

English in Mind Second edition

Level 5 Unit 8

Worksheet**British hermits: the growing
lure of the solitary life****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Lead-in****1 It has been estimated that 46% of adults in the UK are currently living alone.**

- What do you think might be the reasons for this?
- What in your view would be the advantages/disadvantages of living on your own?

Work with a partner and write brief notes on your ideas.**Reading comprehension (1): reading for gist****2 Read through the article quickly. Use the 'Quick Dictionary' at the end of this worksheet to help you.**

- 1 Did the two 'hermits' described in the article choose to live alone?
- 2 What do they enjoy most about their solitary lives?

Reading comprehension (2): reading for detail**3 The article focuses on two people who have chosen to live a solitary life, Sue Woodcock and Tom Leppard. Mark the following comments either SW or TL, according to who is being referred to. Mark those which refer to both, B.**

- 1 ... hated living in London (TL)
- 2 ... is very tidy
- 3 ... had a difficult childhood
- 4 ... keeps lots of animals
- 5 ... lives on tinned food
- 6 ... enjoys being untidy
- 7 ... doesn't feel lonely
- 8 ... used to have a partner
- 9 ... worked in the police/military
- 10 ... broke the law
- 11 ... is surrounded by things which are old and useful
- 12 ... has a body decorated like a wild animal

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Vocabulary: words in context

4 The following words are printed in *italics* in the text. Find them and match them to their meanings.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 <i>disillusioned</i> | a strange, odd |
| 2 <i>wallowing</i> | b considered, judged to be |
| 3 <i>uninhibited</i> | c disappointed about something you believed in |
| 4 <i>articulated</i> | d a place where a wild animal lives |
| 5 <i>deemed</i> | e dismissed from a job |
| 6 <i>peculiar</i> | f free and natural |
| 7 <i>inherently</i> | g something which must exist before something else can happen |
| 8 <i>sacked</i> | h indulging yourself in enjoyment of something pleasant or unpleasant |
| 9 <i>lair</i> | i expressed orally (of an idea/opinion) |
| 10 <i>prerequisite</i> | j naturally, essentially |

5 Find phrases in the text which mean the same as the following:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 entirely, everything about it (para 1) | <u>as</u> <u>a</u> <u>whole</u> |
| 2 become fashionable again (para 5) | <u>come</u> _____ |
| 3 different from the others (para 6) | <u>the</u> _____ |
| 4 not move away (para 8) | _____ |
| 5 acting in whatever way you want (para 10) | <u>doing</u> _____ |
| 6 feeling of being different (para 12) | _____ <u>of</u> _____ |

6 Choose from the phrases in Exercise 5 to complete the sentences below. Change the forms where necessary.

- Being educated at home served to reinforce the sense of apartness I felt as an only child.
- You just _____ and relax. I'll get the dinner ready.
- Choose _____.: beer wine coffee gin
- Next weekend my parents will be away, so I can _____ Hurrah!
- Tight trousers have _____ Everyone's wearing them!
- Taking the population _____, the general level of education is clearly improving.

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Grammar: negative prefixes

7 These prefixes can all be used to make the negative forms of certain nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs.

un-	in-	mis-	dis-	non-	im-	ir-	il-
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The following words are all to be found in the article in their negative form. Without looking back at the text, choose the correct prefix for each word.

- 1 _____ illusioned (para 1)
- 2 _____ plastered (para 4)
- 3 _____ inhibited (para 5)
- 4 _____ -conformity (para 7)
- 5 _____ sane (para 8)
- 6 _____ legally (para 8)
- 7 _____ acceptable (para 8)

Now find the words in the text to check your answers.

Which prefixes should you use to make the following negative? Choose from those given in the circle above.

- 8 _____ materialistic
- 9 _____ relevant
- 10 _____ sociable
- 11 _____ understand
- 12 _____ morality
- 13 _____ tolerant
- 14 _____ reasonably

8 Discuss the following questions with a partner or in a small group. Use the negative forms of the words in *italics* in your responses where appropriate.

- 1 Would you describe Sue Woodcock and Tom Leppard as *sociable* people?
- 2 Would most people *understand* their desire to live alone and find their lifestyle *acceptable*?
- 3 Do you think Sue Woodcock's local authority acted *reasonably* in accusing her of not acting *legally*?
- 4 Do you think Sue Woodcock regards herself as a *moral* person?
- 5 Would you find it easy to remain *sane* if you lived such a solitary life?
- 6 Is *conformity* to society's rules the only way to live?
- 7 How *tolerant* are most people towards those who don't conform?
- 8 Would you regard yourself as a *materialistic* person? What other values are important to you?
- 9 In what situations do you feel *inhibited*? What can help you lose your inhibitions?
- 10 Do you agree with the author that the issues raised in this article are increasingly *relevant* today?

Think about how this applies to the situation in your own country.

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‘Companionship is not always a prerequisite to fulfilment.’ (para 15)

Quick dictionary

<i>hermit</i> (title)	a person who lives alone and apart from other people
<i>lure</i> (subtitle)	a quality or power that makes something attractive
<i>crofter</i> (para 1)	someone who lives in a ‘croft’ (a small low-built stone farmhouse) in Scotland or the north of England
<i>fart and belch</i> (para 4)	impolite bodily noises
<i>asceticism</i> (para 5)	a simple lifestyle, avoiding physical pleasures, often embraced for religious reasons
<i>sectioned</i> (para 7)	admitted by force to a psychiatric hospital
<i>eccentric</i> (para 7)	behaving in an odd or unusual way
<i>tarpaulin</i> (para 8)	large piece of heavy waterproofed cloth
<i>scarp</i> (para 14)	steep hillside

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