

Unit 3 Four walls

3a Sky caves of Nepal

Reading mysterious dwellings

- 1 Look at the photo of some unusual caves. Then read the excerpt from an article about the caves.

Language focus intensifying adverbs

- 2 Look at the intensifying adverbs in the article. Then cross out the adverb(s) that could NOT replace each adverb in the article.

- 1 absolutely / extremely
- 2 extremely / utterly
- 3 completely / so
- 4 absolutely / very
- 5 incredibly / quite

- 3 Complete the exchanges about the sky caves story with these intensifying adverbs. There is sometimes more than one possibility.

absolutely really	completely so	incredibly totally	quite very
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- A: You must have to be a(n) ¹ _____ skilled climber to get into these caves.
B: Yes, you have to be ² _____ fearless.
C: I find it ³ _____ incredible that people could have lived in these caves.
D: I know. It must have been ⁴ _____ difficult to get provisions like food and water up to them.
E: I would ⁵ _____ love to be involved in this kind of work.
F: I know. It must be ⁶ _____ exciting to discover what's inside the caves.
G: The entrances to some of the burial caves were ⁷ _____ sealed with large boulders.
H: I know. The climbers had to ⁸ _____ literally risk their lives to open them up.

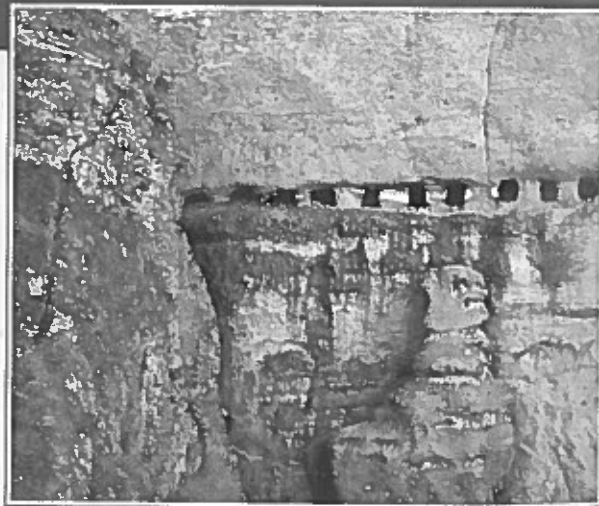
Sky caves of Nepal

Mustang, a former kingdom in north-central Nepal, is home to one of the world's great archaeological finds. In this ¹ ~~incredibly~~ inhospitable, wind-savaged place, hidden within the Himalaya, there are an extraordinary number of human-built caves.

Some sit ² ~~completely~~ by themselves, a single open mouth on a vast face of weathered rock. Others are in groups, occasionally stacked eight or nine stories high, an ³ ~~entirely~~ vertical neighborhood. Many are thousands of years old. The total number of caves in Mustang, conservatively estimated, is 10,000.

We know that 700 years ago, Mustang was a bustling place: a center of scholarship and art, and a key place on the salt trade route from Tibet to India. Salt was then an ⁴ ~~extremely~~ valuable commodity. Later, when cheaper salt became available in India, an economic decline set in. Soon the region was all but forgotten, lost beyond the great mountains.

Pete Athans first glimpsed the caves of Mustang while trekking in 1981.



Over a twelve-year period, Athans made several visits. Most of the caves were empty, though they showed signs of domestic habitation. In one cave he and his team discovered a 26-foot-long mural, in another 8,000 calligraphed manuscripts. Many caves seemed to be elaborate tombs full of ⁵ ~~absolutely~~ amazing riches.

3b The city solution

Listening urban vitality

1 Read about cities past and present.

In the 1880s, the chairman of the London County Council described his city as "a tumor, sucking into its gorged system half the life and the blood of the rural districts." What he was referring to were the appalling slums that a booming city had spawned. Putting an end to urbanization was suggested as a solution.

More than 100 years later, it is large cities that have continued to spread around the world. Seventy percent of the world's population now live in urban areas, many containing over one million people. And not only has urbanization spread, but expert opinion now sees this as a positive trend.

In his book *Triumph of the City*—which, incidentally, I do recommend you read—Ed Glaeser sees slums as a sign of an urban vitality. He says the thing that we often ignore is that poor people are attracted to cities because they offer opportunity. Very seldom do cities themselves make people poor. For Glaeser, there is no such thing as a poor urbanized country or a rich rural one. He points to the efficiency of cities. City dwellers use less energy per capita, they take up less space, they drive less distance, and they contain the damage to nature rather than spread it.

2 Answer the questions.

- 1 How much of the world's population live in cities today?

- 2 What does Ed Glaeser see slums as a sign of?

- 3 What do cities offer their inhabitants?

- 4 What do people living in cities use less of?

