



# The Human Towers<sup>1</sup> of Catalonia

—Owain Mckimm

## 加泰隆尼亞疊人塔

加泰隆尼亞 (Catalonia [ˌkætəˈlonjə]) 位於西班牙東北部，與法國、安道爾接壤，該自治區首府為巴塞隆納 (Barcelona [ˌbɑːrsəˈlɒnə])，有自己的語言 (Catalan [ˌkætələn]，亦可作形容詞，指「加泰隆尼亞(人、語)的」)，文化與習俗，數世紀以來，加泰隆尼亞人 (Catalonian [ˌkætəˈlonjən]) 已數度嘗試脫離西班牙要求獨立。

17 課文朗讀 正常 Track 25 / 慢速 Track 63

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課文朗讀

慢速課文朗讀

單字朗讀

If you visit the beautiful region of Catalonia in northeastern Spain, you **are likely to see** many impressive castles, or *castells*, as they are called in the Catalan language. However, these castles are not made of **bricks**<sup>2</sup> and mortar. ♦ They are in fact made of people!

5 This folk tradition of building human “castles,” or towers, has a long history in the region and **goes back** at least two hundred years. Castells are “built” by teams who are members of a club. There are **roughly**<sup>3</sup> 70 of these clubs in Catalonia today. Members train hard together in **preparation**<sup>4</sup> for their performances, 10 which usually take place in city squares during large festivals.

**Originally**,<sup>5</sup> only men were allowed to **take part**, and because the average man is 15 fairly heavy, towers were typically fairly small. In the 1980s, however, women were finally allowed to



participate. This gave the practice a major 20 boost, ♦ as women’s lighter bodies allowed the towers to reach unprecedented ♦ heights. Today, some can be up to 10 levels tall!

18 課文朗讀 正常 Track 27 / 慢速 Track 64  
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課文朗讀

慢速課文朗讀

單字朗讀

Building one of these human towers 25 takes great skill, **balance**,<sup>6</sup> and preparation. When the day of the performance comes, the castle-building team carries out several well-rehearsed steps.

First, **those who form** the tower’s 30 wide base move into place. The people there must **be strong and stable**<sup>7</sup> enough to hold the weight of the whole tower. When the base is ready, those who form the upper levels climb up over their 35 teammates ♦ and quickly form the *tronk*—the tall **structure**<sup>8</sup> in the tower’s center. Finally, a child climbs to the very top, raises one hand, and sticks out four 40 fingers (which stand for the four bars of the Catalan flag). This completes the tower. Then, group



45 by group, they climb down until everyone is safe on the ground. It’s all over in less than five minutes!

Tourists might **view** the building of the towers as simply impressive acrobatic ♦ 50 acts. But for Catalonians, the towers **represent**<sup>9</sup> something very important. To them, these human towers are a way to show their **strength**<sup>10</sup> as a community ♦ and their pride in Catalonia’s culture, 55 identity, and independent spirit. **Live**

\* 中文翻譯請參閱第 68 頁

What Do You Think?

Have you ever taken part in an activity that required good teamwork? If you haven’t, can you describe one?

- One time, I . . . Good teamwork is needed for this activity because . . .
- An activity that requires good teamwork is . . . Good teamwork is needed for this activity because . . .