn't listen to the other person's point of view.' Anil believes that taking the test has made him more self-aware and improved his relationships.

Since doing the test, Anil has been trying to change his behaviour. But is he missing the point? According to experts, analysing your personality may be useful in deciding who you will get on well with, but this is not how friendships work in practice. Some people may be incompatible on paper but the chemistry between them just works. Personality is not everything. Shared interests and experiences count for just as much.

Aurelio Da Silva is a lecturer in psychology who doubts the accuracy of many personality tests, particularly those that ask strange questions like 'Do you identify with snakes?' 'It is nearly impossible to work out what someone's answers to such questions might mean,' Da Silva argues. However, most psychologists agree that some personality tests may be valid. **Michael Robson**, who advises companies on hiring staff, is of the view that in order to be valuable, tests must account for diversity and avoid 'putting people in boxes'. Overall, though, it seems more likely that the way a person has performed in their work or studies in the past will be a more reliable indicator than a score on a personality test.

7 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why do you think the writer includes the story of what happened to Jenny and Beth?
- 2 Why might a candidate who 'faked' his or her answers on a personality test still be hired?
- 3 What surprised Anil about the results of his personality test?
- 4 What is the writer's view on the role of personality in relationships?
- 5 Does the writer agree that personality tests should be the main basis of hiring decisions?



TALKING POINTS

Would you be happy if a personality test was used as part of a selection process for a job or university course?
 Do you think the results of a personality test could help in improving relationships between friends or family members?

GRAMMAR

PAST TENSE REVIEW

1 Read extracts from the article 1–8 and match them to uses a–h.

- 1 She was very shy and **didn't think** she'd do well.
- 2 Jenny and Beth from London **were looking** for summer jobs last year.
- 3 We've all **done** it.
- 4 Jenny **had** never **believed** in personality tests.
- 5 Anil **has been trying** to change his behaviour.
- 6 All my friends **had been talking** about it for ages.
- 7 I **would** frequently **clash** with friends.
- 8 People **used to believe** that tests would be easy to cheat on.

- a a state which existed up to a particular point in the past
- b an action in progress up to a point in the past
- c an action that took place at an unspecified time in the past
- d an action that started in the past and continues up to the present time
- e a habitual action in the past
- f an action in progress at a particular time in the past
- g a completed action in the past
- h a state in the past

2 Match each example in Exercise 1 to a tense or structure below.

- present perfect simple
- present perfect continuous
- past simple
- past continuous
- past perfect simple
- past perfect continuous
- would + infinitive
- used to + infinitive

» **GRAMMAR REFERENCE AND PRACTICE PAGE 144**

3 Choose the correct verb form.

- 1 Jan changed classes because she *hadn't / hasn't* been getting on very well with the other students.
- 2 I *used to / would* be quite shy but I'm much more outgoing now.
- 3 When my Dad got home yesterday, my brother and I *argued / were arguing* over what to have for dinner.
- 4 I've always *believed / been believing* you should put your family first.
- 5 What have you *been doing / done*? You're covered in mud!
- 6 We *were inviting / invited* Jaime to the party, but he didn't come.
- 7 When I was at primary school, I *will / would* always get in trouble for talking too much.
- 8 I wanted to help put up the decorations, but Mum *had already done / was already doing* it.

4 Complete Emma's message to her friend Jessica with the correct past tense form of the verbs in brackets.

Hi Jess
 I still can't believe what ¹ (happen)!
 Marc and I ² (have) a nice evening, talking about stuff, when he suddenly ³ (drop) a bombshell.
 He ⁴ (say) he ⁵ (have) something to tell me. He ⁶ (think) about going abroad for a long time, and recently he ⁷ (decide) to do it.
 I ⁸ (think) it was all talk and he would never go through with it, but now he's off to Greece!
 I ⁹ (sit) here for hours, thinking about what life will be like without him. He ¹⁰ (be) my best friend for as long as I can remember.

