# Countryside & Rural Life

## VOCABULARY GUIDE + PRACTICE WORKSHEET

B2 First - C1 Advanced | Words, examples, exercises and answers

How to use this resource: Study the vocabulary guide on pages 1-4. Then complete Exercises A-I on pages 5-9. Check your answers on page 10.

## 1. The countryside and its landscape

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rural area | Land outside towns and cities. | They moved to a rural area. |
| Village | A small settlement, usually smaller than a town. | The village has one shop. |
| Farmland | Land used to grow crops or keep farm animals. | The farmland is used for wheat. |
| Meadow | A grassy field, often with wild flowers. | We picnicked in a meadow. |
| Hillside | The sloping side of a hill. | Sheep grazed on the hillside. |
| Stream | A small, narrow river. | A stream runs behind the cottage. |
| Valley | Low land between hills or mountains. | The village lies in a valley. |
| Cottage | A small house, often in the countryside. | They rented a stone cottage. |
| Field | Open land used for crops or animals. | The field was full of wheat. |
| Woodland | Land covered with trees. | We walked through the woodland. |
| Footpath | A path for people travelling on foot. | The footpath crosses the farm. |
| Orchard | Land where fruit trees grow. | They planted an apple orchard. |
| Pasture | Grassy land where farm animals feed. | The cattle grazed in the pasture. |
| Scenery | The natural appearance of a place. | The scenery was breathtaking. |
| Landscape | The features of an area of land. | Farming has changed the landscape. |

**LANGUAGE TIP**

Scenery is uncountable: say beautiful scenery, not beautiful sceneries. Landscape can be countable or uncountable.

Study these words and expressions before starting the practice activities.

## 2. Farming and agriculture

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Barn | A farm building used for storage or animals. | The hay is stored in a barn. |
| Harvest | The gathering of ripe crops; also a verb. | Farmers harvest crops in autumn. |
| Plough | A tool used to turn soil before planting. | He used a plough to prepare the field. |
| Crop rotation | Changing crops grown on the same land. | Crop rotation protects the soil. |
| Livestock | Farm animals such as cows and sheep. | The farmer raises livestock. |
| Tractor | A powerful vehicle used on farms. | The tractor pulled the equipment. |
| Hay | Cut, dried grass used as animal feed. | The horses eat hay in winter. |
| Grain | Seeds from crops such as wheat and oats. | The farm produces grain. |
| Farmhouse | The main house on a farm. | They live in the old farmhouse. |
| Dairy farm | A farm where animals produce milk. | She grew up on a dairy farm. |
| Poultry | Farm birds kept for meat or eggs. | The farm keeps poultry. |
| Irrigation | Artificially supplying water to crops. | Irrigation helps in dry weather. |

## 3. Five useful rural-life verbs

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Herd | Move or guide animals together. | She herded the sheep into a field. |
| Sow | Plant seeds in the ground. | They sow wheat in spring. |
| Reap | Cut and gather a crop, especially grain. | They reaped the wheat in summer. |
| Milk | Take milk from a farm animal. | He milks the cows every morning. |
| Mend | Repair something broken. | She mended the wooden fence. |

**BRITISH ENGLISH**

Plough is the British English spelling; plow is American English. Livestock and poultry are normally uncountable collective nouns.

Study these words and expressions before starting the practice activities.

## 4. Rural communities and lifestyles

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Close-knit | Having strong, supportive relationships. | It is a close-knit community. |
| Tight-knit | Very closely connected; similar to close-knit. | The residents form a tight-knit group. |
| Self-sufficient | Able to provide many things you need yourself. | They grow food to be self-sufficient. |
| Laid-back | Relaxed; not easily worried. | He likes the laid-back atmosphere. |
| Isolated | Physically separated or feeling disconnected. | She sometimes felt isolated. |
| Remote | Far from towns or other populated places. | They live in a remote village. |
| Outskirts | The outer parts of a town or city. | They live on the outskirts of town. |
| Neighbourly | Friendly and helpful to people living nearby. | Our neighbours are very neighbourly. |
| Community spirit | Willingness to support others in a community. | There is strong community spirit. |
| Local produce | Food grown or made in the area. | The market sells local produce. |
| Sense of belonging | Feeling accepted as part of a group. | The club gave her a sense of belonging. |
| Picturesque | Attractive in a charming, often old-fashioned way. | We visited a picturesque village. |

**REMOTE OR ISOLATED?**

Remote describes a place that is far away. Isolated can describe both a place and someone who feels lonely or cut off from others.

