

If you ask a person to describe an American city, the chances are that he will mention the word *skyscraper*. Tall buildings, their tips sometimes hidden in the clouds, have become the symbol of the American metropolis, a symbol of twenty-first century urban civilisation. American cities have not always had skyscrapers, but it is now almost a century and a half since the first skyscrapers began to distinguish their skylines. For millions of people coming to America from Europe, the first proof that they had reached a new world was the moment when they first caught sight of the skyline of Manhattan.



The first skyscrapers, however, did not develop in New York, but in Chicago, in the late nineteenth century. Chicago at that time was the boom town of the United States — New York was just the front door. In the year 1871, a large part of booming Chicago was destroyed as a major fire engulfed much of the downtown area. The fire, however, was a great stimulus to architects: not only did it show them the need to design modern buildings that would not be liable to burn very rapidly, but it also gave them plenty of opportunities to put their new theories into practice.

By the late 1800's architects and engineers had made great steps forwards. Until the nineteenth century, the height of buildings had been limited to a maximum of about ten stories as a result of the building materials used — wood, brick or stone. With the exception of churches and cathedrals, few earlier buildings went higher than this, because they could not do so. And even the great churches of mediaeval Europe had to respect basic mechanical constraints.

In the nineteenth century, the Industrial Revolution resulted in the development of new techniques, notably the use of iron. Yet plain iron and steel structures had their limitations. They were not really suitable for the design of human habitations or offices — and in the event of fire, they could collapse very rapidly. It was in fact the combination of the old and the new that allowed the development of the skyscraper: the combination of metal frames and masonry cladding. Burnham's "Flat-iron Building" in New York, erected in 1902, reached new heights for an office building, with 20 stories; and at 290 feet (about 90 metres), it is known as New York's first skyscraper.

The reasons for building skyscrapers were clear, particularly in a city like New York, whose **downtown** district, Manhattan, could not expand very easily on a horizontal plane, limited as it was by the Hudson and East rivers. Apart from upwards, there were not many directions in which Manhattan could grow. And once the building techniques had been mastered, vertical expansion became the most desirable solution for the city's businessmen.

Since those early days, and in particular since the Second World War, skyscrapers have mushroomed in all the world's big cities; and they keep getting higher and higher. Today, although some people believe that modern skyscrapers are too high, they now characterise cities all over the world; and they keep getting higher. Fires in a few tall buildings, for instance in Dubai, have led to further questions being asked; but in spite of the occasional disaster, skyscrapers are here to stay — at least for offices and city hotels. Symbols of our civilisation, they are not likely to be replaced.

1. According to paragraph 1, skyscrapers ...

- ☐ have always existed in America.
- ☐ are located mostly in Manhattan.
- ☐ are a common sight in the USA.

2. Chicago was the first place where skyscrapers appeared because...

- ☐ it was much bigger than New York.
- ☐ it was popular with tourists.
- ☐ it was fast developing at the time.

3. Skyscrapers owe their existence to the fact that...

- ☐ architects discovered a brand-new material.
- ☐ architects made more accurate calculations.
- ☐ architects mixed modern and traditional ways.

4. The word 'downtown' in paragraph 6 is close in meaning to...

- ☐ the city centre
- ☐ a residential area
- ☐ an industrial area

5. Nowadays skyscrapers...

- ☐ tend to have more and more stories.
- ☐ are safest in Dubai.
- ☐ appeal to all people in the world.

1. This area used to be unpopular. But it has now become as its infrastructure is being developed.
2. It looks like there are only and boring buildings in that neighbourhood. The architecture is typical for an industrial district.
3. His new apartment is completely . I've never thought such a mixture of incompatible styles can be someone's place of living.
4. The restaurant is located in a neighbourhood. So it may take you a couple of hours to get there.
5. The beaches in the region are famous for their beauty. Few tourists are allowed here, so the nature is pristine.
6. Our cottage looks . It's like everything is super old there. Why don't we have it repaired and redecorated?

- dingy
- inaccessible
- run-down
- dull
- mind-blowing
- unspoilt
- remote
- up-and-coming

Complete the sentences with either Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous using the verbs in brackets.

1. Lora just (RETURN) from Spain. She says it was fabulous!
2. What you (DO)? Your face is filthy!
3. I (PREPARE) dinner yet. You have to wait a bit.
4. They (GO) to the gym twice this week.
5. How long you (KNOW) Fred?
6. Nancy (WATCH) YouTube since morning. It's been at least three hours!

1. Too many money was spent on the tickets.
2. The local train was enough empty empty enough to take a comfortable journey.
3. The water is too enough cold to bathe.
4. There were too much too many people at the bus stop in the morning.
5. We've bought enough meat meat enough to have a BBQ this weekend.
6. I've never met so such generous people before!
7. The weather was so such atrocious that we had to stay at home.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the adjectives in brackets.

1. She is a driver than him. (good)
2. It's far than you think. (important)
3. They are not as as they look. (happy)
4. That's one of ideas I've ever heard. (terrible)
5. Today I feel than yesterday. (bad)
6. My life is getting and . (hard)

Complete the sentences with the correct gerund or infinitive forms of the verbs in brackets.

1. She's so excited about to that waterpark. (go)
2. It's sad him that miserable. (see)
3. He has to work hard all his bills. (pay)
4. We can't afford the money. (lose)
5. She keeps me to be more reliable. (tell)
6. I miss him around. (have)

Complete the gaps in the sentences with the words or phrases given below. Change the form of the verbs if necessary so that it fits the context grammatically.

perhaps may be unlikely be likely almost
definitely

1. I don't know. her latest novel will become a bestseller. But such things are hard to predict.
2. I am sure that this team will become a champion.
3. Michael to keep his promise. He is a man of his word.
4. Sally called to say that she be late for the meeting.
5. He to find a job ever again. He is over 70 now.
6. You will have a chance to show your best qualities. I'm sure you will.

Complete the gaps with the correct words derived from the words in brackets.

Example:

*I work as a ___ (TEACH). - I work as a **teacher**.*

Brian Tracy is a (HIGH) recognized and (FAME) speaker, coach, (TRAIN), and author who travels extensively around the world. His (PRESENT) seminars cover a multitude of areas, including personal development, leadership, time (MANAGE), public speaking, business, and sales training.

Tracy has discovered nine success factors proven to help you achieve the best life you can have - both personally and (PROFESSION). When you carry out some, or all, of the factors, you set yourself in the right direction in order to (ACCELERATION) your accomplishments.

Complete the dialogue choosing the right phrase for each gap. There is one extra phrase.

- Jane told me that you liked some types of extreme sport. What is it like when you take a risk? I'm just considering trying parachuting, but my dad says

.

- Sure, your dad is right to a point. However,

.

I can express them in three words: speed, excitement, danger. Bungee jumping, for instance. You jump off a high bridge and then you fall and fall. But then, just before you start to dread the thought of your pain when you hit the ground or water, an elastic rope pulls you back. It is the thrill of a lifetime!

And .

- That sounds great! Does it make you scared?

- To be honest, yes, it does. When something scares you, your body releases adrenaline that makes your heart rate increase, along with your breathing. It provides you with a lot of stamina. Apart from that, fighting your fears makes your character stronger. And

of doing extreme sports.

- Cool! Is there anything else I should keep in mind?

- Sure. One of you may get injured if you don't follow safety rules. I'd advise you to hire a professional coach who will help you take care of everything to make your first experience go smoothly.

- Thanks a lot for the tips!

the most important drawbacks of extreme sports is that

extreme sports have only disadvantages

this is one of the biggest advantages

there is another thing I hate

there are loads of pros

this is the best thing about high-risk activities