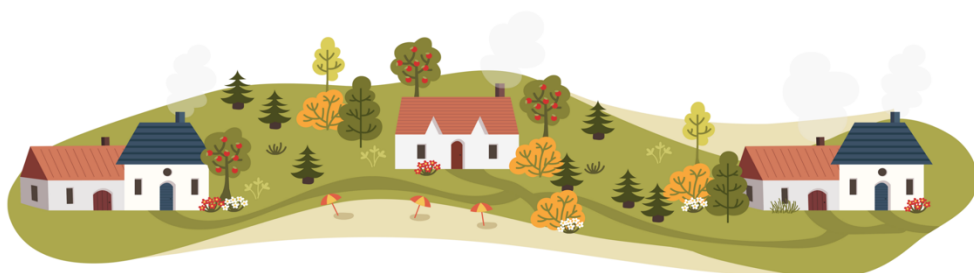




"A quiet secluded life in the country... such is my idea of happiness."  
— Leo Tolstoy

- Have you ever spent time in a village? What was your experience like?
- Have your grandparents or parents told you stories about village life?
- Do people in villages have better mental well-being than those in cities?
- Discuss how people in cities and villages interact. Is there more of a community feeling in the village?
- Do you think it's harder to find a good job in a village?
- Would you consider working remotely from a village?
- Would you support moving to the countryside to live more sustainably?
- Should governments invest more in developing rural areas?
- Should villages be modernized? How can we do this without losing their culture?
- Should villages promote tourism to grow economically? What are the good and bad sides?
- What are the risks and benefits of turning traditional villages into tourist attractions?



# THE MODERN VILLAGE

**1** In your country, what image do people in the cities have of people who live in the countryside? Do the two groups like each other?

**2** Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in the city versus living in the country.



I've lived in this little village all my life. I was born in the house I now live in, I went to school at the little school over there when it was just a one-room school, and after the war, I came back to raise my crops and my family like

my father did and his father before him. You see, I like this life. I've seen what life in the city is like, so I'm not just some ignorant country boy. *I don't want to change.* I'm a farmer, and that's all I ever wanted to be.

Unfortunately, it seems that these days if you don't go to change then change will come to you, and that's exactly what's happened here, in this village. You see, it seems rents are getting a little too high over there in the city, so those rich folks have all decided to come out and live in the village. I suppose they think it's quaint. They like the small town charm of the place and the peace and quiet.

What they don't seem to understand, however, is that by moving out here they're ruining everything they find quaint about these villages. This little town has doubled in size over the last ten years, as all of them folks come out here to build their big, fancy houses. And they use up so much land! I've seen so much good, arable land get developed over, just so



some rich doctor or computer programmer can have a second home for weekends and summer.

The facilities here just weren't designed for this many people. There's only one road that comes into the town, and it's just a little two-lane road that winds its way past the chapel, then through the town square. Well, it just can't handle all of the traffic that goes through here on weekends now, and on some Sundays you have to go through hell and back just to get to church. The same thing goes for our town store and the school.



But the worst part is that with all of these rich people coming in here, the price of everything has gone way up, especially housing. Landowners are seeing that they can get more money by renting or selling to people from the city, and now youngsters from

good farming families don't have a place to move out to when they get married, just so some city-slicker can have a second home. It makes me sick, I tell you. I say, let the city folks stay in the cities, and leave the country to us!




### 3 Read the text and answer the questions below.

Find a word that means the following:

- attractive in an old-fashioned way
- appeal, attraction
- grew larger
- good for farming
- built over
- establishments that provide basic services for a place or activity
- follows a twisting course

In your own words, discuss in pairs.

- a How does the author feel about his home and his lifestyle?
- b How does he feel about cities?
- c Why are more people moving from the cities to the country?
- d How has this affected farming in the area?
- e How has the village changed since people from the cities started moving into it?

**4**  You will now hear an affluent professional who moved to the village from the city talking about what life in the village is like. How do you think his description will differ from that of the farmer?

### 5 Answer the following questions according to the listening.

What does Billy think about the following things?

- Mark's house
- people in the village
- life in the village

Does Mark agree with him?

### 6 In pairs, act out a conversation between Mark and the author of the text on the previous page.

### 7 Listen again and concentrate on the meaning of the following expressions.

- a large wicker chair
- a small shack
- on the outskirts
- in the sticks
- in the middle of nowhere
- a bit of peace and quiet
- a game of darts
- a nice old bloke
- the weirdest thing

Write a short summary of the dialogue using some of the above collocations.

## The Modern Village

village shop  
general store  
smithy  
forge  
craft workshop  
pottery  
local industry  
traditional craft  
church  
chapel  
kirk (Scots)  
vicar  
rector  
priest

minister  
light industry  
peace and quiet  
slow pace of life  
minimal / basic facilities  
agricultural wages  
labour / labourers  
manual  
casual  
migrant  
seasonal  
backward areas  
retired couples  
outsiders

house and grounds  
gentry  
nouveau riche  
country squire  
lord of the manor  
forester  
woodcutter / lumberjack (US)  
gamekeeper  
poacher  
main road  
bypass  
subsidised development  
nimby (Not In My Back Yard)

