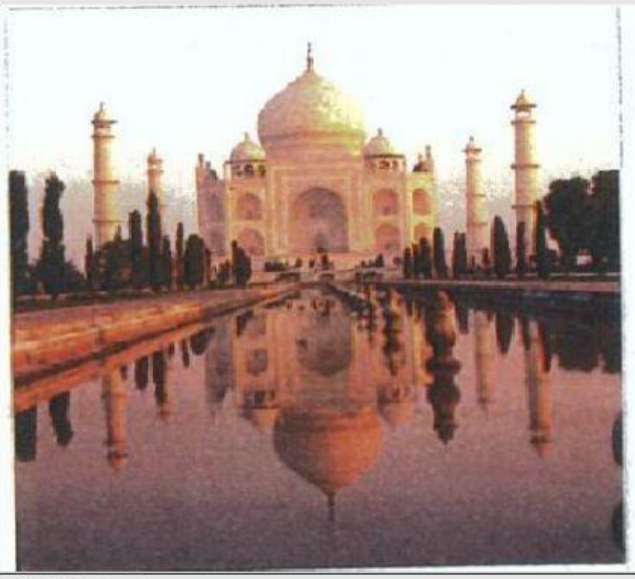
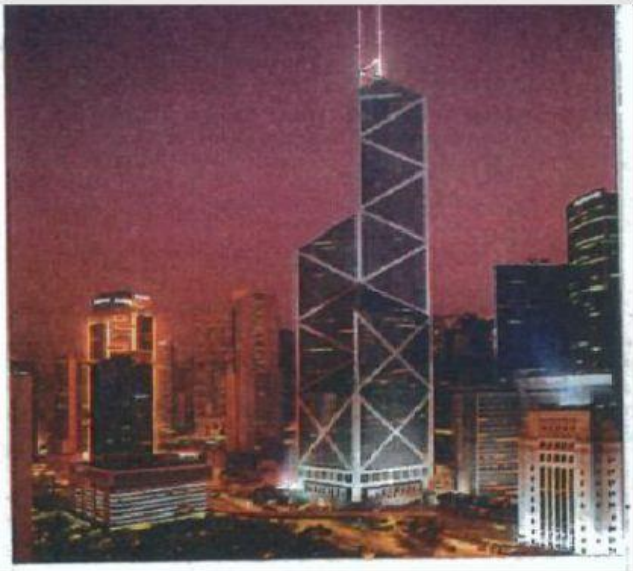
The World of Architecture

- Reading and writing to describe famous buildings
- Using the passive voice/Using sentences to compare and contrast



Taj Mahal



The Bank of China Tower

Activity 1: Look at the two buildings. In what ways are they different? Write sentences to highlight three differences. Use 'whereas/while'. Use the example sentence to guide you.

Include adjectives and nouns from the box below.

old	modern	tall	style	marble	steel
glass	stone	city	gardens	architect	

1. The Taj Mahal is in the middle of gardens, whereas The Bank of China Tower is in the middle of a city.
2.
3.
4.

Material adapted by Minerva Ocolisan from Academic Writing Skills, Level 1, Unit 4 - Architecture

Activity 2: Read the text about the two buildings and complete the information in the boxes below.

The Taj Mahal is located in Agra, in the north of India. Many people think it is the most beautiful building in the world. It is situated in formal gardens just outside the city, so it is in a very quiet place. Nearby there is a river. The Taj Mahal was built between 1631 and 1654 by Shah Jehan. It was a tomb for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631. It is built in an Islamic style. It symbolizes Shah Jehan's love for his wife. In the centre of the building is the tomb, which is made of white marble. The rest of the building is made of sandstone. Around the tomb there are four tall minarets.

The Bank of China Tower is situated in Hong Kong. The architect was Ieoh Ming Pei. He is very well known. He designs large, unusual buildings. The Bank of China Tower was built between 1982 and 1990. It is a very tall skyscraper with 70 floors. It is 367 metres high. The style of the building is modern and it symbolizes strength and growth. The building is very light inside because it is made of glass and steel. There is a small viewing platform, which is open to the public. The platform is on the 42nd floor, so visitors can have a panoramic view of the whole city. It is one of the tallest buildings in Hong Kong and is used for offices.

building	Taj Mahal	
built by		Ieoh Ming Pei
located	Agra, north of India	
date	1631-1654	
building type		skyscraper
made of		glass, steel
style	Islamic	
other information	Some say – most beautiful building in the world	

The Passive Voice – Read the Explanation and Examples

Some of the sentences in the texts above are passive voice sentences.

