



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Discussion

Work with a group of three or four to answer the questions.

Discuss the names below. Where is each one found? Why is each one famous?

- The White House
- The Coliseum
- The Great Wall
- Mecca
- Mt Everest
- Red Square
- The Taj Mahal

B: Ranking

Work in a group of four. Imagine that you are a family group and you have won a week's holiday for your group. You can go to any one of the places below. You will be given a role. Do not show your role to the others in your group. Instead you must read or describe what is written on your card. Work together and decide where you will go. Everyone in the group must be happy with the decision.

- a safari trip through Africa
- a beach in the Greek Islands
- New York
- a country farm in New Zealand or Australia
- Hong Kong
- a mountain trek in the Himilayas
- Venice

Be ready to present your decision to the class and give reasons for your choice.

C: What Do You Know?

Today's article is about a famous building, the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Work with a group and write down all you know about this famous place. (If you have never heard of it, you could use the Internet to find some information.)



Reading Activities

A: Finding the Main Idea

Read the article quickly (do not read every word) and decide which of these headlines summarizes the main idea of the article.

- Leaning Tower Now Straight**
- Leaning Tower of Pisa Leaning Less, to Reopen**
- Eleven Years of Work to Fix Leaning Tower**
- Leaning Tower, Famous Italian Building**

ROME Friday April 6 (Reuters) - After 11 years of work to haul it closer to the **vertical**, the Leaning Tower of Pisa will reopen to visitors in November, Italy's Public Works Minister Nerio Nesi said Friday.

The 12th-century tower, one of Italy's most famous images, was closed in 1990 because it was deemed to be leaning too far for tourists to climb safely.

Michele Jamiolkowski, head of the team straightening the tower -- but not by too much -- said the lean had been reduced by 39.6 centimeters (15.59 inches) so far and the eight-story

edifice should be **nudged** back another four millimeters (0.1575 inch) over the next few days.

"Eleven years of work are not that much when you consider it took 200 to build the monument in the first place," Nesi said.

The lean team pulled the tower back using huge lead counterweights and said the work should keep the building, which stands apart from the main body of Pisa's cathedral, safe for the next 300 years.

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Glossary: **vertical** - standing straight up, completely upright **to nudge** - to push very gently

B: Comprehension

Work with a partner to answer the questions. Find the answers in the article. Do not use a dictionary.

1. How long have the repairs taken?
2. When will the tower be reopened?
3. When was the tower built?
4. When was it closed?
5. Why was it closed?
6. How tall is the tower?
7. "Eleven years of work are not that much..." Why is eleven years not too long to do repairs?
8. What was the job of the 'lean team'?

C: Guessing From Context

Part 1: Work with a partner to guess the meaning of the words below from today's article. Be ready to share your guesses with the class.

Think about:

- the part of speech of the unknown word;
- the words in front of and after the unknown word in the sentence;
- the meaning of the whole sentence.

"After 11 years of work to **haul** it closer to the vertical, the Leaning Tower of Pisa will reopen to visitors in November, Italy's Public Works Minister Nerio Nesi said Friday."

haul - _____

"The 12th-century tower, one of Italy's most famous images, was closed in 1990 because it was **deemed** to be leaning too far for tourists to climb safely."

deemed - _____

"Michele Jamiolkowski, head of the team straightening the tower – but not by too much – said the lean had been reduced by 39.6 centimeters (15.59 inches) so far and the eight-story **edifice** should be nudged back another four millimeters (0.1575 inch) over the next few days."

edifice - _____

Part 2: Your teacher will now give you a list of 9 meanings. 3 of them are the meanings of the words in **Part 1**.

D: Language - the Passive

1. Look at these sentences from today's article.

The tower **was closed** in 1990.

The lean **had been reduced** by 39.6 centimeters.

