

Archiformazione
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Module 1

- UNIT 1 - Revision of Tenses
- UNIT 2 - Reading Comprehension
- UNIT 3 - Listening Comprehension
 - UNIT 4 - Use of English

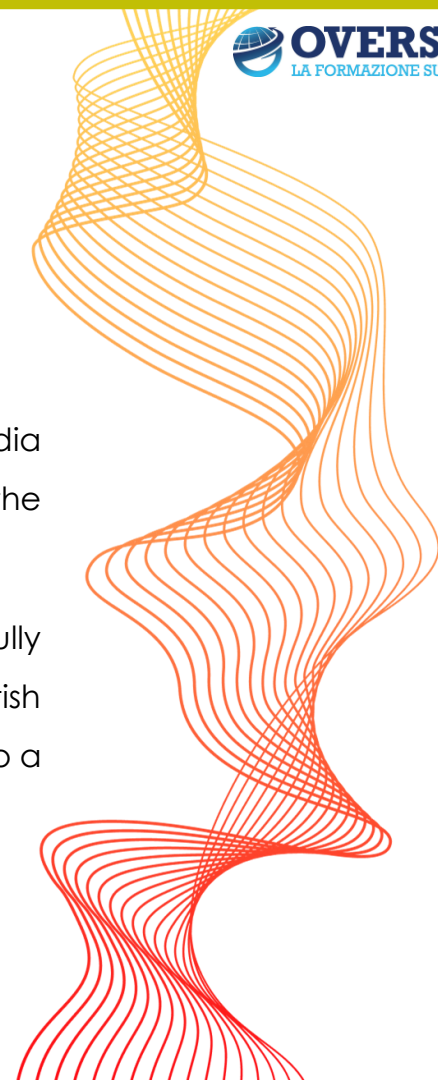


Introduction - The new architecture set to shape the world in 2024

The past year in architecture **may be remembered** for superlatives after India opened the world's largest office building and Malaysia's Merdeka **118 became** the second tallest skyscraper ever constructed.

But **2023** was also a year that **celebrated** subtlety, with a thoughtfully designed Chinese boarding school named World Building of the Year and British architect David Chipperfield awarded the Pritzker Prize — the field's equivalent to a Nobel — for a career dedicated to understated cultural institutions.

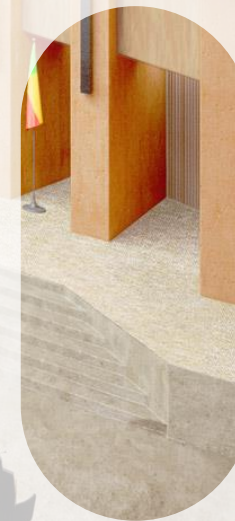
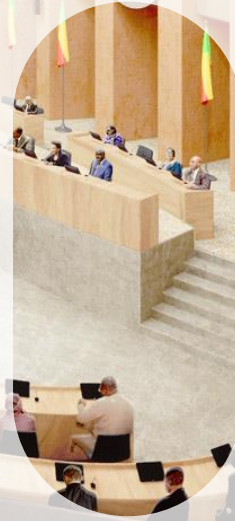
The year ahead **will likely bring** a similar mix of the bold and the beautiful.



1. Benin National Assembly, Porto-Novo, Benin

Kere Architecture

Since his very first commission, designing a primary school for his Burkina Faso village in 2001, architect Francis Kéré has built his reputation on modest civic and community facilities. At 35,000 square meters (377,000 square feet), his plan for a new national assembly in neighboring Benin is a different prospect altogether.



2. Nanjing Vertical Forest, Nanjing, China

Stefano Boeri Architetti

The tree-covered Bosco Verticale (or “Vertical Forest”) in Milan, Italy has become a symbol of green design since it opened almost a decade ago.

Comprised of two towers — the larger of which stands 200 meters (656 feet) tall — the latest Vertical Forest will contain offices, a museum and a hotel with a top-floor swimming pool.



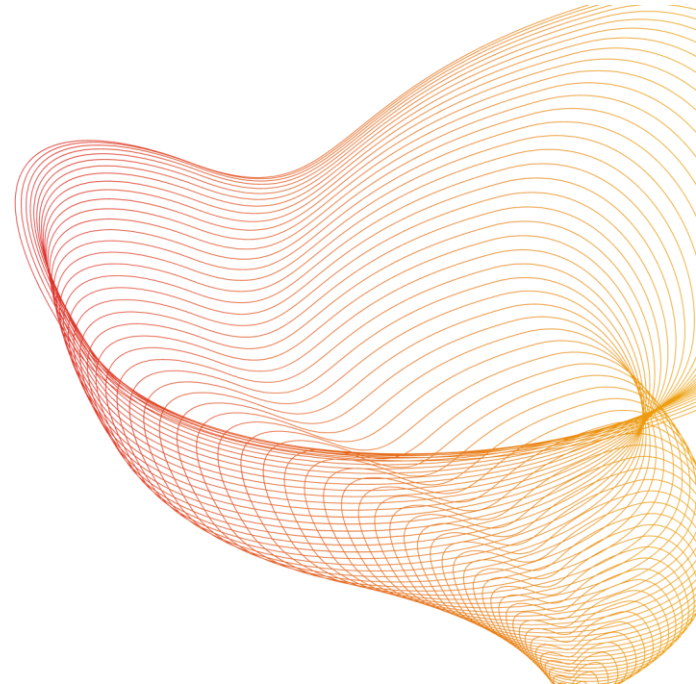
3. The Grand Palais restoration, Paris, France

