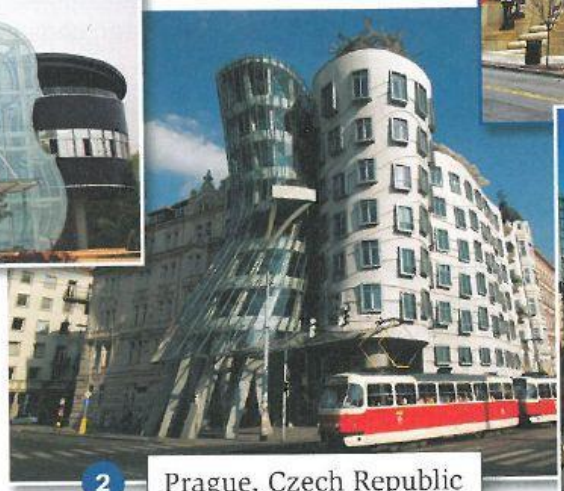
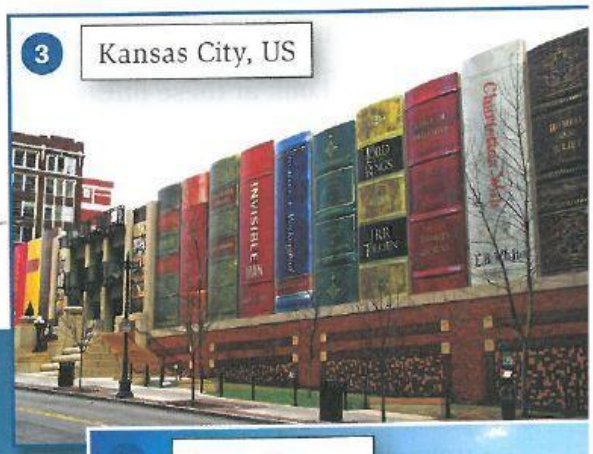
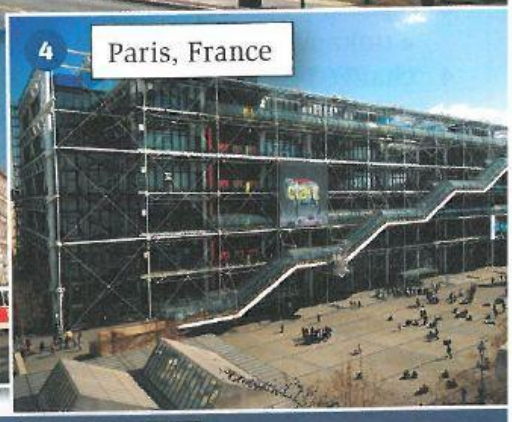
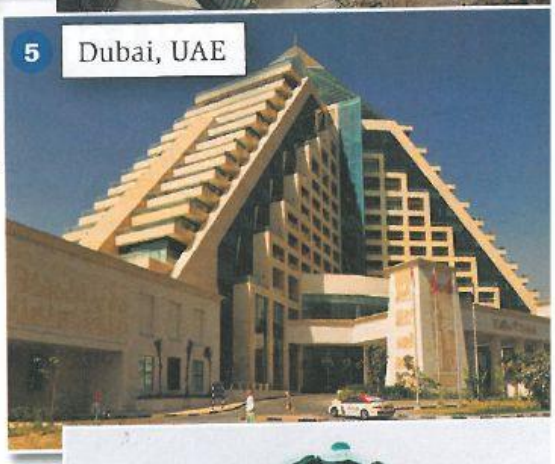
Unit 10 Building design

1 An Hui Province, China


2 Prague, Czech Republic


3 Kansas City, US


4 Paris, France


5 Dubai, UAE

6 Tokyo, Japan

Starting off

1 Read these quotes (a–f). Match each one to a building (1–6).

a Is that an escalator going up the side of the building?
b It's fun, and the roof's an incredible colour and shape – it really stands out!
c It's a very modern block, but it looks like it's falling down!
d Wow, musical instruments – it's so unusual, particularly the part that's made of glass.
e The pyramid shape fits in well with the surroundings.
f It's impressive – but where are the windows?

