

## SMURF IT !

### Vocabulaire : que puis-je faire quand je ne connais pas le mot ?

1. Faire appel à mon bon sens : inférer à partir du contexte ou de la construction du mot (dérivation)
2. Le mot **peut ressembler au français** (attention aux rares faux-amis toutefois), mot transparent
3. C'est un **verbe irrégulier** que je connais bien (ces verbes sont sur-représentés)
4. Quelle peut-être la nature du mot ? Nom, verbe, adjectif, adverbe, ... ?
5. C'est frustrant mais tant pis : voyons ce que cela donne si je remplace les mots a priori inconnus par le mot smurf qui ne veut rien dire ...

By 1927, the commanding **apartment** buildings along Park Avenue **were** not just tall; they **were immensely** tall, true towers, the first skyscrapers **built** for **permanent** living. The tallest of them **was** the Ritz Tower, **shooting** up from the pavement at the **corner** of Fifty-seventh Street and Park Avenue. **Built** for blue-bloods and tycoons by Emery Roth, it opened in October 1926 and **was** one of the first **residential** buildings in New York **constructed** in sympathy with the city's landmark **zoning** law of 1916.

Concerned about **diminishing** sunlight and **fresh air** in the canyonlike streets **created** by the closely massed skyscrapers of lower Manhattan, the city **placed a limit on the maximum** height and bulk of tall buildings. Height **limits were based** upon the width of the street a building faced; if a **developer proposed** to exceed **the legal limit**, the stories above it had to be set back, roughly one foot for each four feet of **additional** height.

**Forced to** work within the confines of the so-called zoning envelope, **architects began constructing** "set-back" skyscrapers, with **sections** of the buildings set back further and further as they **rose** from their **bases** into the island's sky. "Wedding cake" **architecture**, some New Yorkers called it.

The Ritz Tower **was** forty-one stories high. The tallest **inhabited** building in the world, it **dominated** the skyline of Midtown Manhattan as the Woolworth Building did that of lower Manhattan. **Residents** of its upper stories **had** unobstructed **views** in **all directions** for **a distance** of twenty-five miles on clear days, "panorama[s] unexcelled in all New York," Emery Roth boasted.

It **was** a new way of living for **the rich**. They **became** sky dwellers, their "mansions in the clouds" higher than anyone had ever lived. In its architectural aspirations alone, the Ritz Tower **expressed** the shoot-for-the-moon **spirit** of the Jazz Age. Sculpted in rusticated limestone, it **rose** from its **base** "like a **telescope**," up through its set-back **terraces** to a square tower crowned by a glistening copper roof.

## Smurfed version

By 1927, the smurfing apartment buildings along Park Avenue were not just tall; they were immensely tall, true smurfs, the first skyscrapers built for permanent living. The tallest of them was the Ritz Tower, smurfing up from the smurf at the corner of Fifty-seventh Street and Park Avenue. Built for smurfs and smurfs by Emery Roth, it opened in October 1926 and was one of the first residential buildings in New York constructed in smurf with the city's smurf zoning law of 1916.

Concerned about diminishing smurf and fresh air in the smurf streets created by the smurfly smurfed skyscrapers of lower Manhattan, the city placed a limit on the maximum smurf and smurf of tall buildings. Smurf limits were based upon the smurf of the street a building faced; if a developer proposed to smurf the legal limit, the smurfs above it had to be smurfed back, smurfly one foot for each four feet of additional smurf.

Forced to work within the smurfs of the smurfed zoning envelope, architects began constructing "smurfed" skyscrapers, with sections of the buildings set back smurfer and smurfer as they rose from their bases into the island's sky. "Smurfing cake" architecture, some New Yorkers called it.

The Ritz Tower was forty-one smurfs high. The tallest inhabited building in the world, it dominated the smurf of Midtown Manhattan as the Woolworth Building did that of lower Manhattan. Residents of its smurfer stories had unsmurfed views in all directions for a distance of twenty-five miles on clear days, "panorama[s] unsmurfed in all New York," Emery Roth smurfed.

It was a new way of living for the rich. They became sky smurfers, their "smurfs in the clouds" higher than anyone had ever lived. In its architectural aspirations alone, the Ritz Tower expressed the smurf-for-the-moon spirit of the Jazz Age. Sculpted in smurfed smurf, it rose from its base "like a telescope," up through its set-back terraces to a smurf tower smurfed by a smurfing copper roof.