


Our walled world

Humans have built walls to defend and divide for at least 12,000 years. One example is Hadrian's Wall in Roman Britain (c. 122 AD). Another is The Great Wall of China, which extends from the Gobi Desert to the North Korean border and was built to defend the Ming Dynasty against the steppe nomads from the north. Today, almost a quarter of a century after the fall of the Berlin wall, some countries are witnessing a reassertion of the politics of wall-building."

1  **10 FIRST** You will hear an interview with Sara (a young woman living in Melilla near the fence separating Morocco from Spain) and Yousef (a 25-year-old farmer in Qalqilya, a West Bank city enclosed by the wall) talking about the way walls changed their lives. While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B or C) for questions 1-7. Only one answer is correct. The first one (0) has been done for you.

- 0 The fence makes Sara sad because
- A she hates the word 'la valla'.
- B it causes a disgraceful division.
- C the usual vocabulary has been changed.
- 1 Sara hears people screaming and shouting because
- A her house is near the border.
- B people hide in her garden.
- C people are terrified.
- 2 The people screaming and shouting are
- A passers-by.
- B migrants.
- C policemen.
- 3 Sara and her mother take the migrants to the police station
- A because they want them to be arrested.
- B because they don't like sub-Saharan Africans.
- C to help them remain in Melilla, Spain.
- 4 Sara has stopped going to see her nephews in Rabat because
- A she needs a visa to go there.
- B the last time she went there she was beaten by the police.
- C they are growing up.
- 5 Since the construction of the wall, Yousef's family
- A left their land since it was infertile.
- B find it difficult to sell their products.
- C sell their products only to Israeli-Arab people.
- 6 People in Qalqilya
- A don't like to buy food in the local market.
- B have to answer the police's questions every four days.
- C feel oppressed by the wall.
- 7 Yousef
- A is nostalgic about the time when he could go to the sea freely.
- B is hopeful.
- C wants yesterday to be better than today.

- 2 **IELTS** Read the passage about modern walls and match the beginnings of the sentences (1-4) with the sentence endings (A-E).



NEW WALLS

THE WILD FRONTIER

Physical barriers along the **US/ Mexico border** started to become more conspicuous with the Clinton administration in the attempt to control immigration. The 9/11 attacks in 2001 brought fears that terrorists could slip into the US along with economic migrants, so measures approved during the Bush administration brought more and sturdier barriers equipped with cameras and floodlights. It was with Trump's presidency, however, that the idea of the border wall was

definitely invigorated. On 23 June, 2015, he announced a crucial detail of his plan for a US-Mexico border wall: he was going to build it (and 'very nicely'), but Mexico was going to pay for it. This wall – which Trump argued would keep the Mexican 'rapists' and 'criminals' out of the country – was a key component of Trump's successful bid for the Republican presidential nomination of 2016.



THE WEST BANK WALL

Israel started building the West Bank wall separating the **West Bank city of Abu Dis from east Jerusalem** in 2002. This hotly-contested barrier has been called everything from a 'security necessity' to an 'apartheid wall,' depending on who you ask. The wall is still under construction and will ultimately be about 440 miles of concrete and barbed wire. Israel unilaterally began its construction. The wall stands on a portion of land that doesn't fall within Israel's border, causing many Palestinians to claim that the barrier is a tool used by Israel for unlawful annexation of Palestinian territory. The International Court of Justice at The Hague deemed the wall illegal and called on Israel to take it down in 2004. Instead, it has spread even further and reaches heights of almost 8 metres in some locations.

THE EDGE OF AFRICA

Not everybody knows that Spain's southernmost cities, Ceuta and Melilla, stand in the neighbouring North African country of Morocco. In both cities, walls keep African refugees and potential immigrants out of Spain, and therefore out of the European Union. Until the 1990s, the border between **Morocco and Spain** was barely noticeable. But in 1995, as mass immigration from Africa into Europe took off, Spain built the first modern fence – with funding from the EU – with the specific goal of keeping immigrants out. Today, this wall stands more than six metres high, with hi-tech sensors, razor wire and 24-hour armed patrol guards. This wall is where Fortress Europe meets North Africa. To an extent, the wall has worked. Fewer migrants reach Spain and the EU from Africa, but a fair amount still make it in by swimming around the border. Unfortunately, many are also simply killed right there in the water.



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| <p>0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C The US started to reinforce the barrier along the Mexican border ...</p> <p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> Trump obtained the 2016 presidential nomination...</p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> The building of the West Bank wall was started by Israel...</p> <p>3 <input type="checkbox"/> The recent phenomenon of mass migration has convinced...</p> <p>4 <input type="checkbox"/> The fence between Morocco and Spain can't completely stop...</p> | <p>A people from moving from the South to the North of the world.</p> <p>B partly thanks to his promise of having Mexico pay for his plan on the border wall.</p> <p>C to stop terrorists from crossing it together with common migrants.</p> <p>D the European Union to support the reinforcement of the fence between Spain and Morocco.</p> <p>E without any agreement with the Palestinians.</p> |
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