5 Read the rest of Emma's message and decide if statements 1–4 are true or false. Correct the false statements.

Do you remember how Marc and I used to sit for hours in the park chatting? Marc used to be obsessed with sport and he'd sit and plan his trip to the World Cup Final. It didn't use to bother me too much, though, as we'd always get ice cream from the kiosk. I'm going to miss him so much!



- 1 *used to + infinitive* can describe past habits but not past states.
- 2 *would + infinitive* can describe past habits but not past states.
- 3 The negative form of *used to* is *didn't used to*.
- 4 *would* can be shortened to *'d*.

6 Read the sentences and decide if the correct past form is used. Tick the correct sentences and correct the incorrect sentences.

- 1 In the 1980s, psychologists realised that many tests that were developed were not valid.
- 2 My grandparents would live on a farm and they would only go into town about once a month.
- 3 The twins were attending the local school, and doing well.
- 4 Ali jumped out of his seat and had shouted 'Goal!'
- 5 When I was born, my parents were married for 10 years.
- 6 The boy was totally exhausted. He's been running all morning.
- 7 The children didn't tell me they were going out. I was worried!

7 » **WORK IN PAIRS. TURN TO PAGE 128.**

VOCABULARY

ADJECTIVE AND ADVERB SUFFIXES

1 You will hear two friends, Lewis and Olivia, discussing personality tests. Was Lewis's test
 a mainly accurate?
 b mainly inaccurate?
 c partly accurate and partly inaccurate?

2 Listen again and write the personality adjectives you hear. The first letters have been given to help you.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 0 knowledgeable | 5 sel |
| 1 sen | 6 nar |
| 2 opt | 7 res |
| 3 sup | 8 cha |
| 4 car | 9 jud |

3 Which nouns are the adjectives in Exercise 2 formed from?

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 0 knowledge | 5 |
| 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 9 |

4 Complete the sentences using an adjective formed from the word in brackets. Use the suffixes in the box and make spelling changes if necessary.

-able -al -ed -ible -ic -ish -less -y

- You're so *bossy*! (boss) Stop telling me what to do!
- Robert is a very (like) boy. He is always friendly and cheerful.
- You should be more (response) at your age, Ben, and look after your little sister!
- That's a very (origin) idea for a story.
- Stop fighting! You're being really (child).
- It's just not (realist) to expect everyone to like each other.
- Molly is trying skydiving next. She is absolutely (fear)!
- What's got into you today? You're so (bad temper).

5 What other adjectives do you know with the suffixes in Exercise 4?

6 Complete the sentences with the adverb form of the adjective in brackets.

- 'Leave me alone, I'm busy!' shouted Adam (bad-tempered)
- Georgia smiled when she read her exam results. (happy)
- Mathilda accused her brother of eating her chocolate. (false)
- Dr Richards spoke very about the psychology of personality testing. (knowledgeable)
- Eva is only 14, but she already plays the piano (beautiful)
- Do you think that we can finish the project by the end of the week? (realistic)

7 Look at the answers to Exercise 6 and complete the rules for forming adverbs from adjectives.

- Adjectives ending in a consonant: add
- Adjectives ending in -y: change y to
- Adjectives ending in -e: add
- Adjectives ending in -able, -ible or -le: change the final e to
- Adjectives ending in -l: add
- Adjectives ending in -ic: add

8 Read the blog post below and answer the questions.

- Does the writer recommend house-sharing?
- What problems has she had with housemates?

9 Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.



HOUSE-SHARING

Welcome to the wonderful world of the house-share. Sharing can save money and be an (0) *enjoyable* experience, but believe me, there are lots of pitfalls. The first time I advertised for people to share my house, I (1) expected to find people who shared my love of tidiness and order. Elena was certainly a (2) person – if a little too chatty – but within a month the house was absolutely (3) and I had to ask her to leave.