Chatillon Architectes

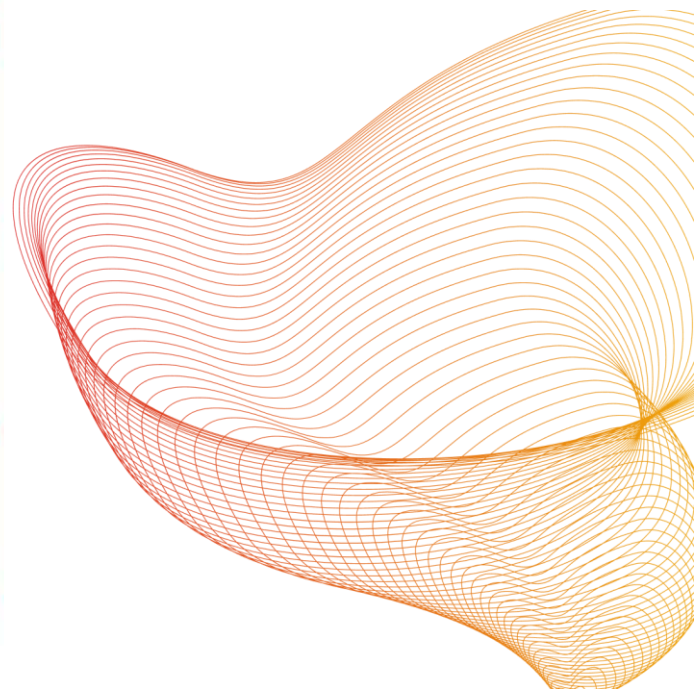
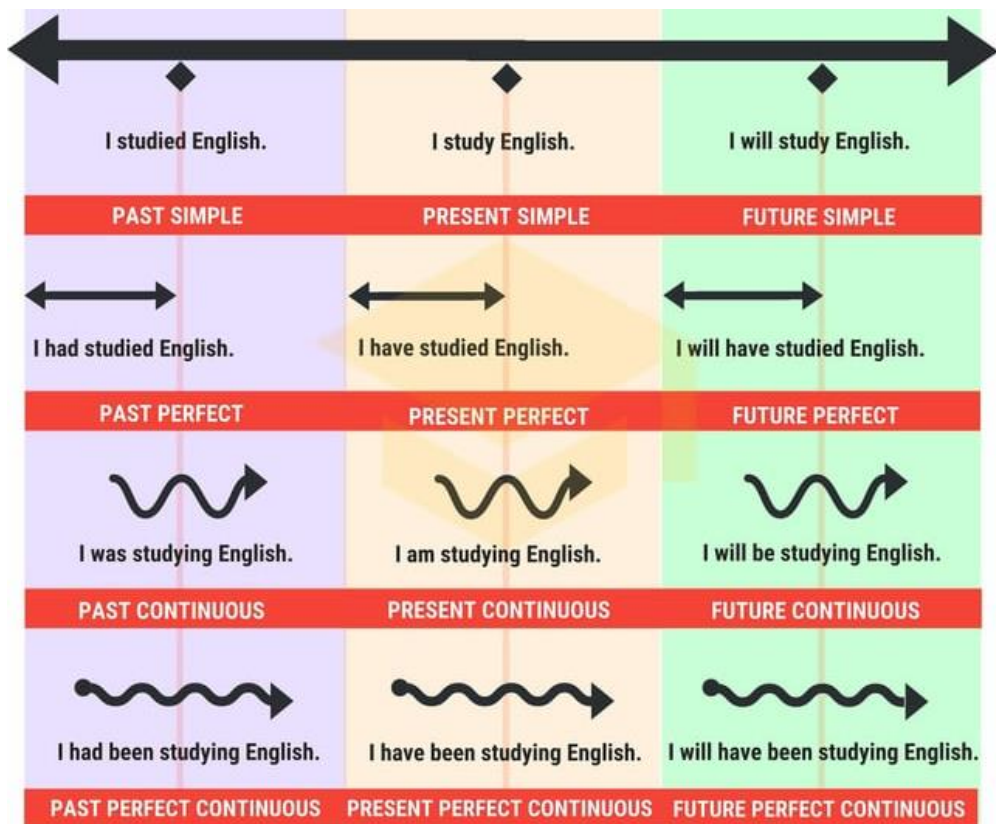
After hosting the Paris Expo at the turn of the 20th century, the Beaux-Arts palace has served as an exhibition hall, event space and even a military hospital during World War I. But while work has been undertaken on its glass roof and foundations in that time the structure had never undergone major renovations until now.



Unit 1 – Revision of Tenses



▶ Understanding the timeline: past, present, future





Present Simple vs Present Continuous

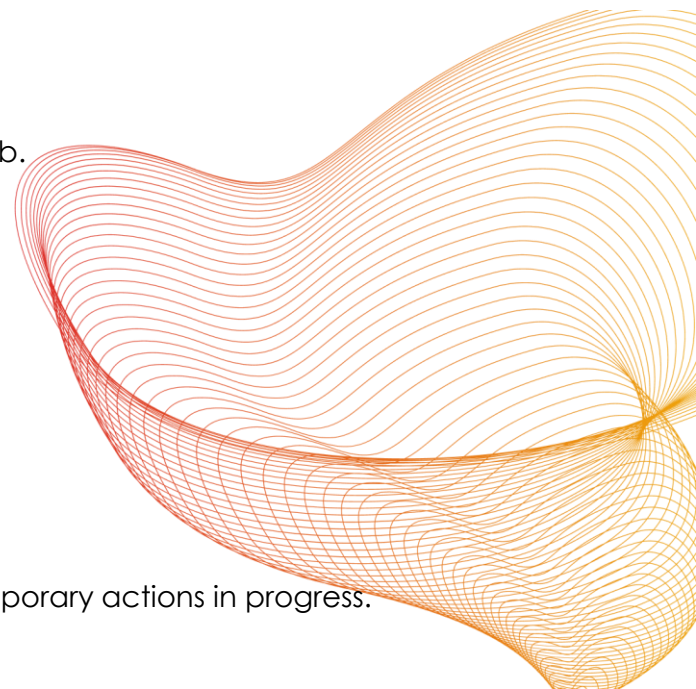
1. Present Simple:

- Form: Subject + base verb (-s/-es for third person singular)
- Function: Used for habitual actions, general truths, and facts.
- Example: "Architects design new plans every month."
- Exception: Third person singular adds "-es" or "-s" to the base verb.