Rewrite the sentences in the **active** using the sentence beginnings below:

- a. The government...
 - b. Michele Jamiolkowski, head of the lean team, said the team...
2. Now rewrite these sentences in the **active**.
 - a. The tower was visited by thousands of tourists every year before its closure in 1990.
 - b. The tower is considered by experts to be one of Italy's most famous images.
 - c. The tower was constructed by builders in the 12th century.
 - d. The tower was pulled back by the lean team using huge lead counterweights.



3. These sentences about another famous building, the Coliseum, are in the active. However, it would be better if they were in the passive, because **who** built the Coliseum is unimportant. It is **the Coliseum** that is important.
- Active:** Builders constructed the Coliseum during the reign of the Emperor Vespasian.
- Passive:** The Coliseum was constructed during the reign of the Emperor Vespasian.
- Rewrite these sentences using the **passive**.
- Builders constructed the Coliseum during the reign of the Emperor Vespasian.
 - They built the Coliseum of brick and concrete.
 - They covered the exterior of the building with stone.
 - They decorated the first three stories with arches.
 - Builders added a fourth story later.
 - During the Middle Ages people used stones from the Coliseum to build new buildings

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Places of Interest

Plan a talk of around 5 minutes about a famous place in your city/country, or a place that you have visited/would like to visit. Use maps and pictures if you can and make your talk as interesting as possible. Try to include: a bit of the history of the place you are talking about, what people can do there, where it is, why it is interesting to you. You may like to use the Internet to find your information.

B: Vocabulary

Choose three words from today's article that you do not know. Then complete the following:

- Copy the sentence from today's article (with the unknown word).
- Underline the words which go together with the new word.
- Look in the dictionary and find as much information as you can. Do all of the following:
 - check the part of speech;
 - read the example sentence if there is one;
 - notice other words (that you already know) with the same or opposite meaning;
 - write a simple definition of the word in English and in your own language;
 - write your own sentence using the new word.

C: Writing a poem

- Read the short poem below.

*My son was bitten by a dog
My computer was attacked by a virus
My phone was disconnected because I hadn't paid the bill
and I was visited by my mother-in-law.
What a terrible day!*
- Write your own poem based on a bad day you have had (or an imaginary one). Be ready to share your poem with the class.



TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Discussion - Notes

If your students do not have much knowledge of the world you may want to encourage them to find out about just one of the places below by using the Internet or you could provide some stimulus material. Then students could present their findings on their particular place to the class.

The White House - the building in Washington DC (USA) where the US President lives. Also the offices of the US Government. Work began on the building in 1792.

The Coliseum - a famous building in Rome, Italy, built by the Roman emperors Vespasian and Titus for contests and games. The building was completed by A.D. 80. Parts of it are still standing.

The Great Wall - the longest structure ever built (about 4,000 miles or 6,400 kilometers). The wall crosses northern China between the east coast and north-central China and was built to keep out invaders. It was constructed by hand. It can be seen from the moon.

Mecca - the holiest city for Islam, the religion of the Muslims. It lies in western Saudi Arabia. The city is the birthplace of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam.

Muslims face Mecca when they pray. Only Muslims may enter the city.

Mt Everest - the tallest mountain in the world, part of the Himalayas, in Nepal.

Red Square - a square in Moscow, Russia, about 1/4 mile (0.4 kilometer) long, lies just outside the walls of the Kremlin. The tomb of Lenin was placed in Red Square.

The Taj Mahal - a marble building built by the Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife in the 17th century. North of New Delhi, India.

B: Ranking - Notes

Students are role playing members of a family group. This family is an extended family of a grandmother, her two sons, and the daughter of one of the sons.

If you wish, you could add more background by explaining that the daughter-in-law (i.e. the wife of one of the two sons and mother of the girl) died some years ago, and since that time, the uncle has lived with the family to help them with the family business.) (You could continue the story by adding that the grandmother entered a competition and the family have won first prize; a trip for four people to one of the places listed.

There is no correct answer here. Students have a good opportunity to give opinions and discuss issues. Choose one speaker from each group to present their final decision and give reasons.

