

4a Fast lane to the future

Reading

3 Complete the table.

- 1 Work in pairs. Look at the title of the article, the photo and the map. What do you think the article is about?
- 2 Read the article and check your ideas from Exercise 1.

Name	Job	Employer
Meena Shekaran	1 _____	an import company
Tamil Selvan	2 _____	3 _____
Kashinath Manna	4 _____	self-employed
Morten Andersen	5 _____	6 _____

Fast Lane to the Future

By Don Belt

Photograph by Ed Kashi

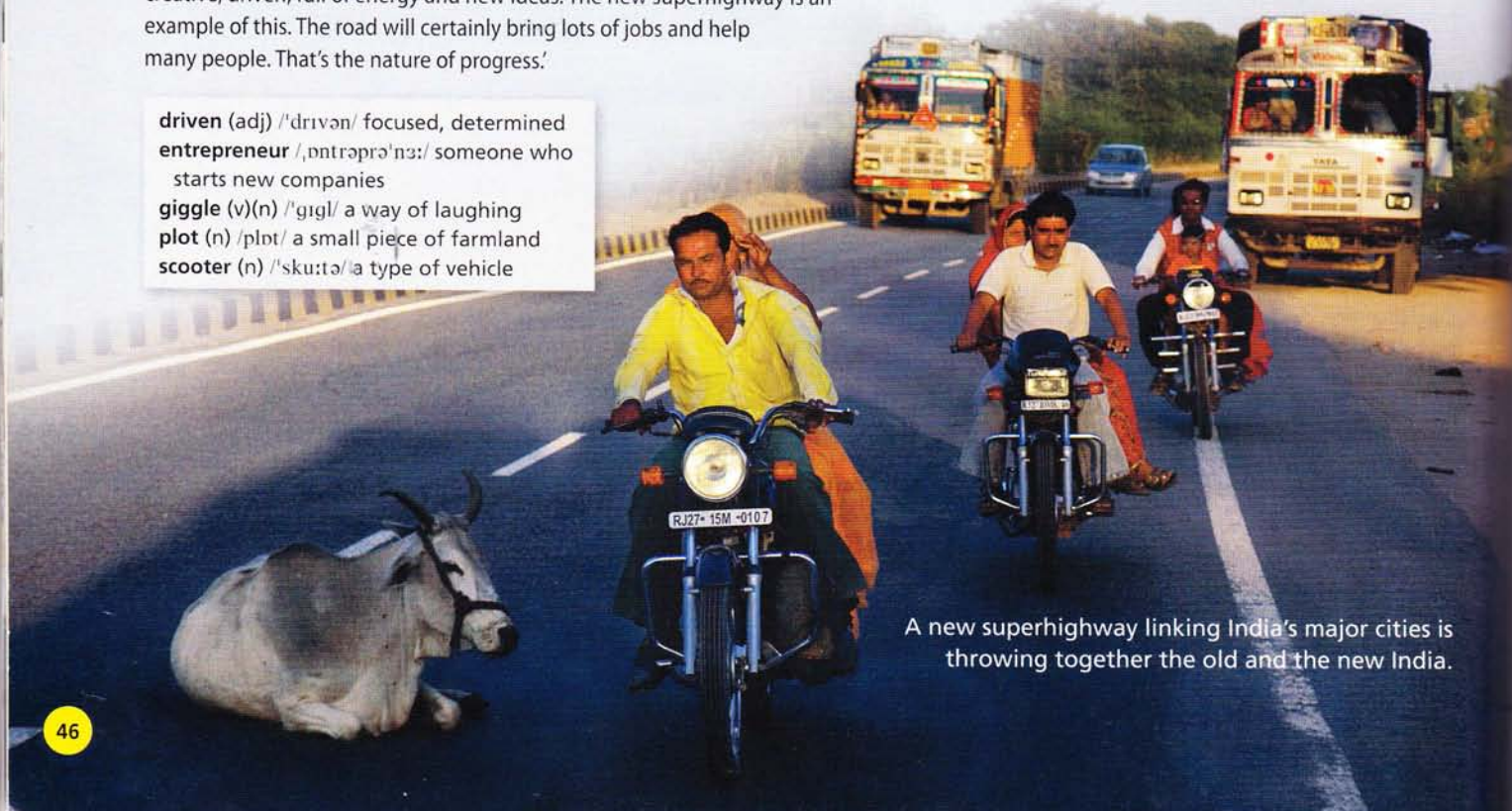
In Bangalore, Meena Shekaran, a 23-year-old accountant for a company that imports exercise equipment, has just purchased a scooter. She's about to go for her first drive on a newly finished section of the superhighway. 'Do you have a driving licence?' I ask her. 'No, sir, no,' she giggles. 'Do you know how to drive?' 'No, sir, not really,' she shouts back cheerfully. 'Don't worry, I'll be fine!'

