To Build A City

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

To learn and practice phrasal verbs.
Comprehension activities.
Learning verbs about building and construction.
Situational role play practice.

Activity One - New York Morning - Elbow

PART ONE: Let's start this lesson with a story... a story about New York.



Read the questions first.

1. What are the couple passionate about?
2. How did they meet?
3. What are their jobs?
4. What does the lady spend her money on?
5. What do they have different versions of?
6. Where do they work?
7. What's this story about apart from the couple?
8. What do they regret?
9. What are they nostalgic about?
10. Why do you think this interview **was chosen*** for the video?

* Passive voice. (we don't say **who** chose it).

Now watch the **video** and read the **subtitles**. http://www.vevo.com/watch/elbow/new-york-morning/GBUV71400025. Then answer the questions, discussing them with your partner or teacher.

PART TWO: Team challenge/ Individual challenge.

Use the following words in a sentence: the first team to complete the race wins! (if your sentences are correct!) Your teacher will ring the bell when the first team

to bind
to own
oh my giddy aunt!
folk
a pillar
a post

from pillar to post
a rivet
a corner stone
battered
to be proud

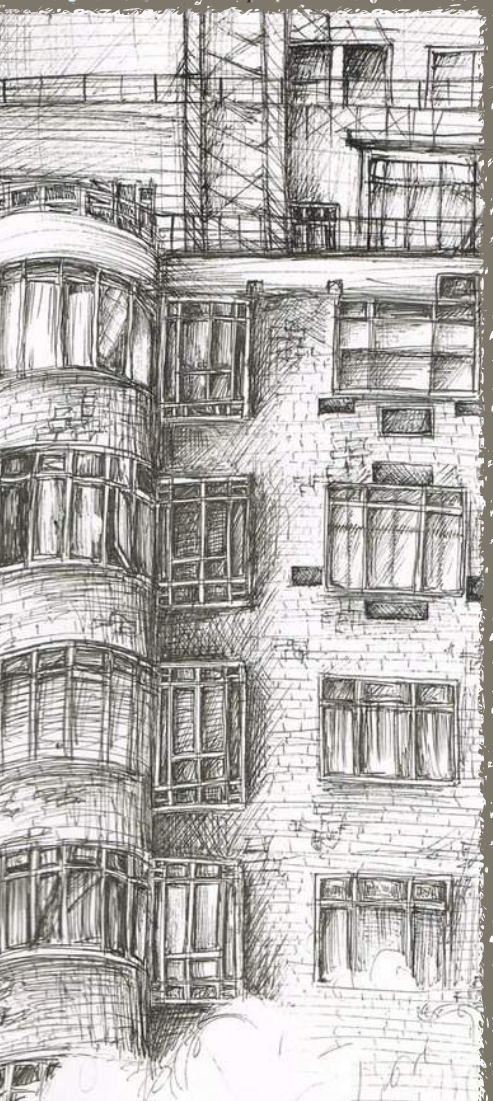
to endeavor to do something
to drill
to weld
a soul
a nub



PART THREE: Now let's listen to the song again, this time follow the lyrics.







The first to put a simple truth in words
Binds the world in a feeling all familiar
'Cause everybody owns the great ideas
And it feels like there's a big one round the corner

A tenner, up and out into New York
Somewhere in all that talk is all the answers
And oh, my giddy aunt, New York can talk
It's the modern Rome and folk are nice to Yoko

Every bone of rivet steel, each corner stone an ankle
Jenga jutts and rusted water tower, pillar-posted sign
Every painted line and battered, laddered building in this town
Sings a life of proud endeavor at the best that man can be

Me, I see a city and I hear a million voices
Planning, drilling, welding, carrying their fingers to the nub
Reaching down into the ground, stretching up into the sky
Why?
Because they can, they did and do so you and I could live together

Oh my god, New York can talk
Somewhere in all that talk is all the answers
Everybody owns the great ideas
And it feels like there's a big one round the corner

Oh my god, New York can talk
Somewhere in all that talk is all the answers
Everybody owns the great ideas
And it feels like there's a big one round the corner

Oh my god, New York can talk
Somewhere in all that talk is all the answers
Everybody owns the great ideas
And it feels like there's a big one round the corner

The design in a patchwork symphony
The desire like a distant storm
For love, did it come for me
And it feels like there's a big one round the corner

The design in a patchwork symphony
The desire like a distant storm
For love, did it come for me
And it feels like there's a big one round the corner

The way the day begins
Decides the shade of everything
But the way it ends depends on if you're home
For every soul, a pillow at a window, please

PART FOUR: Discussion questions.

I. Why does he refer to Yoko?

II. What is said about New York and the way it was built?

III. How does he feel about the future?

IV. Why is this song hopeful?

V. Why is it a personal story as well as a story of a citv?



Activity Two - Building Vocabulary

Building your vocabulary is like building a city, one brick at a time. To get those bricks to set in your mind solidly, you have to assemble them carefully and keep them in order. This means learning words in their context and working on them until they are 'set in stone'. Learning a language is something you need to keep 'chipping away at' until you make progress. At first you learn quickly but then things slow down. If you carry on reading, listening and surrounding yourself in the language then you will build more and more on your basic foundations, and feel solid and secure in any situation you have to express yourself in. So let's learn some tools of the trade! Here are some phrasal verbs linked to BUILDING or CONSTRUCTING. A phrasal verb is a verb followed by a preposition or an adverb; the combination creates a meaning different from the original verb alone.

to build on - To add a new part to an existing structure

to build in - To incorporate something as an integral part of something else.

to build up - To construct or erect gradually, little by little

As you see the meaning of the verb changes a lot when we add a different preposition. Remember there are lots of different phrasal verbs in English and you really need to learn them in order to understand and use them correctly. So when you find a new one, write it down and practice making sentences with it! Here is some more information about phrasal verbs.

