

Villages of Andalusia



Vocabulary

Parts of a village

alleyway – a very narrow street or passage
cave – a natural open space inside a cliff or rock face
dwelling – a place where people live
chapel – a room used for prayer
convent – a building where nuns live
reservoir – a man-made lake where a community gets its water supply
landmark – a building or natural feature that is famous or of particular importance
town hall – a building the local government and administrators operate
field – an area of land used to cultivate a particular crop
villager – a person who lives in a village
grove – an area where there are a number of trees
heritage – the physical and non physical things that are important in the history of a people
neighbourhood – an area of a town, city or village
chimney – the tube on top of a building from which smoke escapes
stall – a movable compartment where items are sold in a market.

1 Match the words 1-8 with the correct definition (A-H).

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 landmark | 5 stall |
| 2 dwelling | 6 convent |
| 3 neighbourhood | 7 cave |
| 4 chimney | 8 grove |

- A something that you need if you want to light a fire in your house
 B a place where you can buy different things
 C for example: a flat, apartment or house
 D where a troglodyte lives
 E for example: the Alhambra or the Plaza de España
 F where an olive farmer works
 G an area made up of a few streets
 H where a woman might live if she wanted to devote her life to her religion

2 Read the sentences and choose the correct word to complete them.

- There has been very little rain this year and the **reservoir** / **cave** is nearly empty.
- There are only about 400 **dwelling**s / **villagers** in this village. The government will need to build more.
- The Mosque of Cordoba is my favourite **landmark** / **convent** in Andalusia.
- In some parts of Andalusia, people still live in **caves** / **stalls**.
- The village is surrounded by olive **groves** / **fields**.
- There are no roads in this neighbourhood, only narrow **alleyways** / **chimneys**.
- At Easter, all of the **villagers** / **heritage** celebrate together.
- Flamenco is an essential part of the **heritage** / **landmark** of Andalusia.

3 Read the sentences and choose the correct word from the box to complete them. Use each word only once.

chapels · landmarks · town hall · stall · convent · fields · cave
 · heritage

- He has a small where he sells different vegetables and oils.
- Life in a is very strict and revolves around prayer and worship.
- Inside the it is quite cold and dark but it is beautifully decorated and quite comfortable.
- I only have a few days in Malaga so I want to make sure I see all of the important
- The delicious and healthy Mediterranean diet is part of the of Andalusia.
- The Cathedral of Seville has 80 different
- In the valley of the Guadalquivir river there are of wheat, sunflowers and cotton.
- The building is one of the oldest in the village and it is located on the main square.



Grammar

Used to / would / be used to / get used to

used to + infinitive

We use **used to + infinitive** to talk about actions that were repeated in the past or past habits or states.

A lot more people **used to live** in this village.
Everyone **used to work** in the fields.)

would + infinitive

We can also use **would** to talk about repeated actions, but we cannot use it to talk about states.

On Sunday all of the villagers **would go** to the church in the town square.

be used to + noun/gerund

We use **be used to** when we want to say that we are accustomed to doing something. **Be used to** is followed by the gerund, a noun or a pronoun.

I'm **not used to** living in a small village yet.
He **is used to** seeing the same people every day.

get used to + noun/gerund

We use **get used to** when we want to say that something is in the process of becoming normal. It describes something that was strange or unusual but is not anymore or will soon stop being strange and unusual.

They **are getting used** to living here.
I've **got used to** the sounds of nature that I can hear from my house.

1 Match the beginnings (1-8) to the endings (A-H) to make full sentences.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 I used to love | 5 They never |
| 2 Did she use | 6 Didn't he use to |
| 3 He didn't | 7 The villagers used |
| 4 People used to | 8 The dwellings didn't use to |
- A to work in the village shop when she was a teenager?
B live in caves in the side of the cliff.
C used to go to the city, they bought everything they needed at the weekly market.
D to help each other with everything.
E have central heating or running water.
F living in the countryside but now I'd rather be in a city.
G live in this neighbourhood?
H use to enjoy swimming in the reservoir outside the village but now he does.

2 Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

- There used to **be / being** jobs in the village but now people look for work in the city.
- They aren't used to **work / working** in the fields. It's really tough.
- How did you get used to **drive / driving** one hour to work everyday?
- Did more people **use / used** to live in this neighbourhood?
- I never **use / used** to want to live in a small village but now I do.
- There used to **be / being** three generations of my family living in this house.
- I will never get **use / used** to the views from the top of the village.
- This village used to **be / being** a regional capital in the time of the Moors.

3 Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

- When my parents were children, they live in this neighbourhood.
A would
B got used to
C used to
- I didn't like living here at first but I ... it.
A got used to
B used to
C was used to
- There a busy farmers' market here once a week but it stopped when the supermarket opened.
A would be
B used to be
C was used to
- to want to have a bigger garden when you were a child?
A Would you
B Did you used
C Did you use
- When I was a child I help my grandparents collect the olives.
A would
B used to
C got used to
- We visit the White Villages of Cadiz once a year.
A used to
B have got used to
C would



Reading

- 1** You are going to read a blog post about villages in Andalusia. For questions 1-10, choose from the sections (A-E). The sections may be chosen more than once.

In which section does the writer mention...

- 1 a crop that is grown in the region?
- 2 that a village's main attraction is its atmosphere?
- 3 a natural feature that can only be accessed for part of the year?
- 4 an event that happens once a week in a village?
- 5 a strange type of accommodation?
- 6 a village that is known for the fabrics it produces?
- 7 that a village has contemporary political significance?
- 8 that a village has good views of a body of water flowing past it?
- 9 something that makes it difficult to explore a village?
- 10 that a village's houses are nicer than anticipated?

