

## Get ready!

- 1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.
- 1 What are some common landscape problems that architects encounter?
  - 2 What land features are best for building?

## Reading

- 2 Read the email. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the purpose of the email?
  - A to describe landscape preparations in progress
  - B to compare two areas of land
  - C to give pros and cons of building on hills
  - D to suggest two new building sites
- 2 What can you infer about vegetation?
  - A It is very expensive to clear it.
  - B It is more common on level land than hilly land.
  - C It makes building easier.
  - D It stabilizes land on a slope.
- 3 What is true about the Prairie Grove site?
  - A It is a bad place for houses.
  - B It has a small slope.
  - C It is an open area of land.
  - D It is probably unstable.



To: JohnMartin@easternhomearchitects.com

From: sjohnson@sjohnsonsurveyors.com

Subject: Sites for Residential Development

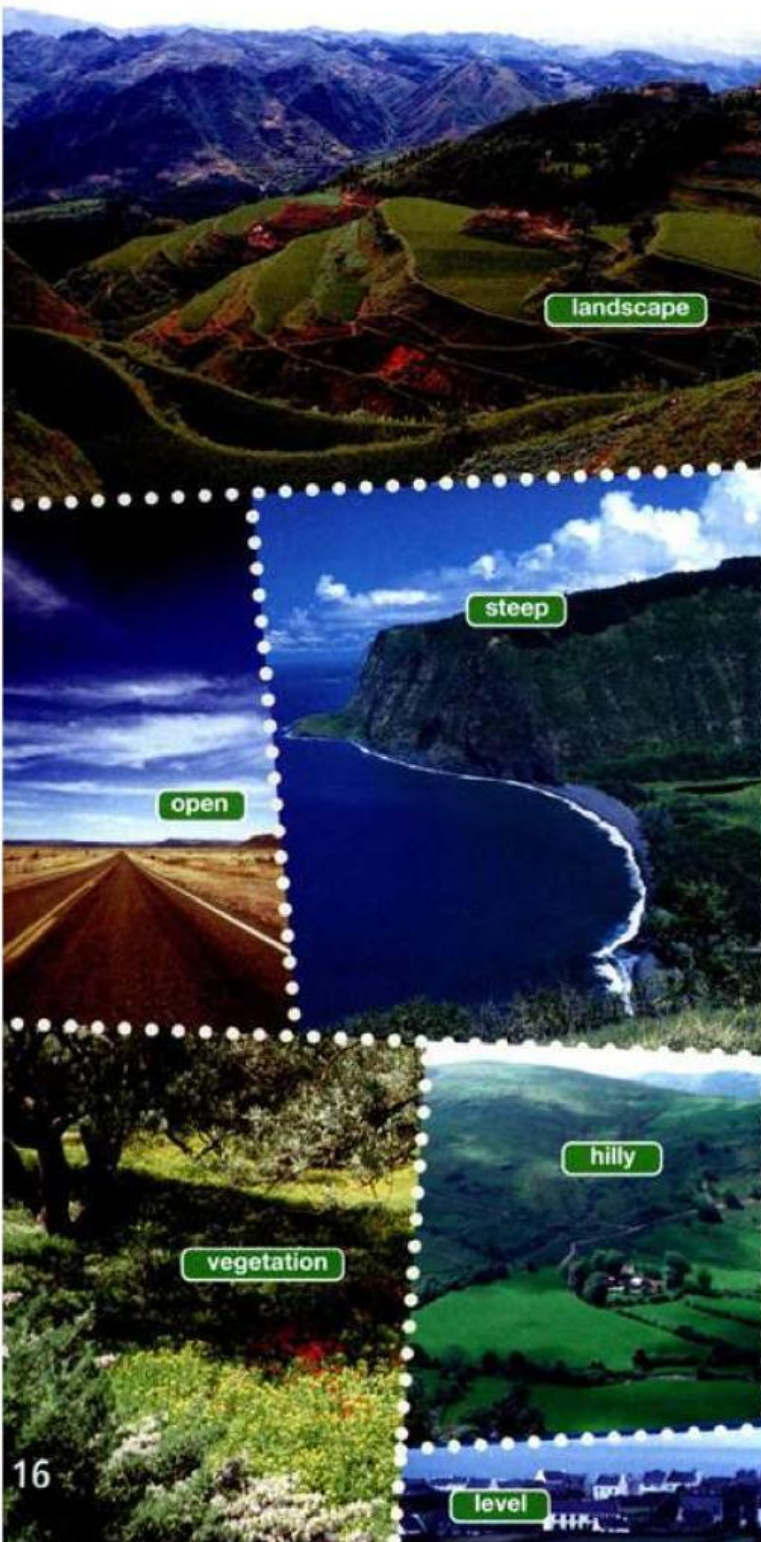
Hi John,

I surveyed your proposed building sites. The **topography** at Green Acres isn't suitable. The **terrain** is too **hilly**. Some **slopes** have very **steep grades**. Making them **level** will take a lot of work, which will be expensive. Plus, you need to clear the **vegetation** and that can make the slopes unstable.

Prairie Grove has a better **landscape** for residential development. It's mostly flat. The area does **rise** on the north end, however, the grade is minor so I don't expect it to be a problem. This area also has some vegetation but we can clear it to create an **open** space.

If you need anything else, let me know.

Sharon Johnson





## Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- 1 \_\_ rise                      3 \_\_ hilly                      5 \_\_ topography  
2 \_\_ steep                    4 \_\_ vegetation

- A an area's plants and trees                      D having many hills  
B to incline or move upward                    E having a sharp incline  
C an area's physical characteristics

4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word best fits each blank.

1 landscape / slope

- A The mountains and trees are part of the area's beautiful \_\_\_\_\_.  
B The house sits at the bottom of a \_\_\_\_\_.

2 terrain / grade

- A The \_\_\_\_\_ of the hill is too steep for building.  
B The \_\_\_\_\_ in the area is rough and rocky.

3 level / open

- A Large areas with no buildings or trees are called \_\_\_\_\_ land.  
B The site used to have a slope, but now it is completely \_\_\_\_\_.

5 Listen and read the email again. What is wrong with Green Acres as a building site?

## Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between an architect and a surveyor. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 \_\_ The proposed building site is mostly open space.  
2 \_\_ The slope makes the land difficult to build on.  
3 \_\_ The eastern end of the property is very hilly.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Architect: So what 1 \_\_\_\_\_ about this plot of land?

Surveyor: The landscape is beautiful. There's a lot of 2 \_\_\_\_\_.  
And the mountains are nearby.

Architect: Exactly. It's the 3 \_\_\_\_\_ for a resort.

Surveyor: Well, it's not perfect. This slope is very 4 \_\_\_\_\_.

Architect: Is the grade 5 \_\_\_\_\_?

Surveyor: I think so. It's 6 \_\_\_\_\_ to build on terrain like this.

## Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

### USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

*What do you think about ...*  
*The land is too/very ...*  
*It's a great place for ...*

**Student A:** You are an architect. Talk to Student B about:

- a proposed building site
- the positive features of the building site
- the negative features of the building site

**Student B:** You are a land surveyor. Talk to Student A about a proposed building site.

## Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to complete the meeting notes.

### Notes

## Meeting with Surveyor

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Pros of proposed site:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cons of proposed site:

\_\_\_\_\_