For example: "She reviews the blueprints."

2. Present Continuous:

- Form: Subject + "to be" (am/is/are) + verb-ing
- Function: Expresses actions happening now or around now.
- Example: "The construction team is laying the foundation."
- Comparison: Contrasts with Present Simple by emphasizing temporary actions in progress.





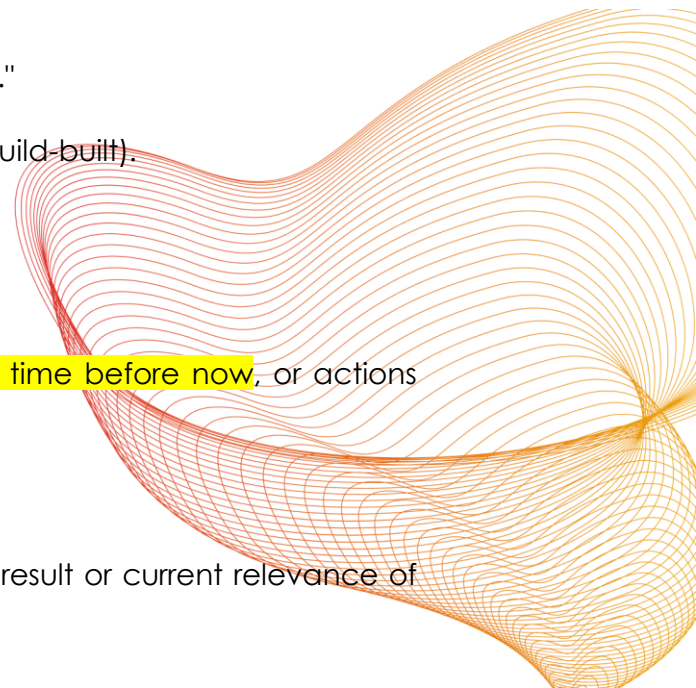
Past Simple vs Present Perfect

1. Past Simple:

- Form: Subject + past tense verb
- Function: Used for **completed** actions in the past.
- Example: "**Last year**, the firm **completed** the renovation project."
- Exception: Some **irregular verbs** have unique past forms (e.g., build-built).

2. Present Perfect:

- Form: Subject + "have/has" + past participle
- Function: Indicates actions that happened at an **unspecified time before now**, or actions with **present relevance**.
- Example: "The team has finalized the building design."
- Comparison: Differs from Past Simple in that it emphasizes the result or current relevance of the action.





Future Tenses

FUTURE TENSES

WILL (FUT. SIMPLE)

- Predictions (we don't know):

*We **will travel***

to Mars in 20 years.

- Sudden decisions:

*I **am hungry!***

*I **will make** a sandwich.*

- Offerings:

*- **Will you have** something to drink?*

*- **No thanks,***

*I **won't have** anything.*

BE GOING TO

- Plans & intentions (an idea for the future):

*I **am going to meet** my friends.*

(but I haven't phoned them yet)

- Evident predictions (something we know):

*We **are going to have** a baby in 2 months.*

Look at the sky!

*It **is going to rain** in a few minutes.*

PRES. CONTIN.

- Arrangements: planned actions at a specific time (your intention or plan has been arranged):

*I **am meeting** my friends at seven.*

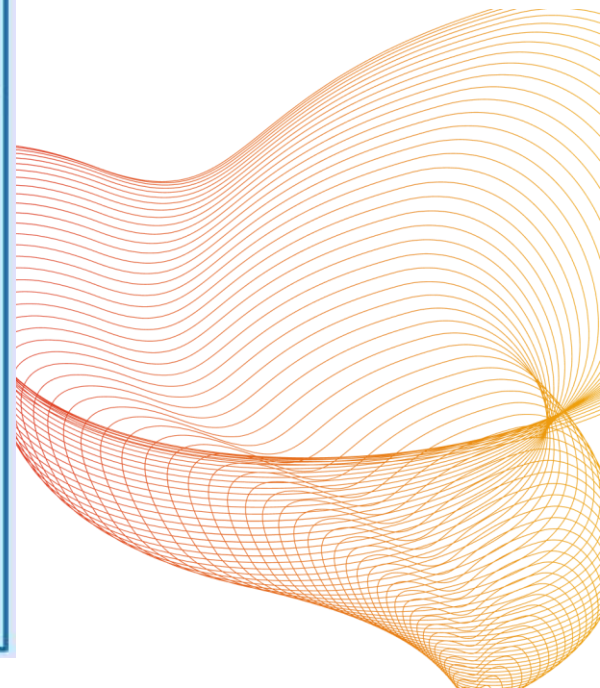
*We **are having** a birthday party.*

PRES. SIMPLE

- future events at a specific time (timetables or schedules):