Language focus emphatic structures

3 Rewrite these sentences with more emphasis.

- 1 He was referring to the appalling slums that a booming city had spawned.
What he _____

- 2 Urbanization has not only spread, but expert opinion now sees this as a positive trend.
Not only _____

- 3 In his book *Triumph of the City*—which, incidentally, I recommend you read—Ed Glaeser ...
In his book *Triumph of the City*—which, incidentally, _____

- 4 We often ignore the fact that poor people are attracted to cities because they offer opportunity.
The thing _____

- 5 Cities themselves very seldom make people poor.
Very seldom _____

4 Rewrite these sentences with more emphasis.

- 1 I love the feeling of space in Berlin.

- 2 The friendliness of the people in Istanbul really strikes you.

- 3 I liked Los Angeles, but I found it very polluted.

- 4 You will not find such dramatic buildings as in Dubai anywhere else in the world.

- 5 The sense of history in Jerusalem is amazing.

- 6 It's rare to find a place where nature and man-made structures blend so well together.

3c Biomimetic architecture

Reading the influence of nature

- 1 Look at the photos and captions. Then read an article about architecture and "biomimetics." Answer the questions.

Biomimetics is the idea of copying good design from nature and applying it to things that are man-made. It's important to note that the term biomimetics, which was coined in the 1950s, describes the practice of simply taking inspiration from nature's forms, which is an age-old phenomenon. The term biomimetics is now used for the development of new technologies. A classic example of it is Velcro, which imitates barbs on the head of a thistle plant.

For a long time, and still very much today, architects have taken inspiration from the forms and shapes of nature. Probably the best known building of this kind is Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. It's a controversial building, one that people either love or hate. Gaudi loved nature and understood that the natural world is full of curved forms, not straight lines. So with organic models in mind and the materials that nature uses to create its structures: wood, muscle, tendon, etc., he created a very organic-looking building in the Sagrada Familia, an architectural form that borrowed from nature in a way that no one had seen before.

Contemporary architecture uses biomimetics in structures around the world. The Swiss Re Tower in London is known as "the Gherkin" and the Olympic stadium in Beijing, which people called the "Bird's Nest." But it's about more than just the external shape and appearance of buildings. Architects are using biomimetics to create more environmentally friendly buildings. The Eastgate Center in Harare is one example. Chimneys are used to imitate the heating and cooling system in a termite mound. It's called passive cooling, and it's very energy efficient and does away with the need for a modern air conditioning system.

- 1 What does biomimetics mean?
- 2 How do the three structures in the photos relate to biomimetics?



Sagrada Familia,
Barcelona



Swiss Re
Tower, London



A termite
mound,
Africa

- 2 Choose the correct option (a-c).

- 1 According to the article the term biomimetics:
 - a is relatively recent.
 - b is an old science.
 - c can be applied to anything that copies nature.
- 2 The examples of new materials are materials that copy:
 - a water-based animals.
 - b animals in general.
 - c animals and plants.
- 3 When designing the Sagrada Familia, Gaudi took inspiration from:
 - a models he had made.
 - b nature's forms.
 - c the human body.
- 4 The design of the Sagrada Familia:
 - a confused the public.
 - b divided public opinion.
 - c brought Gaudi great fame.
- 5 There are a lot of biomimetic buildings now that are:
 - a named after animals.
 - b known by the name of something in the natural world.
 - c given nicknames by their creators.
- 6 The Eastgate Center in Harare uses biomimetics to avoid:
 - a becoming too cold.
 - b looking like a conventional office and shopping complex.
 - c having to be cooled artificially.

3d A relaxation area

Real life making recommendations

- 1 Read part of a discussion about a proposal to put a new coffee lounge into a large open plan office which is on the 14th floor of an office block.

A: Well, first of all, I should say that I think it's basically a good idea. It's got a lot of things to recommend it: principally, that people won't have to waste time going down to the cafe to get their coffee. Also it'll encourage employee interaction, which is a good thing. But I have to say there's a risk in that, because if you make an area that's too comfortable or convivial, they might spend just as much time there as they did going down to the café...in other words, away from productive work.

B: I kind of disagree with that. The thing about an open plan office is that it feels rather large and impersonal, and so the idea of putting in some area that feels more intimate and homely really appeals to me. I think you have to be careful about terms like "productive work." You said yourself that employee interaction was something to be encouraged and I think that can take different forms, from formal meetings to informal chats. The informal chats are something we shouldn't underestimate the importance of. What I mean is, if we assume that people relaxing and having coffee at work are wasting the company's time, then for me that is a sad state of affairs. So I'm very much in favor of this proposal, particularly given that we are all working in a rather impersonal environment, as I said before.

- 2 Write down two of the arguments mentioned in favor of the proposal and one against it.

For

Against

3 Language skill making a case

Read the discussion again. Underline the phrases used by the speakers to make their recommendations.

Vocabulary review adverb and adjective collocations

- 4 Match the adverbs (1-10) with the adjectives (a-j) and make collocations.

1 deadly	a amused
2 desperately	b familiar
3 hopelessly	c obvious
4 mildly	d optimistic
5 painfully	e reasonable
6 patently	f serious
7 perfectly	g slow
8 simply	h unacceptable
9 vaguely	i unlucky
10 wildly	j wrong

- 5 Complete the sentences with collocations from Exercise 4.

