

2023
OCTOBER

13 Homes Never Built

Broken Dreams in China's Unfinished Apartments

LIVE ESL – APIBECI

BUSINESS NEWS

©2023





Homes That Were Never Built

Broken Dreams in China's
Unfinished Apartments

Pre – Test

Complete the set of pre-assessment activities given below. Read instructions carefully.

PRE – 01 | True or False Not Given

Listen to the audio carefully and determine whether the statements provided are True, False or Not Given based on the information you hear. Mark **True** if the statement is **correct**, mark **False** if the statement is **incorrect**, and **Not Given** if the information is **not mentioned** in the audio.



	TRUE	FALSE	NOT GIVEN
1 These Chinese home buyers have seen dreams of owning their own place shattered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 The region has been selected because of its relatively mild climate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 They're chanting, "we want our house back".	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 He bought a presale apartment for \$36,000, not knowing that eight years later it would still be unfinished.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PRE – 02 | Re-Tell

Listen to the audio carefully and **take notes** on the main points and key details. After the audio ends, **re-tell what you heard in your own words**. Focus on summarizing the **main ideas**, **supporting details**, and **any examples** mentioned.

01

Reading



These Chinese home buyers have seen dreams of owning their own place shattered. They're **chanting** 'we want our house back', and holding contracts in their hands for apartments in an unfinished residential complex in the northwestern city of Tongchuan.

Shi Tieniu is a construction worker. He bought a **presale** apartment for \$38,000, not knowing that eight years later it would still be unfinished. The block was advertised as a **high-end** complex with "CEO-level service". But now every night Shi climbs 20 **flights** of stairs to sleep in a room without water, heating or electricity.

"I don't have any choice now. Living here, there's no water or electricity. When I come back from work at night and climb up the stairs to the 20th floor, I have to use a flashlight. For lighting, as you can see, I use a solar-powered lamp. It's set to automatic, so it turns on at night and off during the day. I **virtually** don't drink water or wash my face up here. I can even say I don't brush my teeth. From May until now, I work on the construction site during the day and come up here to sleep at night."

Shi and a dozen others live in the block to pressure authorities to address so-called 'rotting' or unfinished homes. Such buildings have become more common during China's years-long property **slump**, where many developers have gone bankrupt or struggled with their debts. Residents say construction has stalled since 2015, but flats kept being sold until 2020.

Many of Shi's neighbours are retirees who had bought apartments for their unmarried sons, or labourers who can't afford to rent elsewhere. Inside, solar-powered lamps illuminate bare concrete walls and floors covered with layers of dust and gravel. Residents cook in a first-floor **communal** kitchen with a single gas burner. They also share the communal toilet in a **makeshift** metal shed.

This 73 year-old buyer called the experience heart-wrenching, cruel and unimaginable. While this resident is a former coal miner. He paid \$33,000 for an apartment five years ago.

"We've been busy our entire lives. The developer asked us to gather money, but we don't have a stable source of income. We work as security guards and take odd jobs to make ends meet." According to multiple housing contracts seen by Reuters, the names of the developer and project changed a number of times. Buyers claimed

Tongchuan officials said three years ago that a committee was established to resolve the issue, but construction did not resume. The developer could not be contacted for comment. Tongchuan city government and China's housing ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

02

Activity

A1 | Decipher Me *Complete the word using the numbers assigned to each letter correspondingly.*

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26				

- 1 I am absolutely to hear the news.
19 8 1 20 20 5 18 5 4
- 2 She uses - sound mixing equipment in her home studio.
8 9 7 x 5 14 4
- 3 The crowd were the team's name.
3 8 1 14 20 9 14 7
- 4 It was a terrible choice; it was - one.
8 5 1 18 20 23 18 5 14 3 8 9 14 7
- 5 He went after only a year in business.
2 1 14 11 18 21 16 20

A2 | What's in the Mirror *Determine the synonyms of the word on the left using their antonyms/ opposites inside the mirror.*

MIRROR

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 shattered | unbroken, repaired, fixed | |
| 2 bankrupt | success, generating | |
| 3 heart-wrenching | happy, heartwarming, pleasant | |
| 4 rotting | clean, flourished | |
| 5 slump | stand up, rise | |
| 6 communal | individual, personal, private | |

03

Speak Up

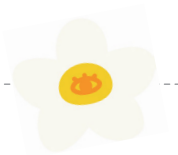
You are welcome to authentically share your thoughts as you go through the following questions.

1 Do you live in an apartment, or do you have your own house?

3 Imagine yourself being in the same situation with the people from the article, what will you do? What will be your possible solution?

2 If you live in an apartment, what do you think are the inconveniences of living in an apartment?

4 Scamming and scammers are very rampant nowadays, have you ever gone through, or encountered any of it?




13 OCTOBER
@2023

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Home was
never a place,
but a feeling
where you can
be yourself
freely.



The Creative Box: Draw something, write something, do anything to this box – let yourself be free with the box. 

KEY ANSWERS

1 shattered – 2 high-end – 3 chanting – 4 heart-wrenching – 5 bankrupt

LESSON SUMMARY

READING + LISTENING + SPEAKING

1HR

ISSUE 10: HOMES THAT WERE NEVER BUILT:
BROKEN DREAMS IN CHINA'S
UNFINISHED APARTMENTS
PUBLISHED ON 13 OCT 2023



ASSESSMENT PROFICIENCY INFORMATION

STUDENT

SCORE

DATE



SCAN FOR EDUCARE.