*The plane **takes** land at 11:40.*

*We **leave** to Edinburgh at nine.*

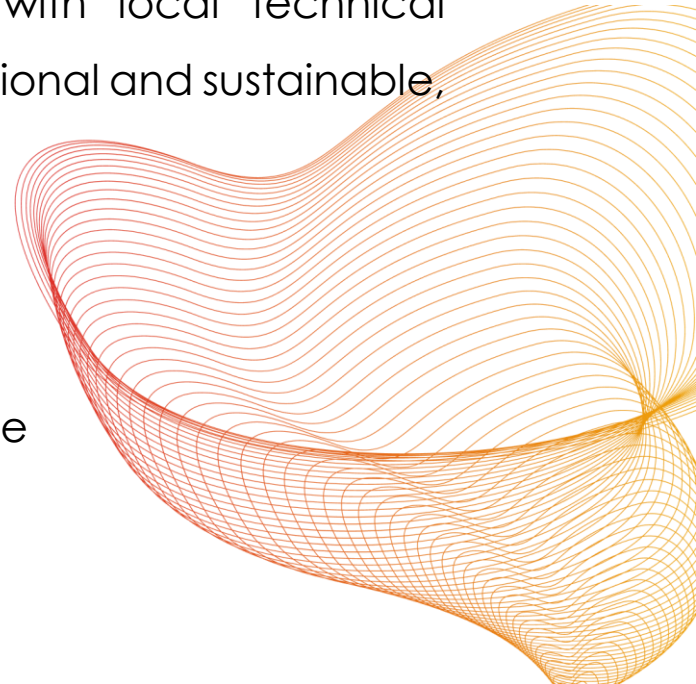




Present Tenses - Examples in Context

The term "retrofit," unlike rehabilitation or restoration, has been adopted by the market to address technological upgrades in existing buildings. These projects **focus on** **aligning** constructions with local technical standards and **adapting** spaces to be more functional and sustainable, **meeting** **current** demands.

This approach **is gaining ground in** the architectural field, driven by iconic projects and public and private initiatives.



Past Tenses - Examples in Context

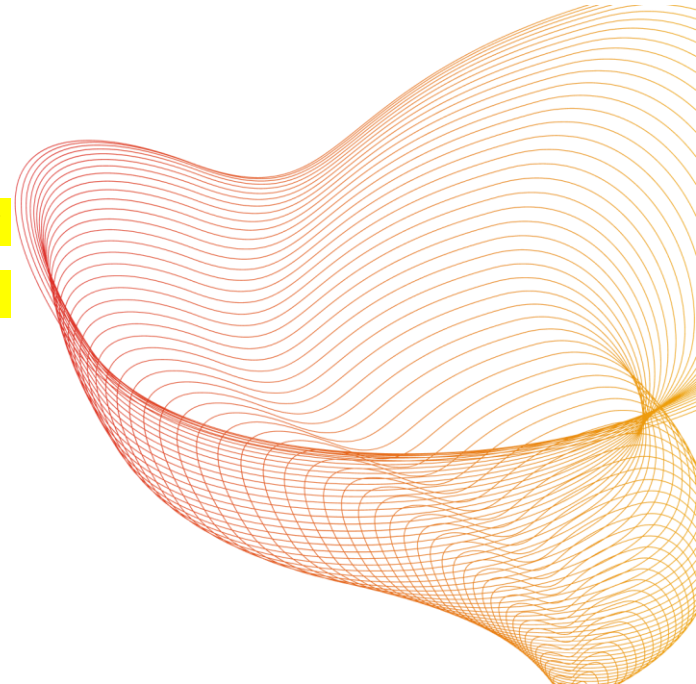
Giovanni Batista Piranesi was an Italian printmaker during the 18th century. His interest in the ruins of the Roman Empire led him to create an extensive catalog of reproductions. His fascination with these ruins in many cases led him to invent them, creating an imaginary world of ancient, destroyed buildings. His legacy was a contribution to the formation of neoclassicism.





Future Tenses - Examples in Context

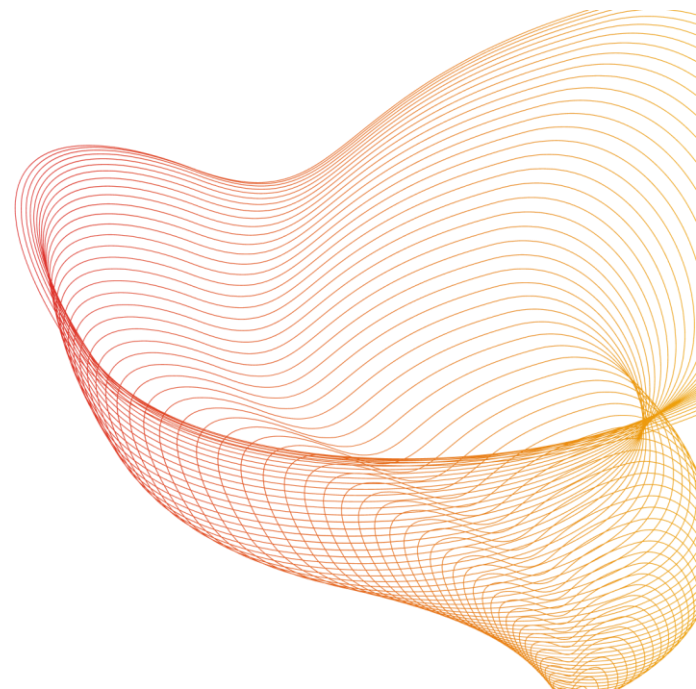
Retrofitting buildings **will become** an essential part of sustainable architecture **in the coming years**. Architects **are going to focus** more on updating existing structures rather than constructing new ones. This approach is not only cost-effective but also environmentally friendly. Many firms **are already planning** major retrofitting projects, and they **will continue** to do so **in the future**. As technology advances, we **are going to see** more innovative solutions for energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprints.





