

Question:

Complete the interview with the correct form of the verb: *-ing*, *to* + infinitive or infinitive without *to*.

I = Interviewer; R = Resident

I: So, are you enjoying ¹ _____ (live) here again after a fifteen-year absence? Has Berlin changed a lot since you were last here?

R: Of course. There has been a huge amount of development. They have kept on ² _____ (build) and ³ _____ (redevelop) since the early nineties. And in many ways that is great for the city, but I regret ⁴ _____ (say) that its character has changed ... and not for the better.

I: What do you mean by that?

R: Well, there are so many tourists here now – people say as many as nine million a year. It's as if the city authorities have decided ⁵ _____ (turn) Berlin into a tourist park.

I: But surely tourists are a good thing? If they stopped ⁶ _____ (come), the city would lose a lot of jobs and income. I heard that tourism will help ⁷ _____ (create) 50,000 new jobs here in the next few years.

R: I'm not anti-tourist. I understand that tourism means ⁸ _____ (earn) useful income, but a lot of this money goes straight to private companies. I think the city should ask tourists and tourism companies ⁹ _____ (pay) a tax for visiting Berlin. Then this money could be invested in real jobs for Berliners.

Question:

Work in pairs. Use a different verb in each space to complete these statements.

- 1 Green spaces can really _____ a built-up part of a city.
- 2 In the 1970s and 1980s there was a fashion for _____ older buildings in city centres and replacing them with high-rise buildings.
- 3 It's a good idea to _____ the city centre into a pedestrianised zone.
- 4 People complain that the character of many famous cities like London, New York and Paris has been _____. By _____ them with luxury apartments and expensive shops, developers have forced out ordinary working people.

convert
spoil
modernise
demolish
transform
redevelop

Question:

- Write a text message to a friend to describe development in your city.
 - Describe a change that happened.
- Use some vocabulary and grammar from the previous questions.
 - Vocabulary: Convert, spoil, modernise, transform and redevelop.
 - Grammar: Verb forms.

Text Acknowledgements: Paul Dummett, John Hughes and Helen Stephenson, *Life Upper Intermediate* (Hampshire: Cengage Learning, 2013), p. 68.