

Pre-intermediate Video script Unit 9

Unit 9 Green cities

P = presenter **A** = announcement

P: This is Abu Dhabi, one of the fastest growing cities on the planet. For some people, Abu Dhabi is their idea of a city of the future. For me, it's not. I believe the real cities of the future need to use technology in a radically different way. Just outside Abu Dhabi, they're starting to do just that. With so much wealth and available space, Abu Dhabi has begun an amazing new experiment – to build a new green city from scratch. Its name is Masdar. Currently under construction on the outskirts of Abu Dhabi, it will cost about 18 billion dollars and eventually be home to 40 thousand people. When you get to Masdar the first thing you do is park your car here on the outskirts of the city. Then you get into one of these, a driverless electric car.

A: Your vehicle is now ready to leave. Please be seated so that you may depart.

P: The cars are amongst the most advanced electric vehicles in the world. They're guided by GPS with route and speed predetermined. These driverless cars operate in a specially built basement underneath the city of Masdar. The advantage of that is that it leaves the ground level free for pedestrians to enjoy with no traffic. The kind of thing you can only do when you're building a city from scratch right from the ground level up.

A: The doors are opening, please mind the doors.

P: Now it's time to head up to street level, where the city really unfolds. The architects have turned away from the Abu Dhabi model of ever taller towers and ever wider highways and have reverted to the low rise buildings of traditional Arab architecture. Although it's the middle of the day and we're in the desert, it's surprisingly comfortable in here. The streets are narrow and shady and there's a nice breeze. It's an altogether nicer place to be than in the streets of Abu Dhabi.