

INTERMEDIATE UNIT 8

1 Work in pairs or small groups and discuss.

- 1 Do you live in a city or in the countryside?
- 2 Do you think it is easier to live in a city or in the countryside? Why?

2 Read the blog about life in the countryside and answer the questions.

- 1 Does Karen prefer living in the city or the countryside?
- 2 Where does she do her work?

3 Read the blog again and answer the questions.

- 1 What season is it in the text?
- 2 What did the writer do before breakfast?
- 3 What was the weather like during her walk?
- 4 Did she finish her articles for the newspaper?
- 5 Why does she like living in the countryside?
- 6 Does she live in the centre of the village?
- 7 What is next to the village shop?
- 8 What is Karen doing tomorrow?

Lifestyle

Country Life

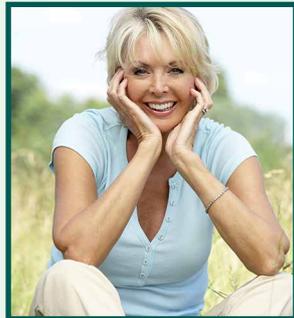
It's been a **tough winter**, but this morning it looks like spring has finally arrived! Two months of heavy rain means the ground is very wet so it's difficult to do much gardening. But I'll need to start planting some vegetables soon or they won't grow in time. Luckily days like this always inspire me to work. I've got **plenty to do!**

So the sun is out and I've taken the dogs out across the fields for a walk. Then it's home for a big breakfast and lots of coffee. Writing is my main job and I was able to concentrate on that this morning. I **beat the deadline** and got my articles to the editor at the newspaper. A big advantage about living in the countryside is that there are fewer distractions and I can hide away without being disturbed.

After lunch I always try to do some work in the garden. As it's been so wet recently, I have mostly done lots of jobs in the **greenhouse** like getting the young plants ready to go outside. However, today it was dry day so I could do some digging in the **vegetable plot and flowerbeds**.

I live **on the edge of the village** but I like to go into the village at least once a day, just to get something from the village shop or to meet up with some friends in the small café next door. There's a lovely friendly atmosphere and it's great to hear everyone's news.

Tomorrow will be a very different day as I have to take the train to London to see my editor for a long meeting. So it will be traffic, noise and big shiny offices for me. But I'll be back in the quiet of my home before dinner.



4 Match the words and phrases in bold in the text with their meanings 1–6.

- 1 areas in a garden for growing plants and flowers
- 2 a lot of work to do
- 3 a glass building for growing plants
- 4 not in the centre of the village
- 5 bad weather
- 6 finish before the final date

5 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words and phrases from Exercise 4.

- 1 I'm not bored because I've got _____.
- 2 We always grow small delicate plants in the _____ because they are protected there.
- 3 If I send the application today, I'm sure I can _____ on Friday.
- 4 My cousin lives _____, which is only a ten-minute walk from the centre.
- 5 It's been a _____ with freezing temperatures and lots of snow.
- 6 We have a large _____ full of potatoes and carrots but only a small _____ with roses.

6 Work in pairs or small groups and discuss.

- 1 Do you like where you live?
- 2 What can you do in your town/village?
- 3 Would you like to move somewhere else? Why/Why not?

7  8.1 Listen to a radio interview with a man who moved away from the city. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Jim grew up in Scotland.
- 2 His family live in London.
- 3 It took him over an hour to get to work.
- 4 Jim and his wife moved so their children had more space.
- 5 The children's school has only fourteen students.
- 6 The house is near the sea.
- 7 Jim still travels a lot for work.
- 8 He doesn't like his neighbours.

8 Listen again and find words/phrases that have the same meaning as 1–6.

- 1 remote
- 2 full of worry and difficult
- 3 journey to work
- 4 students
- 5 have a good relationship
- 6 nice and peaceful

9 Work in pairs or small groups and discuss.

- 1 Is it easy or difficult to live in a remote place?
- 2 Do you think interests and hobbies are the same if you live in a city or in a village? Why/Why not?