The next occupant of my spare room was Nina. When she moved in, she (4) brought her cat Macavity with her – I had told her 'no pets allowed!' At first, I didn't mind, but soon Macavity had scratched my brand new sofa, which I was furious about, (5) so they too had to go. 'I'll never find anyone I can live with!' I said (6) Then I met Ida. She is great fun, with a (7) personality. Best of all, she is one of the most caring and (8) people I've ever met. So, stick with it! The right housemate is out there somewhere.

ENJOY

FOOL

WONDER

FILTH

CHEEK

NATURE

PESSIMIST

MAGNET

SELF

10 Think of adjectives to describe your family members and close friends. Try to write one adjective for each of these suffixes.

-able -al -ed -ful -ible -ic -ish -ive -less -y

11 Compare your ideas with a partner.

LISTENING

1 Discuss the questions with a partner.

- Which social media accounts do you have and why?
- Do you tend to share lots of photos and videos?
- Do you know anyone who exaggerates or even lies on social media?

2 Listen to Extract 1. You hear two friends talking about a girl called Shania and her social media use. For question 1 choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear.



- What does the girl suggest about Shania?
 - She is being dishonest on social media.
 - She has a better life now thanks to social media.
 - She wants to have lots of followers on social media.



3 Listen again and answer question 2.

- What point does the boy make about social media?
 - It encourages feelings of envy among people.
 - It allows people to express themselves fully.
 - It highlights some enduring human characteristics.

4 Read the part of the script relating to question 2. The words and phrases that give you the correct answer are highlighted. Underline the words and phrases that try to distract you from the correct answer.

GIRL: It does look like that, doesn't it? I saw the photos she posted a couple of weeks ago and thought, 'Wow, she's living the dream!' But then I bumped into her in town the other day and, talking to her, I got the impression that things might not be as amazing as she's making them out to be. But that's the thing, isn't it? You can be who you want to be online and create this illusion for your thousands of followers that everything's perfect.

BOY: I don't know. I mean, it's true that people show off online and make themselves look like they're really cool, popular, happy and everything, but hasn't that always been the case? I suppose that social media has made it easier for people to make stuff up or exaggerate aspects of their lives or personality. But then people have boasted about their fancy clothes and big houses for centuries. With today's social networks it's just more obvious.



5 Now listen to Extract 2. You hear two friends discussing their teacher. Answer questions 3 and 4.



- What does the boy say about his previous class?
 - He enjoyed the discussions.
 - He made a lot of mistakes.
 - He was lacking in confidence.
- What do they both think makes their teacher exceptional?
 - She has a good sense of humour.
 - She increases students' self-esteem.
 - She is a similar age to the students.