2 Work in small groups. What do you think the purpose of each building is? When you've finished, look at the answers on page 175.

3 Which building design do you like best/least? Why?

Reading

Multiple choice, Matching sentence endings, Yes / No / Not Given

1 Work in small groups. You are going to read a passage about the Pompidou Centre in Paris. Before you read, discuss these questions.

1 Why do many cities have large, impressive buildings?
2 Who should organise and pay for the construction of city buildings?

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2 Now read the title, subheading and passage quite quickly to find out:

1 how old the Pompidou Centre is.
2 how the architects were chosen.
3 what effect the building had on their careers.

3 Work in pairs. Look at these phrases from the passage. Use their context and form to choose the correct definition for each of the words in *italics*. Then express each phrase in your own words.

1 the most *outstanding* new building (paragraph 1)
a popular **b** large and ugly
c excellent and better than others
2 a *downbeat* moment (paragraph 3)
a unexciting **b** important **c** expected
3 a *passing* crisis (paragraph 3)
a unknown **b** real **c** temporary
4 changed their *tune* (paragraph 3)
a music **b** mind **c** prices

4 Work in pairs. Find these words in the passage and use the same methods to decide what they mean.

1 overcome
2 enabled
3 movable
4 urban planning
5 landmark projects
6 snaking

The Pompidou Centre

More than three decades after it was built, the Pompidou Centre in Paris has survived its moment at the edge of architectural fashion and proved itself to be one of the most remarkable buildings of the 20th century.

It was the most outstanding new building constructed in Paris for two generations. It looked like an explosion of brightly coloured service pipes in the calm of the city centre. However, when in 1977 the architects Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano stood among a large crowd of 5,000 at the opening of the Centre Culturel d'Art Georges Pompidou (known as the Pompidou), no one was really aware of the significance of this unusual building.

Rogers was only 38 when he and Piano won the competition to design a new cultural centre for Paris in the old market site. Young, unknown architects, they had been chosen from a field of nearly 700 to design one of the most prestigious buildings of its day. After six difficult years, with 25,000 drawings, seven lawsuits, battles over budgets, and a desperate last-minute scramble to finish the building, it had finally been done.

Yet the opening was a downbeat moment. The Pompidou Centre had been rubbished by the critics while it was being built, there was no more work in prospect for the architects, and their partnership had effectively broken down. But this was just a passing crisis. The Centre, which combined the national museum of modern art, exhibition space, a public library and a centre for modern music, proved an enormous success. It attracted six million visitors in its first year, and with its success, the critics swiftly changed their tune.

The architects had been driven by the desire for ultimate flexibility, for a building that would not limit the movement of its users. All the different parts were approached through the same enormous entrance hall and served by the same escalator, which was free to anyone to ride, whether they wanted to visit an exhibition or just admire the view. With all the services at one end of the building, escalators and lifts at the other, and the floors hung on giant steel beams providing uninterrupted space the size of two football pitches, their dream had become a reality.

The image of the Pompidou pervaded popular culture in the 1970s, making appearances everywhere – on record-album covers and a table lamp, and even acting as the set for a James Bond film. This did much to overcome the secretive nature of the architectural culture of its time, as it enabled

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wider audience to appreciate the style and content of the building and so moved away from the strictly professional view.

The following year, Rogers was commissioned to design a new headquarters for Lloyd's Bank in London, and went on to create one of Britain's most dynamic architectural practices. Piano is now among the world's most respected architects. But what of their shared creation?

It was certainly like no previous museum, with its plans for a flexible interior that not only had movable walls, but floors that could also be adjusted up or down. This second feature did not in the end survive when the competition drawings were turned into a real building. In other ways, however, the finished building demonstrated a remarkable degree of refinement – of craftsmanship even – in the way the original diagram was transformed into a superbly detailed structure. It was this quality which, according to some critics, suggested that the Pompidou should be seen as closer to the 19th-century engineering tradition than the space age.

