

## PRE-INTERMEDIATE UNIT 10

- 1 Work in pairs and discuss. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a big city?
- 2 Read the article about living in London. Does Claudia mention more advantages or disadvantages?

## MY LIFE IN LONDON



*London is widely regarded as one of the greatest cities in the world, but what is it like to actually live there? Claudia Clark moved there as a student 20 years ago and never left. So what made her stay?*

What I really love about living in London is the fact that it is so cosmopolitan. It's sometimes described as the 'capital of the world' and I think that it's true; you see people from lots of different countries and you can eat at amazing restaurants of any global cuisine. I think that this mix of people gives London **a real buzz** unlike anywhere else in Europe. I also really love that there are so many parks in London; it's an enormous city but you never feel too **overwhelmed** or **stressed out** because you can easily escape and lose yourself amongst the trees. Another thing that I like about London is that there's so much to see and do here; there are loads of museums, galleries and theatres which **showcase** some of the finest art and culture in the world.

**On the other hand**, London can be a **tough** city to live in, especially if you don't have much money. The cost of housing here is incredibly high and you often end up living miles away from where you work or study so you have a really long commute. Public transport is also really expensive in London, and it's really crowded on the buses and the underground, especially at rush hour. And I suppose there's probably more crime and pollution than you get in smaller towns, but I think that's the same in all big cities.

**Overall**, I think the positives **outweigh** the negatives, and I recommend living in London to anyone.

- 3 Read the article again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?
  - 1 Claudia likes the fact that London is multicultural.
  - 2 She says you can eat lots of different types of food in London.
  - 3 There aren't many green spaces in London.
  - 4 She says she finds living in London very stressful.
  - 5 She says that housing is inexpensive.
  - 6 She says that people in London usually live close to where they work.
  - 7 She says public transport is busier at certain times of the day.
  - 8 She thinks there's more crime in London than in other big cities.

- 4 Match the words and phrases in bold in the text with their meanings 1–8.

- 1 in general/on the whole
- 2 so worried and tired that you can't relax
- 3 difficult
- 4 an exciting atmosphere
- 5 a feeling that something is too much
- 6 show off the good qualities of something
- 7 however/on the contrary
- 8 be more important than something else

- 5 10.1 Listen to two people who live in London talking about issues that concern them. What issues do they mention?

- 6 Listen to again. Who talks about the following: Florence (F), Will (W) or both (B)?

- 1 the cost of public transport
- 2 different things you can do in London
- 3 having to stand for a long period of time
- 4 compares his/her situation with that of his/her friends
- 5 something that keeps increasing
- 6 work
- 7 waiting somewhere for a long time
- 8 people acting in a rude way

- 7A Complete the extracts with the words in the box.

winds bothers stand mad nerves fed up

- 1 What I really can't \_\_\_\_\_ is transport in London.
- 2 ... it just drives me \_\_\_\_\_ when I pay so much ...
- 3 ... really gets on my \_\_\_\_\_ is when I'm waiting for ages at the bus stop ...
- 4 ... it really \_\_\_\_\_ me!
- 5 I get really \_\_\_\_\_ with the cost of living in London.
- 6 ... it really \_\_\_\_\_ me up.

- B Listen and check.

- 8 When do we use the expressions in Exercise 7?

- 1 to talk about things that annoy us
- 2 to talk about things we enjoy

- 9 Complete the sentences so that they are true for you. Compare your sentences with a partner.

- 1 It gets on my \_\_\_\_\_ when ...
- 2 I can't \_\_\_\_\_ it when ...
- 3 It drives me \_\_\_\_\_ when ...
- 4 I get \_\_\_\_\_ with ...
- 5 It \_\_\_\_\_ me when ...
- 6 It \_\_\_\_\_ me up when ...