



# LESSON 10. CITY AND TOWN LIFE

## City vs. Town

Cities and towns are differentiated primarily by an area's **demography** and its **geography**. In simple terms, cities are larger dwelling places than towns. Cities cover a wider area than towns and as cities advance, they may sometimes **incorporate** or merge with surrounding areas. Towns on the other hand do not generally expand into other areas in the same way as cities.

Cities are more **densely** populated than towns. Towns, as mentioned earlier, are smaller than cities but bigger than villages. Unlike towns, most cities are the seat of most of a region's **administrative functions**, that is to say, most of the important administrative offices are situated in the cities.





## Listening 10.1

### Being Cautious in a Big City

Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the listening then discuss the text with your teacher.

**A:** Do I need to take any special safety (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in this city?

**B:** This is a very large city with a lot of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to work your way through. Keep in mind that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ makes people a little more (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

**A:** What should I (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for?

**B:** You have to pay special attention at train stations, airports, and tourist (6) \_\_\_\_\_. They are known for having a lot of (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

**A:** There are so many children (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on the street that I don't know which ones to give money to.

**B:** It is a natural (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to want to give money to those children, but it is better to give money to one of the local (9) \_\_\_\_\_ or schools.

**A:** Are the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ food and drink safe?

**B:** Avoid eating food prepared by street (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Use only bottled water.

**A:** How safe is it to be out at night?

**B:** You should always travel with others at night and stick to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ areas.

1. Fun
2. Job
3. Tiring
4. Boring
5. Drive
6. Difficult

**COUNTRY LIFE:** Living in the countryside maybe more relaxing, but it can get (1) \_\_\_\_\_ as life is slower. There is less to do to have (2) \_\_\_\_\_, like going to the cinema or shopping centre. It is also more (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to get to places because often there are no good public transport systems. Getting a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in the country may also be harder. Most jobs are in the city so people have to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ there everyday and this can be (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

1. crowded
2. Lonely
3. Dangerous
4. Stressed
5. Pollution
6. Secure

**CITY LIFE:** Living in the city maybe exciting but it is also (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The crime rate is higher and people may feel less (2) \_\_\_\_\_ than in the countryside. Also there is more (3) \_\_\_ because of the cars. So there are more traffic jams. Cities are bigger so there are more (4) \_\_\_\_\_. City life is faster and people are often so busy and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that they don't have time to pay much attention to their neighbours. Some people may also feel (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

**What about you?** Write a small text about whether you'd prefer to live in the city or the country side.

**Situation:** Jack and Andrew talk about London versus New York City.

**Andrew:** Will you go back to the US after you graduate?

**Jack:** I don't know yet. I want to pursue an academic career and there are many more universities here in London than in New York.

**Andrew:** Really?

**Jack:** And more museums! You know I like visiting museums on the weekend. **Andrew:** London is also\_(1) \_\_\_\_\_ with the bike sharing system. **Jack:** That's right.

**Andrew:** Isn't there something that you like from New York?

**Jack:** Um..., I like the seaside beach. The public transport is also cheaper than in London. The society is also more diverse.

**Andrew:** What about \_\_\_\_\_(2)\_\_\_\_\_?

**Jack:** Well, I've read somewhere that New York has a higher average salary but the quality of living ranks below London. That means London is better in terms of \_\_\_\_\_(3)\_\_\_\_\_.

**Andrew:** I think that's because London has more universities and \_\_\_\_\_(4)\_\_\_\_\_.

**Jack:** Yeah, but \_\_\_\_\_(5)\_\_\_\_\_ is more expensive.

**Andrew:** You know what I like most from London? The green space! This city has 8 royal parks and about 8 million trees! I'm proud to be a Londoner!

# Vocabulary Activity

Choose the best option (A-D) in the following five questions to fill in the blanks in the cities conversation given above.

- 1) Which option is the best to fill in the first blank?
  - A) full of cyclists
  - B) full of bikes
  - C) more car friendly
  - D) more cyclist friendly
- 2) Which option is the best to fill in the second blank?
  - A) New York rank
  - B) London rank
  - C) the quality of living
  - D) the quality of salary
- 3) Which option is the best to fill in the third blank?
  - A) New York
  - B) the rank
  - C) big city
  - D) education and healthcare
- 4) Which option is the best to fill in the fourth blank?
  - A) affordable public health care
  - B) access to sport centers

- C) department stores
  - D) highways
- 5) Which option is the best to fill in the fifth blank?
    - A) city living
    - B) living in London
    - C) living in the New York
    - D) living in big cities



In what country can we find these famous cities?

