

Many people think that country life is idyllic and a lot of people dream of living in the country. But the latest statistics show that in Britain last year, almost as many people – about 41,000 – moved from the country to the city as vice-versa.

# The Call Wood project

- **In January this year**, as part of a stress-strategy course, overworked bosses in Austria were able to ring a mobile phone number which connected them to an automatic answering facility in an Austrian forest so that they could hear “the genuine woodland sound of silence”. The researchers had put mobile phones in forests in Styria, southern Austria, and anyone who rang the *Call Wood* number could experience the quietness of nature. Only the occasional sound of the wind in the trees or the footsteps of a passing deer disturbed the silence.

- **Rolf Werner**, a software manager in Vienna, said, “At first I thought the idea was ridiculous but a research group had asked us to take part in an experiment and phone the *Call Wood* number when we were stressed. Well, last week we had a particularly difficult meeting and, when I’d done my presentation, I felt really exhausted so I called the number – more out of curiosity than anything else. It was amazing – I closed my eyes and was transported to the peace of the countryside! It was wonderfully relaxing.” But not everyone was so positive. Clara Struntz, the managing

director of a telecommunications firm, asked, “Who on earth wants to listen to ... silence? I didn’t feel relaxed, I just felt bored when I’d rung *Call Wood*. But I must admit, I hadn’t expected anything else really – the country bores me to death.”

- **The *Call Wood* project** has proved to be a hit with the majority of business people, so *Call Waterfall* and *Call Mountain Top* lines are also planned. Groups of experts are now discussing how they can develop this service and are trying to find out what sounds people find most relaxing. But opinions seem to differ a lot – some people are soothed by the sound of birdsong but others find it irritating; most people dislike the noise of traffic but a few people find it comforting, so a questionnaire has been sent round to top businesses in Austrian cities, asking the management to list their three most relaxing sounds.



► What do you think the top three sounds were?



# Unit 2 Town and country

## 1 A matter of taste

The researchers for the *Call Wood* project asked people what sounds they find relaxing. What would you answer? Compare your top three with the questionnaire results on page 148. What about smells – would you choose the smell of petrol or the smell of cows? And would you prefer the view of a lake or a cathedral? Talk about the smells and sights you find calming.

**CHAT** Clara, who was interviewed about the *Call Wood* project, said, “The country bores me to death.” Discuss her point of view.

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## 2 Vocabulary

Look at the expression on Clara's face.

How would you describe it?

Look at these facial expressions.

Which person felt ☐ embarrassed ☐ furious ☐ delighted ☐ terrified?



Now look at the faces below. In pairs, talk about how you think each person felt. Think of a suitable adjective and write it on the line underneath. Compare your suggestions in class and make a list of the adjectives on the board.



## 3 Grammar focus: The past perfect simple → LS, p. 18

- You already know about using the *past simple* to talk about a past event or situation:  
Rolf Werner **rang** the *Call Wood* number.
- To talk about things which had already happened before that, you can use the *past perfect simple*:  
He **rang** the *Call Wood* number after he'd **done** his presentation.  
He was tired because he **hadn't slept** well the night before.

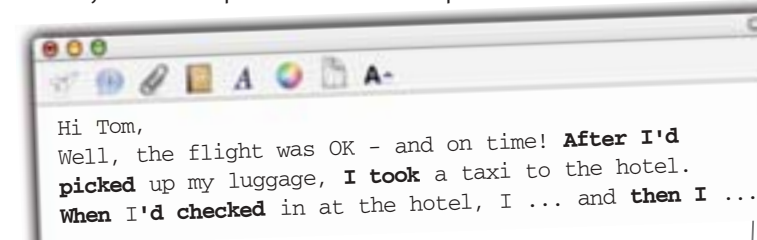
## 3a Why did he look like that?

In pairs, look at the faces above and each give a reason why he looked like that. Use the past perfect simple.  
e.g. e) He looked exhausted because ... **he'd just done a presentation** / **he hadn't slept** very well.

## 3b When did she do that?

The journalist who wrote the article on page 15 had to fly to Vienna to interview people. Look at the plan she made.

Complete the e-mail that she wrote the following day. Then compare e-mails with a partner.



## 3c And now you

That was the journalist's first visit to Austria. Before that, she'd never heard of the Styrian mountains. In groups, talk about your first ... holiday abroad, business trip, day at work, home of your own, English lesson, visit to ..., etc. Use the phrases in bold print, e.g. **My first computer course was in 1998.** **Before that I'd never sent an e-mail – I hadn't even touched a computer!**

## 4 How to say it: Expressing opinions

Look at the expressions below. Are they 1 giving an opinion, 2 agreeing with someone's opinion, 3 disagreeing with someone? Write the numbers in the boxes.

- a) ☐ Well, in my view, ...
- b) ☐ Surely you don't really mean ...
- c) ☐ Personally, I think ...
- d) ☐ You're absolutely right.
- e) ☐ I can see your point, but ...
- f) ☐ I doubt whether that's true ...
- g) ☐ Actually, I have to disagree with you there.
- h) ☐ In my opinion, ...
- i) ☐ Maybe, but on the other hand, ...
- j) ☐ I completely agree with you.

