


Vocabulary

A  2.20 Write each word from the box next to its definition. Use a dictionary to help you. Then listen and check your answers.

belong to (v)	damage (n)	especially (adv)	population (n)	rapid (adj)
build (v)	desert (n)	location (n)	property (n)	tourists (n)

- _____ to make or construct
- _____ being more true for one thing than other things
- _____ people who visit a place on vacation
- _____ a place that gets little rainfall; a very dry area of land
- _____ a building and/or the land it is on
- _____ the place where things are or where things happen
- _____ all the people who live in a country or area
- _____ harm that happens to an object or place
- _____ fast, happening very quickly
- _____ to be owned by someone

B Work with a partner. Imagine that you are going to take a vacation together. Discuss each vacation choice below.

On your vacation, would you rather . . .

- visit a dry location like the desert, or be near the ocean?
- visit a place that has experienced rapid development, or a place that has a more historic feel?
- see a lot of other tourists, or a lot of local residents?
- stay in a hotel, or in a house or other property that belongs to a friend?

▼ **Medano Beach in Cabo San Lucas is a popular tourist destination in Mexico.**



2.21 Fill in each blank with a word from exercise A. Use each word only once. Then listen and check your answers. Practice the conversation with a partner. Switch roles and practice it again.

Vacation Homes: Owning a Piece of Paradise¹

Q: Why is Baja California such a popular _____₁ for vacations?

A: It has coasts on the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez, so _____₂ can enjoy sea life such as dolphins, whales, and unusual fish. The mountains and _____₃ are also excellent for hiking and sightseeing.

Q: Can anyone own a home in Baja California?

A: Yes. You don't have to be a Mexican citizen to own _____₄ here. Many vacation homes _____₅ people from other countries, _____₆ Canada and the United States.

Q: Are there a lot of new vacation homes for sale?

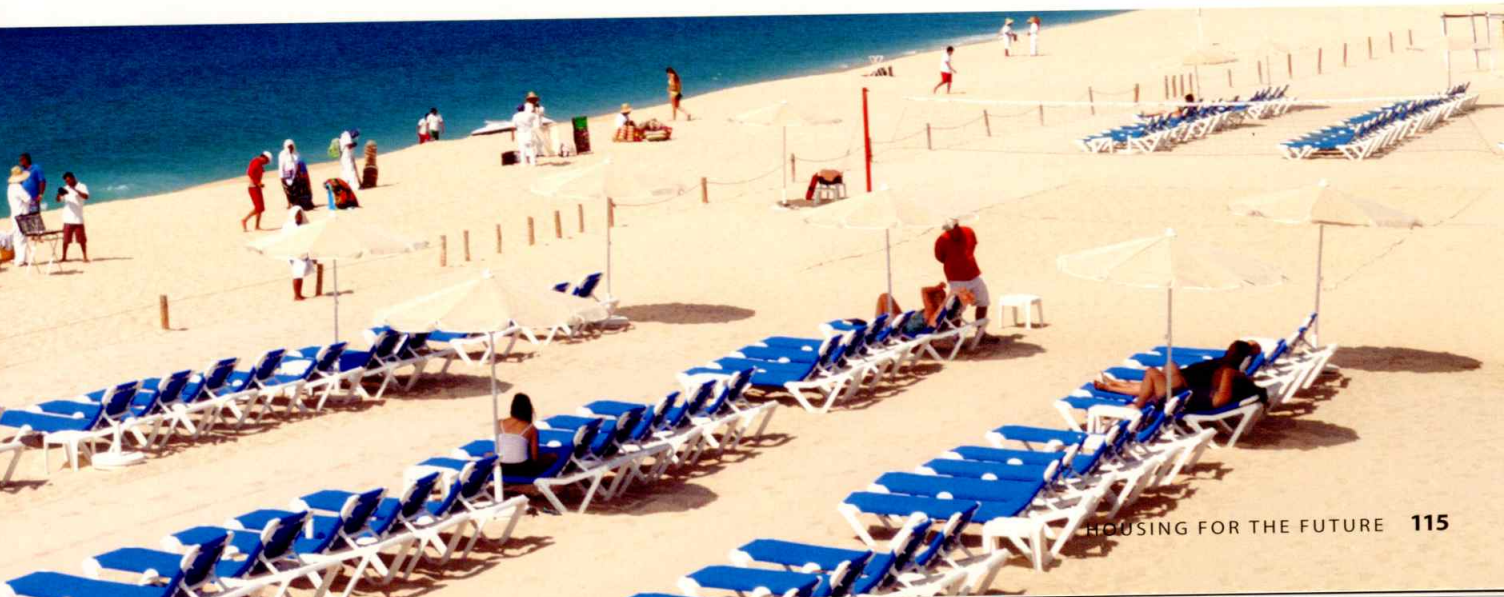
A: Yes. Most of Baja California's _____₇ lives in the north, in cities such as Tijuana and Mexicali. Recently, though, there has been _____₈ growth in the south, especially near Cabo San Lucas and La Paz. They want to _____₉ a lot of new houses and hotels quickly in those places.

