UNIT 2

PLACES AND BUILDINGS

A. VOCABULARY: DESCRIBING A TOWN / CITY

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

crowded	*fashionable*	*historic*	*leafy*	*modern*	*noisy*	*quiet*	*remote*

1. A _____ part of town is full of people.
2. A _____ village is a long way from any towns or cities.
3. A _____ part of town is pleasant and has a lot of trees.
4. A _____ part of town is popular.
5. A _____ part of town doesn't have many people or cars.
6. A _____ street is very loud, so it might be difficult to sleep if you live there.
7. A _____ part of town is very new.
8. A _____ area of town is old and has important buildings in it.

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

a village	*the city center*	*the coast*	*the countryside*	*the outskirts of*	*the seaside*	*the south of*	*the suburbs*

1. I come from a tourist town by _____ . Every summer the beach is full of visitors.
2. My house is in _____ , so it's part of the city but away from the city center. Many of the people who work in the city live here.
3. We live on _____ the city – it takes just five minutes to walk from our house to the countryside.
4. I'd love to live in _____ , away from all the noise and traffic of the city.
5. Our house is in _____ in the mountains. There are only about 30 houses and two shops.
6. he city where I was born is on _____ . There are always a lot of ships from around the world in the port.
7. I live in _____ , which is great. It means that I can walk to restaurants, cinemas and museums. But it does get very noisy here sometimes.
8. My town is in _____ my country, not far from the mountains.

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Exercise 3: Choose the correct verbs to complete the text.

When I was a teenager, I didn't like living with my parents, so I left/moved/lived home when I was 20 years old.
At first, I rented/ bought/ borrowed a room in a flat – it wasn't my flat, so I had to pay money every month to live there. I didn't live there alone – I paid/lent/ shared the flat with three other people. It was horrible. The other people never cleaned the flat, and we had a lot of arguments. So I moved alone/out/in after a couple of weeks and caught/ stayed/gave with some friends for about a week. Then I moved in/on/across with my brother and his family. They help/owned/owed a big house in the suburbs. I lived with them for about six months, but then they left/moved/chose house and went to live in a different city. So I had to find a new place to live. In the end, I moved about/back/ between in with my parents. It's much nicer now than when I first lived here. But now I'm saving money to buy/become/earn a flat – hopefully I'll have enough money in a few years.

Exercise 4: Put the words in the correct categories.

leisure center *library* *tower block* *shopping center* *retail park* *cinema* *museum* *historic castle* *theatre* *department store* *residential area* *housing estate*

places to live	places to buy things

places to relax and have fun	places to learn about your city's past

Exercise 5: Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

1. A cottage is *a modern house in a city/a small house, usually in the countryside.*
2. A neighborhood is a part of a town or city where people *live/work*.
3. A stream is a very *small river/wide river.*
4. A pond is an extremely small *forest/lake.*
5. A path is a narrow road for *cars to drive along/people to walk along.*

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6. A town is *bigger than a city/bigger than a village, but not as big as a city*.
7. A hill is *higher/lower* than a mountain and easier to climb.
8. A wood is a *group of trees/large lake.*

B. GRAMMAR: PAST SIMPLE

Exercise 1: Read the information. Then complete the sentences with the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

Be careful with the spelling of the past simple form of regular verbs.

- Verb ends in ***'e'*** (e.g. *hope →hoped*)
- Verb ends in ***vowel + 'y'*** (e.g. *play →played*)
- Verb ends in ***consonant + 'y'*** (e.g. *try →tried*)
- One-syllable verb ends in ***one vowel + one consonant*** (e.g. *rob → robbed*)
- Longer verb ends in ***one vowel + one consonant, stressed final syllable*** (e.g. *regret →regretted*)
- Longer verb ends in ***one vowel + one consonant, unstressed final syllable*** (e.g. *happen → happened*)

1. It was a beautiful evening, so we _____ (walk) along the beach.
2. I was born in Spain, but my parents _____ (move) to Switzerland when I was a baby.
3. Last week, we _____ (visit) the History Museum. It was really interesting.
4. We _____ (plan) to spend our holiday in the countryside, but we spent almost all the time on the beach.
5. There isn't a university in my town, so I _____ (study) in a big city.
6. I _____ (enjoy) my trip to London, but there were a lot of tourists everywhere.
7. When we lived in the city center, we went to the theatre every week, but we _____ (stop) going after we moved to the suburbs.
8. I _____ (try) to contact you, but we were in a very remote house and our phones didn't work.
9. We _____ (stay) in a lovely guest house by the seaside – it was smaller than a hotel, but it had everything we needed.
10. We moved to the countryside when I was a teenager. My parents loved it, but I _____ (prefer) living in the city.

Exercise 2: Correct the sentences. Change the irregular verbs from the present simple to the past simple. The number of changes you need to make is in brackets.

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1. My parents buy their house 20 years ago. (1)
2. It is quite expensive, but the bank lends them half the money so they can afford to buy it. (3)
3. It is a small house, but it feels OK when my brother and I are children. (3)
4. But as we grow older, the house becomes too small. (2)
5. After about ten years, my parents build a new room at the back of the house. (1)
6. But then my brother leaves home and the house is too big again! (2)
7. House prices then rise very quickly. (1)
8. So when my parents sell their house last year, they make a lot of money. (2)

Exercise 3: Complete the sentences with the past simple negative form of the verbs in brackets. Use contractions (e.g. *wasn't*) where possible. The first one has been done for you.

1. We couldn't (can) find their house for hours. It was in the middle of nowhere.
2. I _____ (like) living in the city center – it was too crowded.
3. Our old flat _____ (have) a balcony, but our new flat's got one.
4. There _____ (be) many other children in the part of town where I grew up.
5. I _____ (see) my grandparents often when I was young because they lived a long way away.
6. We _____ (need) a car when we lived in the city, but now we're in the suburbs, we have two!
7. It _____ (be) a very fashionable neighborhood, but I liked living there.

Exercise 4: Put the words in the correct order to complete the questions.

were	a	child?	did	you	you	where	young	live	when

1. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

what	your	was	like?	house

2. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

living	enjoy	you	did	there?

3. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

you	didn't	it?	what	about	like

4. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

could	from	your	you	walk	house?	to	school

5. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

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to	up?	place	grow	it	was	a	good

6. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

home?	you	how	you	old	left	were	when

7. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

you	why	did	leave	home?

8. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Exercise 5: Match the answers with the questions.

I left home because I went to study at university. *I lived in a small mountain village.*
I was 18. *No, I couldn't. It was too far away.*
There weren't many other children, so sometimes I felt quite lonely.
Yes, I did. It was a lovely place to live. *Yes, it was. It was very safe.*

1. Where did you live when you were a child?
   _____
2. Did you enjoy living there?
   _____
3. What didn't you like about it?
   _____
4. Could you walk to school from your house?
   _____

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