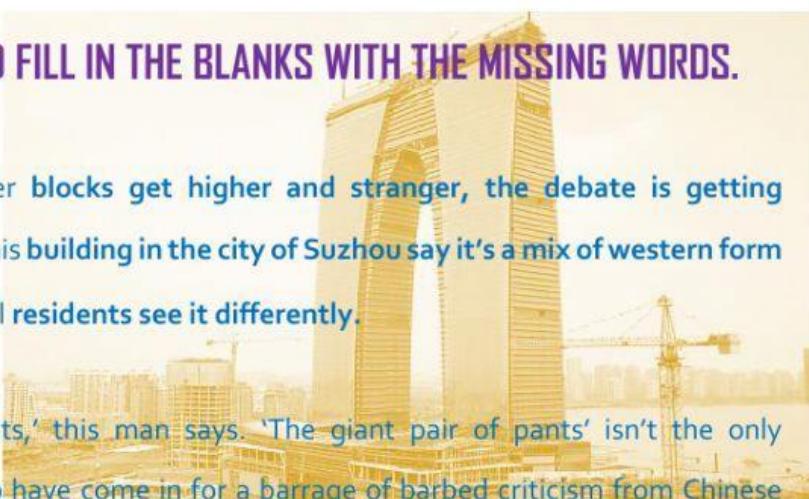


 **LISTEN TO THE RECORDING AND FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE MISSING WORDS.**


**NEWSREADER** As Chinese tower blocks get higher and stranger, the debate is getting ①\_\_\_\_\_ . The architects of this building in the city of Suzhou say it's a mix of western form and Chinese ②\_\_\_\_\_ . Local residents see it differently.



**LOCAL MAN** [Speaking in Chinese]

NR 'We call it the giant pair of pants,' this man says. 'The giant pair of pants' isn't the only ③\_\_\_\_\_ modern building to have come in for a barrage of barbed criticism from Chinese Internet users – complaining about what they see as increasingly ④\_\_\_\_\_ foreign designs, completely out of keeping with Chinese culture and architectural ⑤\_\_\_\_\_ .

**DR ZHENG SHILING** The danger is er for some cities – they don't have this need and they just construct so many ⑥\_\_\_\_\_ buildings as a symbol. Er ... one city constructed a, a 300 high-rise building ...

Another city would like to construct a 400-metres, and another 600, and so on. This competition is ⑦\_\_\_\_\_ .

NR But the Chinese skyscraper is ⑧\_\_\_\_\_ fast and might soon get even faster. This took little more than a week and now the company behind it says it will build the world's tallest skyscraper in just three months. Heritage is important, some experts say, but so too is solving the problem of China's ⑨\_\_\_\_\_ cities.

**TIMOTHY JOHNSON** A city like Shanghai – 20 million people already, could easily go to 30 to 40 million people, and I, I would subscribe that ⑩\_\_\_\_\_ that out further and further away from a kind of central core is more detrimental, it's less ⑪\_\_\_\_\_ , than keeping things more dense and going ⑫\_\_\_\_\_ .

NR But with more than 300 skyscrapers ⑬\_\_\_\_\_ under construction in China, the debate is only going to ⑭\_\_\_\_\_ . Is the country laying the foundations for a well-planned urban future, or flying by the seat of its ⑮\_\_\_\_\_ pants?