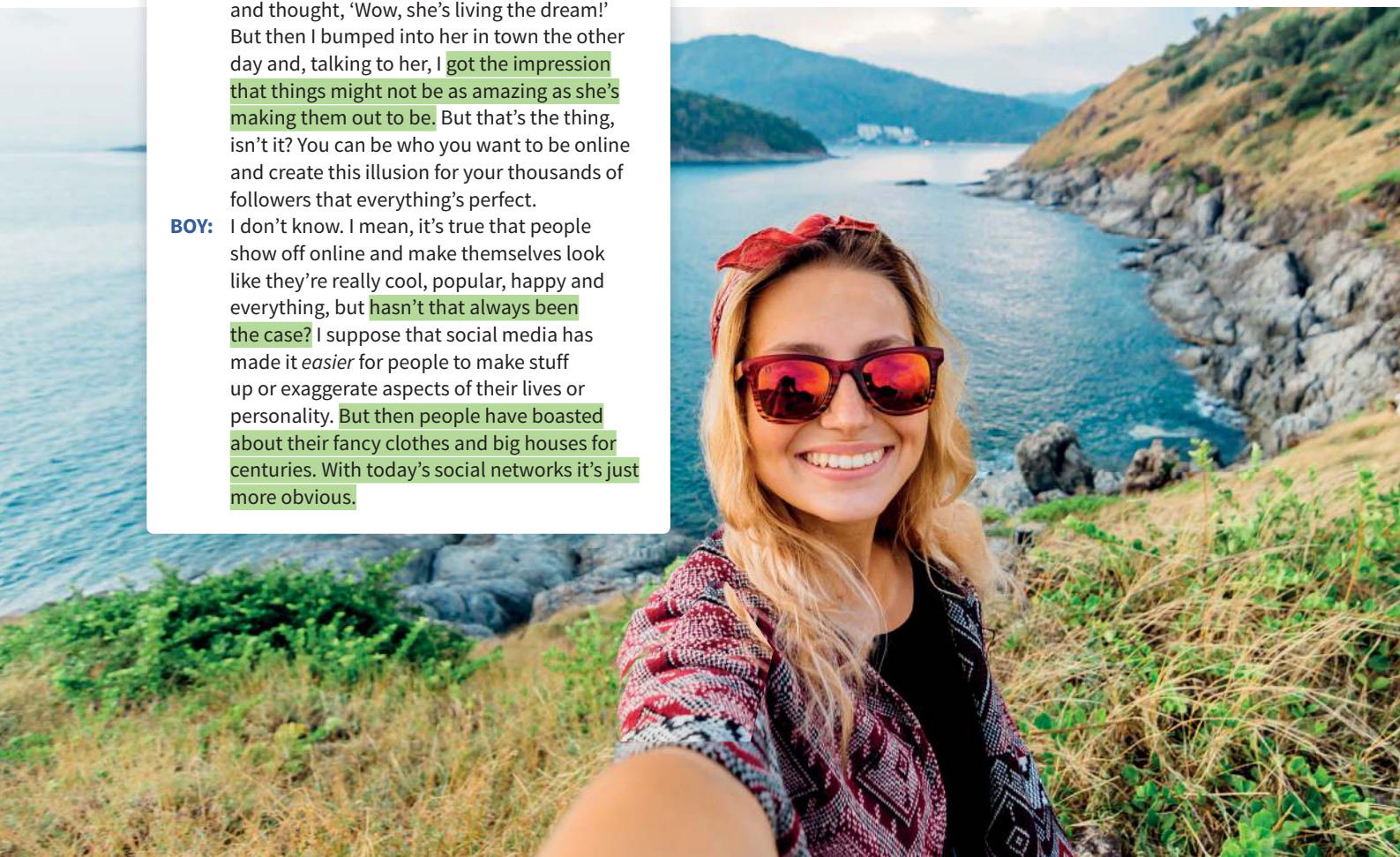


6 Now listen to Extract 3. You hear two friends discussing a friend called Adrian. Answer questions 5 and 6.

- The speakers are worried about their friend Adrian because
 - he has problems with his girlfriend.
 - he isn't focusing on his studies.
 - he won't talk to them anymore.
- What do the two speakers agree to do?
 - let Adrian work the problem out for himself
 - suggest ways of dealing with the situation to Adrian
 - discuss the issue with Adrian's sister

7 Discuss the questions with a partner.

- What problems can be caused by people giving a false impression of themselves on social media?
- What qualities do you think a teacher should have?
- Do you think the speakers in Extract 3 made the right decision regarding their friend's behaviour? What else could they have done?



SPEAKING

PERSONAL INTERVIEW



1 Look at the questions. Which are about the present and which are about the past? Write *present* or *past* for each.

- a Have you celebrated any special occasions recently? (What happened?)
- b What kind of activities do you enjoy doing with your friends in your spare time?
- c What has been your most memorable holiday?
- d What did you like most about your primary school? (Why?)
- e How important is it to spend time with your family? (Why?)
- f What is your favourite way to communicate with friends? (Why?)
- g What do you like most about the place where you live?
- h Who has influenced you most in your life? (Why?)
- i What was the last film you watched? (What did you think of it?)
- j Do you ever wish you were famous? (Why? / Why not?)

2 Listen to two students, Hugo and Teresa, each answering two of the questions in Exercise 1. Which questions do they answer?



Hugo



Teresa

3 Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 Did the students expand their answers appropriately?
- 2 Did they use a range of tenses?
- 3 Who did the examiner ask follow-up questions to? Why?

4 Read Teresa's first answer and underline the different past tense forms she uses.

I suppose it would be my grandmother, since she's always been there for me. She'd look after us while our parents were working. Not only that, but she taught us good values like working hard and being polite. Plus we actually used to have a great time with her. To be honest, she could be strict, but she had a good sense of humour. She's definitely had the strongest impact on me.



5 Look at the *Prepare to speak* box. Listen again and complete the expressions.

PREPARE TO SPEAK

Personal interview

Asking for clarification

Sorry, I didn't¹ Could you say it again, please?

What do you mean exactly?

Adding additional information

..., too.

And² thing is ...,

Not³ that, but ...

Plus, ...

Besides, ...

..., especially ...

Giving and explaining opinions

I'd rather ...

I⁴ it would be ...

To be honest, ...

... definitely ...

I⁵ say ...

For one thing, ...

But the⁶ best thing ...

6 Look at the questions in Exercise 1. Think about how you could answer each question. What additional information could you add to each answer?

7 Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions in Exercise 1 using phrases from the *Prepare to speak* box.

2 THE BIGGER THE BETTER?

? ABOUT YOU

▶ 02 Watch the video and then answer the questions.

What kind of things do you think cause some cities in the world to grow so quickly?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in very large cities?

Should cities have some areas where cars are banned? Why? / Why not?

VOCABULARY AND READING

CITIES

EP 1 Read what five young people say about the places where they live. Who mentions

- tall buildings?
- areas with trees or plants?
- a residential area of a city?
- ways to travel from one part of the city to another?
- dirty and crowded parts of a city?
- large numbers of people living in a small area?
- something that keeps traffic away from a city centre?
- the uncontrolled growth of a city away from its centre?
- buildings that are neglected and in very poor condition?
- areas where people can go on foot but not in vehicles?

ANDY, 16, SINGAPORE

Nearly 6 million people live in Singapore, a country that measures just 50 kilometres across, so it's very **densely populated**. Having said that, there are plenty of **green spaces**, where you can even go mountain biking and trekking.



IGOR, 19, RUSSIA

I live with my family on the top floor of one of the **high-rise** blocks close to Moscow's outer **ring road**, so we have an amazing view out over the city.

BEATRIZ, 18, BRAZIL

My parents grew up in **slums**, where people were squashed into **derelict** and unsafe buildings, but the area has really improved and now it's become a popular residential area, which I'm happy to call home.

HANNAH, 17, USA

Los Angeles, where I've moved to from the UK, is famous for its **urban sprawl**, and it's true the houses go on and on for miles. But on a good day, I can drive to the centre from the **suburb** where I live in about 50 minutes, so it's not too bad.

LANA, 15, SLOVENIA

There are really efficient **transport links** between where I live in Ljubljana and the centre of the city, which is largely **pedestrianised** these days, making it both clean and safe.

2 Complete the questions with a **word** or **phrase** from Exercise 1.

- Does your town have good, affordable to help you get around?
- Apart from the view from the top, what are the advantages of living in a building?
- How suitable are the in your town for football, jogging or just hanging out with friends?
- Is it preferable to live in a city centre or out in a?
- Would you describe your town as, or are the buildings spread out over a large area?
- Are there any buildings in your town? What do you think should happen to them?
- Does your town have a to help traffic avoid the centre?
- If you ran a shop or a café, would you want the street your business was on to become? Why? / Why not?
- Is it necessarily a bad thing if a town's takes over the surrounding countryside as it grows?
- Some people say that, despite the poverty, there is a strong community spirit among residents who live in

3 With a partner, ask and answer the questions in Exercise 2.

4 Quickly read the article on the opposite page to identify the places in the photographs. Which other places are mentioned in the text? Is the writer's opinion about the growth of these places generally positive or negative?