# The country

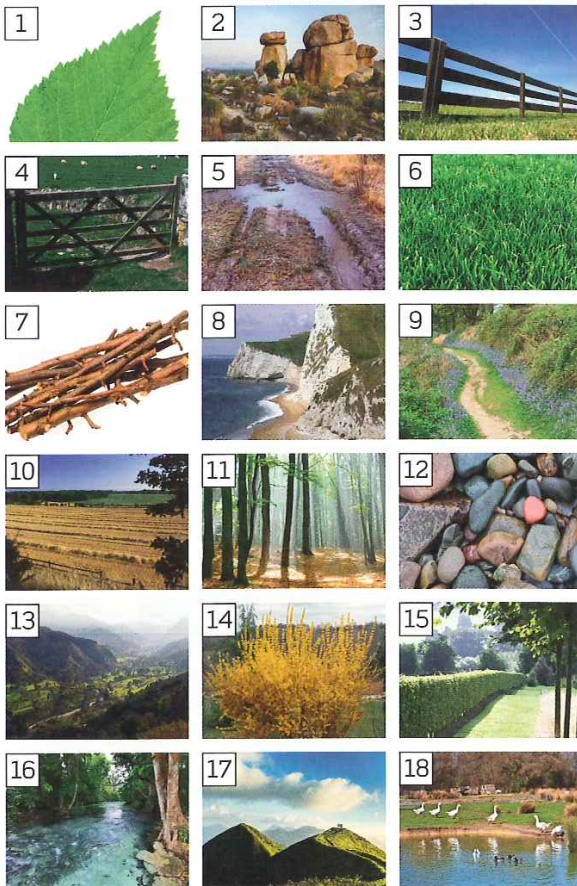
## VOCABULARY BANK

► Pocket Book p.34

### 1 NATURE

a Match the words and pictures.

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| ■ bush /bʊʃ/                                  | ■ mud /mʌd/       |
| ■ cliff /klɪf/                                | ■ path /pɑːθ/     |
| ■ fence /fens/                                | ■ pond /pɒnd/     |
| ■ field /fiːld/                               | ■ rocks /rɒks/    |
| ■ gate /geɪt/                                 | ■ sticks /stɪks/  |
| ■ grass /grɑːs/                               | ■ stones /stəʊnz/ |
| ■ hedge /hedʒ/                                | ■ stream /striːm/ |
| ■ hill /hɪl/                                  | ■ valley /ˈvæli/  |
| 1 leaf (plural <i>leaves</i> ) /liːf/ /liːvz/ | ■ wood /wʊd/      |



b (3 11)) Listen and check.

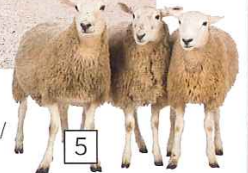


#### the country and the countryside

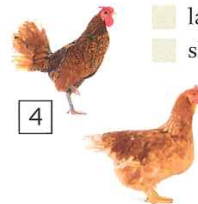
We normally use *the country* to talk about any area that is not a town or city, e.g. *I live in the country*. We use *the countryside* when we are talking about the scenery in the country, e.g. fields, woods, etc., usually in a positive way, e.g. *We stayed in a little village surrounded by beautiful countryside*.

### 2 ON A FARM

a Match the words and pictures.



- |                         |
|-------------------------|
| ■ barn /bɑːn/           |
| ■ cockerel /ˈkɒkərel/   |
| ■ cow /kaʊ/             |
| ■ farmhouse /ˈfɑːmhaʊs/ |
| ■ hens /henz/           |
| ■ lambs /læmz/          |
| ■ sheep /ʃiːp/          |



b (3 12)) Listen and check.

c Complete the text with a verb or past participle from the list.

grow harvested (x2) pick planted

In the UK, especially in the east of England, a lot of farmers <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ cereals (for example, **wheat**), vegetables, and fruit. Most **crops** are <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in the early spring and are <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer. For example wheat is <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in August, and most potatoes from June onwards. Soft fruits like strawberries are usually **ripe** in June and July, and many farms invite people to come and <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ their own fruit.

d (3 13)) Listen and check. What do you think the bold words mean?

◀ p.48





## REVIVE THE VILLAGE – BRING IT BACK TO LIFE!



An entire village in Italy is up for sale. It's beautiful, historic, and full of potential—but completely abandoned. The local government is looking for the best project to bring it back to life.

Entire Village Lunigiana Tuscany

Lunigiana, Tuscany, Italy

For Sale

€1,000,000



The small hamlet is located in the Lunigiana area of Fivizzano, extreme northern border of Tuscany with the Apuan Alps in the background. Its surrounded in the north by the Emilia Romagna region with Reggio Emilia and Parma, in the south by Carrara, in the south west by Liguria with the Golfo dei Poeti and the Cinque Terre.

The land and its proximity offers beautiful different landscapes from the seaside full of beaches of the Versilia and Liguria, to the mountains for skiing, snowboarding and walks at Zum Zeri or at Cerreto Laghi at the border with Emilia Romagna.

*Property Location*

Lunigiana, Tuscany, Italy



**Each group becomes a creative development team. Your task is to create a detailed plan that answers:**

**Infrastructure:**

What buildings or features will you restore or build?

Will it be a tourist village, a remote-working paradise, an eco-community, etc.?

**Sustainability:**

How will you make it environmentally friendly?

Renewable energy? Farm-to-table food? Local crafts?



**Community:**

Who do you want to live or work there?

How will you attract people (locals, artists, digital nomads, etc.)?

**Culture & Economy:**

What cultural events or economic activities will support the village?

Examples: music festival, wine production, rural coworking space, film retreats...

**Budget:**

Where will the money come from? Government funding? Tourism? Investors?

**LANGUAGE FOCUS:**

- Presenting ideas: *“Our plan focuses on...”, “We aim to...”, “Our main goal is to transform the village into...”*
- Persuasion: *“This will attract visitors because...”, “It’s the perfect place for...”*
- Describing features: *“It includes...”, “We’ll convert the old church into...”, “The village will include a mix of...”*
- Predictions: *“In five years, the village could become a hub for...”*
- Benefits: *“Residents will benefit from...”, “Tourists will enjoy the authentic experience of...”*
- Challenges: *“One challenge we expect is... but we plan to solve it by...”, “We’re aware of the environmental concerns, so we’ll...”*