'The Taj Mahal is situated in formal gardens, just outside the city.'

'The Taj Mahal was built….'

'The tomb is made of white marble.'

The verbs underlined are passive voice verbs. In the active voice, the sentences above would look like this:

'**Somebody** situated the Taj Mahal in formal gardens.'

'**The builders** built the Taj Mahal…'

'**The builders** made the Taj Mahal of white marble.'

In the active voice the subject who did the work is mentioned (somebody, the builders).

In the passive voice the subject is not mentioned. This is because we are not interested in who did the work, or we do not know who situated the Taj Mahal in the gardens. We are interested to say something about the object: the Taj Mahal.

We use passive voice when we are interested in the object rather than the subject.

Another example:

1. The police arrested two men on suspicion of murder. (active)
2. Two men were arrested [by the police] on suspicion of murder. (passive)

In this case we know who the subject is (the police) However, when we use the passive, we are more interested in saying something about the two men who were arrested.

Another example:

1. Some people made my shoes in China. (active)
2. My shoes were made in China [by some people]. (passive)

In this case the subject is completely unknown (some people). There is no reason why I should mention them in my passive voice sentence at all. Therefore, my passive voice sentence can be shortened: 'My shoes were made in China.'

We use passive voice sentences when describing buildings, places and countries.

'My country is situated in Europe.' 'Birmingham is located in the Midlands.'

Activity 3: Find two passive voice sentences in the text about the Bank of China Tower and write them in the boxes below.

1.

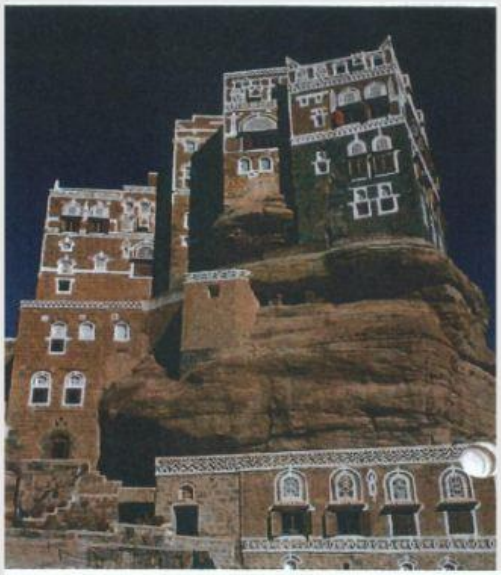
2.

Activity 4: Use the notes you made in activity 2 to complete the summary about the Taj Mahal.

Summary

The Taj Mahal was built by [1] _____ between the years [2] _____ and [3] _____.
It is located in [4] _____, in the north of India. It is a [5] _____ for Jehan's wife. It is made of [6] _____ and [7] _____. The style is [8] _____.

Activity 5: Use the same notes and the sentences in activity 4 to complete a summary about the Bank of China Tower.



Activity 6: Fill in the gaps with the words in the box in order to describe The Tower Houses of Yemen.

because	so	are made of	there is	there are	have	were built
on the outside	in the centre	are located				

The Tower Houses of Yemen

The Tower Houses of Yemen [1]_____ in the old city of Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. These houses are very beautiful and unusual, [2]_____ many visitors come to Yemen to see them. They [3]_____ by local builders and they are hundreds of years old. They [4]_____ stone and brick. The buildings are tall and they [5]_____ at least five floors. [6]_____ of the house is the main staircase. This goes up to all of the floors. The family members usually live on the upper floors. They do not live on the ground floor or the first floor [7]_____ these floors are for food and animals. On the top floor [8]_____ usually a large sitting room. Visitors come there to chat and drink tea.

[9]_____ walls of the buildings there are beautiful decorations, such as stars and snakes. [10]_____ also decorations around the windows and the doors.

Material adapted by Minerva Ocolisan from Academic Writing Skills, Level 1, Unit 4 - Architecture

Activity 7: Choose a famous building you would like to learn more about. Search the net for more information about it. Then write passive voice sentences about it using the following sentence beginnings.

I would like to describe

I like this building because

It was built

It is located near

It is (mainly) made from...

It is decorated in a style.



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Activity 8: Read this leaflet about Brighton and answer the question below.

An Ideal Seaside Resort *by Sally Fulton*

Brighton is a large town on the south-east coast of England. Located only an hour from London, it is a **charming** seaside resort and the perfect destination for a **peaceful** weekend.

Para 1 .....
.....