London	Singapore	Amsterdam	Prague
Bangkok	Kuala Lumpur	Rome	Los Angeles
Paris	Seoul	Milan	Berlin
Dubai	Hongkong	Taipei	Copenhagen
Istanbul	Tokyo	Shanghai	Budapest
New York	Barcelona	Vienna	Genève
Montreal	Sydney	Moscow	Mumbai
San Francisco	Rio De Janeiro	Honolulu	Athens

## Adjectives that describe places

- A. beautiful
- B. bright
- C. crowded
- D. dirty
- E. empty
- F. expensive
- G. large
- H. messy
- I. modern
- J. neat
- K. new
- L. noisy
- M. spacious
- N. tall
- O. traditional

1. That restaurant must serve really good food. It's really \_\_. There are so many people there.
2. There are lots of clothes and books and toys all over my son's bedroom. It's very \_\_.
3. I really like my apartment. It isn't dark. It has large windows, so it's very.
4. After my son cleaned his room it was\_\_\_\_\_.
5. No one is in the classroom. It's\_\_\_\_\_.
6. That house costs a lot of money. It's\_\_\_\_\_.
7. It's not an ugly building. In fact, it's really quite\_\_\_\_\_.
8. Sixty thousand people can sit in that football stadium. It's not small, it's\_.
9. We didn't eat at that restaurant because it wasn't clean. It was\_\_.
10. There is a\_\_\_\_\_office building near my home. It wasn't there last year.
11. Our home is too small. We want to move to a more\_\_\_apartment.
12. There is a small \_\_\_\_\_market in our town. It's the same as markets a hundred years ago.
13. I need a quiet place to study. This place is too\_\_\_\_\_.
14. It's a \_\_\_\_\_building. It has 35 floors.
15. That supermarket isn't a traditional market. It's very\_.



# Describe and Discuss

TALKING ABOUT CITIES. Complete the sentences



There is too much \_\_\_\_\_.



We have a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ skyscrapers



The roads are always \_\_\_\_\_.



The \_\_\_\_\_ is very good.



There is a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ pollution from the factories



The rivers are very \_\_\_\_\_.



The buses are so \_\_\_\_\_

## THE APPOSITIVE

Recognize an appositive when you see one.

An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that renames another noun right beside it. The appositive can be a short or long combination of words. Look at these appositive examples, all of which rename *insect*:

- The insect, *a cockroach*, is crawling across the kitchen table.
- The insect, *a large cockroach*, is crawling across the kitchen table.
- The insect, *a large cockroach with hairy legs*, is crawling across the kitchen table.
- The insect, *a large, hairy-legged cockroach that has spied my bowl of oatmeal*, is crawling across the kitchen table.

### Here are more examples:

1. During the dinner conversation, Clifford, *the messiest eater at the table*, spewed mashed potatoes like an erupting volcano.
2. My 486 computer, *a modern-day dinosaur*, chews floppy disks as noisily as my brother does peanut brittle.
2. Genette's bedroom desk, *the biggest disaster area in the house*, is a collection of overdue library books, dirty plates, computer components, old mail, cat hair, and empty potato chip bags.

## Punctuate the appositive correctly.

The important point to remember is that a nonessential appositive is *always* separated from the rest of the sentence with comma(s).

When the appositive *begins* the sentence, it looks like this:

***A hot-tempered tennis player,*** Robbie charged the umpire and tried to crack the poor man's skull with a racket.

When the appositive *interrupts* the sentence, it looks like this:

Robbie, ***a hot-tempered tennis player,*** charged the umpire and tried to crack the poor man's skull with a racket.

And when the appositive *ends* the sentence, it looks like this:

Upset by the bad call, the crowd cheered Robbie, ***a hot-tempered tennis player who charged the umpire and tried to crack the poor man's skull with a racket.***

**Identify the appositives in the following sentences.**

1. My son, the policeman, will be visiting us next week.
2. The captain ordered the ship's carpenters to assemble the Express Boat, a large rowboat.
3. Sakada, the playboy and writer, is very attached to his mother.
4. The actor Daro directed only one picture.
5. A sweet and lovable girl, Reaksa grew up to be a mentally troubled woman.
6. Queen Victoria, one of England's greatest monarchs, ruled for sixty-three years.
7. Puthea made Prohok, traditional Khmer food.
8. Razity, the lecturer at Norton University, is giving me writing lessons.
9. Pailin Rose, a well-known novel, has been filmed twice.
10. Chemistry, Sambo's favorite subject, is easy for him.
11. Chet is visiting in Takeo, his old home town.
12. Mr. and Mrs. Dara, our neighbors for the past eight years, are moving to Phnom Penh.
13. Have you ever read a novel by William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet?
14. Mr. Koy, the star of many film comedies, also had his own television show.
15. The boys repaired our television Panasonic.

Rewrite the following sentences, adding appositive phrases as specified in parenthesis. Punctuate the appositive phrases used and underline them. (Note: You can add appositives after any noun in the sentence.)

**Example:** The girls went to the park. (Begin your appositive with a negation.)

**Answers:** The girls, not the boys, went to the park.

or The girls went to the park, not the museum.