Nevertheless, as a model for urban planning, it has proved immensely influential. The Guggenheim in Bilbao* and the many other major landmark projects that were built in the belief that innovatively designed cultural buildings can bring about urban renewal are all following the lead of the Pompidou Centre.

Other buildings may now challenge it for the title of Europe's most outlandish work of architecture. However, more than a quarter of a century later, this construction – it is hard to call it a building when there is no façade, just a lattice of steel beams and pipes and a long external escalator snaking up the outside – still seems extreme.

Today, the Pompidou Centre itself still looks much as it did when it opened. The shock value of its colour-coded plumbing and its structure has not faded with the years. But while traditionalists regarded it as an ugly attack on Paris when it was built, they now see it for what it is – an enormous achievement, technically and conceptually.

* a modern-art museum in Spain designed by the North American architect, Frank O. Gehry

adapted from http://designmuseum.org

5 **Underline the key ideas in Questions 1–4. Then answer the questions.**

Questions 1–4

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.*

1 What does the writer say in the first paragraph about the opening of the Pompidou Centre?

A The elderly did not like it.
B The architects were not present.
C The atmosphere was very noisy.
D The people did not realise its importance.

2 What does the writer say in the second paragraph about the construction of the Pompidou?

A There was a hurry to complete it.
B It cost less than expected.
C Other experts helped draw the plans.
D The market location was criticised.

3 What is the writer's main purpose in the third paragraph?

A to explain the multi-functional role of the centre
B to praise the architects for their design ideas
C to say why some people's opinions quickly altered
D to show how the media benefited from its success

4 What was the architects' 'dream', referred to in the fourth paragraph?

A to become famous
B to provide entertainment
C to allow visitors to use it freely
D to build the biggest museum in the world

Exam advice *Multiple choice*

- The answers to these questions are in the same order in the passage.
- When you have chosen your answer, quickly check that the other options are wrong.

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6 Read Questions 5–8 and the box of endings A–F.

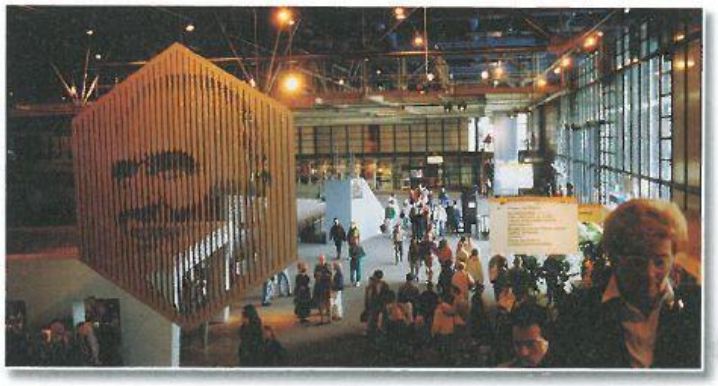
1 Underline the key ideas in the questions and use these to find the right place in the passage.
2 Read that part of the passage carefully and match the information to the key ideas in the endings.

Questions 5–8

*Complete each sentence with the correct ending, **A–F**, below.*

5 The escalators and lifts inside the Pompidou
6 In the 1970s, pictures of the Pompidou
7 The original plans for the floors of the Pompidou
8 The detailed structure of the finished building

A reminded some people of past building styles.
B were used to decorate everyday objects.
C fitted in well with the external surroundings.
D were situated on one side of the building.
E showed people which area to visit.
F were changed during the construction process.



Exam advice *Matching sentence endings*

- Underline the key ideas in the questions and use these to find the right place in the passage. (You will find them in the same order.)
- Underline the key ideas in the sentence endings and match one to each question.
- Read the completed sentences to check they say the same as the passage.

7 Underline the key ideas in Questions 9–14 and use them to find the right place in the passage. Then read each part of the passage carefully in order to answer the questions.

Questions 9–14

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in the reading passage?

