

CHAPTER 7

Pallet Construction



Preview Questions

- **Do you recycle? What are other examples of “green” practices?**
- **Imagine that you need a very inexpensive place to live. What are some inexpensive types of housing?**

Pallets have become a popular product in the “green” community. Many people **would rather recycle** products **than buy** new ones. From furniture to skateboard ramps to houses, recycled pallets are everywhere -- if you know where to look! The following is an interview with pallet builder, Jill Murphy.

Interviewer: I understand that you built a pallet house after you had some money problems. **May** I ask you about that?

Murphy: Sure. In 2007 I lost my job and **couldn't** pay the rent. I knew a farmer with some vacant land, and we made an agreement. In exchange for some farm work, I **could build** on his land.

Interviewer: **Could** you **describe** your house?

Murphy: Sure. It's the size of a small bus. I built it with eighty pallets, a hammer, nails, and two friends.

Interviewer: They **must be** good friends!

Murphy: They are. I'd **better say** their names: Phil and Ina. Thanks guys!

Interviewer: Next, **could** you **explain** why pallets are becoming so popular?

Murphy: Because they're strong, they're everywhere, and they're usually free. Some pallets aren't very environmentally friendly, however. For example, some pallets **may** contain dangerous chemicals.

Interviewer: Do you still use those pallets, then?

Murphy: Well, you **might**. You **have to think about** your project. If you're building an outdoor bench, and you're going to paint the bench, then it's probably okay.

Interviewer: Finally, **would** you **talk** a little bit about where to find pallets? **Are** you **able** to buy them?

Murphy: Sure. Well, you **could buy** them, but you really **don't have to**. You **can find** them easily—for example, in the trash. Or **maybe** a business **will give** them to you if you agree to pick them up.

Interviewer: Interesting. That's a win-win, **isn't it**?

Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions.

1. What are some uses of pallets?

For furniture, skateboard ramps, houses.

2. What materials do you need to build a pallet house?

You need pallets, a hammer, nails, and a few friends.

3. Why are pallets popular?

They are strong, everywhere, and free.

4. Where can you get pallets?

You can buy them, find them in the trash, or get them from businesses.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Circle the correct completions.

*Read the sentences. Write **A** (ability), **P** (permission), **Pos** (possibility), **Ad** (advice), **Nec** (necessity), or **Pr** (preference).*

Nec 1. Do you **have to** get a permit before building a pallet house?

Pos 2. A pallet **may** be wooden, plastic, or metal.

A 3. A team of workers **can** build a pallet house in one day.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Circle the correct completions.

*Read the sentences. Write **A** (ability), **P** (permission), **Pos** (possibility), **Ad** (advice), **Nec** (necessity), or **Pr** (preference).*

Ad 4. **Should** you wear gloves when you work with pallets?

P 5. **May** we have your old pallets, please?

Pr 6. Some people **prefer** recycled materials; others like to work with new materials.

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