**CLOSE-KNIT OR TIGHT-KNIT?**

Both describe strong relationships within a community. Close-knit community is especially common; tight-knit community is also natural.

Study these words and expressions before starting the practice activities.

## 5. Collocations: words that go together

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rolling hills | Low hills with gentle, rounded slopes. | Rolling hills surround the cottage. |
| Winding country lane | A narrow rural road with many bends. | We followed a winding country lane. |
| Breathtaking scenery | Extremely impressive natural views. | We admired the breathtaking scenery. |
| Peace and quiet | An atmosphere without noise or disturbance. | We enjoyed the peace and quiet. |
| Raise livestock | Keep farm animals and care for them. | They raise livestock on the farm. |
| Harvest crops | Gather crops when they are ready. | Farmers harvest crops in late summer. |
| Local produce | Food grown or produced nearby. | We bought fresh local produce. |
| Hustle and bustle | Busy, noisy activity. | They left the hustle and bustle of the city. |

## 6. Five everyday countryside idioms

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hit the hay | Go to bed (informal). | I am tired; I am going to hit the hay. |
| By a country mile | By a very large amount or margin. | She was the best applicant by a country mile. |
| Make hay while the sun shines | Use an opportunity while you can. | Business is good: make hay while the sun shines. |
| Down-to-earth | Practical, sensible and unpretentious. | Our new neighbour is down-to-earth. |
| The grass is always greener on the other side | Others may seem to have a better situation. | He wants city life; the grass is always greener. |

**READY TO PRACTISE?**

On the next pages, use these words to complete matching, collocation, reading, speaking and writing activities. The answer key is on page 10.

# Countryside & Rural Life

Practice worksheet | B2 First - C1 Advanced

Exercises A-I | Study the vocabulary guide on pages 1-4 first

Name: _____ Date: _____

## A Match the words to their meanings

Write the correct letter (A-J) next to each word.

1. ____ meadow
2. ____ orchard
3. ____ pasture
4. ____ woodland
5. ____ footpath
6. ____ irrigation
7. ____ livestock
8. ____ outskirts
9. ____ remote
10. ____ neighbourly

A. the outer parts of a town or city
B. land where fruit trees are grown
C. grassland where farm animals feed
D. a grassy field, often with wild flowers
E. friendly and helpful to neighbours
F. farm animals kept for food or other products
G. an area of land covered with trees
H. supplying water artificially to crops
I. far away from towns or populated places
J. a path used by people walking

## B Complete the collocations

Use the words or expressions from the box. Use each one once.

WORD BANK: breathtaking / close-knit / harvest / local / peace and quiet / raise / rolling / winding

1. _____ hills surround the old cottage.
2. We followed a _____ country lane to the farmhouse.
3. Tourists visit the region for its _____ scenery.
4. It is a _____ community where neighbours support one another.
5. The family _____ livestock on a small farm.
6. Farmers _____ their crops when they are ready.
7. We bought fresh _____ produce at the village market.
8. We spent a weekend away enjoying the _____.

## C Choose the correct word

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. We admired the beautiful scenery / sceneries on our journey.
2. Modern farming has changed the scenery / landscape in this region.
3. The cattle graze on land set aside as pasture / orchard.
4. Wild flowers covered the meadow / orchard beside the stream.
5. Despite living in a crowded city, she often felt isolated / remote.
6. The village is remote / neighbourly and difficult to reach in winter.
7. Farmers usually sow / reap seeds in spring.
8. They sowed / reaped the wheat at the end of summer.

## D A different pace of life

Complete the text with the words and expressions in the box.