5 Read the first paragraph in more detail and answer the question below with a partner. Identify the parts of the text which gave you the answer.

- What does Barcelona indicate about densely populated cities, according to the writer?
 - They can be found anywhere in the world.
 - There is optimum opportunity for social contact in them.
 - A high quality of life is perfectly possible in them.
 - Well-organised public transport is essential for them to work.

✔ 6 For questions 2–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- What does the writer say about city growth in the second paragraph?
 - It is likely to threaten food supplies.
 - Attempts to measure it may be very inaccurate.
 - It sometimes leads to uninteresting architecture.
 - Parks and woodland will disappear.
- According to the writer, what cause of urban sprawl is specific to the United States?
 - increased prosperity among the working-class
 - high crime rates in inner cities
 - restrictive construction regulations
 - a demand for increased living space

HOW CITIES GROW, AND WHY THIS HAS TO CHANGE



I have just spent two days in Barcelona, one of the most densely populated urban settlements on Earth. There are 103 road intersections per square kilometre – high compared with Brasilia's 41, or Shanghai's Pudong area, which has no more than 17. And despite this high density, residents are proud to call the city home, walking or cycling short distances to work, or using the city's first-class public transport network. Visitors are charmed by the maze of pedestrianised streets that thread their way through the assortment of four to seven-storey buildings constructed over the centuries, leading to squares where people sit at café tables under the shade of large trees.

But Barcelona is the exception, rather than the rule. The dominant trend now is actually for cities to spread outwards into the surrounding countryside, rather than to become more and more densely populated. This has disturbing consequences. The total area occupied by all the cement, concrete, asphalt and green spaces of all the world's urban areas is roughly 1.5 million square kilometres. As the global urban population is expected to grow by some 50% over the next thirty years, a not unreasonable expectation is that the area occupied by the world's cities will increase by the same amount. And as by far the most productive farmland is typically located close to where the bulk of the produce is consumed, it is these areas which, rather than increasing their harvest yield to feed growing populations, will be replaced by concrete. This is simply not sustainable.

Urban sprawl is particularly common in North American cities, such as Atlanta. Economic growth is often cited as the principal cause of this. However, the attraction of cheaper land in suburban areas, which allows for larger and larger properties, plays an equally significant role, with many citizens keen to escape the congestion, crime, and noise of the city. Many of those involved in urban development, however, claim that planning laws which limit an area to one particular use such as residential, commercial or institutional, are a major reason for urban spread in the States since they discourage the development of walkable communities because homes have to be built away from shops, schools, and employment areas. Other countries, where more diverse

land use is permitted, don't have this additional influence. With urban sprawl being blamed for increased energy use, pollution, and a decline in community cohesion, legislation needs to change sooner rather than later.

But this kind of destructive urban spread is not inevitable. Take one of Africa's most exciting cities, the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, where urbanisation is occurring more quickly than anyone thought possible. Government investment has transformed the city into a vast building site. Towering cranes are silhouetted against the African sky as the skeletons of high-rise buildings emerge in the urban core. And with funds and expertise brought in by Chinese companies, a light-rail system has been built that runs across the city, a remarkable achievement in a place where 80% of the population live in slums. This enables residents to commute easily from their high-density apartment blocks that have been shooting up across the city, and it has the added ecological benefit of lessening people's reliance on the car and thus reducing their individual footprint.

Even urban areas designed very much with cars in mind are being transformed. Perhaps the megacity that has most successfully avoided urban sprawl is Seoul, South Korea. When the mayor decided to dismantle an eight-lane highway that used to run through the centre, he said, 'Seoul is for people, not cars.' In its place is a new canal and pedestrianised walkway. No alternative road was built, and although it may seem counterintuitive, this does seem to have prompted people to abandon their cars in favour of much greener modes of mass transit. This in turn has made further government investment in transport links more viable.