Practice

- The architects _____ the building's structure before starting the renovation.
 - a) are analyzing
 - b) analyzed
 - c) was analyzing
 - d) did analyze





Practice

- **We _____ the new energy-efficient windows next month.**

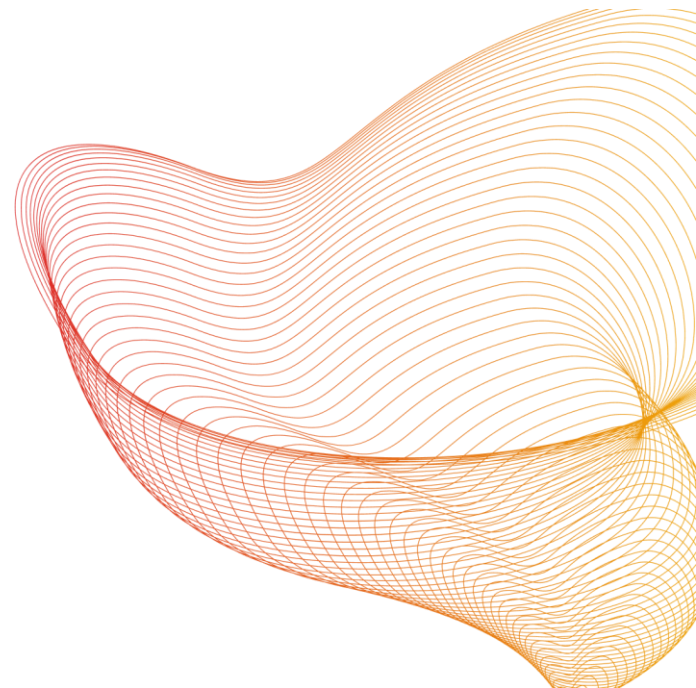
a) should be installing

b) Install

c) Installing

d) will install

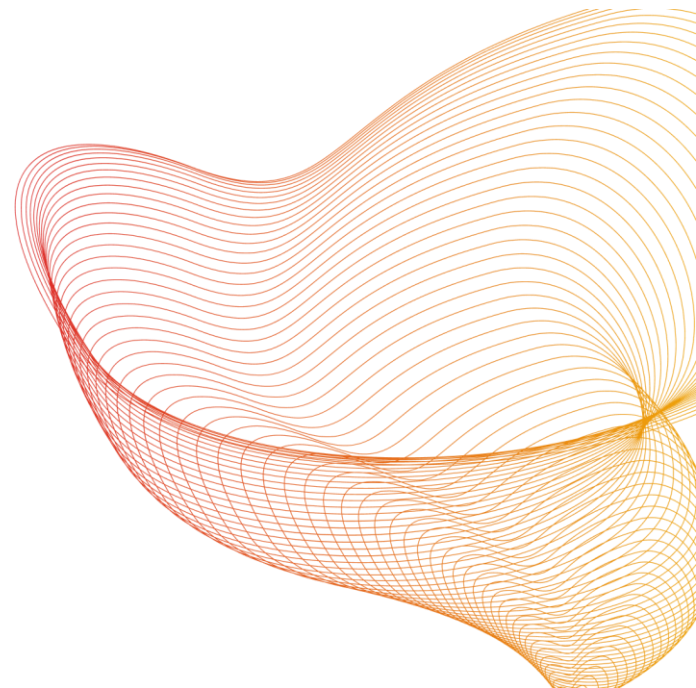
e) would install





Practice

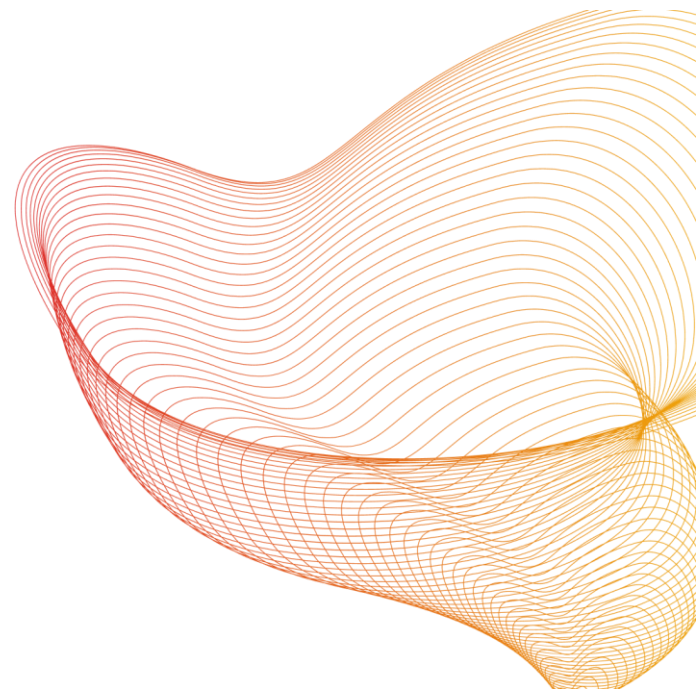
- **The permits _____ before we could begin the refurbishment.**
 - a) arrive
 - b) arrived
 - c) had arrived
 - d) have arrived
 - e) will arrive





