

Q:Skills for Success

LISTENING AND SPEAKING



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OXFORD

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NOTE TAKING	▶ identifying key words
LISTENING	▶ listening for main ideas
VOCABULARY	▶ collocations: nouns and verbs
GRAMMAR	▶ the present continuous
PRONUNCIATION	▶ interjections and intonation
SPEAKING	▶ drawing attention to main ideas

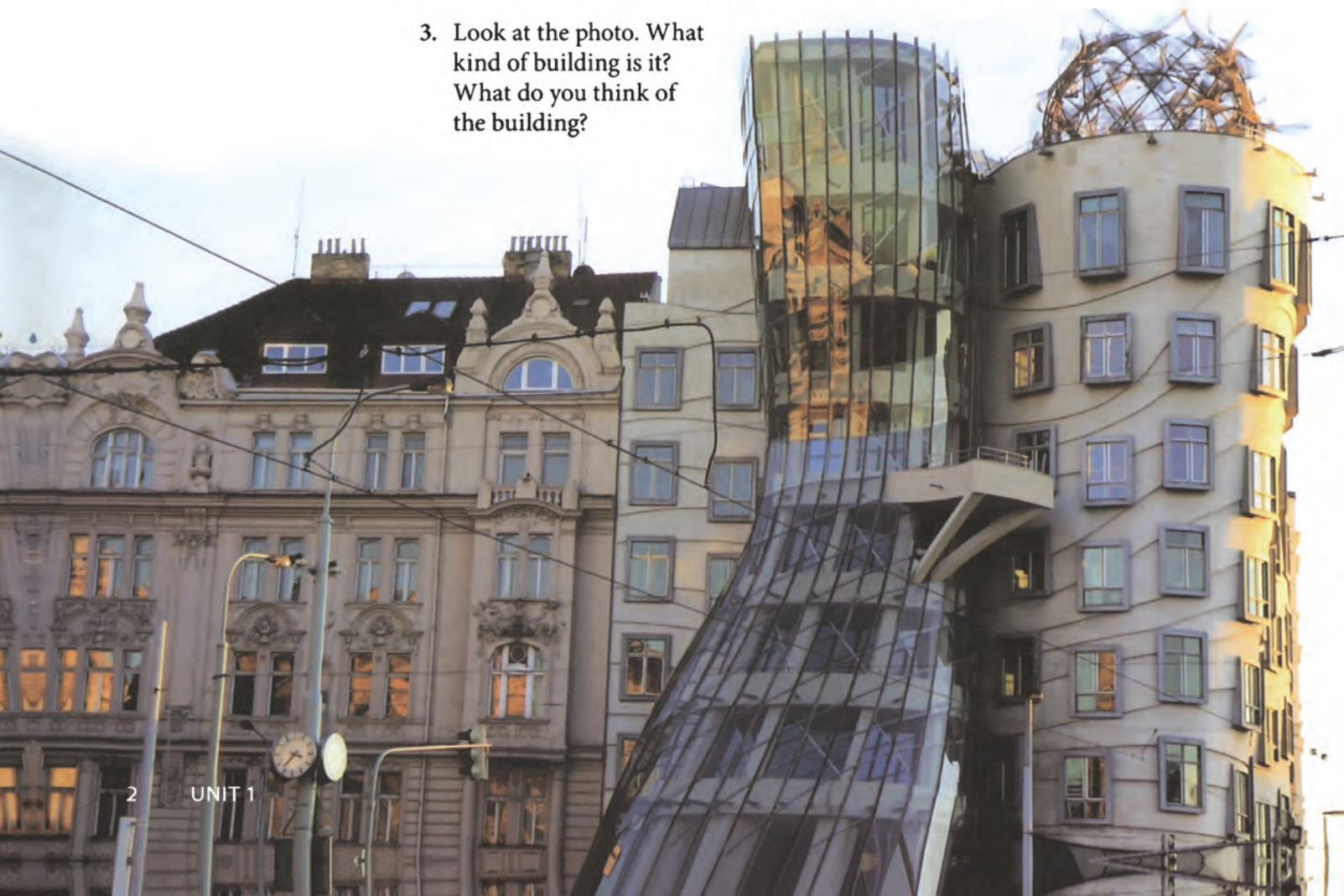


UNIT QUESTION

What are current trends in architecture?

A Discuss these questions with your classmates.

1. Think about a city you know well. Which buildings are the most attractive? The most unattractive?
2. How important is it for a city to have beautiful architecture?
3. Look at the photo. What kind of building is it? What do you think of the building?





