**Places**

**Reading and vocabulary**

**Ghost towns**

1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Look at the photos of ghost towns and discuss the questions. Then read the text and compare your ideas.

1 What kind of people lived there? Think about:
   - farmers ■ miners ■ soldiers ■ criminals
   - business people ■ railway workers
2 Why did people go to these towns?
3 Why did they leave? Think about:
   - unemployment ■ pollution ■ natural disasters
   - war ■ famine ■ crime ■ overcrowding ■ poverty

**SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

1 Which town has the most surprising story?
2 Which place would you like to visit?
3 Does your town have any of the ghost towns’ problems?

**STRATEGY**

**Identifying paraphrase**

Paraphrasing means using different words to express the same idea. To identify paraphrase, look out for:
- synonyms (words with similar meaning) and antonyms (words with opposite meaning).
- sentences that say the same thing, but in a different order.
- ideas that are summarized and not repeated word for word.

2 **Read the strategy. Underline sentences in the text that are similar to sentences 1–9. Then match sentences 1–9 to places A–C.**

1 There was a lot of pollution.
2 People in the town were religious.
3 People went there to make money.
4 There wasn’t any light.
5 People left because they didn’t have jobs.
6 Animals live there today.
7 There was a lot of crime.
8 There were farms near the town.
9 People left because of natural and man-made disasters.

A Kowloon Walled City  
B Craco  
C Kolmanskop

3 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

1 Which town has the most surprising story?
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**Antonyms: describing places**

4 Find antonyms of these adjectives in the text.

1 deserted (line 5)  
2 clean (line 5)  
3 wide (line 7)  
4 unpopular (line 9)  
5 safe (line 11)  
6 quiet (line 36)  
7 messy (line 47)  
8 modern (line 48)

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**Ghost towns: Ghost towns ... why did people live there? Why did they leave? Read about three unloved places from around the world ...**

**Name: Kowloon Walled City Location: China**

Then: Hundreds of years ago, it was a Chinese fort and only soldiers lived there. Then in the early 20th century, the soldiers left and squatters* moved in. By 1980, the 0.03 km² city had 500 buildings inside its walls and 33,000 residents lived there.

The city was crowded, dirty and full of rubbish. People called it ‘the city of darkness’ because the buildings were so high, there was no sunlight in the narrow streets below.

Why did people go there? There were no laws and no police in the city, so it was popular with criminals and people with illegal businesses. The Chinese government didn’t do anything about the city because it was dangerous and difficult to control.

Why did people leave? In 1993, the government finally moved people out of the city and destroyed it.

Now: One building and the city gate are left. You can see them in Kowloon Walled City Park.
then and now

Name: Craco   Location: Italy

Then: The historic town of Craco is hundreds of years old. In the past, it was an important town with a castle, a church, a market, a university and a prison. Its population was about 2,500.

Why did people go there? The town had strong connections with the church, and farmers grew food on the land around the town.

Why did people leave? Craco lost many people because of a plague* in 1656. Wars and famine* also made people leave. Between 1892 and 1922, about 1,300 left and went to North America. There were earthquakes, too, and many people died. By 1963, no one lived in the town.

Now: Craco is falling apart. If you want to visit, go there soon. The next earthquake may be its last.

Name: Kolmanskop   Location: Namibia

Then: In 1910, Kolmanskop was a lively mining town. A thousand people lived there, many of them German miners. The town had a hospital, a theatre, a school, a casino, a furniture factory and a sports centre. It also had the first tramline in Africa and a railway station.

Why did people go there? In 1908, a railway worker found diamonds in the Namib desert. Many people went there because they wanted to make their fortune.

Why did people leave? By 1920, there were no more diamonds left. People started to leave the town because there was no work and no money. In 1954, the last person left, and sand started to cover the pretty gardens and tidy streets.

Now: One or two old buildings are still standing, but sand dunes cover most of the town. The town is deserted; only birds, hyenas and snakes live there now.

* squatters = people who live in a place illegally
* plague = a disease caused by rats
* famine = a time when there is no food