T1/3 Listen to part of a TV discussion on foxhunting – a subject which both rural and urban communities in Britain feel strongly about. Listen and tick the phrases you hear.

T1/4 Listen again and note down the main arguments *for* and *against* foxhunting. Then take a vote in your class, based on the arguments you've heard.

## Wednesday

- Read through Call Wood questionnaire
- Drive to Research Centre
- Interview researchers
- Lunch with researchers
- Speak to managers
- Find Internet photo of Styrian forest
- Write article
- Mail article to office
- Opera with Matthias

## 4a For and against

There are plans to build an international airport near a peaceful suburb of a large city. The council is holding a meeting to discuss the project with the residents. Make two groups. **Group A**, you are the councillors, look at page 122; **Group B**, you are the residents, look at page 126.

## 5 Talking points

Talk about one or two of these topics:

- The pros and cons of country life for a teenager / a retired person / you.
- The differences between living in the country and having a holiday there.
- The advantages and disadvantages of bringing up a child in the country / city.
- Blood sports, like fox-hunting and bull-fighting should be banned.





**Language study: The past perfect simple tense** → Grammar 1, p. 152

- We use the **past simple** when we talk about a series of events in the order in which they happened:  
I **met** an old friend and we **talked** about old times.

- We use the **past perfect simple** to talk about things which happened before that:  
We **talked** about colleagues we **had known** years before.

- Underline the verbs which are in the past perfect tense.

I went to a party yesterday and I met my old friend Ann. We'd worked together in the 1990s. We talked about old times and old colleagues we'd known years before and we swapped some addresses and phone numbers. Unfortunately, my husband had already left the party when Anne arrived.

- Tick the correct information.

- 1 To make the **past perfect simple**, we need

the word **has** ☐

**have** ☐

**had** ☐

plus the **infinitive (see)** ☐

**past form (saw)** ☐

**past participle (seen)** ☐

- 2 a) When Ann arrived, my husband **left**.

☐ He left before Ann arrived.

☐ He left after Ann arrived.

- b) When Ann arrived, my husband **had left**.

☐ He left before Ann arrived.

☐ He left after Ann arrived.



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## Homestudy

### 1 I missed it!

Finish each sentence in two different ways, saying what *had already happened*, using the ideas in the box.

the teacher / check the homework  
the lesson / begin  
my colleague / do her presentation

he / blow out the candles  
the secretary / read the report  
they / sing Happy Birthday

- When I arrived at his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party ...
- By the time I arrived at my English class ...
- When I arrived at the meeting, ...

## 2 Events

The events below are in the order in which they happened. Use the words in brackets to make one long sentence – if necessary, rearrange the order of events. You will need to change one verb into the past perfect. e.g. He bought tickets for a concert. We invited him to our party. He didn't come. (*We ... but ... because ...*)  
*We (invited him to our party) but he (didn't come) because (he'd bought tickets for a concert).*

- Someone broke into my office. I arrived at work. I phoned the police. (*As soon as I ..., I saw that ... so ...*)
- Peter went out. I phoned Peter. There was no answer. (*I ... but ... because ...*)
- She sent some postcards. She arrived home. They came. (*She ... but she ... by the time ...*)
- They both met years ago. They went to a party. Someone introduced them. (*They both ... and someone ... and they immediately realised ...*)

## 3 Expressing opinions

Complete the phrases with one of these words: *absolutely, disagree, doubt, hand, personally, see, surely, view.*

- In my ....., ...
- You're ..... right.
- I can ..... your point, but ...
- I have to ..... with you on that.
- ..... you don't really mean ...
- ....., I think ...
- I ..... whether that's true ...
- Maybe, but on the other ....., ...

**L1/5** Now listen to four people expressing their opinions.

Tick which person ...	1	2	3	4
expresses an opinion.				
strongly disagrees with this opinion.				
agrees with this opinion.				
mildly disagrees with this opinion.				

Which of the phrases a)–h) could each person have used to express his/her views?

- 1 ☐ ☐      2 ☐
- 3 ☐ ☐      4 ☐ ☐ ☐

## 4 L1/6 Pronunciation

Listen to phrases a)–h) in exercise 3 and underline the word which is stressed.

**L1/7** Listen again and repeat the phrases.

## 5 Vocabulary

These words were all on page 15. Think about their meanings and underline the odd one out in each group.

- expert, service, manager, researcher
- noise, peace, quietness, silence
- forest, mountain, irritating, waterfall
- exhausted, overworked, relaxed, stressed
- course, management, project, presentation

## 6 L1/8 Listen and write

Listen to these five people talking about *Call Wood*. Write the sentences you hear. Then fill the gap with one of the underlined words from exercise 5.

### Info: Life in the country → p. 16, ex. 1

Fourteen million people – over a quarter of the population – live in England's rural areas. According to a recent Government report, half of the people who move to the country are between the ages of 25 and 55. The country offers them a better quality of life – there is less crime and people are healthier and live longer. Children at country schools also get higher grades in public examinations. The newcomers often commute to jobs in the towns and earn higher wages so they can afford to buy property in the country which has become too expensive for local people. But it's a two-way migration – a lot of people move from the country into the towns, hoping to find better-paid jobs and to enjoy urban facilities.