The most beautiful villages in Andalusia

A Guadix - Granada

My first choice is the village of Guadix. This is a really fascinating place and might be my favourite village in the whole of Spain. Guadix is one of the oldest inhabited places in the country and has its origin in the time of the Phoenicians. However it really rose to prominence under the Moors - who constructed the impressive Alcazaba fortress. There is a beautiful gothic cathedral to see as well as some historic churches but the thing that really sets Guadix apart is the cave dwellings that hundreds of inhabitants of the village live in to this day. While you might expect them to be dark and cold and uncomfortable, they are in fact quite homely and many are beautifully decorated. The sight of their chimneys protruding from the ground against the backdrop of the Sierra Nevada mountains is unlike anything I've very seen!

B Arcos de la Frontera - Cadiz

No list of the villages of Andalusia would be complete without including one of the famous White Villages of Cadiz. Arcos de la Frontera is really special. It is bordered on three sides by the Guadalete River - of which it commands stunning views from its cliff-top location. A glimpse of the long and complicated history of this village can be seen in the ruins of the Roman and Moorish walls as well as the splendid castle of Arcos. Other sights to see along the way are the number of churches, chapels and convents but it is really the unique ambiance of this village and its views over the landscape and into the past that really recommend it to visitors.

C Iznajar - Cordoba

While we're on the theme of villages with beautiful views, Iznajar in the province of Cordoba is another personal favourite of mine. It is built on the slopes of a steep hill and has views over the beautiful blue waters of a large reservoir. In the summer, residents of Iznajar can be found relaxing on the beach of the reservoir but in the winter, the beach disappears beneath the

rising waters. The village is surrounded by hillsides covered in olive trees and nearby is the entrance to the Sierra Subetica National Park. Anyone paying a visit to Iznajar should be sure to see the eighth century castle and also try some of the delicious stuffed sausages that the village is famous for.

D Pampaneira - Granada

Next stop on our tour is the tiny village of Pampaneira in the province of Granada. Pampaneira has only about 300 inhabitants but has a unique place in the history of the region as one of the last places to be retaken from the Moors in the late middle ages. It is located between two mountains and is worth exploring thoroughly - if you can manage to navigate the incredibly steep alleyways that make up the town! There are few real landmarks in Pampaneira but visitors should definitely see the charming Liberty Square where there is a church as well as a couple of places to sit down and enjoy a cold drink. If you're looking for a souvenir, Pampaneira is known for its textiles and there are a number of shops in town that sell thick, colourful rugs and carpets.

E Casares - Malaga

Our last stop is the beautiful little village of Casares in the province of Malaga. In Roman times the region was famous for its spa waters. It was later one of the few places in the country that resisted the Napoleonic conquests. The village is comprised of bright white houses built around a hillside on the top of which sits a 12th century castle. Every Friday there is a small market of about 20 stalls and in May there is the pilgrimage of the Virgin de Rosario del Campo. Casares is mainly known today for its importance in the development of modern Andalusian nationalism as it was the birthplace of Blas Infante Pérez.

- 2** Read the text in activity 1 again and answer the questions below.

- 1 Guadix was founded by the Moors.
True / False
- 2 The Sierra Nevada mountains can be seen from Guadix.
True / False
- 3 Arcos de la Frontera is built on a cliff.
True / False
- 4 The Reservoir at Iznajar is full in the summer.
True / False
- 5 Pampaneira is built on top of a mountain.
True / False
- 6 Casares was defeated in the Napoleonic conquests.
True / False



Writing

- 1** In your English class you have been talking about the future of village life. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

In the future, villages will be abandoned and everyone will live in the city. To what extent do you agree?

Write about:

Communications technology
Job opportunities
..... (your own idea)

Write your **essay** in 140 - 190 words.

- 2** You see this announcement on an English language website.

The best village in Andalusia!

What is your favourite village in Andalusia?
Describe the village and its surroundings and explain why you like it so much.

The best articles will be published on this website next month.

Write your **article** in 140 - 190 words in an appropriate style.

Listening

- 1** You will hear five different people speaking on the subject of the difficulties of village life. For questions 1-5, choose the phrase that best summarises the problem that the speaker mentions. There are three extra phrases that you do not need to use.

Speaker 1
Speaker 2
Speaker 3

Speaker 4
Speaker 5
Speaker 6

- A There is too much tourism.
B There are too many building regulations.
C Everyone knows everyone else's business.
D There will be very few prospects of work.
E I don't like the people that live next to me.
F I'm bothered by the wildlife.
G The village is too old fashioned.
H The public transport is very unreliable.



- 2** Listen to the speakers again and match the phrasal verbs to their definition.

- 1 make off with (speaker one)
2 listen in on (speaker two)
3 wind (someone) up (speaker three)
4 turn up (speaker four)
5 get by (speaker five)
- A to arrive
B to survive
C to steal
D to annoy
E to listen to someone else's conversation

Speaking

- 1** You are going to look at two photographs showing two different villages. Compare the pictures and say what you think people like about living in these villages.



Say which village you would prefer to live in and why.

- 2** Read the questions and respond.

Why do people who live in villages tend to be older than people who live in cities?

Would you rather live in a city or a village? Why?

Do you think it is important to preserve historic villages? Why/why not?

What are the advantages of living in a village?