Q: Is everyone happy about the housing growth?

A: No. Some people worry about _____₁₀ to the environment as more and more people move in. Baja California is also very dry, so having enough drinking water for everyone is another concern.



¹paradise (n): a perfect place



BEFORE LISTENING


PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

A Look at the map. Then read each statement and choose T for *True* or F for *False*. Check your answers at the bottom of the page and discuss them with a partner.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. The Nile River is only in Egypt. | T | F |
| 2. The population of Egypt is growing. | T | F |
| 3. Most of Egypt's land is very dry. | T | F |
| 4. Farmers can easily grow food in the desert. | T | F |

WHILE LISTENING

LISTENING FOR
MAIN IDEAS

B  2.22 Read the statements and answer choices. Then listen and choose the best answer to complete each statement.


- The speakers are talking about _____.
 - a TV show
 - an article
 - a presentation
- The government's plan is important because Egypt needs more _____.
 - money for new buildings
 - desert for tourists to visit
 - places for people to live
- The main reason some people disagree with the plan is _____.
 - they're not sure who the Nile River water belongs to
 - more tourists came to Egypt before the plan
 - the plan damages the environment




Answers: 1.F, 2.T, 3.T, 4.F

PRONUNCIATION Focus Words

You learned that content words (adjectives, adverbs, nouns, and verbs) carry important information and receive stress. Often, one content word is more important and receives more stress than the others. It is called the *focus word*. It often contains new information, and it is usually the last content word in a sentence, clause, or phrase.

 2.23 Listen for the emphasis on the content words and the **focus words** in this sentence.

*The rest of the country is **desert**, so they grow a lot of their **food** along the **Nile**.*

C  2.24 Read these sentences from the conversation. Then listen and underline the focus word or words that you hear.

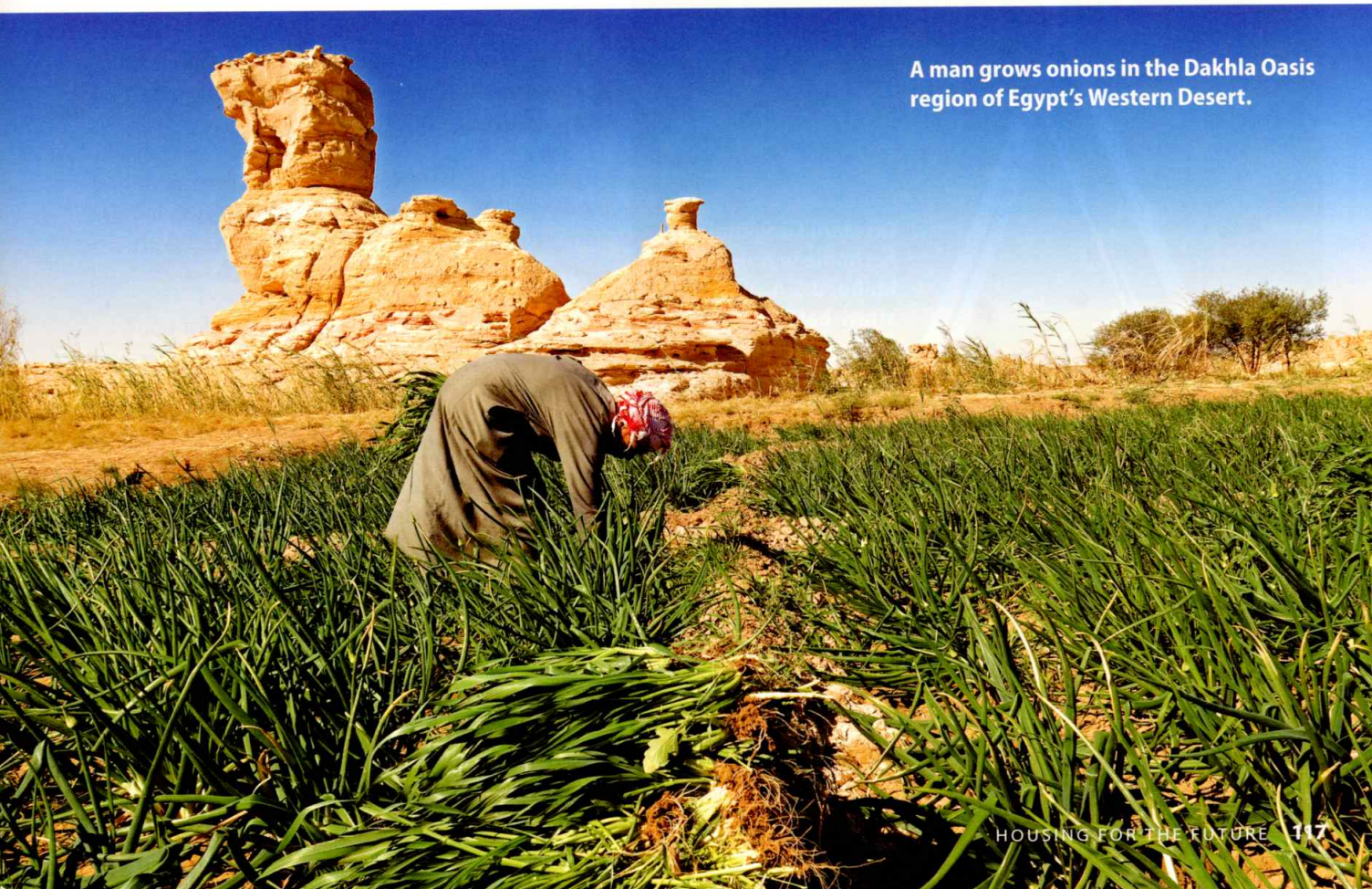
LISTENING FOR
FOCUS WORDS

1. Honey, did you read this article about Egypt?
2. It says that the population of Egypt is growing.
3. Most people in Egypt live near the Nile River.
4. That's great, but how does it make the desert green?
5. They're doing some kind of damage to the environment?


AFTER LISTENING

D In your own words, explain the Egyptian government's plan to a partner. Remember to emphasize focus words. Does the plan sound like a good idea to you? Explain why you agree or disagree with the plan. Then switch roles.

CRITICAL THINKING:
REFLECTING



A man grows onions in the Dakhla Oasis region of Egypt's Western Desert.

- A**  2.25 Read and listen to the information. Underline the coordinating conjunctions used to join independent clauses.



Dr. Mark Lung builds his home in Boise, Idaho, U.S.A., using straw-bales covered with plaster for walls.

STRAW HOUSES: ANOTHER WAY TO “GO GREEN”

What is your house made of? Building a house from concrete (a mixture of sand, water, and cement) or metal requires large amounts of energy, and it pollutes the air. Building a house from wood means cutting down trees and damaging the environment.

Builder Michael Furbish has another idea: Use straw to make buildings. “Most other building materials require a lot of energy use in production and manufacturing at a factory,” explains Furbish. Straw is a kind of grass, and it takes little energy to grow. It’s not very nutritious for animals, however, so farmers normally dry it and use it for animals to sleep on.

After the straw is dry, farmers use a machine to make bales—large rectangular bricks of straw. Builders such as Furbish use the bales to build walls. They cover the walls with plaster¹ inside and outside. The plaster becomes hard when it’s dry, so it keeps out water as well as insects and small animals.

Furbish used about 900 straw bales for his family’s two-story, three-bedroom house. His company used about 4,000 bales to build an elementary school in Maryland, U.S.A.

Do you think a straw-bale house is for you? You won’t know until you try living in one, but for Furbish, it’s a greener way to build.

¹plaster (n): a mixture of lime, water, and sand or cement

- B** Compare your answers in exercise A with a partner’s. Identify the relationship between ideas.

- C** Discuss these questions with your partner.

1. How do people make straw-bale houses? Explain the process.
2. Do you think straw-bale houses might be popular in your country? Why or why not?
3. Do you try to “go green” in your own life? Explain.

D Complete the sentences with a coordinating conjunction.

1. You can build a house of concrete, metal, or wood, _____ you can choose greener materials.
2. Straw is easy to grow, _____ it's not very nutritious for animals.
3. Builders cover the straw bales with plaster, _____ they keep the water and insects out.
4. Furbish and his company built his house, _____ they built an elementary school.
5. Using straw is an unusual idea, _____ it is a greener way to build.

E Say your sentences from exercise D to a partner. Then switch roles. Do you agree on the relationship between the ideas?

F Prioritize the features in the list below. Start by putting a 1 next to the feature that is the most important to you in a house or an apartment. Discuss your ideas in a small group.

CRITICAL THINKING:
PRIORITIZING

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| _____ cost | _____ near school |
| _____ near work | _____ near public transportation |
| _____ near green space | _____ size |
| _____ allows pets | _____ has garage or other parking |
| _____ facilities (laundry, exercise room, etc.) | _____ good for the environment |

G Work with a partner. Take turns describing a place you want to live. Use coordinating conjunctions and your ideas from exercise F.

A: *I want an apartment that is inexpensive and close to school.*

B: *I want an apartment that is good for the environment, so I'm looking for an energy-efficient home.*

FINAL TASK Role-Playing a Meeting with Real Estate Agents

You and a partner are going to decide on the type of property you want to buy. Then you are going to role-play a meeting with a pair of real estate agents and tell them about your needs.

A With your partner, decide what sort of property you are interested in. Choose one of the following:

- a vacation home
- a shared student apartment
- a family home

BRAINSTORMING

B In your notebook, make a list of everything you want in your property (e.g., three bedrooms, a nice yard, exercise room, fireplaces). Do not worry about money at this point. You may refer to the list in exercise F on page 119.

CRITICAL THINKING:
PRIORITIZING

C Now it is time to be more realistic. Look at your list together. Decide which items are necessary, and which are less important or too expensive. Circle the items on your list that are the most important to you.

PRESENTATION SKILL Role-Playing

Role-playing in class lets you practice speaking and listening in a safe situation. Role-playing can also be an excellent way to practice for a more formal presentation. A friend can be an audience member and ask you questions about your presentation. To get the most from any kind of role-playing, remember that you are "playing" a part. Try to have fun as you act your part of the situation.

ROLE-PLAYING

D Join another pair of students. Follow these steps.

1. Take turns role-playing the agents and the clients.
2. When you and your partner are the agents, ask questions to help your clients explain their needs.
3. When you and your partner are the clients, use your list from exercise C to give plenty of details to help the agents find the right property for you.
A: *Do you need a separate dining room?*
B: *Yes, we both like cooking, and we like to have dinner parties.*
4. At the end of each meeting, the real estate agents must describe a property for the clients to buy. The clients must decide whether or not it is a good property for them.

REFLECTION

1. What ways did you learn to agree or disagree with someone in this unit?

2. What did you learn that you will apply in your life when you look for your next place to live?

3. Here are the vocabulary words from the unit. Check (✓) the ones you can use.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> architect | <input type="checkbox"/> especially | <input type="checkbox"/> rapid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> belong to | <input type="checkbox"/> impact <small>AWL</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> remove <small>AWL</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> build | <input type="checkbox"/> location <small>AWL</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> resident <small>AWL</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> comfortable | <input type="checkbox"/> mainly | <input type="checkbox"/> technology <small>AWL</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> damage | <input type="checkbox"/> obvious <small>AWL</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> tourist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deal with | <input type="checkbox"/> population | <input type="checkbox"/> zone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> desert | <input type="checkbox"/> property | |