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 medow .....
2 freqwent .....
3 outskirt .....
4 shalow .....
5 ocassionally .....
6 nevertheles .....
7 swop .....
8 streem .....

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

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

3 Complete the sentences.

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

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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. *wheat*
increasingly	more and more
living	money to buy the things you need in life: ***earn/make a living** **What do you do for a living?***
labourer	a person whose job involves hard physical work **labour** *n*
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

....
....

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

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

.....
.....
.....

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS