

EPISODE 44  
LEVEL A1.2/A2.1

READING COMPREHENSION



COUNTRY HOLIDAYS

Next year I'm going to spend my holiday in a **rural area** (= area in the country). I'm going to visit a **remote** village (= a village far from other villages, towns and cities), which is situated in a valley. The village is **surrounded by beautiful scenery** (= there are many beautiful places around) with **hills** (= small mountains) and mountains. The view there is really **spectacular** (= very beautiful). The good thing about staying in the country is that you **get peace and quiet** (= a place with little noise), but **the pace of life** (= the speed of life) is really slow.



More contexts for the new words:

- I live in an **urban** area .  
(= I live in the city.)
- I stayed in a small **cottage** during my last holiday.  
(= I stayed in a small, village house during my last holiday.)



EXERCISE 1

Decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Correct the sentences which are wrong.

1. A rural area is in the city.
2. In a city, the pace of life is very fast.
3. Mountains are small hills.
4. 'Rural' and 'urban' are synonyms.
5. 'Remote' and 'far' are synonyms.
6. A cottage is a small house in the country.



## EXERCISE 2

Use the pictures to complete the questions with key phrases from the text. Then answer the questions.



1. Would you prefer to live in an \_\_\_\_\_ area, or in a rural one? Why?



2. Would you prefer to live in a \_\_\_\_\_, or in a flat? Why?



3. Do you prefer to walk in the mountains, or in the \_\_\_\_\_? Why?

## ENGLISH IN USE



Today we will focus on talking about the future again. We will learn how to talk about our plans. Look at the following sentence:

*Next year I'm going to spend my holiday in a rural area.*

Do you know this construction? If you want to talk about your plans and intentions you should use "to be going to". Here are some more examples for you:

*She is not (= isn't) going to stay here.*

*They are going to stay in a small cottage.*

*Are you going to visit your home next summer?*

## IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ How was your holiday in the country?

B/ Fantastic! We had **A WHALE OF A TIME!**

If you have a **whale of a time**, you have a great time.

## PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. If you **SEE** someone **OFF**, you go somewhere such as a station or airport with someone in order to say goodbye to them.

Anne **saw** Jack **off** at the station.  
My parents **saw** me **off** at the airport.

2. If you **PICK** someone or something **UP**, you go and meet someone or something that you have arranged to take somewhere in a car.

Will you **pick** me **up** after the party?  
I'll **pick** **up** my suitcases in the morning.



### EXERCISE 3

Rewrite the sentences keeping the same meaning and using the word in capitals. Use the idiom and phrasal verbs you have learned in this lesson.

1. Whose turn is it to take the children home after school?

UP .....

2. I will go with you to the station to say goodbye.

OFF.....

3. I have a lot of fun at work.

WHALE.....

## NEWS



### THE MOST EXPENSIVE HOTEL IN THE WORLD

The Emirates Palace, located in the United Arab Emirates city of Abu Dhabi, is **considered** to be the most expensive hotel in the world. It took three years to create it, and the work of 20,000 people from 50 countries. Nobody really knows how much it cost to build, but **rumours** speak of around £2 billion. Outside, it has 114 **domes** that are 80 metres high. Inside, many of the **suites** are furnished in gold and marble. In December 2010, it had the world's most expensive Christmas tree, costing over 11 million dollars. The cheapest room costs \$400 per night, and the most expensive - \$11,500 per night.

## GLOSSARY

- **to consider** –to think
- **rumours** – gossip; news people repeat without checking if it's really true
- **a dome** – a roof like half of a ball
- **a suite** – an apartment

<b>KEY TO EXERCISES</b>
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### Ex.1

1. Incorrect – it is in the country.
2. Correct
3. Incorrect – hills are small mountains.
4. Incorrect – they are opposites.
5. Correct
6. Correct

### Ex.2

1. Would you prefer to live in an **urban** area, or in a rural one? Why?
2. Would you prefer to live in a **cottage**, or in a flat? Why?
3. Do you prefer to walk in the mountains, or in the **hills**? Why?

### Ex.3

1. Whose turn is it to pick the children up after school?
2. I will see you off at the station.
3. I have a whale of a time at work.