READING AND SPEAKING

The world's first megalopolis

1 Are these statements about China true or false?

- China is a communist country.
- One in five people in the whole world is Chinese.
- Chinese families can only have one child.
- Chinese people love tradition.
- Chinese people prefer bicycles to cars.
- The biggest city in the world is in China.

2 Read the newspaper article about Pearl River City. Which of the subjects in exercise 1 are talked about?

3 On the map find the following:

- Shenzhen
- Pearl River Estuary
- Guangzhou
- the Hopewell Highway

4 Answer the questions.

1 Has this city got a name yet?
2 Why is it ugly? Why is it exciting?
3 What are some of the statistics about Shenzhen that make it a remarkable place?
4 In what ways is China changing? Why were Deng Xiaoping's words significant?
5 How are the people changing? Why do they want to own a car?
6 What does Shenzhen look like?
7 Why will this city be important in the 21st century?
8 What do these numbers refer to?

1982	thousands
3 million	six months
less than ten years	two hours
40 million	four hours

What do you think?

- In groups, write what you think are the ten largest cities in the world. Compare your list with the class. Your teacher will tell you the answer.
- Make a list of some of the problems that these cities face. Decide which are the three most important problems. Compare your ideas with the class.

To the north of Hong Kong, the world's biggest city is growing. It hasn't got a new name yet, but it will probably be called Pearl River City. Jonathon Glancey visits this ugly, exciting mess.

Megalopolis

The town of Shenzhen, just forty kilometres north of Hong Kong, is the world's biggest building site. In 1982 it was a fishing village with two main roads, fields, and a population of 30,000. Now it has a population of 3 million. It is growing at an incredible speed. It is spreading north towards Guangzhou (also known as Canton) and west towards Macau. The Chinese government hopes that in less than ten years this area will be the biggest city on earth, with a population of 40 million people.

China is changing. It is no longer a country where absolutely everything is owned and controlled by the state. Developers are welcome. As Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, said in 1992, 'To get rich is glorious'. The old China of bicycles and Little Red Books is disappearing. A world of mobile phones and capitalism is arriving.

The Chinese people seem to welcome dramatic change. They don't worry about losing traditional ways of life. They want the new. As the posters on the sides of the highways shout, 'Development is the only way.'

Shenzhen is a shocking place, like nowhere else on earth that I have ever seen. It is a city with no boundaries and no centre. There are new concrete office blocks, factories, and housing blocks as far as the eye can see. Not just dozens of new buildings, nor even hundreds, but thousands. And it is all happening so fast. It takes just six months to design, build, and finish a 60-storey, air-conditioned skyscraper. As one architect said to me, 'If you move too slowly here, someone will walk over you.'

The new Hopewell Highway runs from Shenzhen to Guangzhou, and it takes just two hours to do the 123 kilometres. This superhighway will become the main street of a huge new city, as it gets bigger and bigger until the east meets the west, and the countryside in the middle disappears under concrete.

There will of course be more and more cars on the road. People don't want bicycles. If you have a car, it means you have made money. So the traffic will be like in Bangkok, where people spend four hours commuting every day. People eat and work in their car.

Pearl River City very nearly exists. It will probably be the world's First City, the greatest city on earth. It won't be beautiful, but its power, energy, and wealth will be felt in all corners of the world.

VOCABULARY

Hot verbs – *take, get, do,* and *make*

1 The verbs *take, get, do,* and *make* are very common in English. Find these examples in the text about China:

> **get** rich it **gets** bigger and bigger you have **made** money
> it **takes** two hours **to do** 123 kilometres

2 Here are some more examples.

A How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
B It takes me about fifteen minutes.

A How long does it take you to get to school?
B I can get here in twenty minutes.

A Do you get tired in the evening?
B Yes. Especially if I've done a lot of homework.

A Do you make a lot of mistakes in English?
B Well, I do my best, but I still make a few mistakes.

Ask and answer the same questions with a partner.

3 Put the words and phrases from the box in the correct column.

> some shopping back home two tablets a day a cold
> angry sure friends up your mind a photo
> somebody out for a meal me a favour a reservation
> on well with someone a complaint care

TAKE	GET	DO	MAKE

4 Complete the sentences with one of the verb phrases. Use the correct form of the verb.

1 I _____ while I was in town. I bought myself a new jumper.
2 'I don't know if I love Tom or Henry.' '_____. You can't marry both of them.'
3 Bye-bye! See you soon. _____ of yourself.
4 Aachoo! Oh dear. I think _____.
5 'Are the doors locked?' 'I think so, but I'll just _____.'

T 9.5 Listen and check.

5 Discuss these questions with a partner.

- How long does it take to get from your school to the station? From your home to work?
- When did you last do someone a favour/make a complaint/take a photo/get angry?
- What time did you get home last night?
- Do you get on with your parents/your neighbours?
- Do you find it easy to make friends?
- Is your English getting better?

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

In a hotel

1 What is the best hotel in your town? What facilities does the hotel have?

2 Ask and answer questions with a partner about the Grand Hotel.

3 Put the lines from the telephone conversation between the receptionist and client in the right order.

Receptionist Hello, the Grand Hotel. Cathy speaking. How can I help you?
Client reservation / make / like / a / I'd / to / please
_____.
Receptionist Certainly. When is it for?
Client It's for two nights, the thirteenth and the fourteenth of this month.
Receptionist single / want / do / room / or / double / a / And / you / a
_____?
Client A single, please.
Receptionist OK. Yes, that's fine. I have a room for you. And your name is?
Client Robert Palmer.
much / you / Can / it / tell / how / is / me
_____?
Receptionist Yes. That's £95 a night. Can I have a credit card number, please?
Client Yes, sure. It's a Visa. 4929 7983 0621 8849.
Receptionist Thank you.
number / could / And / phone / I / have / a
_____?
Client Uh huh. 01727 489962.
Receptionist That's fine.
forward / look / seeing / on / you / We / to / thirteenth / the
_____. Bye-bye.
Client Thanks a lot. Goodbye.

T 9.6 Listen and check.

4 With a partner, roleplay the conversation between Robert Palmer and the receptionist as he checks into the hotel.

Good evening.

Hello. I have a reservation. My name's Robert Palmer.

5 Roleplay these conversations with your partner. Phone Reception from your room. Make these requests.

- You can't get the TV to work.
- You'd like an extra pillow.
- You'd like to order Room Service.
- You'd like a wake-up call at 7.00 tomorrow morning.