The world's urban population will continue to grow. The more it grows, the more homes we will need. Housing large numbers of people in multi-centred, low-carbon, high-density cities must be a global commitment.



55
56
57
61



TALKING POINTS

Would you prefer to live in a high-rise city like Seoul, or somewhere with a low population density? Why? Do you think it is always true that larger cities are more dangerous places to live than smaller ones?

- 4 Which word or phrase suggests the high speed of change in Addis Ababa?
- A** emerge (*line 55*) **C** runs (*line 57*)
B brought in (*line 56*) **D** shooting up (*line 61*)
- 5 The removal of the highway in Seoul demonstrates
- A** a surprising way to reduce vehicle numbers.
B a method of lowering the cost of public transport.
C how politicians do not always fulfil their promises.
D that attempts to minimise traffic do not always succeed.

- 6 An idea recurring in the text is that cities of the future
- A** must encourage cleaner forms of transport.
B will need to develop infrastructure and avoid covering too large an area.
C may become difficult to live in if their populations become too high.
D should discourage people from building sub-standard housing and from driving.

GRAMMAR

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

1 Look at sentences 1–6 and find examples of the structures in the box. Some sentences have more than one example.

- comparative adjective
- comparative adverb
- qualifier used with comparatives
- superlative adjective
- qualifier used with superlatives
- superlative adverb
- double comparative adjective (with *and*)
- double comparative adverb (with *the*)

- 1 **By far the most productive** farmland is typically located close to cities.
- 2 Cheaper land in suburban areas allows for **larger and larger** properties.
- 3 Urbanisation is occurring **even more quickly** than anyone thought possible.
- 4 Perhaps the megacity that has **most successfully** avoided urban sprawl is Seoul.
- 5 People are abandoning their cars in favour of **much greener** modes of mass transit.
- 6 **The more** the population grows, **the more** homes we will need.

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2 Put the word in capitals into a suitable comparative or superlative form, adding another word or an ending if necessary.

- 1 Jack's family have got flat I've ever seen. **AMAZING**
- 2 I noticed that the streets were than usual, probably because everyone was at home watching the match on TV. **CROWDED**
- 3 The historic building I've visited is Chatsworth House, in central England. I was there just last month. **RECENT**
- 4 The town's new ring road was constructed far than anyone expected. **QUICK**
- 5 The Pencil Museum in Keswick, England sounds like it will be museum in the world, but my young cousins loved it. **INTERESTING**
- 6 The multi-storey house of telecoms magnate Mukesh Ambani is by far private residence in the world. **LARGE**

3 Choose the correct word or phrase to modify the comparatives and superlatives. Then decide which statements are true.

- 1 The Pyramid of Khafre at Giza was *far / by far* the tallest building in the world for 3,800 years.
- 2 A concrete beam can be made *incredibly / considerably* stronger if steel rods are placed inside it.
- 3 On its completion in 2019, the Tianjin CTF Finance Centre became *easily / substantially* the world's tallest skyscraper.
- 4 Adding solar panels to your home can make your energy bills *significantly / largely* lower.
- 5 In the UK, it's often *substantially / by far* more expensive to buy an old home than a new one.

4 Complete the sentences with the most suitable double comparative phrase from the box.

- busier and busier less and less efficiently
- less and less frequently louder and louder
- more and more polluted

- 1 As we got closer to the nightclub, we could hear the music getting
- 2 My parents decided to replace their boiler because it'd been working and costing too much.
- 3 The growth of budget airlines has made tourist hotspots like Venice become in recent years.
- 4 Cuts to public transport mean that trains are running nowadays.
- 5 Air quality monitoring has shown that the city centre is becoming

5 Complete the sentences so that the meaning is the same.

- 1 If you live further from the centre, your journey takes longer.
The further you live from the centre, the
- 2 English gets easier when you use it more.
The, the easier it gets.
- 3 The chance of having a traffic accident increases if you're travelling quickly.
The quicker you are to have an accident.
- 4 I get sleepier and sleepier when I stay up late.
The later I get.
- 5 When the metro gets more crowded, I use it less frequently.
The the metro gets, I use it.