1. Tom turned the car to the left. (Begin your appositive with a negation.)
2. The smugglers took the contaminated fish to market. (Begin your appositive with the word “fish.”)
3. The pilot ate his dessert while he was piloting the plane. (Begin your appositive with the pronoun “something.”)
4. The students entered the talent show. (Begin your appositive with the connective word “especially.”)
5. The woman drank tea before sleeping. (Begin your appositive with the word “tea.”)
6. The boys choose to go watch action movies. (Begin your appositive with the negation “never.”)
7. Doughnuts are often high in fat. (Begin your appositive with the pronoun “the kind.”)
8. The dinner was given by the people at the church. (Begin your appositive with the connective “mainly.”)



## Listening 10.2

### City vs Country

overall • actually • opposite extreme • whereas • outweigh

1. She eats a lot of sweets \_\_\_\_\_, he prefers salty foods.
2. It is frustrating work sometimes, but I think the positives \_\_\_\_\_ the negatives.
3. What did you think of the hotel \_\_\_\_\_?
4. I couldn't believe it. There was \_\_\_\_\_ a pool in the living room.
5. She is very moody. She goes from really happy to the \_\_\_\_\_.

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. There are eight thousand people in Michelle's town.
2. Michelle and her friends always feel safe when they are inside playing.
3. The theater in her town wasn't a great one.
4. Michelle thinks that people in Tokyo aren't friendly.
5. There is a privacy problem in small towns.

## Matching Activity

- A. Rustic charm
- B. Quaint old buildings
- C. In the middle of nowhere
- D. Inner city
- E. Upmarket shops
- F. Sprawling city

- A. Bumper-to-bumper traffic
- B. Hectic pace
- C. Congested roads
- D. Bored rigid
- E. Derelict buildings
- F. Deprived areas

### Describing cities and towns

1. an extremely isolated place
2. for people with expensive tastes
3. the centre of the city
4. spread over a large area
5. attractive because of being unusual and old-fashioned
6. appeal that is simple and picturesque

### Towns and cities and their problems

1. very busy and fast pace
2. not having the things that are necessary for a pleasant life e.g. enough money, good living conditions
3. so many cars and so close that they are almost touching each other.
4. buildings that are not cared for or are in bad condition
5. roads that are blocked because of too much traffic
6. extremely bored
7. not having the things that are necessary for a pleasant life e.g. enough money, good living conditions

Use the words from the previous activity to complete the paragraph.

I used to live in a small town \_\_\_\_\_. I have good memories of this town. It had \_\_\_\_\_ and the streets were lined with \_\_\_\_\_. There was a bad side though. There wasn't much for the young people to do and most of them were \_\_\_\_\_. They used to graffiti old \_\_\_\_\_ because they didn't have anything constructive to spend their time on.

Later in life, I moved to a \_\_\_\_\_. It was a big change. It had a very \_\_\_\_\_ of life and it was almost impossible to drive around in the \_\_\_\_\_ due to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. But I loved catching a bus into the city to visit all the \_\_\_\_\_. There were so many of them. Generally I felt very safe in that city, but there were a few \_\_\_\_\_ where the councils were not doing enough to fix the problems and the crime rate was high.



Explain the meaning of the following Idioms:

**All roads lead to Rome** – “So long as you meet the deadline, I don't care how much help you get-all roads lead to Rome.”

**when in Rome (do as the Romans do)** - “I don't drink wine usually but on holiday, well, when in Rome...F

**Rome wasn't built in a day.** - “Sometimes it feels like we've spent all our lives decorating this house.' 'Well, Rome wasn't built in a day.'

F

**City Slicker** – “Them city slickers think we're stupid just because we talk different” **Cardboard City** – “Young people come to the capital full of hope and end up in cardboard city.”

**Cement City** – “I'm too young to end up in cement city”

**Fat City** - “With that new job she'll be in fat city.”

1. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of living in a city?
2. Is your city a sprawling city?
3. Do you know the neighbours who live near you?
4. What's your favourite city? Why?
5. What parts of your city do you like the most?
6. Does your city ever have bumper-to-bumper traffic?
7. Do you like the hectic pace of life in the city?
8. Does your city have any areas with upmarket shops?
9. What is the inner city like?
10. What aspects of life in the city would you complain about?
11. Are there any deprived areas in your city?
12. What do you think should be done to improve living condition in cities?
13. What are some differences between living in the city and living in a small town?
14. What monuments of your city do you consider the most impressive?
15. Which city's sports team do you cheer for?
16. In what ways are people from cities different to people from small towns?
17. What do you like about small towns?
18. Have you ever visited a small town with rustic charm and quaint old buildings?
19. Have you ever stayed in a town that is in the middle of nowhere? Did you like it?



**The End**