

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: <i>on the outskirts of a town/city/village</i>
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: <i>a quiet spot</i>
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 freqwent	.....	6 nevertheless	.....
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.



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