Practice

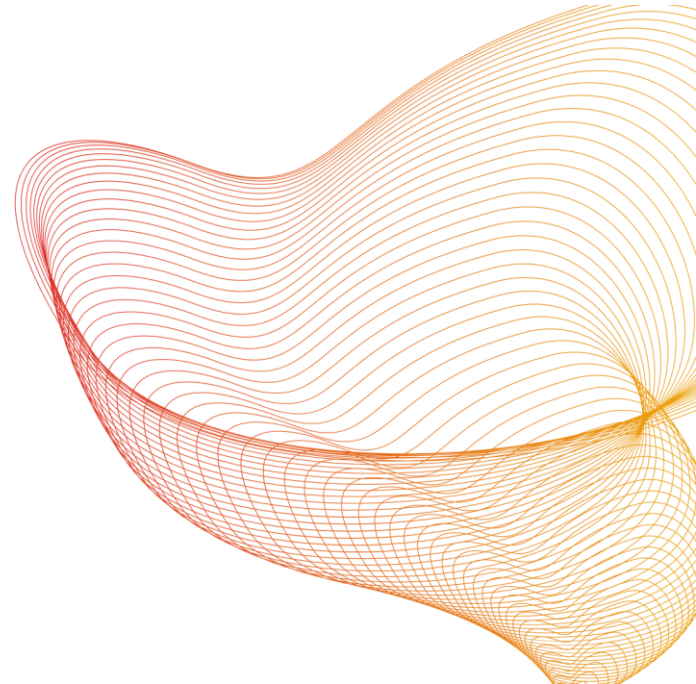
- **Look! The crew _____ the old facade.**
 - a) were stripping
 - b) was stripping
 - c) is stripping
 - d) strips
 - e) stripping





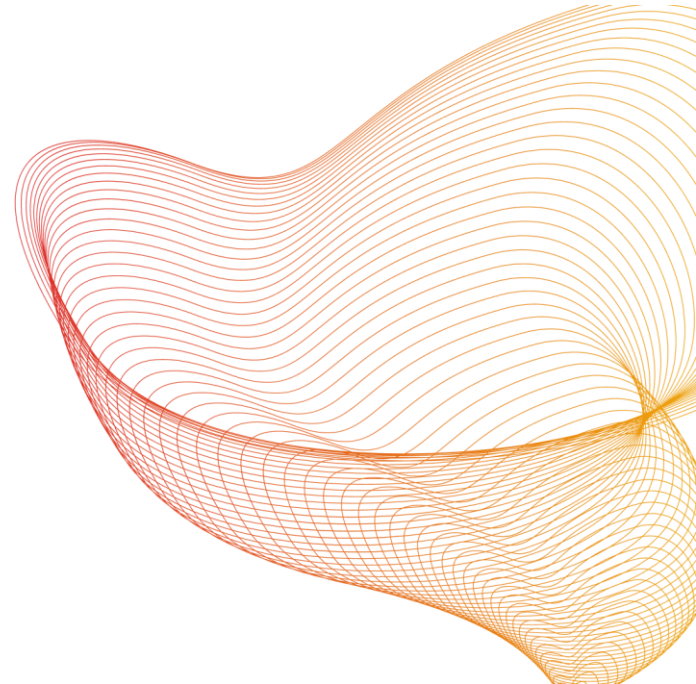
Practice

- **The architects _____ a sustainable design approach.**
 - a) had just implement
 - b) has just implemented
 - c) have just implemented
 - d) have just implement
 - e) will just implement





Unit 2 – Reading Comprehension



Italy's Problem: Protecting Old Buildings from Earthquakes



Italy is famous for its beautiful old buildings, but this also creates problems. Many of these buildings are more than 100 years old, and they were built with simple materials like stone and soil. In 2016, a strong earthquake hit central Italy, destroying many villages. Experts say these buildings cannot resist earthquakes because they are too old, and it is very expensive to make them stronger.

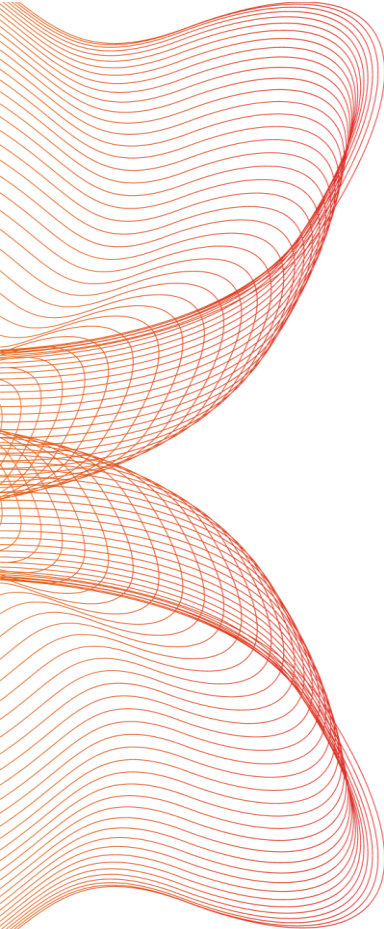
Italy's Problem: Protecting Old Buildings from Earthquakes

Italy has laws to protect buildings from earthquakes, but many people do not follow these rules because of the cost. For example, it can cost up to €10,000 just to check if a building is safe. The price to make a house earthquake-proof can be around €300 per square meter. For many families, especially in small villages, this is too expensive.



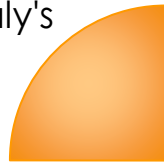


The Challenge of Retrofitting Old Buildings



Many houses in Italy were renovated, but not always in the best way. In some cases, people replaced **light wooden roofs** with heavy **cement beams**. When an earthquake happens, these heavy materials make the buildings collapse faster. To make things more complicated, in many old villages, houses are built very close together. If one building falls, it can pull others down with it, like dominoes.

