

B1.II

Unit 4

**Exercise 1**

**Read the following text**

**India's Ambani hosts party for 'world's priciest home'**

Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani has hosted a lavish house-warming for his new 27-storey residence, believed to be the world's most expensive home. About 80 people attended the party in Mumbai on Friday, reported the Times of India. One guest described the house as "the Taj Mahal of the 21st Century". Reports suggest the residence is worth more than \$1bn (£630m).

Mr Ambani, said to be India's richest man, moved into the house last month with his wife and three children. The skyscraper in Mumbai (Bombay), which overlooks sprawling slums, is said to have a cinema, swimming pools and a helicopter pad, and is named "Antilia" after a mythical Atlantic island. Local newspapers said the house would require 600 members of staff to maintain it, and according to the Times of India, the first electricity bill, for September, is costing Mr Ambani 7m rupees (£98,000).

The house has sparked some controversy, with anti-poverty campaigners underlining the contrast between the luxury of the house and the plight of those who live in Mumbai's slums, which house about half of the city's 18 million people.

Guests at the house-warming included Indian novelist Shobha De, Bollywood stars Preity Zinta and Aamir Khan, and billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla. Mr Ambani is one of the world's richest men, with an estimated fortune of £17bn. Ms De said the 174m (570ft) building was the "Taj Mahal of the 21st Century". She described "what has got to be the biggest, glitziest ballroom in India - the Palace of Versailles is a poor cousin. There is a lot of marble, there is a lot of mother of pearl. There are areas and gardens and lotus pools and an absolutely beautiful Krishna temple. There is art, there's sculpture, there is a huge bar, there is a swimming pool. The Taj Mahal was considered one of the wonders of the world, this is...I'm sure it's going to be one of the wonders of modern India." she said.

She said the house was built to the personal taste of Mr Ambani, and that people should not "grudge him his indulgences".

"He generates a great amount of employment for those very poor and contributes to the economy," she added.

The house, which has a temple on the ground floor and a library on the top, was designed according to Vaastu principles, an Indian tradition similar to Chinese fengshui.

According to Forbes magazine, Mr Ambani, 53, has amassed a \$27bn (£17bn) fortune.

He is chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, one of the largest conglomerates in the world, and also owns the Indian Premier League team, the Mumbai Indians. Mr Ambani's brother, Anil, held a "parallel party" at the 14-storey residence which houses the rest of the family.

Relations between the brothers became strained during a dispute over the division of the conglomerate left by their father, Dhirubhai, who died in 2002 without a will.

Source - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-11854177>

## Exercise 2

### Answer the following questions

1. Why do you think people have criticized the building of the house?

.....

2. What did Mrs De say in defense of Mr. Ambani?

.....

3. How is the relationship between Mr Ambani and his brother?

.....

4. How many people did Mr Ambani employ?

.....

5. How does Mrs De describe the house?

.....

## Exercise 3

### Grammar: Direct and Indirect Questions. Complete the sentences.

1. Why did she cry? - I don't really know .....
2. Does she speak Greek? - I will ask her .....
3. Where is Joe? - I have no idea .....
4. I'd like to know what time..... - The show starts at 8 o'clock
5. Is he all right? - I do not know .....
6. What did he want? - I'm afraid I can't tell you .....
7. Do you know .....? - Yes, Jim Harrison is a writer.
8. Whose car was it? - I'm not quite sure .....
9. Is this the right train? - Let's ask someone.....

10. I wonder when..... . But they've already got married!
11. How long has she known him? - Well, I'd like to know.....
12. How much is this scarf? - Why do you want to know .....
13. Can you tell me..... ? - Her name is Maggie.
14. Do they have any free tickets? - Let's..... have .....
15. Do you remember where..... ? - The boxes were in the garage.
16. Which countries did she visit ? - To tell the truth, I haven't found out.....  
..... yet.

#### Exercise 4

**Vocabulary. Complete the sentences with the following expressions.**

- everything but the kitchen sink
- roof over their heads
- feel at home
- a home away from home
- make yourself at home
- nothing to write home about
- in the home stretch

1. When I visited them for the first time I knew it was the ideal place, the one where I would .....
2. Afterwards: the next three months were .....
3. Where you live can have a big impact on how much you enjoy your studies in the UK. Columbia's Residence Life Program provides .....for students.
4. We are .....as we approach testing next week.
5. John orders .....when he goes out to dinner, especially if someone else is paying for it.
6. I have to make a phone call but please .....
7. How can you expect children to stay clean and healthy when they don't have a decent .....