Listen to a conversation and a class discussion. Gather information and ideas to role-play a news conference about a new office building.



B Listen to *The Q Classroom* online. Then answer these questions.

1. How does Sophy describe modern architecture? What is her opinion of it?
2. Does Marcus agree with her? Why or why not?

iQ ONLINE

C Go online to watch the video about architect Frank Gehry and the museum he designed for the city of Bilbao in Spain. Then check your comprehension.

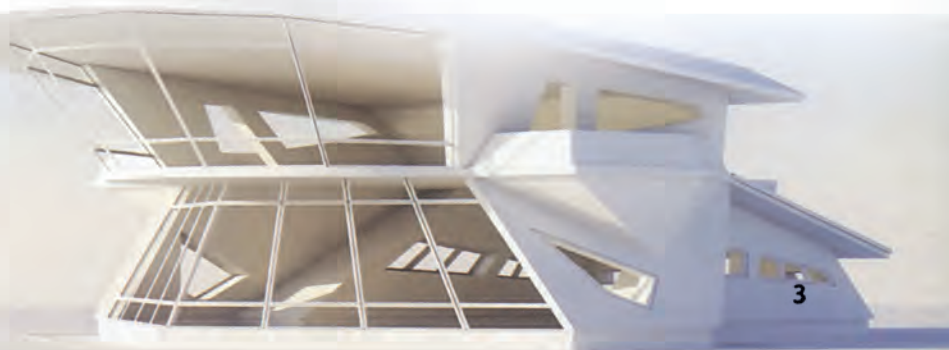


basket case (*n.*) someone who is extremely nervous or stressed
evolution (*n.*) the process of change and development over time
innovative (*adj.*) describing something new that uses new ways of thinking
masterpiece (*n.*) an artist's best piece of work
miracle (*n.*) something wonderful and impossible to explain
self-conscious (*adj.*) worried about what other people will think about you

VIDEO VOCABULARY

iQ ONLINE

D Go to the Online Discussion Board to discuss the Unit Question with your classmates.



E Circle the statement (a or b) that you agree with the most. Then compare your answers with a partner.

1. a. Buildings should be sustainable and energy-efficient.
b. Buildings should be beautiful.
2. a. The buildings in a city should have a similar style.
b. The buildings in a city should be very different from one another.
3. a. I prefer traditional architecture from 100 years ago or more.
b. I like modern architecture.
4. a. I pay lots of attention to the architecture in my city.
b. I never notice the architecture of the buildings around me.
5. a. Working in architecture is an interesting career.
b. Working in architecture is not an interesting career.

F Do you notice the architecture around you? Do this activity to find out.

1. Think about a building in your city or a famous building most people know about. What does it look like? Complete the chart. Include as much information as you can.

Name of building:

Features of building:

Description:

Shape: tall? rectangular? curved?

Style: modern? traditional?

Materials: brick? steel? concrete?

Function: office building? apartment building? school? home?

Other:

2. Work with a partner. Describe the building to your partner. Use the information in the chart. Have your partner guess which building you described.
3. Listen to your partner describe a building. Which building is your partner describing?

Speaking Skill Identifying key words

When you take notes, write only *key words*—the most important words. Don't spend time writing little words like *of*, *the*, and *and*, etc. These are some ways to identify key words as you listen:

- Listen for repeated words. These often point to the main idea.
- Focus on words that the speaker defines. If a speaker takes time to say what a word means, it's probably important.
- Listen for words the speaker emphasizes by saying them more slowly or a little louder.

A. Read the paragraph that introduces a podcast titled “Careers in Architecture.” Underline the most important words. The words *career opportunities* are underlined as an example.

You may not be aware of it, but there are a variety of career opportunities in the field of architecture. Being an architect is, of course, the first one everyone thinks of, but there are many others. So if you are creative and have a good visual imagination, consider one of these careers.

B. Listen as the speaker describes three different careers in architecture. Write the important words. Does the speaker repeat any of the words you underlined in Activity A?



A landscape architect's plan

C. Compare notes with a partner. Which words did you write? Why?

D. Go online for more practice with identifying key words.

LISTENING 1 | Modern Architecture

UNIT OBJECTIVE



You are going to listen to a conversation between two newspaper journalists, Vicky and Julia. Vicky has to write a story about architect Oscar Valerian's design for the city's new library. As you listen to the conversation, gather information and ideas about the current trends in architecture.

PREVIEW THE LISTENING

A. VOCABULARY Here are some words from Listening 1. Read the sentences. Then match each underlined word with its definition below.

