

19 Place names representing activities

Activity A

What goes on there?

The English language sometimes uses well-known real or fictional place names to stand for the people who live or work there. Here are some extracts from TV news reports which refer to real places but unfortunately the journalists have used the wrong place names by mistake! Change the place names around so that the news reports make sense. Then check your answers in the dictionary.

Find the right place name for each piece of news:

- 1 We are awaiting confirmation from **the Palace** but we believe the Prime Minister will offer **his** resignation this afternoon.
- 2 The news from **Downing Street** is that the Prince **Harry** is recovering well from the operation.
- 3 **The Vatican** has refused to comment on the allegations that one of the Lords has been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- 4 Our sources at **Number Ten** tell us that the Pope was shocked but unhurt by the attack.
- 5 It is understood that the President has refused to sign the treaty but so far **Hollywood** has neither confirmed nor denied this.
- 6 This is **a** nervous time for **the Oval Office** as the elections will have far-reaching consequences for the future of Scottish politics.
- 7 **Whitehall** is expected to release a statement later today relating to the President's forthcoming meeting with the Russian premier.
- 8 In a few moments we will be bringing you all the latest news from **the White House** about the Chancellor's crisis meeting with the PM.

Which two place names are used when talking about the President of USA? Which two place names are used when talking about the British Prime Minister?

Activity B

Sometimes place names are used to refer to the kind of activity that takes place there. Look at the places in the box. Do you know which activities take place in these locations? If you're not sure, the example sentences below may give you some ideas. Check your answers by looking the places up in the dictionary.

Wall Street Broadway the City Silicon Valley Grub Street Madison Avenue

- 1 Experts on Wall Street predict a fall in profits for book retailers this year.
- 2 When the musical opened on Broadway, nobody believed it would be such a huge hit.
- 3 The atmosphere in the City has been gloomy since the Chancellor revealed his new business tax policies.
- 4 He was facing financial ruin and so took to Grub Street out of necessity rather than a desire to write.
- 5 The company is relying on Madison Avenue to sell its new products and turn its fortunes around.
- 6 Once Silicon Valley developed the new technology, it became part of the everyday lives of people all over the world.