- I think your estimate that 90 percent of the people will say "yes" is _____. It'll be more like 40 percent.
- His name sounds _____ to me. I think perhaps I met him at a party about three years ago.
- They were _____ not to win the game. They were leading right until the end.
- Even if you bought the suitcase three years ago, it's _____ to ask for a refund if it has a five-year guarantee.
- I thought she was joking when she said she was going to run the London marathon, but she was _____.
- I wish he would speak more succinctly. I find his explanations _____.

Vocabulary features in a home

- 6 Look at these features in a home. Would you find them inside (I) or outside (O)?

conservatory courtyard game room
garage/workshop gym home movie theater
roof garden sauna veranda walk-in closet

3e High-rise living

Writing an opinion essay

- 1 Look at the elements of an opinion essay (1–4). Then read the two paragraphs (a and b) from an opinion essay about whether it is good for people to live in high-rise buildings. Which elements do the paragraphs represent?

- 1 analyze the question and set your terms of reference
- 2 give your opinion and present the arguments supporting it
- 3 evaluate counter arguments
- 4 make your conclusion

a So, as with all things, in the end we must choose between their advantages and disadvantages. For me, even though the benefits of high-rise building to the wider environment are great, they are still small when set against the human cost. After all, what use is a pleasant environment if most of the time you are isolated from your fellow human beings in a small apartment 230 feet from the ground?

b It is true that the pressure for space in our cities has demanded ever taller buildings. Indeed, it is neither possible nor desirable to keep expanding our cities outwards into valuable green belts outside the city limits. Perhaps it could be argued that high-rise buildings are an acceptable solution for non-residential uses, such as offices, hotels, etc.

- 2 Do you think the writer is for or against high-rise living? What arguments does he/she concede to the other side?

3 Writing skill linking devices

Match these phrases and sentences balancing or reinforcing arguments.

- 1 Living in an apartment building in the center may seem unrelaxing,
- 2 Even though we live 20 stories up,
- 3 It feels much nicer to live in an old house.
- 4 Our building is not the tallest in the neighborhood
- 5 The council has limited apartment blocks to five stories
- 6 We wanted to feel part of a community,
- a However, there are some other taller buildings.
- b but it is extremely convenient.
- c so we bought a house in a residential suburb.
- d Admittedly, maintenance is expensive.
- e our view of the city is blocked by other buildings.
- f Indeed, there are some over 60 stories high.

- 4 Write your own answer in your notebook to the question: *Is it good for people to live in high-rise buildings?* Follow the structure suggested in Exercise 1. You can use ideas from those two paragraphs if you wish.

Word focus wall

- 5 Complete these sentences and make idioms with *wall*.

- 1 He rarely listens to my suggestions. Often I feel as if I'm **banging my** _____ **against a brick wall**.
- 2 She's a great teacher, but her methods are pretty _____ **the wall**. Yesterday she brought a jar of flies into the class to demonstrate random movement.
- 3 I would like to have been a _____ **on the wall** when that conversation took place!
- 4 I hope the builders finish soon. The constant drilling is **driving me** _____ **the wall**.
- 5 If he gets elected, I'm afraid the _____ **is on the wall** for green energy initiatives. He doesn't believe in alternative technology.

Wordbuilding suffix *-able*

- 1 Complete the sentences with adjectives formed from these verbs.

afford	contact	do	forget	like
move	retrieve	walk	watch	

- I don't think the solution is
We need to think of something cheaper.
- It's not too far from the hotel to the old city. It's certainly
- She's very talkative. I was exhausted after half an hour's conversation. But I don't mean to criticize her: she's also very
- The date is if it's not convenient for you.
- If there's anything urgent, I'll be at work tomorrow, but probably not after that until I get to Tokyo on Thursday.
- I think what you're asking isn't I just don't think the timeframe you've allowed is realistic.
- It was a fun movie but not very interesting. You know those action movies—very, but also instantly
- I think a lot of damage has been done by his comments. I just hope that the situation is

Learning skills listening: bottom-up strategies

- 2 When you listen to fast native speech, you will often be faced with the difficulty of decoding the sounds you hear. Look at this list of key things to recognize in native speech.
- being able to recognize a word from its stressed syllable
 - understanding the place of weak forms (auxiliary verbs, prepositions, articles) in a sentence
 - understanding linking so that you can separate the words that have been linked
 - picking out the key word in a sentence (those that carry the meaning)

Check!

- 3 Do this crossword. All the answers are in Student Book Unit 3.

Across

- makes one crazy: ...me up the wall (6)
- a flight of steps: ...case (5)
- a man-made material used in building walls and foundations (8)
- green, with lots of trees; as in a ...suburb (5)
- see without being seen; a ...on the wall (3)

Down

- clearly, very; as in ...odd (10)
- alive, buzzing; as in a ...city (7)
- a city whose spread is uncontrolled is described as ...ing (6)
- a basic wooden home or building (5)