The government wants to help, but there is no big national plan yet. Experts say Italy needs to improve its buildings quickly. However, many people do not want to destroy old houses because they are part of Italy's cultural history. As one expert said, "If we demolish historic buildings, we lose part of Italy's identity."



MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What is one reason why Italy's old buildings are easily destroyed by earthquakes?

- a) They are made of wood.
- b) They are made of simple materials.
- c) They are built very far apart.
- d) They follow standard safety rules.

2. According to the text, why don't many Italians make their buildings stronger to resist earthquakes?

- a) They think it's not necessary.
- b) The process is too slow.
- c) It is too expensive for most people.
- d) They are too proud to destroy the buildings.

 MULTIPLE CHOICE

3. What happened when people replaced wooden roofs with heavy cement beams?

- a) The buildings became stronger.
- b) The buildings held up easily in case of earthquakes.
- c) The buildings fell down more easily during earthquakes.
- d) The buildings became water-proof.

4. What do experts say Italy needs to do about its buildings?

- a) Help people make their buildings safer.
- b) Build new modern houses.
- c) Ignore old buildings.
- d) Destroy all the old villages.

 MULTIPLE CHOICE

5. Why do some people not want to destroy old buildings in Italy?

- a) They are too difficult to rebuild.
- b) It's impossible to destroy them.
- c) The materials are expensive.
- d) They are part of Italy's cultural history.

VOCABULARY CHECK

SOIL, LAND, GROUND, or EARTH?

- Fertile Soil - Rich Soil - Productive soil
- Solid ground - Hard won ground - Stood his ground
- Beautiful land - Bountiful land (as a territory, state or nation, more so than as a field, or a farm)
"A lot" of land (a large AREA)
A "lot of land" (a single plot)
Flat land - Mountainous land (like Peru or Colorado, ie an entire state/nation)
but: Hilly terrain (and you never grow things on terrain)
Wet land
but: Swampy terrain
- Planet earth
- A fertile plot (a defined section, such a single garden, or field).

VOCABULARY CHECK

VILLAGE, TOWN OR CITY?

- A **village** is a small community.
- A **town** is usually an incorporated community that is larger than a village.
An idiomatic expression is: *To paint the town red = to party*
- Finally, a **city** is a large or important town.

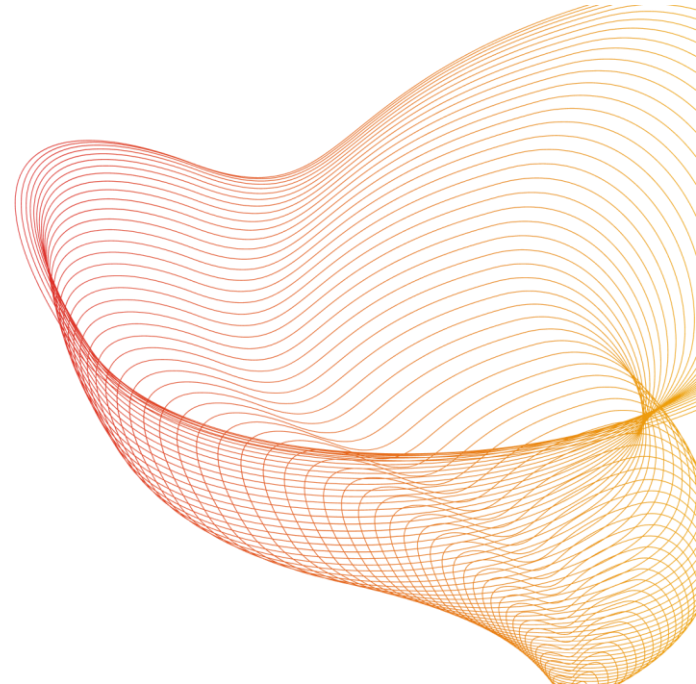
Imagine you see a place with a lot of bikes. You might call it “bike city” to indicate that it is full of or indicative of bikes.

And a **HAMLET**? It is a handful of houses dotted along a road or a crossroads, perhaps separated from other settlements by countryside or farmland.





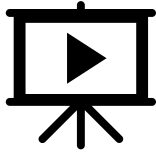
Unit 3 – Listening Comprehension



AJ Specification Live: What makes a great retrofit?

VIDEO GLOSSARY

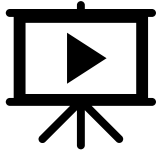
- To get into the bones of something
- To have integrity
- To work
- Data/information
- As well as
- Fit out
- Voids
- Within the building
- To exploit
- To be keen on
- Build up
- Sensitive/sensible
- Find out
- practice



Watch the video and answer the following questions.

1. What is a top tip for a successful retrofit project?

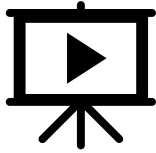
- a) Understanding the existing building well
- b) Rebuilding the entire structure
- c) Ignoring the original architect's concept
- d) Avoiding any changes to the building



Watch the video and answer the following questions.

2. Why is it important to collect a lot of data about the building?

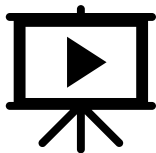
- a) To change the building's design completely
- b) To expand the building's exterior
- c) To replace all old materials
- d) To understand the building and use the space effectively



Watch the video and answer the following questions.

6. What does the speaker find interesting about being part of the panel?

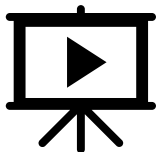
- a) Hearing other architects talk about their projects
- b) Seeing the same projects being presented
- c) Not listening to other speakers
- d) Watching architects at work



Watch the video and answer the following questions.

