

Main photo: One World Trade Center tower rises to 68 stories. Below: the Memorial Park that opens this month. Middle photo: the Twin Towers before completion in 2012.



## Remember and Rebuild

LANGUAGE LEVEL: B2 UPPER/INTERMEDIATE

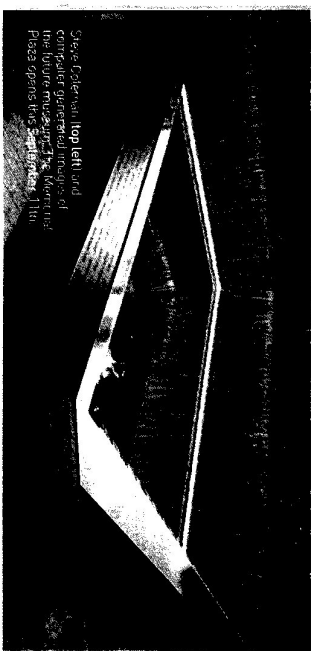
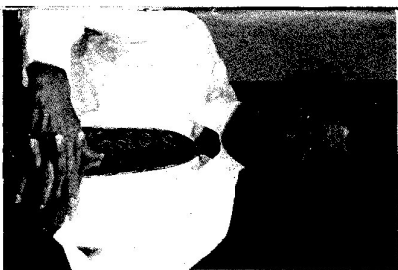
This September 11th, an 8-acre Memorial Plaza dedicated to those killed in the 9/11 attacks on New York's World Trade Center in 2001 will be officially opened. The Memorial contains the names of the 2,982 people who lost their lives in 2001, and in the World Trade Center bombing in 1993. The street-level Plaza is one of a number of projects currently being developed on the 16-acre Ground Zero site where the Twin Towers once stood. Under it, a commemorative museum will open next year. To find out more about the projects, *Speak Up* met with Steve Coleman, a spokesperson for the New York and New Jersey Port Authority:

**Steve Coleman (Standard American accent):** Currently we have several projects that are underway<sup>16</sup> to rebuild the World Trade Center site. Currently under construction is One World Trade Center, which will be the 1776 feet (541 m) tower, that'll be the biggest building on the site and, once it's completed, it'll be the tallest tower in the United States.

**SECRECY?** Some observers believe that the Ground Zero site is surrounded<sup>24</sup> in secrecy. We put this to Steve Coleman:

**Steve Coleman:** I don't think there's a lot of secrecy. I think what people don't understand is that a lot of the work we've done so far is being done below ground<sup>22</sup> and at street level, and, with the construction fence that we have to have around the project, to protect workers and tourists, it's difficult to see inside the site, other than the One World Trade Center, which is obviously 32 floors above street level, but we've built a 700,000 square-foot (65m<sup>2</sup>) basement for a good portion of the site, which is basically the size of a large office tower here in Manhattan, so it's a lot of space that's been built below ground.

We started a new website called [www.wtcprg.org](http://www.wtcprg.org), where we have updated construction photos going on on a regular basis, to try to keep people informed about what's going on behind the fence, and



Steve Coleman (top left) and colleague Gregoire Trosper (right) touring the site. Steve Coleman (middle) speaking to the press (photo by photographer) in the

we've also wrapped<sup>26</sup> the fence that surrounds the site with giant panels that we update on a regular basis, to kind of show you the type of work that's going on behind the fence, so that tourists that do come to the site can see what we're going back there.

**CONFLICTING INTERESTS** Steve Coleman did admit that there have been delays in the development of building projects, due to the many interests involved.

**Steve Coleman:** I think the biggest reason why it took so long was that a lot of people had a stake<sup>27</sup> in what was going to be built there. You had family members who lost loved ones that had a stake, you know, you had elected officials who had ideas about what was going to be built there, and you had the developer<sup>28</sup> who had the lease to the site, who had ideas of what he wanted to build there and it took a long time to reach consensus

as to exactly what the site would look like when it was rebuilt. You know, once that consensus was reached, and especially in the last two to three years, once we've determined who's going to build what, who's going to pay for it and how long it's going to take to get built, you know, we've seen some pretty tremendous progress. A lot of the work that's gone on for the past couple of years has been below-ground work, where we've had to build out a memorial museum, we've had to build out a basement for One World Trade Center, we've had to excavate the eastern part of the site, which had never been excavated before, that was basically, you know, a street-level plaza before 9/11. So it's been a lot of work that's gone on in the past two to three years, to work on areas of the site that are at street level, or below street level, which is why people probably haven't seen much until the tower started to rise above the fence.