- d 1. Energy-efficient houses are a new architectural trend. Many people want them now.
- 2. Five years ago, no one knew who he was. Now he's a celebrity. His name is in the newspaper every day.
- 3. That's the most ridiculous idea I've ever heard. It will never work.
- 4. Bill told a joke at dinner last night. We all laughed very hard.
- 5. Driving a car without wearing a seatbelt is risky. You can get hurt in an accident.
- 6. The person who wrote the article was critical of the book. He didn't like it at all.
- 7. He's an experienced journalist. He works for an important newspaper company.
- 8. I admire Elaine very much. She's a great author and a very nice person.

- a. (verb) to respect someone very much
- b. (noun) a famous person
- c. (adjective) saying that something is bad or wrong
- d. (noun) a popular idea or change
- e. (noun) a thing that someone says that is funny, not serious
- f. (noun) a person who collects, writes, and publishes news
- g. (adjective) very silly or unreasonable
- h. (adjective) dangerous

B. Go online for more practice with the vocabulary.

C. PREVIEW You are going to listen to a conversation between Vicky and Julia about an architectural design. Work with a partner. What key words do you think you will hear in the conversation? Make a list.

WORK WITH THE LISTENING



A. LISTEN AND TAKE NOTES Listen to the conversation. Write the key words you hear. Leave space on the page to add more notes later. Here are some words to help you get started.



the new city library
architect
plan = ridiculous?



B. Listen again. Add more information to your notes.

C. Check (✓) the two statements that express main ideas in the conversation.

- ___ 1. Julia is writing an article about the president's speech.
- ___ 2. Vicky thinks that there are some serious problems with the plans for the new library.
- ___ 3. The mayor and members of the city council were at the meeting.
- ___ 4. People are sometimes afraid to criticize a new style or trend because of what other people may think.



D. Answer the questions. Then listen and check your answers.

- 1. What does Vicky say the new library design looks like?

- 2. How many people were at the meeting?

Tip for Success

Many students are nervous about listening. Relax! If you are nervous or stressed, it's more difficult to listen and understand what you hear.

3. Did people laugh when they saw the plans?

4. What does Vicky think about the architect's plans?

5. What do people in the town think of Oscar Valerian's work?

6. Why does Vicky feel that it is important to be critical of the library design?

7. What advice does Julia give Vicky about her article?

8. Will Vicky follow Julia's advice? What do you think?

E. Who said it? Mark each statement as J (Julia) or V (Vicky).

___ 1. I can take a break. What's up?

___ 2. I don't know what to say.

___ 3. You're joking.

___ 4. I thought it was a joke, but it wasn't.

___ 5. We need a bigger building with lots of room for books and computers.

___ 6. This architect is sort of a celebrity.

___ 7. For one thing, you're going to make a lot of people unhappy.

___ 8. I need to give my honest opinion of the plans for the library even if it's risky.

F. Work with a partner. Continue Julia and Vicky's conversation. Follow these guidelines. Then present your conversation to the class.

Julia: Give Vicky three suggestions for things she can say in her article. After each suggestion, give Vicky time to answer.

Vicky: Agree or disagree with each of Julia's suggestions. Explain why.

Example:

Julia: *You can say that the ball is a good modern design, but it doesn't look good in the neighborhood.*

Vicky: *Hmm. I don't know. That isn't really what I think. (OR That's a great idea. That doesn't sound so critical.)*

(Note: You can use your own names instead of the names Julia and Vicky.)



SAY WHAT YOU THINK

Discuss the questions in a group.

Critical Thinking Tip

Question 1 asks you to **give examples**. Giving examples is a way to show you understand an idea.

1. Do you think that architects should follow the latest trends? Why or why not? Give examples.
2. What architectural styles do you admire? What kinds of buildings do you dislike?
3. A famous architect said, "Buildings should serve people, not the other way around." What do you think this means? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Listening Skill

Listening for main ideas

The **main idea** is the most important thing the speaker wants you to understand. Focus on understanding the main idea first. Listen for repeated ideas. Pay attention when a speaker emphasizes a sentence. Don't stop to think about words you don't understand. Keep listening.



A. Listen to a short presentation on trends in furniture design. Check (✓) the sentence that best states the speaker's main idea.

- ___ 1. Many furniture makers these days are using recycled materials.
- ___ 2. Trends in furniture design in the 21st century are similar to trends in building designs.
- ___ 3. People sometimes feel nostalgic when they remember things they saw in their grandparents' homes.



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