7. How does the speaker describe the crowd at the event?

- a) Quiet and chill
- b) Confused and chatty
- c) Great and enthusiastic
- d) Unhappy with the presentations



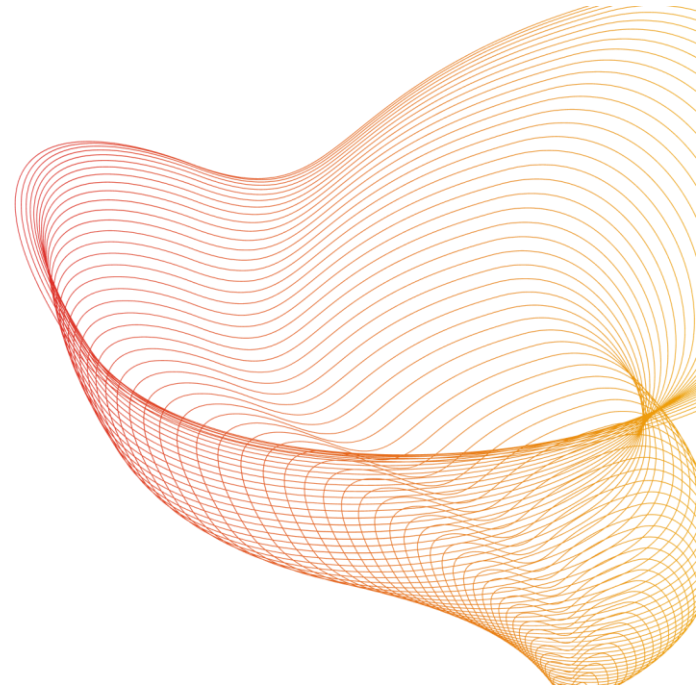
Watch the video and answer the following questions.

8. What does the speaker plan to do after the event?

- a) Forget about the projects
- b) Redesign all the projects presented
- c) Avoid retrofitting projects in the future
- d) Think about the ideas discussed



Unit 4 – Use of English



SAMPLE CONVERSATION

An Architect Meeting with a Client to Discuss Retrofitting, Refurbishment, and Renovation of a Historical Building



Client: We've been thinking about retrofitting the old town hall. It's a historical building, so I'm concerned about maintaining its character. Is that going to be a problem?

Architect: I understand your concern. We've been working on several historical buildings recently, and we always ensure that we preserve their original features while improving energy efficiency. Have you considered any specific refurbishment or renovation options so far?



Client: Yes, we were looking at upgrading the windows and heating system. We also thought about adding insulation, but we didn't want to change the appearance of the walls.

Architect: That's a common concern with retrofitting historical buildings. While we were evaluating another project last year, we faced a similar issue with insulation. In that case, we used internal insulation that didn't affect the exterior. We can explore similar solutions here for both refurbishment and retrofitting.





Client: That sounds perfect. How long will this project take?

Architect: We will have completed the planning phase by the end of next month. After that, the retrofitting and refurbishment work should take about three to four months. By then, we will have installed all the upgrades, and the building will be much more energy-efficient without losing its historical charm.

Client: I'm glad to hear that. While you were assessing the building, did you notice any major structural issues that might affect the renovation?

Architect: Actually, while we were examining the roof, we found some areas that will need renovation. The materials are quite old, and they haven't been replaced in decades. We'll include this in the final report and propose a solution that fits the retrofitting plan.





In the following sentences, there are mistakes related to verb tenses. Read each sentence carefully and identify the mistakes. Then, rewrite the sentence with the correct verb tense.

1. Architect: "We are assessing the building to identify the best areas to improve. We completed a detailed report by the end of the week."
-

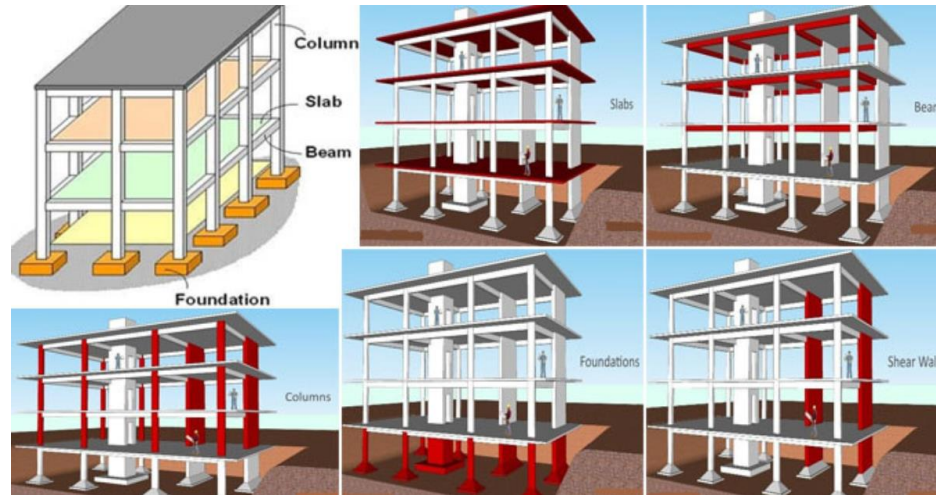


SOUNDS GOOD

2. Client: "That sounds good. I am planning to stay in the office while the retrofitting will be happening."

3. Architect: "I do one last year. It was a smaller building, but we faced similar challenges."





4. Architect: "We started the retrofitting work next month. By then, we complete all the structural assessments."



Thank you.
Please feel free to ask any questions.