## EXERCISES

Listening Questions

- Match the related words.
 

a) inscribed	1. achieved
b) under way	2. underground room
c) street level	3. agreement
d) updated	4. written, etched
e) fence	5. in progress
f) basement	6. brought into the present
g) consensus	7. wire or wooden barrier
h) reached	8. ground level
- Decide whether the following statements are true or false.
 

a) The Memorial Plaza covers all 16 acres of the site. (TRUE/FALSE)
b) The tallest tower in the world will be One World Trade Center. (TRUE/FALSE)
c) Visitors can see inside the new construction quite easily. (TRUE/FALSE)
d) The builders are trying to keep the construction a secret. (TRUE/FALSE)
e) The progress of the site was stalled because of competing interests. (TRUE/FALSE)
f) Much work has been done below street level. (TRUE/FALSE)
g) Giant screens show the progress going on within the site. (TRUE/FALSE)
h) A museum will be opened in 2012. (TRUE/FALSE)
- Insert vowels to create words used in the article. Example: constrin + o + u + i + o = construction
 

a) wr <u>o</u> pp <u>o</u> d	e) s <u>i</u> k
b) f <u>o</u> nc <u>e</u>	f) r <u>u</u> ll
c) w <u>o</u> rr <u>o</u> pp <u>o</u> d	g) b <u>u</u> rr <u>o</u> nt
d) g <u>o</u> st	h) x <u>o</u> rt

### ANSWERS

- |   |
|---|
| 1. a) 4, b) 5, c) 8, d) 6, e) 7, f) 2, g) 3, h) 1   |
| 2. a) False, b) False, c) False, d) False, e) True, f) True, g) False, h) True                |
| 3. a) wrapped, b) fence, c) website, d) giant, e) stake, f) rebuilt, g) basement, h) excavate |



### GLOSSARY

- UNDERWAY: en proceso
- TO SURROUND: rodear
- BELOW GROUND: bajo tierra
- TO WRAP: envolver
- TO HAVE A STAKE: tener un interés
- DEVELOPER: promotor inmobiliario

the others. In 2010, a CBS documentary focused on this apparent lack<sup>14</sup> of progress. It drew attention to 1WTC that had gone through<sup>17</sup> three different designs. Investor Larry Silverstein claimed<sup>18</sup> that billions of dollars had been spent and estimated completion date would not be until 2037. Ground Zero "is still a hole"<sup>19</sup> in the ground," he said.

**SENSATIONALISED**

While the site has experienced problems, Silverstein's claims have proven exaggerated. Although the future of Tower Five was put into question after the financial meltdown<sup>20</sup> of 2008, the other four buildings should be completed by 2016, the tallest by 2014.

The most imminent building to open is underground, however: the Museum, directly beneath the Memorial Park, will be inaugurated next September. It will display a collection of artifacts, personal ef-

facts and testimonies related to the former World Trade Center.

**MOVING ON**

The importance of the death of Osama bin Laden cannot be underestimated<sup>21</sup>, not least for President Obama, who, blighted<sup>22</sup> by the economic problems afflicting the US, is seeking re-election in November 2012. Only now is there a general feeling amongst North Americans that a process of healing<sup>23</sup> can finally begin, and that it is time to set aside<sup>24</sup> differences and focus on the rebuilding of New York City.

### GLOSSARY

- LACK: falta
- TO GO THROUGH: pasar por
- TO CLAIM: afirmar
- TO FINANCIAL MELTDOWN: debacle financiera
- TO UNDERESTIMATE: subvalorar
- BLIGHTED: abrumado
- HEALING: curación
- TO SET ASIDE: dejar de lado