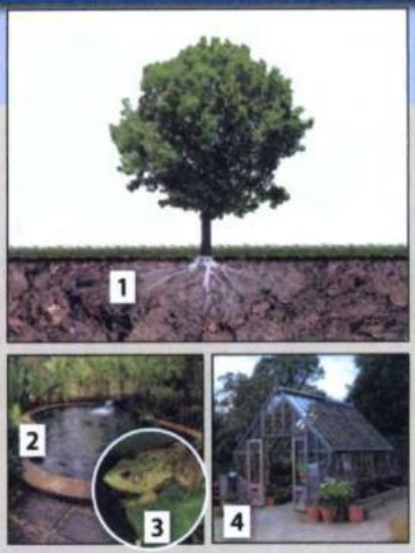
39 Gardens and gardening

A A natural garden

I've always wanted a garden that copies the best of **nature**. So, having **acquired** a country cottage with land around it, I'm now creating my own **wildlife** garden. I will need to remove a few old tree **roots**[1] that make planting difficult, but generally the project is going well. A gentle **slope** drops down from the cottage to a **pond**[2], where I've discovered quite a rare **species** of **frog**[3], which I obviously want to protect.

Near the pond is a **greenhouse**[4]. I will grow tomatoes, but it's largely **intended** for more **tropical** fruits that you can't normally grow in England, such as melon and guava.There's already a variety of **mature** plants in the garden, and a **shed** where I can keep all my tools. Finally, I'm hoping to attract birds to build their **nests** in an old **hollow** tree in the small **wood** I have along one side of the garden.



GLOSSARY

acquire *formal*	get sth by buying it or being given it
wildlife	animals, birds, and insects that live in a natural state
slope	a piece of land that is higher at one end than the other **slope** *v*
species	a group of plants or animals that are all similar and can breed together
intended (for sth)	planned or designed for sth
tropical	coming from or found in very hot parts of the world
mature	fully grown or fully developed
shed	a small simple building, usually built of wood, and often found in gardens
nest	a place where birds lay their eggs and live with their young **nest** *v*
hollow	with a hole or empty space inside
wood (ALSO **woods**)	an area of trees, smaller than a forest

SPOTLIGHT *nature*

We can say someone is interested in **nature** ([U] = the physical world and everything that lives in it). We don't talk about being ~~*in the nature*~~. We can say:

- *I like being* ***in the countryside*** OR *looking at* ***beautiful scenery.***

1 Circle the correct answer(s). Sometimes both answers are possible.

1 The *lake / pond* is about 30 cm deep.
2 The trees are *fully grown / mature*.
3 There's a great view of the *scenery / nature*.
4 We have a lot of *tropic / tropical* fruit.
5 How did you *get / acquire* the land?
6 I'm very interested in *nature / the nature*.
7 We need to protect *wildlife / wildliving*.
8 I like being in the *scenery / countryside*.

2 Find five pairs of words in the box. Write a sentence to explain the connection each pair has.

frog	tools	birds	wildlife	trees	nature	nest	pond	shed	roots

....

3 Complete the sentences.

1 The _____ is spectacular: beautiful lakes surrounded by mountains.
2 For the plants to grow, water has to get down to the _____.
3 I often go for a walk in the _____. It's a great place to see birds.
4 The garden isn't big, but there may be a chance to _____ more land next to it.
5 The lights are _____ for the garden when we sit out on warm summer evenings.
6 I read that there are 369,000 _____ of flowering plants in the world.
7 From one end of the garden, there is a gentle _____ which goes down to the river.
8 I love pineapple, but growing _____ fruit in this country is not easy.
9 It gets very hot in the _____, so it's great for growing tomatoes and cucumber.
10 The tree was _____, so birds could go in and out very easily.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Gardening through the seasons

SPRING: Add **compost** to improve the **soil**.
Cut back any **bushes** that have got too big.
Dig the ground if it's not too **muddy**.

SUMMER: **Mow the lawn** once a week.
Weed the garden, little and often.
Find a nice **bench**, **put your feet up**[1] and enjoy the garden.

AUTUMN: Tidy **hedges** and fallen leaves.
Routine **maintenance**, e.g. clean tools and clean the shed.









mow
pt **mowed** *pp* **mowed / mown**

GLOSSARY

compost	a mixture of decaying plants and food that is added to soil to help things grow. **Compost** makes soil more **fertile**.	**weed**	remove **weeds** (wild plants growing where they are not wanted, especially in a formal garden) **weeding** *n*: ***do some weeding***
soil	the top part of the earth in which trees and plants grow	**put your feet up**	sit down and relax, especially with your feet raised and supported
cut sth back	remove some of a plant's stems or branches to improve future growth	**hedge**	a line of bushes growing close together around a garden or field
muddy	(of the earth) wet from too much rain **mud** *n*	**maintenance**	keeping sth in good condition by checking or repairing it regularly **maintain** *v*

4 Good news or bad news? Write *G* or *B*.

1 The ground is muddy. .....
2 We've got lots of compost for the garden. .....
3 I've just mowed the lawn. .....
4 The lawn is full of weeds. .....
5 There's loads of digging to do. .....
6 I'll be able to put my feet up. .....
7 The soil is fertile. .....
8 The hedges need cutting back. .....

5 Replace the underlined words with a word or phrase that keeps the same meaning.

1 Have you got <u>something I can use for digging</u>? Have you got a _____?
2 I'm going to <u>sit down and relax</u>. I'm going to _____.
3 He's going to <u>cut</u> the <u>grass</u>. He's going to _____.
4 You'll need to <u>reduce the size of</u> this bush. You'll need to _____.
5 I'm going to <u>improve the soil</u>. I'm going to add _____.
6 Where's the <u>machine to cut the grass</u>? Where's the _____?
7 There's a <u>line of bushes</u> round the field. There's a _____.
8 I need to <u>take out the weeds</u>. I need to do _____.

6 What do you know about gardening? Answer the questions.

1 Why add compost? _____
2 Why is mud a problem? _____
3 Do you need to weed the garden? _____
4 How frequently might you mow the lawn? _____
5 What do you do with plants and bushes that are getting too big? _____
6 What's the purpose of a garden bench? _____
7 Do you ever need to tidy a hedge? _____
8 Give examples of routine maintenance. _____

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS