

The Shard stands tall over London 欧洲最高建筑——碎片大厦高耸伦敦

Vocabulary: height 同高度相关词语

How high is too high? This week the tallest building in Europe was completed in London. The 95-storey, 310m 'Shard' now soars over the city's skyline.

The lofty building has been steadily erected on the south bank of the River Thames near London Bridge. Funded by Qatari financiers, the spectacular structure is both loved and reviled.



Standing opposite the domed St. Paul's Cathedral, The Shard dwarfs the rest of London's metropolis. Its 11,000 glass panes are uniquely angled so they reflect light and alter the building's appearance according to the weather.

With capacity for 12,000 people, London's Shard will contain apartments, a hotel, office space and restaurants. Members of the public will also be able to enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view over the capital from the summit. Tickets aren't cheap though. At £25 (250 yuan), the cost of scaling the tower will be sky-high.

Designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano – who originally compared it to a broken shard of glass – the slender tower is seen by some as like a colossal church steeple. But critics suggest it is an elevated eyesore and a blot on the landscape. They argue it is an arrogant landmark that taints the visual integrity of a great city.

Whether liked or loathed, The Shard's title of Europe's tallest building will not last long. Once completed, the 332m Mercury City Tower in Moscow, Russia will soon stand tallest.

Gigantic these may be, but both are relatively squat compared to the world's tallest building: the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. At a staggering height of 829m, this skyscraper really does overlook the rest of the world's tall buildings.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What is another name given to the floors in a building?
2. Where in London is The Shard?
3. What word is used to describe an unbroken view of the entire surrounding area?
4. What phrase is used to describe something that is very ugly?
5. What is another name for a church spire?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. It isn't fair that every year senior management pay _____, but the average worker's wage remains exactly the same.

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|-------|
| dwarfs | high | reaches | soars |
|--------|------|---------|-------|

2. Authorities have approved plans for 200 solar panels to be _____ in five fields in the area.

| | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|---------|
| scaled | erected | elevated | tainted |
|--------|---------|----------|---------|

3. He had climbed most of the way but did not make it to the _____ because he felt unwell.

| | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| steeple | overlook | panorama | summit |
|---------|----------|----------|--------|

4. Critics say that the chemical Agent Orange _____ food and water supplies, leading to crippling birth defects.

| | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| reviles | tastes | shards | taints |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|

5. We walked down into the valley, towards a handful of small, _____ buildings in the distance.

| | | | |
|------------|-------|----------|--------|
| skyscraper | squat | sky-high | dwarfs |
|------------|-------|----------|--------|

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What is another name given to the floors in a building? storeys
2. Where in London is The Shard? On the south bank of the River Thames near London Bridge
3. What word is used to describe an unbroken view of the entire surrounding area? panoramic
4. What phrase is used to describe something that is very ugly? an eyesore
5. What is another name for a church spire? a steeple

Exercise 练习

1. It isn't fair that every year senior management pay soars, but the average worker's wage remains exactly the same.
2. Authorities have approved plans for 200 solar panels to be erected in five fields in the area.
3. He had climbed most of the way but did not make it to the summit because he felt unwell.
4. Critics say that the chemical Agent Orange taints food and water supplies, leading to crippling birth defects.
5. We walked down into the valley, towards a handful of small, squat buildings in the distance.

Glossary 词汇表

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Tallest | 最高的 |
| Storey | 楼层 |
| Soars | 高高耸立的 |
| Lofty | 高耸的 |
| Erected | 矗立 |
| Reviled | 被痛斥的 |
| Dwarfs | 使...变矮 |
| Panoramic | 全景的 |
| Summit | 高峰 |
| Scaling | 攀高 |
| sky-high | 天高的，意思是数字巨大的 |
| Slender | 苗条的，细高的 |
| Steeple | 尖塔 |
| an elevated eyesore | 高得令人眼晕 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| a blot on the landscape | 破坏风景的东西 |
| Landmark | 地标 |
| Taints | 煞风景 |
| Squat | 低矮的 |
| Skyscraper | 摩天大楼 |
| Overlook | 眺望 |