Write

YES *if the statement agrees with the views of the writer*

NO *if the statement contradicts the views of the writer*

NOT GIVEN *if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

9 The Pompidou has influenced the way cities are designed.
10 The Guggenheim has been more popular than the Pompidou.
11 The word *building* fits the Pompidou better than the word *construction*.
12 The Pompidou's appearance has changed considerably since it opened.
13 Nowadays, the design of the Pompidou fails to shock people.
14 The traditionalist view of the Pompidou has changed over the years.

Exam advice *Yes / No / Not Given*

- Use words in the questions to find the right place in the passage (this applies to 'NOT GIVEN' questions, too).

8 Work in small groups.

1 Is it important for people to like a building in their local area? Why?
2 Are there any buildings that you would recommend to visitors in your country? Why?

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Listening

Note completion

Exam information

- You hear one speaker giving a talk on an academic subject.
- Section 4 has no break.

1 Work in small groups. How much do you remember about the Listening test? Say whether these statements are true (T) or false (F). If you think a statement is false, write what you think is correct.

1 There are 40 questions in the test: ten in each section.
2 You hear each part twice.
3 You may hear the answers in the recording in a different order from the questions.
4 Section 4 is harder than Section 1.
5 Each question has one mark.
6 You write your answers straight onto the answer sheet.
7 You do not have to spell all words correctly.

2 Work in pairs. You are going to hear a lecturer giving a talk about traditional house design in Samoa. Before you listen, look at the picture below.

1 What features of the house does the picture show?
2 What do you think is the purpose of each of these features?
3 How do these features compare with a modern house where you live?

3 Work in pairs. Look at Questions 1–10 and decide what type(s) of word and what information you need for each gap.

Questions 1–10

Complete the notes below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/ OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

Traditional Samoan Houses

Overall design

- house: round or **1** .....
- no walls
- **2** ..... : to shelter occupants from wind and rain
- floor: **3** ..... to control temperature

Roof

- dome-shaped and thatched using **4** ..... leaves
- **5** ..... sides prevent dampness
- high top permits **6** ..... loss

Supporting posts

- made using wood from the **7** ..... around the village
- used to show **8** ..... of chiefs and speakers at meetings
- attached using rope made by the **9** ..... in the village
- rope pulled tightly to form a **10** ..... around beams and posts

4 (27) Now listen to the recording and answer Questions 1–10.

5 Work in small groups. Discuss these questions.

1 Would you like to live in a house like this? Why? / Why not?
2 What does a traditional house in your town/ village look like?

Exam advice *Note completion*

- Use the headings and key ideas in the questions to help you keep your place.
- Read the notes through afterwards to check that they make sense and that words are spelled correctly.

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Vocabulary
Word choice

You can vary and improve your vocabulary by using words that have a similar and sometimes more exact meaning than more common, basic words.

1 Read these two sentences. Which one is better, and why?

a Old houses in my town have many interesting parts.
b Traditional houses in my town have many interesting features.

2 Match the words/phrases (1–12) with their synonyms (a–l).

1	high	a	appearance
2	wood	b	apartments
3	(very) important	c	construct
4	build	d	tall
5	make	e	wealthy
6	flats	f	create
7	place	g	enjoyable
8	middle	h	essential
9	look (*n*)	i	timber
10	rich	j	area
11	nice	k	centre
12	fun	l	attractive

3 Improve these sentences by replacing the underlined words in each one with an alternative from Exercise 2.

1 There are many ~~high~~ tall buildings in the ~~middle~~ centre of town.
2 Some modern flats have an amazing look.
3 There are many rich places in Hong Kong.
4 People use wood from the forests to build their homes.
5 It is very important to make parks and gardens in towns.
6 Buying nice furniture for my room was fun.

Speaking
Parts 2 and 3

1 Work in pairs. Read the Speaking task in the next column and discuss what you could say, making notes as you speak.

Describe a building that you have enjoyed spending time in.

You should say:

where the building is

what the building looks like

how it feels to be inside the building

and explain why you have enjoyed spending time in this building.

2 Change partners and take turns to give your talks.

3 When you have finished your talk, the examiner may ask you a short question. Complete the answers to these questions using one word only.