Brighton has several tourist attractions which are worth visiting. Among these is the Royal Pavilion, a **beautiful** Indian-style palace which was built in the early nineteenth century. Brighton's most **famous** attraction is the lively Palace Pier, with its fantastic funfair and amusement arcades. Both young and old can have fun have while admiring the spectacular view of Brighton's seafront.

Para 2 .....
.....
.....

There are plenty of places to go shopping in Brighton. The town centre has a large **modern** shopping centre. There are also **narrow** lanes full of lovely antique shops that are always bustling with tourists.

Para 3 .....
.....

The nightlife in Brighton is **exciting**. There are a lot of music and dance clubs which are extremely **popular** with younger people. The area is also well-known for its fashionable restaurants, which offer a variety of **international** cuisines.

Para 4 .....
.....

Brighton is a town that has something to offer everyone. Whether you want to spend your time shopping and seeing the sights, or simply relaxing and enjoying the fresh sea air, Brighton is the ideal choice for a few days away from the city.

Para 5 .....
.....

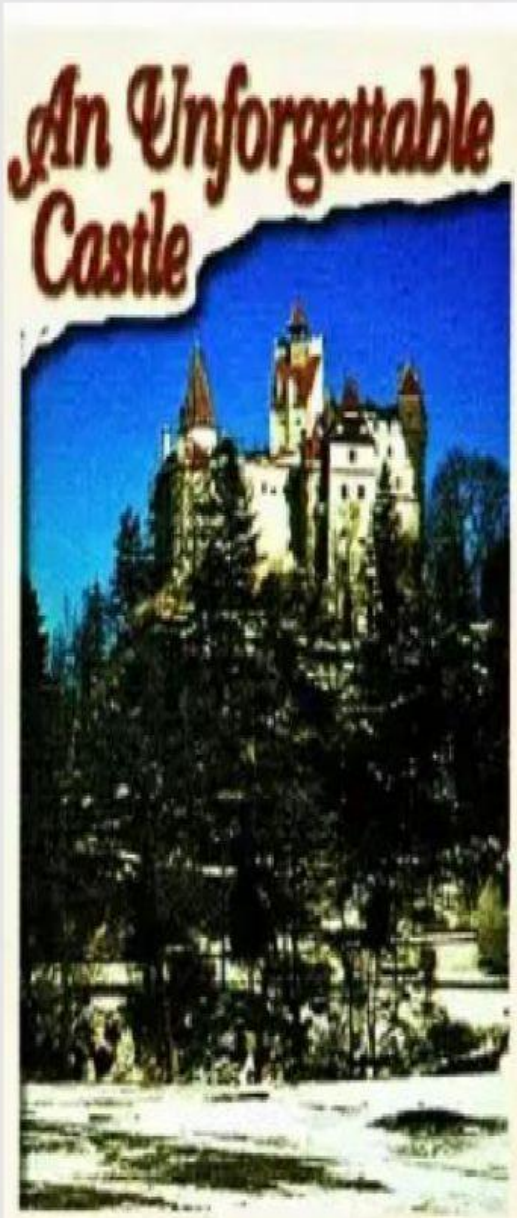
1. Use numbers 1 to 5 to indicate the paragraph to which each main idea belongs.

There are many places to go out in Brighton.	
You will enjoy Brighton whether you like sightseeing, relaxing or going to restaurants.	
You can shop till you drop in Brighton.	
You can easily go to Brighton from London.	
You can go sightseeing in Brighton.	

2. Which is the main purpose of this article? Write your answer below.

Activity 9: Use the text about Brighton to write your own article about Birmingham. Structure the article in paragraphs around main ideas. Use adjectives.

Activity 10: Read the text and fill in the gaps with the words in appropriate tenses. Some sentences are passive voice sentences.



Bran Castle is one of the most legendary medieval castles in Europe. It **1)** ..... **(situate)** high above the forest in the Carpathian mountains in Romania.

Bran Castle **2)** ..... **(build)** in 1212, and it was where the famous Prince Vlad Tepes once **3)** ..... **(live)**. The prince and his majestic home were the inspiration for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

The castle is certainly an amazing sight with its breathtaking view over the countryside below. It has tall towers and thick stone walls with small windows. In medieval times, such windows **4)** ..... **(make)** the castle easier to defend.

The interior is dark and gloomy. Each room has a huge fireplace and **5)** ..... **(furnish)** with simple wooden items. There are no paintings on the walls, and no carpets on the cold stone floors. It looks grand, but **6)** ..... **(not/design)** for comfort!

Although it may not be the typical tourist attraction, Bran Castle is certainly worth a visit. It is a truly unique experience.