Near Chennai, Tamil Selvan's family are coconut farmers. Farming is hard work and badly paid. As a child, Tamil rode to school several miles away on his father's bicycle. Now the 29-year-old works as a senior technician at the giant Hyundai car factory. Today most of the cars are exported, but with luck, Selvan might soon own one of the cars he makes. Auto industry experts predict that India will be the world's third largest car market in the next quarter of a century.

In West Bengal, there are rumours in the press that some farmers may have to give up their land for the construction of the superhighway. Their future could be very difficult. 'I'm sick with worry. What will we eat? How will we live? What is the future of our children?' asks Kashinath Manna, who currently grows food for his entire extended family on his plot of land.

In Mumbai, Swede Morten Andersen is a manager at a Nokia factory which employs 9,000 people. He says India is 'full of entrepreneurs. People here are creative, driven, full of energy and new ideas. The new superhighway is an example of this. The road will certainly bring lots of jobs and help many people. That's the nature of progress.'

driven (adj) /'drɪvən/ focused, determined
entrepreneur /ˌɒntrəprə'naɪz/ someone who starts new companies
giggle (v)(n) /'gɪɡl/ a way of laughing
plot (n) /plɒt/ a small piece of farmland
scooter (n) /'sku:tə/ a type of vehicle



A new superhighway linking India's major cities is throwing together the old and the new India.

- 4 Read the article again and find out how the new road affects each person. Complete the sentences.

- 1 _____ believes that the road represents progress in India.
- 2 _____ has bought a new vehicle to drive on the road.
- 3 _____ is worried about the future.
- 4 _____ makes cars that might drive on the road.

- 5 Do you think the new road is a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

Grammar predictions

PREDICTIONS WITH WILL

The future	will (not)	be difficult.
	may (not)	
	might (not)	
	could	
	will certainly / definitely / probably certainly / definitely / probably won't	

For further information and practice, see page 87.

- 6 Look at the grammar box. Which verb forms from the box are in the article? Underline the verb forms in both the box and in the article.

- 7 Look at the sentences with the underlined verb forms in the article. Answer the questions for each sentence.

- 1 Who makes the prediction?
- 2 Is the person 100 per cent sure or not sure of their prediction?

- 8 Cross out the option which is not logical, as in the example.

- 1 Meena has bought a scooter. She *might* / *will* / ~~*won't*~~ learn to drive soon.
- 2 The road links the major cities. It *could* / ~~*may not*~~ / *will* affect many people.
- 3 Ravi isn't very good at his job. He *might* / *mightn't* / ~~*will*~~ get a promotion.
- 4 Hyundai is building a new factory. They *could* / *mightn't* / *will* need more workers.
- 5 We haven't seen the plans for the road. It *may* / *might not* / ~~*will*~~ go near our house.
- 6 I get bored at work. I *may* / ~~*may not*~~ / *might* look for a new job.

- 9 Look at the sentences in Exercise 7 again. What is the difference between the correct options in each case?

- 10 Write predictions, as in the example. Use one of the options. Then work as a class. Compare your sentences.

- 1 Meena / not crash (probably / certainly)
Meena probably won't crash on her first drive.
- 2 Tamil Selvan / buy a car (definitely / probably)
- 3 Kashinath Manna's life / not change (definitely / might)
- 4 the Nokia factory / expand (certainly / probably)
- 5 job opportunities / increase (definitely / might)
- 6 travelling around / be easier (certainly / probably)
- 7 people's standard of living / improve (certainly / might)

Vocabulary job and work

- 11 Look at the examples from the article. Then complete the sentences with the correct form of *job* or *work*.

- a Farming is hard work and badly paid.
- b ... the 29-year-old works as a senior technician ...
- c ... the road will bring lots of jobs ...

- 1 Where do you _____?
- 2 Do you have an interesting _____?
- 3 Do you usually have a lot of _____?
- 4 Is your company good to _____ for?
- 5 'Where's your boss?' 'She's off _____ today.'
- 6 Don't use that phone. It doesn't _____.
- 7 I'll be late home tonight. There are a few _____ to finish here.
- 8 'Is your dad around?' 'No, he's at _____.'

- 12 Work in pairs. Take turns to ask and answer questions 1–4 from Exercise 11.

Speaking

- 13 Work in pairs. Discuss and agree on six predictions about your own country or town. Talk about these issues or use ideas of your own.

- economy
- environment
- jobs
- local politics
- prices
- roads

I think the new shopping centre will definitely make my life easier.

You're probably right, but how will it affect the small shops around here?

4b What's next?