1 Did you visit this building as a child?
– Yes, I ....did.... . / No I ..didn't.. .
2 Have you visited this building recently?
– Yes, I ..... . / No, I ..... .
3 Do your friends like this building?
– Yes, they ..... , actually. / No, they ..... really.

4 Work in pairs. Read the examiner's question and Phillipe's answer below.

Let's talk about old houses. Do you think old houses should be knocked down so that new homes can be built?

Well, not really. Although some old houses are ugly, others have quite beautiful architecture … so I don't think we should knock them down.

1 Speakers often use *although* to introduce contrasting viewpoints. What aspect of the houses does Phillipe contrast in his reply?
2 Read Jaeun's answer to the same question and link the ideas together to form an answer using *although* and *so*.

1 ..... we need more space to build new homes, some old houses can be turned into flats, **2** ..... it's not necessary to knock them down.

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Pronunciation: *Sentence stress 3*

5 (28) **Listen to Jaeun, Billy and Phillipe giving their answers to another question and note down the:**

1 linker they use to introduce a contrast.
2 points that they contrast.

page 129 *Using linkers to contrast or compare*

6 Work in pairs.

1 Read the question and the student's ideas below. How does the student introduce his response?
2 Why does he use *even though*, not *although*, to make a contrast?

In what ways are architects different from builders?

Builders earn less money / architects earn a lot

Well, what they earn is different. Even though builders construct the whole building, architects earn much more money than them. It isn't really fair.

3 Use these contrasting sets of ideas (a–c) to build three more answers to the question above.

	architects	builders
a	design buildings	construct buildings
b	work in an office	work on a building site
c	can become famous	no one knows them

7 Work in pairs. Read these questions and brainstorm some ideas for answers. Then change pairs and ask and answer the questions.

Different types of building

- How is a building such as a school different from a theatre?
- Are modern theatres basically the same as old theatres?
- Which is more important to a town – a sports centre or a museum? Why?

Exam advice *Speaking test*

- If the examiner asks you a question on your Part 2 talk, you only need to give a brief reply.
- Use linkers of contrast to show different viewpoints and use sentence stress to help communicate your ideas.

Pronunciation

Sentence stress 3

We use stress to help show a contrast.

1 (29) **Listen to this sentence from Jaeun's answer and <u>underline</u> the words the speaker stresses. Why does she stress those words?**

Even though some traditional houses looked amazing when they were built, most of them just look old-fashioned now.

2 Now work in pairs and take turns to repeat what she says.

3 (30) **<u>Underline</u> the words that you think Billy and Phillipe should stress in these sentences, then listen to check your answers.**

1 New houses can look great from the outside, while inside their shape is a bit dull and boring.
2 … whereas some traditional houses in my country have interesting features – like doors and windows – others are just very plain …

4 Work in pairs. Take turns to say the sentences in Exercise 3.

5 Take turns to ask and answer these questions, stressing the contrast in your answers.

Example: *Our hospital is old, while our arts centre is new.*

a What type of buildings are there in your home town or village?
b Which building do you like the most? Why?
c What was your school building like?
d What facilities did your school building have?

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Writing

Task 2

1 Work in pairs. Think about Writing Task 2 and complete the statements below by choosing the correct word from the box.

20	40	fewer	more	notes	paragraphs
parts	plan	punctuation	write		

1 You should spend about ..... minutes doing Task 2.
2 You have to write 250 words or ..... .
3 You should answer all ..... of the question.
4 You should not use ..... in your answer.
5 It is important to ..... your answer quickly first.
6 Leave time to check your grammar and ..... at the end.

2 Work in small groups. Read this Writing task, then answer the questions below.

Write about the following topic.

Some people think that buildings such as flats and houses should be designed to last a long time. Others believe that it is more important to provide accommodation quickly and cheaply.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

1 How many parts are there to the question? What are they?
2 Why do some buildings last a long time? (building materials? design?)
3 Brainstorm some of the advantages of this. (financial? practical?)
4 Brainstorm reasons why quick, cheap accommodation is sometimes necessary. (People need homes? Disasters happen?)
5 What type of people might have the views in the task?
6 What is your opinion? What types of accommodation are there where you live? Where could you include this in your answer?