Transitive and intransitive phrasal verbs :

Some phrasal verbs are **transitive**. (A transitive verb always has an object.)
Example : I made up an excuse. ('Excuse' is the object of the verb.)Some phrasal verbs are **intransitive** . (An intransitive verb does not have an object.) **Example** : My car broke down.

Separable or inseparable phrasal verbs :

Some transitive phrasal verbs are **separable**. (The object is between the verb and the preposition.)
Example : I looked the word up in the dictionary.Some transitive phrasal verbs are **inseparable**. (The object is placed after the preposition.)
Example : I will look into the matter as soon as possible.

Some transitive phrasal verbs **can take an object in both places**.
Example : I picked up the book. I picked the book up.

However, if the object is a **pronoun**, it must be placed between the verb and the preposition. **Example** : I picked **it** up.



Activity Three - Mime those verbs! Charades.

In teams mime one of the following phrasal verbs and see if the opposite team guesses correctly. (Or, try to use them in a sentence if you are not in a group).

To **carry out** building work

To **dig up** the ground

To **knock down** a wall

To **build up** a wall

To **pick up** a brick



To **put down** a brick

To **put up** a wall

throw away the waste

water down the cement

To **tear down** a shelf

Activity Four - To Build a City!

Let's find out more about the history of the big apple! Watch the video and answer the questionshttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2RVjufELAo

1. What is the Bronx sometimes called?
2. Name the different boroughs.
3. What district is Wall Street in?
4. What is bought and sold on Wall Street?
5. What proves that New York is a cultural leader?
6. What makes the city great?
7. What do the people do together?
8. What illustrates the greatness of the city?
9. Why were high buildings built in New York City?
10. What makes the skyline look so spectacular?

Activity Five - Follow the instructions with your eyes closed. The last person to get the action correct is 'out' lets see who wins!

Stretch up.	**Climb a ladder.**	**Dig a hole.**
Reach down.	**Build a wall.**	**Paint a sign.**
Sketch a plan.	**Chop down a tree.**	

Activity Six - The Plan to Build the Empire State Building - **Reading**.

When the Empire State Building opened on May 1, 1931, it was the tallest building in the world - standing at 1,250 feet tall. This building not only became an icon of New York City, it became a symbol of twentieth century man's attempts to achieve the impossible. How did this gigantic icon get built? It started with a race to the sky.

When the Eiffel Tower (984 feet) was built in 1889 in Paris it, encouraged American architects to build something taller. By the early 20th century, a skyscraper race was on. By 1909 the Metropolitan Life Tower rose 700 feet (50 stories), quickly followed by the Woolworth Building in 1913 at 792 feet (57 stories), and soon surpassed by the Bank of Manhattan Building in 1929 at 927 feet (71 stories). When John Raskob (previously a vice president of General Motors) decided to join in the skyscraper race, Walter Chrysler (founder of the Chrysler Corporation) was constructing a huge building, but the height was a secret until the building's completion. Not knowing exactly what height he had to beat, Raskob started construction on his own building.In 1929, Raskob and his partners bought a parcel of property at 34th Street and Fifth Avenue for their new skyscraper.

After deciding on and obtaining a site for the skyscraper, Raskob needed a plan. Raskob hired Shreve, Lamb & Harmon to be the architects for his new building. It is said that Raskob pulled a thick pencil out of a drawer and held it up to William Lamb and asked, "Bill, how high can you make it so that it won't fall down?"Lamb got started planning right away. Soon, he had a plan:

The logic of the plan is very simple. A certain amount of space in the center, arranged as compactly as possible, contains the vertical circulation, mail chutes, toilets, shafts and corridors. Surrounding this is a perimeter of office space 28 feet deep. The sizes of the floors diminish as the elevators decrease in number. In essence, there is a pyramid of non-rentable space surrounded by a greater pyramid of rentable space.But was the plan high enough to make the Empire State Building the tallest in the world? Hamilton Weber, the original rental manager, describes the worry: “We thought we would be the tallest at 80 stories. Then the Chrysler went higher, so we lifted the Empire State to 85 stories, but only four feet taller than the Chrysler. Raskob was worried that Walter Chrysler would pull a trick - like hiding a rod in the spire and then sticking it up at the last minute.”

The race was getting very competitive. With the thought of wanting to make the Empire State Building higher, Raskob himself came up with the solution. After examining a scale model of the proposed building, Raskob said, "It needs a hat!" and decided that the "hat" would be used as a docking station for dirigibles. The new design for the Empire State Building, including the dirigible mooring mast would make the building 1,250 tall (the Chrysler Building was completed at 1,046 feet with 77 stories).

Activity Seven - Act out the following role plays.

1. You are Raskob and Chrysler arguing over which is truly the biggest building.

2. You are two people stuck in the lift of the Empire State building.

3. You are in a taxi in New York and your driver is giving you a guided tour and pointing out interesting things.

4. You are planning a new Skyscraper to be built in Paris. You propose your project to a representative of the government.