Listening

- 1 Work in pairs. Have you made any important decisions recently? Tell your partner about one of the decisions you have made.

*I've decided to change my job.
I don't want to work in an office.*

- 2 **1.21** Listen to part of a radio programme about International Women's Day. Choose the correct option for the three women featured in the programme.

- 1 Devi works / studies.
- 2 Devi wants to be a boss / a nurse.
- 3 Elisabeth has a job / doesn't have a job.
- 4 Elisabeth intends to leave work / retire.
- 5 Sahera has just started university / graduated from university.
- 6 Sahera plans to stay in Kabul / leave Kabul.

- 3 **1.21** Listen again and correct the factual mistakes.

- 1 Devi isn't going to stay at home forever.
- 2 Devi is taking an exam tomorrow.
- 3 Elisabeth is going to start a new job.
- 4 Elisabeth is meeting her new boss on Wednesday.
- 5 Sahera's friend is going to work in the United States.
- 6 Sahera's friend is leaving Kabul next month.

- 4 Which of the women has decided what she is going to do? Who doesn't know yet?

Grammar future forms

- 5 Look at the words in bold in the audioscript on page 94. Find the following.

- 1 something Devi has already decided to do
- 2 something Devi has arranged to do
- 3 something Devi decides to do as she is speaking

- 6 Read what Elisabeth and Sahera say in the audioscript. Underline at least six other sentences like those in Exercise 5.

FUTURE FORMS

1 Present continuous

I'm taking the exam next month.

2 will

Just a moment, I'll get you some.

3 going to

I'm going to start my own business.

For further information and practice, see page 88.

- 7 Look at the grammar box. Match the verb forms (1–3) with their uses (a–c).

- a a plan or intention decided before the moment of speaking
- b a decision made at the moment of speaking
- c an arrangement to do something at a specified (or understood) time in the future

- 8 Choose the correct option.

I left school last month.

¹ I'll take / I'm taking the summer off, but on 3 September ² I'll start / I'm starting as an apprentice in a garage.

³ I'll do / I'm going to do an evening course as well. That starts in October. I'm not sure how ⁴ I'm managing / I'm going to manage!

I'm lucky – some of my friends don't know what ⁵ they are doing / they are going to do. My mum thinks ⁶ I'm being / I'm going to be a great mechanic. Perhaps ⁷ I'll have / I'm going to have my own garage one day.



- 9 Complete the responses with the most logical future form. Then work in pairs. Compare and discuss your answers.

- 1 A: Have you got any plans for when you leave college?
B: Yes, I _____ (take) a year off.
- 2 A: I can't decide what to do.
B: It's OK, I _____ (help) you.
- 3 A: Is it true that Samira is leaving?
B: Yeah, she _____ (get) married next month.
- 4 A: My company has offered me redundancy.
B: _____ (you / take) it?
- 5 A: Did you enrol for evening classes?
B: Yes, _____ (go) to my first class tonight.
- 6 A: Look, my exam results are here!
B: Give me the envelope. I _____ (open) it.

10 Pronunciation I'll

- a 1.22 Listen to four sentences from the radio programme. Notice how I'll is pronounced with a short /ʊ/ sound before the /l/. Repeat the sentences.

- b 1.23 Listen and repeat the sentences with these words.

mile smile child while

Vocabulary education

- 11 Complete the tables with these expressions. More than one answer is possible.

do a (training) course
fail an exam
get a degree in ...

get poor results
pass/resit an exam
stay on at school

apply to university

leave school

do an exam

become an apprentice

1

3

go to university

get good results

2

go to college

drop out of university

4

- 12 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- 1 How similar or different are the routes in Exercise 11 to your own experience?
- 2 What kinds of factors influence these decisions?
- 3 What plans do people you know have?

WORDBUILDING phrasal verbs

We often use phrasal verbs when talking about our actions.
drop out stay on

For further information and practice, see Workbook page 129.

Speaking

- 13 Work in pairs. You need to meet several times for a project for your English course. Find dates when you can get together.

What are you up to next week? Maybe we can get together early in the week.

OK. Got any plans for Monday?

4c A better life?

Reading

- 1 Work in groups. What kind of things happen in an economic boom and in an economic crisis? Give examples.

In an economic boom, there is more work.

Yes, and people can buy more luxury goods.

- 2 Read the article on page 51 quickly. Which paragraphs talk about these topics?
- training and education
 - China and the world
 - the movement of people
 - new towns
- 3 Read the first paragraph of the article. Put these things (a–g) in the order they appear in a new town in China.
- basic stalls
 - cellphone companies
 - clothes shops
 - construction work 1
 - entrepreneurs
 - shops
 - female factory workers
- 4 Read the rest of the article. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?
- Most of the population in China is school age.
 - About ten million people a year migrate to the cities.
 - Few school leavers in China are interested in higher education.
 - It's difficult to find training courses in factory towns.
 - So far China has focused on making products for foreign markets.
- 5 Work in pairs. What do you understand these sentences from the last paragraph of the article to mean?