WORD BANK: close-knit / community spirit / footpath / grow / harvest / hustle and bustle / isolated / laid-back / orchard / picturesque

After fifteen years in the city, Daniel and Priya were tired of the (1) _____. They moved to a (2) _____ village in the north of England. At first, they worried that they might feel (3) _____ because the nearest large supermarket was twenty miles away. But the (4) _____ community made them feel welcome. The strong (5) _____ was obvious: neighbours regularly organised events and helped one another. One weekend, a neighbour took them along a narrow (6) _____ to an old apple (7) _____. Priya soon started helping local families (8) _____ vegetables, and Daniel volunteered to help farmers (9) _____ their crops in autumn. They still miss some city conveniences, but they enjoy the more (10) _____ pace of life.

## E Choose the right idiom

Complete each sentence with one idiom or expression from the box.

hit the hay / make hay while the sun shines
down-to-earth / by a country mile
the grass is always greener on the other side

1. After a tiring day on the farm, I think I will _____.

2. With such excellent qualifications, she was the strongest applicant _____.

3. The weather is perfect for painting the fence. Let us _____.

4. Our new neighbour is practical, friendly and very _____.

5. He envies city life, but his city friends envy his cottage. Perhaps _____.

## F Build your own sentences

Write one complete, natural sentence for each set of prompts. You may change the word forms.

1. **orchard / outskirts / village**

2. **livestock / graze / pasture**

3. **irrigation / crops / dry weather**

4. **remote / close-knit / community**

5. **admire / breathtaking / scenery**

## G Compare two places

Imagine the following two photographs. Compare the situations and answer the question below.

**SCENE A | COUNTRYSIDE**

Two friends walk along a narrow footpath through rolling green hills. There are no buildings nearby.

**SCENE B | CITY**

A family walks down a busy street with shops, cafés and plenty of other people.

Speaking question: Why might people enjoy spending time in these different places?

B2 First: speak for about one minute. C1 Advanced: add a more nuanced comparison.

**Plan your answer: one similarity | one difference | one reason for each place**

Useful links: whereas / in contrast / on the other hand / despite this

## H Upgrade a basic paragraph

Rewrite the paragraph using at least four expressions from the lesson. Keep the meaning.

"I like the countryside because it is nice and quiet. People are friendly. However, there are fewer shops and buses. Cities are busy and have more things to do. Both places have advantages."

**Your improved paragraph:**

## I Essay-writing challenge

Develop your ideas clearly and use precise rural-life vocabulary.

Essay question: Is living in the countryside a better choice than living in a city?

Include: 1. quality of life; 2. jobs and essential services; 3. one idea of your own.

B2 First: write 140-190 words. C1 Advanced extension: write 220-260 words and develop a clear, balanced argument with nuanced language.

### PLAN YOUR ESSAY

**Your main opinion:** _____

**A supporting point:** _____

**A counterargument:** _____

### WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

Check: clear opinion · relevant examples · natural collocations · accurate spelling

# COUNTRYSIDE & RURAL LIFE

ANSWER KEY | KEEP THIS PAGE SEPARATE

## A. Matching

1. D meadow
2. B orchard
3. C pasture
4. G woodland
5. J footpath
6. H irrigation
7. F livestock
8. A outskirts
9. I remote
10. E neighbourly

## B. Collocations

1. rolling
2. winding
3. breathtaking
4. close-knit
5. raise
6. harvest
7. local
8. peace and quiet

## C. Word choice

1. scenery
2. landscape
3. pasture
4. meadow
5. isolated
6. remote
7. sow
8. reaped

## D. Reading

1. hustle and bustle
2. picturesque
3. isolated
4. close-knit
5. community spirit
6. footpath
7. orchard
8. grow
9. harvest
10. laid-back

## E. Idioms

1. hit the hay
2. by a country mile
3. make hay while the sun shines
4. down-to-earth
5. the grass is always greener...

## F. Sample sentences

1. An orchard lies on the village outskirts.

2. The livestock graze in the pasture.

3. Irrigation helps crops in dry weather.

4. It is a remote, close-knit community.

5. We admired the breathtaking scenery.

## G-I. Open-ended tasks

Accept answers that are accurate, relevant and natural. Check comparisons, collocations, organisation and supporting reasons.