6 Correct any mistakes in these sentences. One is correct.

- 1 The building was actually completed quicklier than expected.
- 2 The city is more crowded during the weekends it is in the week.
- 3 Istanbul has far the largest population of any city in Turkey.
- 4 The cities currently growing the most rapidly are located in Asia and Africa.
- 5 The more insulation a building has inside its walls and roof, it will be warmer.
- 6 Simon's behaviour is becoming more and also more juvenile as he gets older.

7 » **WORK IN PAIRS. TURN TO PAGE 128.**



VOCABULARY

BUILDINGS AND PLACES: IDIOMS

- 1** Listen to six conversations. Which conversation is about
- getting very angry?
 - doing something to a high standard by spending lots of money?
 - feeling confident and comfortable?
 - overcoming prejudice which stops someone from advancing in their career?
 - meeting an obstacle and being unable to decide what to do?
 - making it impossible to go back to a situation which existed before?

- 2** Match the words to make the idioms you heard. Then listen again and check. Try to work out the meaning of each idiom.

hit	your bridges
break	at home
hit	to town
go	the glass ceiling
feel	the roof
burn	a brick wall

- 3** Read the information about the six people below, then answer the questions.

- Who has **hit a brick wall**?
- Who is really **going to town**?
- Who has **burned their bridges**?
- Who might be about to **hit the roof**?
- Who **feels at home** in their new role?
- Who has managed to **break a glass ceiling**?

- 4** Which three people most need help and advice? What advice would you give them?



When **Rose** started work with an engineering firm, she was the only female employee. But her career took off, and she has become the first female managing director of the company.



Mario used to be his team's top goal scorer. Now aged 33 he's started to lack the speed to keep up with younger players. But rather than quit, he's started playing as goalkeeper, which involves less running. And you know what? He absolutely loves it!

Sho and his fiancée are planning their wedding. Sho has decided to have several costumes made at a cost of several thousand dollars for both of them to wear during the wedding. It's the most important day of his life and he wants everything to be perfect.



Samantha is writing her first novel, but the story is getting very complicated and she can't work out how it's going to end. She's run out of ideas.



Joe was offered a new job by a rival company, but he turned it down because the salary was too low. He's now been made redundant by his current employer but thinks it's too late to try to get the position with the other firm.



Tina's brother borrowed her new phone without asking, and when she got it back, the screen was smashed.

- 5** Read Rupert's post. What's his problem, and what would you suggest?

THE HOUSING BLOG

A safe space where you can share any accommodation issues you have with our community of users

Hi,
 A few months ago, I had to move out of the place where I was living. I desperately needed **a roof over my head** because I didn't want to move back in with my parents. So I was pleased when I found a flatshare with three guys, and moved in that very day. The others have known each other for ages and **get on like a house on fire**. But I feel left out, and I'd like to move out. I signed a contract with them for a year, but I'm not sure if it's **set in stone** or whether I can give notice and move out early. I don't want all the money I've paid in advance to **go down the drain** because I'll need it back to find another place. Any suggestions?
 Rupert

- 6** Choose the correct definition of the idioms in Rupert's post.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 a roof over your head | a a place to live | b a top-floor flat |
| 2 get on like a house on fire | a argue loudly | b have a great relationship |
| 3 set in stone | a old-fashioned | b impossible to change |
| 4 go down the drain | a be wasted | b be spent on bills |

- 7** >> **WORK IN PAIRS. TURN TO PAGE 128.**