Nobody in the developed world should criticise China without taking a look in the mirror.

There's nothing foreign about the materialistic dreams of the average Chinese worker.

Critical thinking arguments

- 6 The title of the article is *A better life*? Read these sentences from the text. Decide if they are positive things (P) or negative things (N) – or a mixture of both.
- Most people in China have seen their standard of living go up in recent years.
 - Social scientists predict that the urban population will be 60 per cent by 2030.
 - Clearly there are environmental costs from China's rapid growth.
- 7 Which of these statements (a–c) describes the author's opinion of China?
- The changes described will probably be better.
 - The changes described will probably be bad.
 - The changes could be good or bad.
- 8 Work as a class. What things do you think make 'a better life'?

Vocabulary and speaking pay and conditions

- 9 Work in pairs. Do these sentences apply to *civil servants* (C), *doctors* (D) or *shop assistants* (S)?
- They work **long hours**.
 - They get four weeks' **paid holiday** a year.
 - They get regular **pay rises**.
 - Their **salary** is excellent.
 - They can choose to work **flexi-time** if they need to.
 - There are lots of opportunities for **promotion**.
 - They often have to work **overtime**.
 - All employees are covered by a generous **pension scheme**.
- 10 Put the words in bold in Exercise 9 into three groups: *money* (M), *hours* (H) and *benefits* (B). Then add these words to the groups.

bonuses
clocking on and off
company car
discounts on company products
free language classes
health insurance
part-time
wages

- 11 Tell your partner about your ideal job. Talk about pay, conditions, responsibilities, etc. What's the most important aspect of the job for you?

Well, my ideal job is working outdoors.

A better life?

In Shenzhen, factory workers pose for a portrait at the morning shift change.

China's expectations are rising, with no end in sight. What's next?

By Peter Hessler

Photographs by Fritz Hoffmann

The beginning of a Chinese factory town is always the same: in the beginning nearly everybody is a construction worker. The growing economy means that everything moves fast and new industrial districts rise in several stages. Those early labourers are men who have migrated from rural villages and immediately they are joined by small entrepreneurs. These pioneers sell meat, fruit and vegetables on informal stalls, and later, when the first real shops appear, they stock construction materials. After that, cellphone companies arrive: China Mobile, China Unicom. They sell prepaid phonecards to migrants; in the south-eastern province of Zhejiang, one popular product is called the Homesick Card. When the

factories start production, you start to see women. Young women have a reputation for being hard-working. After the arrival of the women, the clothes shops appear. An American poet once described an industrial town in the USA as 'springing up, like the enchanted palaces of the Arabian tales, as it were in a single night.' Today it's the factory towns of China that seem to belong to another world. The human energy is amazing: the courageous entrepreneurs, the quick-moving builders, the young migrants. A combination of past problems and present-day opportunities has created an extremely motivated population. Most people in China have seen their standard of living go up in recent years.

The size of the population is both a strength and a challenge to China. Of the 1.3 billion people, 72 per cent are between the ages of 16 and 64. The movement of people from the countryside to the cities has transformed China into the world's

factory floor. In 1978, there were only 172 million urban residents. Now there are 577 million. Social scientists predict that the urban population will be 60 per cent by 2030. Each year about ten million rural Chinese move to the cities, so the factories have a constant supply of labour.

Chinese schools have been very successful. The literacy rate is over 90 per cent. The next step is to develop higher education. Many people are looking for better training. In a Chinese factory town, there are many private courses: English classes, typing classes, technical classes. In Zhejiang I met Luo Shouyun, who had spent a quarter of his wages on training. Now he is a master machinist, with a salary that makes him 'middle class'. Another young man had learned Arabic in order to translate for Middle Eastern buyers.

Clearly there are environmental costs from China's rapid growth. Collaboration between China and other countries will be crucial in managing environmental problems. Nobody in the developed world should criticise China without taking a look in the mirror. The nation has become successful by making products for overseas consumers. There's nothing foreign about the materialistic dreams of the average Chinese worker.



Individual portraits in Beijing on Chinese National Day

literacy rate (n) /'lɪtərəsi reɪt/ the number of people who can read and write

materialistic (adj) /mə'tɪəriə'lɪstɪk/ interested in possessions and consumer goods

migrant (n) /'maɪgrənt/ someone who moves to a different area, often for work

overseas (adj) /,əʊvə'si:z/ foreign, from another country