If you are not able to have groups of four, remove one of the roles to make groups of three or create another family member to make groups of five.

B: Ranking - Text to be given to students

Student A: the grandmother You are an elderly woman. You want to relax somewhere nice and quiet because you are not as confident as you once were, and you have some health problems.

You are the mother of Students A and B, and the grandmother of Student D.

Student B: the son You are in your fifties. You have never been overseas. You would love to see the world but you are worried about leaving your town and do not like taking risks. You are the son of Student A, the father of Student D and the brother of Student C.

Student C: the uncle You are in your fifties. You are an experienced traveler who likes lots of action and adventure. You want to have an exciting holiday. You are the son of Student A, the uncle of Student D and the brother of Student B.

Student D: the granddaughter You are in your twenties. You are studying for your doctorate in geology. You don't want to be a 'tourist'. You don't like looking at museums and old churches. You want to be outside, looking at the land and getting some information for your study. You are the granddaughter of Student A, the daughter of Student B and the niece of Student C.

C: What Do You Know? - Notes

You may wish to do this task as a class so there is a better pool of knowledge. Otherwise you could have some information on Pisa already prepared to give out if you think the students will need it.

Reading Activities

A: Finding the Main Idea - Answer

Headline 2 was the original headline. (Headline 1 is incorrect. Headline 3 is correct but has only half of the main idea (because it doesn't mention that it is going to be reopened to the public and Headline 4 is correct but is just a general statement about the tower.)

B: Comprehension - Answers

1. Eleven years.
2. November, 2001.
3. In the 12th century (i.e. between 1100 and 1200 AD).
4. In 1990.
5. It was decided that it wasn't safe (because it was leaning too much).
6. Eight stories (levels) high.
7. It took 200 years to build it, so 11 years is not very long.
8. They had to pull the tower back to make it safe again.

C: Guessing From Context - Notes

Part 1 You may wish to do the first word together as a class to model the process and then have students work on the other two themselves.

Part 2 Give students the text below for Part 2 (or write the list of meanings on the board.) Students now match the words with their meanings. (Their work from Part 1 will help them do this.)

C: Guessing from Context - Text to be given to Students

Part 2 Here are 9 meanings. Match the 3 words from Part A with their meanings. (Remember that only three of the meanings are correct!)

a statue, happened, to pull something very heavy, to build something to make something smaller, thought; considered, a large and impressive building, guessed, a small building like a house

D: Language - the Passive - Notes

You may wish to explain the rules formally, though the example sentences provide raw materials for the students to form their own rules.

For Number 3, Sentences b, c and d could also be written using the simple present passive as they describe the building as it is now. This removes the focus from the action of building entirely. Sentences a, e and f must be written in the simple past tense as they describe completed actions in the past. (You may decide not to look at this unless your students are fairly confident about tenses and also the idea of the passive.) Students will enjoy Post-Reading Activity C which gives them more practice with the passive voice.

D: Language - the Passive - Suggested Answers

1. a. The government closed the tower in 1990.
b. Michele Jamiolkowski, head of the lean team, said the team had reduced the lean by 39.6 centimeters.
2. a. Thousands of tourists visited the tower every year before its closure in 1990.
b. Experts consider the tower to be one of Italy's most famous images.
c. Builders constructed the tower in the 12th century.
d. The lean team pulled the tower back using huge lead counterweights.
3. a. The Coliseum was constructed during the reign of the Emperor Vespasian.
b. The Coliseum was built of brick and concrete. (or The Coliseum is built of brick and concrete.)
c. The exterior of the building was covered with stone.
d. The first three stories were decorated with arches.
e. A fourth story was added later.
f. During the Middle Ages stones from the Coliseum were used to build new buildings.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Places of Interest - Notes

This activity is a good opportunity to collect data on your students' speaking ability. You may wish to give each student written feedback on what they need to work on to improve their speaking.

B: Vocabulary - Notes

Students may need the process of finding out about a word modeled to them using both the text and a dictionary.