Sarah: Hi, Todd.

Todd: Hey, Sarah. How are you?

Sarah: Good. How are you?

Todd: Not bad.

Sarah: So I heard you are from San Francisco.

Todd: That’s right. Yeah, I was born there and I lived in the city for many years.

Sarah: Cool. What is the most interesting thing about your city?

Todd: Well, San Francisco has many interesting things, but the most interesting thing is probably the architecture. There’s lots of very unique buildings. And the most unique building is probably the Trans-America building. It’s a building like a pyramid. It’s nice.

Sarah: Well, that’s really cool.

Todd: Uh-hmm.

Sarah: What is the most expensive area in San Francisco?

Todd: Well, it is very, very expensive. The most expensive area is a place called Pacific Heights, and it’s on the highest hill in San Francisco and it overlooks the Bay. It’s a really, really beautiful place.

Sarah: Hmm.

Todd: That area by far has the best views of the city.

Sarah: Hmm, what is the most beautiful place in San Francisco?

Todd: Well, actually the most beautiful place is outside the city. It’s a place called Muir Woods. And it has the tallest trees in the world, and some of these trees are really old. They are the oldest trees in North America. Some of them are over 2,000 years old.

Sarah: Wow. It sounds like some place I would like to see. So it sounds really expensive. Where is the cheapest place to live?

Todd: The cheapest place to live is a place called Sunset. And Sunset is on the west side, and the houses are kind of old and they’re a little bit cheap. But one thing about Sunset is it has nicest view of the ocean, and you could watch the sunset every night. That’s why it’s called the Sunset area.

Sarah: Hmm. If I wanted to go there, when is the best time to

Quiz

1) The nicest area is _____ .
   a) by the beach
   b) on a hill
   c) downtown

2) The Trans-America building looks like a _____ .
   a) map
   b) egg
   c) pyramid

3) Pacific Heights overlooks _____ .
   a) the bay
   b) a park
   c) downtown

4) The trees in Muir Woods are over _____ .
   a) 2000 feet tall
   b) 2000 years old
   c) 200 feet wide

5) The Sunset area is _____ .
   a) expensive
   b) cheap
   c) ugly

Vocabulary

architecture

The most interesting thing is the architecture.

Architecture refers to buildings. Notice the following:
1. Shanghai has great architecture.
2. He studied architecture in college.

unique

The most unique building is probably the Trans-America building.

Something that is unique is not like other things. Notice the following:
1. The city has unique buildings.
2. Coit Tower has a unique design.

pyramid

It’s a building like a pyramid.

A pyramid had four sides meeting at one point. Notice the following:
1. The Aztecs also made Pyramids
2. The cheerleaders stood in a pyramid.
overlook

It overlooks the Bay.

Here, to overlook something means to have a view of something. Notice the following:

1. The house overlook the ocean.
2. His apartment overlooks a park.

by far

That area by far has the best views of the city.

We use the phrase 'by far' to show much difference in two things being compared. Notice the following:

1. Bikes are by far the cleanest form of transportation.
2. New York is by far America's best city.

over

Some of them are over 2,000 years old.

Here, 'over' means 'more than'. Notice the following:

1. The meeting lasted over three hours.
2. It cost over three grand.

Vocabulary Quiz

architecture • unique • pyramid

overlook • by far • over

1. The houses _______ the ocean.
2. She is, _______ , the best student in class.
3. I climbed a _______ in Egypt.
4. We drove for _______ three hours.
5. The _______ in the city is very unique.
6. Her style is very _______ .

visit?

Todd: Well, the best time is probably in the fall because that’s when the weather is the nicest. It’s not too cold, and it’s not too hot. And it doesn’t rain that much.

Sarah: So when would be the worst time to visit?

Todd: The worst time to visit would be probably February and March, because February and March are the coldest and wettest months. So – well, March isn’t that cold but sometimes it’s wet, so it rains a lot.

Sarah: Wow. That sounds really great. I want to go there.

Todd: Yeah, you should. It’s great place.

[End of Transcript]