

35 Rural life

A Living in the country

I live **on the outskirts** of a village. There's a **shallow** stream that runs along the bottom of my garden, and **beyond** that, a lovely **meadow**. So, it's a very **quiet spot**. Of course, not everything is perfect. Public transport in the country is very **infrequent**, and in the winter you can **occasionally** feel a bit **isolated**. **Nevertheless**, I wouldn't **swap** rural life for life in a town or city.

GLOSSARY

outskirts	the part of a town furthest from the centre: on the outskirts of a town/city/village
shallow	not having much distance between the top and the bottom OPP deep
stream	a very small river
beyond	on or to the further side of sth
meadow	a field covered in grass, often used for hay
spot	a particular area or place: a quiet spot
infrequent	not happening often OPP frequent; frequency n
occasionally	sometimes but not often
isolated	without much contact with other people isolation n
nevertheless	despite sth you have just mentioned
swap	exchange one thing for another
rural	connected with the country and country life

1 Correct the spelling mistakes.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 meadow | 5 ocassionally |
| 2 frequent | 6 nevertheles |
| 3 outskirt | 7 swop |
| 4 shalow | 8 streem |

2 Replace the underlined word(s) with a single word that keeps the same meaning.

- I wouldn't exchange my old cottage for a modern house.
- There's a very small river running through the village.
- The bottom of the garden is a very quiet area.
- We feel we lack contact with other people.
- We do get snow in winter but it's not often.
- I walked through a lovely field covered in grass.
- On the further side of the river there is a church.
- We go there sometimes but not often.
- It's very quiet in the evenings. Despite that, I still like it.
- I used to live on the edge of the village.

3 Complete the sentences.

- You can walk across if you take your shoes off – the stream is very
- There isn't much contact with the neighbours, so they do suffer from
- Rain isn't in the east of the country. The climate is surprisingly dry.
- There isn't much to do in the evening in a village., I still love it.
- A feeling of peace and calm is one of the joys of life.
- My cousin lives on the of the town, quite close to the countryside.
- What about the of the bus service? How often do buses run?
- Just the post office, you can see the bridge on your right.
- We walked across the meadow and found a quiet for our picnic.
- The river is very here, so don't let the children go in.



TEST YOURSELF

B Farming

Martin Dobbs runs a **mixed** animal and **arable** farm. He keeps a **herd** of 75 **dairy** cows, which supplies milk and cream to local suppliers in the area, but that is in **combination** with a range of **crops**, including both **cereals** and fruit.



Although farming is becoming an **increasingly** difficult way to **earn a living**, Martin has never considered doing anything other than working in agriculture, which both his father and grandfather did before him. His son and one full-time **labourer** help him. When he dies, he will **pass on** the farm to his son.

SPOTLIGHT *mixed*

Mixed can refer to:

- 1 different types of thing: **mixed farming** (as above)
- 2 good and bad qualities: *I have **mixed feelings** about the farm.*
- 3 consisting of different kinds of people: *People of **mixed race**.*

GLOSSARY

arable	connected with growing crops
keep	own and care for animals: keep cows, sheep, etc.
herd	a group of cows, elephants and deer
dairy	(of a cow) that is kept for the production of milk
combination	the act of joining or mixing together two or more things; two or more things joined/mixed to form a single unit
crop	a plant that is grown in large quantities, especially as food: cereal crop
cereal	one of various types of grass that are produced for food, e.g. <i>wheat</i>
increasingly	more and more
living	money to buy the things you need in life: earn/make a living <i>What do you do for a living?</i>
labourer	a person whose job involves hard physical work labour <i>n</i>
pass sth on (to sb)	give sth to sb else, especially after using it yourself

4 Combine words in the box to form six phrases.

arable	cereal	mixed	physical	earn	herd
labour	crop	a living	feelings	of cows	farm

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5 Complete the sentences on the right. Keep the same meaning.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 We are an <u>arable farm</u> . | We mostly |
| 2 We have <u>over 100 cows</u> . | We have a |
| 3 We <u>grow cereals and keep animals</u> . | We are a |
| 4 We <u>grow cereals and vegetables</u> . | We are an |
| 5 We only have <u>milking cows</u> . | We are a |
| 6 <u>How does he earn a living?</u> | What |
| 7 My son will get the farm <u>after I die</u> . | I will |
| 8 We grow many <u>types of grass for food</u> . | We grow various |

6 Complete the questions.

- 1 Do most farms in the area grow a of cereals and fruit/vegetables?
- 2 Do they now rely on machines to do the work?
- 3 What kinds of animals do farmers?
- 4 What kinds of do farmers grow?
- 5 Do many people a living from farming?
- 6 Is it common for farmers to on a farm to their children?*
- 7 Is there a shortage of, or is it easy to employ farm
- 8 Do people have feelings about machines replacing human labour?

7 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Write answers to the questions in Exercise 6, or talk to another student.

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TEST YOURSELF