

LIVING IN THE COUNTRY

Living in the country in Poland has never been easy. Even today it is not very comfortable. Of course a lot has changed. People have build new houses, new roads and buildings. The difference between the city and the country is gradually disappearing. However, villages do not become cities. The rural character is preserved although the living conditions have been improved.

Nowadays the development in agriculture is quickly progressing. The new houses, schools or culture clubs also indicate that something has changed for the better. Before the war, living in the country was quite different. On huge estates there were manor houses surrounded by primitive villagers' cottages. The peasants had to work hard in the field and they were paid little money. Very often children had to work together with their parents and their education was totally neglected. In many villages there were no schools, electricity and gas. All this, of course, belongs to the past.

Now most people live in comfortable and well-equipped houses. The air and water are clean and they may grow fruit and vegetables. The main disadvantage, however, is the shortage of health centres, shops, cinemas and clubs. Many local libraries have been closed recently because of the lack of money. Another problem is unemployment. A lot of people who used to work on big state farms suddenly lost their jobs. Most of them do not have enough money to buy some land or to start their own business.

To solve these problems, wise political decisions should be taken. Only in this way living in the country could become easier and better.

VOCABULARY A

living in the country – mieszkanie (życie)
na wsi
easy – łatwe
comfortable – wygodne
difference – różnica
to disappear gradually – stopniowo znikać
village – wieś
rural character – wiejski charakter
Living conditions – warunki życia
to improve – polepszać
development in agriculture – rozwój w rolnictwie
to progress – postępować, rozwijać się
to change for the better – zmienić (się) na lepsze
huge estate – ogromna posiadłość ziemska
manor house – rezydencja wiejska (dworek)
surrounded by – otoczenie
primitive villagers' cottages – prymitywne chaty wieśniaków
to work hard in the fields – pracować

ciężko w polu
peasant – chłop
totally neglected – całkowicie zaniedbana
electricity – elektryczność
to belong to the past – należeć do przeszłości
well-equipped house – dobrze wyposażony dom
to grow fruit and vegetables – uprawiać owoce i warzywa
the main disadvantage – główna wada
shortage – brak
health centre – ośrodek zdrowia
library – biblioteka
lack of money – brak pieniędzy
unemployment – bezrobocie
state farms – państwowe gospodarstwa rolne
to lose one's job – stracić pracę
to buy some land – kupić trochę ziemi
wise political decisions – mądre decyzje polityczne

VOCABULARY B

villager, countryman – mieszkaniec wsi
farmer – rolnik, gospodarz
farmstead – zagroda z zabudowaniami
to cultivate the land – uprawiać ziemię
to work hard – ciężko pracować
to live peacefully – żyć spokojnie
to grow – uprawiać

harvest – żniwa
crops – zbiory
farm – gospodarstwo
mixed farm – gospodarstwo mieszane
poultry farm – gospodarstwo drobiarskie
stock farm – gospodarstwo hodowlane

SPEAKING

1. Would you like to live in the country? Why? / Why not?
2. compare living in the country with living in a big city.
3. What are the advantages of living in a village?
4. What should be done to make country life easier?

Adapted from Małgorzata Cieślak: *Repetytorium tematyczno-leksykalne 1*. Wagros.