3 Read this sample answer, without paying attention to spelling or punctuation errors, then answer the questions below.

Most goverments have to build housing for their citizens. As populations grow more homes are needed, and sometimes the demand for accommodation increases rapidly. If people cannot find places to live it is a huge worry for them. They do not care about the quality of their housing - they just need somewhere to live.

In the past, many buildings were carefully designed, and people could see that there external appearance was important. In my contry, some of the most beautiful houses are old ones because they have an interesting shape and the architecture is impressive. Even though they were constructed a long time ago they are still used and they can still cost a lot of mony to buy. For this reason, some people belive that homes today should also be well built, using good materials.

Although I agree with this I also feel that poor people might not think it is fair. Some types of building material are much more expensive then others. Architects are also expensive if you use them. We have a lot of apartment blocks in the area where I live, and people want to live in them. They do not think about how much they cost to build. Unfortunately, these buildings may not last very long, and the occupants may have all sorts of proplems with the building, wich may mean that more homes have to be built.

In conclusion I think that both views are relevant. While city accommodation must be well built so that it does not start to fall down to soon it should also be affordable and availble for people who need it.

1 Where is the writer's answer to the first part of the question?
2 Where is the writer's answer to the second part of the question?
3 Where are the writer's opinions?
4 What words does the writer use to introduce her opinions?
5 Where does the writer give examples of her own knowledge or experience?
6 What examples can you find of linkers used for contrast?

4 The sample answer contains ten spelling mistakes and is missing six commas. Make the corrections.

page 129 *When to use commas*

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Key grammar: *Modal verbs*

5 Work in small groups. Read this Writing task and discuss the questions below.

Write about the following topic.

Some people think that large, impressive buildings are important for a city. Others believe that the money should be spent on improving schools and hospitals.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

1 Decide who might have the two opinions in the task, and why.
2 Choose some vocabulary from the unit that might be useful in your answer.
3 Consider how you could include some linkers of contrast.
4 Decide on your own opinion and any personal experience that you could include.
5 Write a plan for your answer.

6 Now work alone and write an answer to the task. Write at least 250 words.

Key grammar

Modal verbs

We use modal verbs (*can, could, may, might, must, should* and *have to*) to express possibility, ability and obligation.

1 Read these sentences (1–8) from the sample answer on page 104 and look at the words in *italics*. Then answer the questions (a–d) in the next column.

1 Most governments *have to* build housing for their citizens.
2 If people *cannot* find places to live, it is a huge worry for them.
3 ... people *could* see that their external appearance was important.
4 For this reason, some people believe that homes today *should* also be well built, using good materials.
5 ... poor people *might* not think it is fair.
6 Unfortunately, these buildings *may not* last very long ...
7 ... city accommodation *must* be well built so that it does not start to fall down too soon, ...
8 ... it *should* also be affordable and available for people who need it.

Which modal verb(s) do we use to:

a say that it is necessary to do something?
...have to... and .....
b express a possibility?
..... and .....
c express ability to do something?
..... and .....
d give strong advice about the right thing to do?
.....

page 130 *Modal verbs*

2 Choose the correct modal in each of these sentences.

1 If a building has thin walls, people *might* / *have to* hear their neighbours.
2 The museum is free – you *don't have to* / *mustn't* pay to enter.
3 In my opinion, architects *should* / *must* be paid less money.
4 Last year, the visitors *can't* / *couldn't* use the main entrance.
5 Although I *can* / *may* see the advantages of living in the city, I don't enjoy city life.
6 In my view, city buildings *shouldn't* / *may not* cost too much money.

3 IELTS candidates often make mistakes using modals. Find and correct the mistakes in the modal verbs in these sentences.

1 Nowadays, we can build a lot of things that we ~~can't~~ in the past. couldn't
2 Some people may are happy to live there.
3 When I was younger, I should to work in my father's building company.
4 Maybe they can't buying a house with their financial problems.
5 Children cannot played in the street now.
6 People have to saved money to buy a home.
7 The police might stops you entering the building.
8 The government must uses the money from taxes for this.

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