Lingoda

COMMUNICATION

Talking about places and urban living

LEVEL	NUMBER	LANGUAGE
Upper-Intermediate (B2)	EN_B2_2031X	English

Learning outcomes

- I can identify different types of places and compare and contrast their characteristics.

- I can give my opinion on a range of aspects related to urban living.

Can you think of a city that might be described as a 'concrete jungle'?

Type your answer in the chat!

Matching

Match the place with the correct description.

| 1 metropolitan area | 2 port city | 3 medieval town | 4 residential area |

A
- Date from the Middle Ages
- Most of these cities arose along rivers or at important crossroads
- Often surrounded by walls intended to keep out hostile enemies
- Usually have ancient churches, narrow streets, and small shops

B
- Large and busy, usually because they are an important city in a nation
- Densely populated
- Central economic political regions
- Many concrete buildings
- Often a lot of traffic

C
- Located next to the coast where ships are able to anchor
- Usually protected by a sea wall
- Usually have strategic naval and economic importance
- Is able to receive imports via the sea

D
- A district where people live
- Also known as suburbia
- Located on the outskirts of a city
- Easy access to the centre of towns and cities

A large percentage of the country's population live in **suburbia**.

Do you live in **suburbia**?

Do many people in your country live in **suburbia**?

Discuss

1. **Think** of some examples of the types of places below.
2. **Answer** this question: Which type of place would you prefer to live in? Why?
3. **Work** in breakout rooms or together as a class.

port cities

residential areas
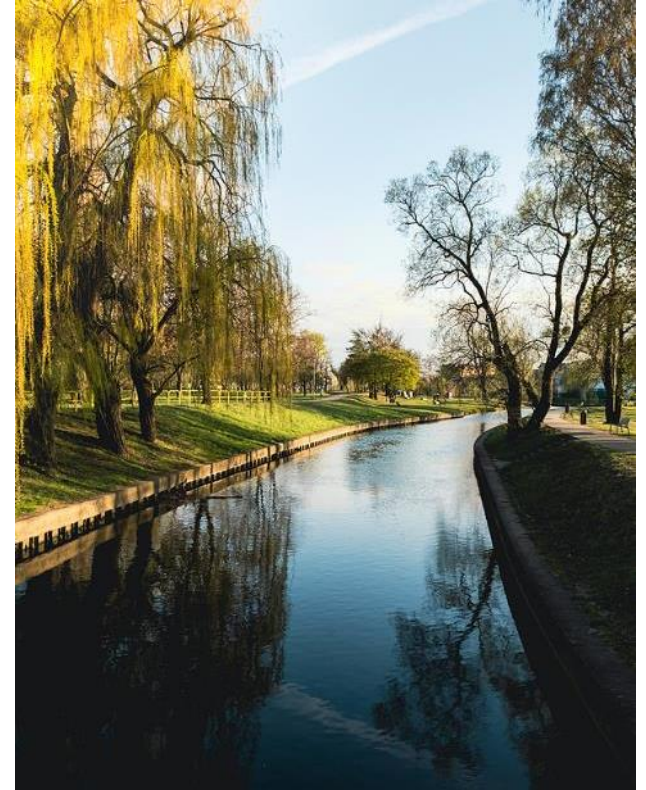
metropolitan cities

medieval towns

What's your opinion?

Answer the question below.

It is better to have more parks in the city centre than businesses that might improve the economy.

Do you agree or disagree?

Share your answer with the rest of the class!

Matching

1. **Read** the sentences on the left.
2. **Match** the words or phrases to their correct definition on the right.

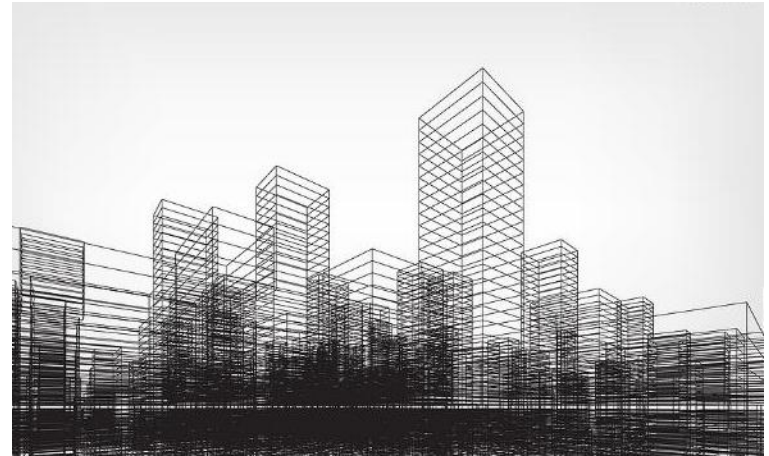|			
1	The **grid plan** of the city helps with orientation.	a	the area surrounding a city where many people who work in the city live
2	Most of the businesses and restaurants are in the **central business district**.	b	someone who studies society and human social relationships
3	Many people living in the **commuter belt** use electric bicycles to get to work.	c	Someone who develops plans to create communities and accommodate growth.
4	The **sociologist** interviewed me about why I liked living in my neighbourhood.	d	the commercial and business center of a city
5	The **urban planner** was hired to help revitalise the town.	e	someone who designs buildings and advises in their construction
6	The **architect** unveiled her plans for the new symphony hall.	f	a type of city plan in which streets run at right angles to each other, forming a grid

Discuss

Answer the questions below.

Can you think of any cities with a grid plan?

How might sociologists, urban planners, and architects work together to promote change in a city?

Think of the largest city in your country. Can you describe its central business district?

What's your opinion?

1. **Read** the statements below.
2. Do you **agree** or **disagree** with them.
3. **Explain** why.

1 Installing surveillance cameras in public places is a good idea because it keeps people safe.

2 Shared neighbourhood gardens help bring people together.

3 Public transportation should be free for everyone living in cities.

4 Cars should be banned in city centres.

Your city

1. **Choose** one of the places below.
2. **Complete** the task in the yellow box.

Describe the city you've chosen to your classmates!

1. Give this place a name.
2. What kind of place is it? A metropolitan city, a port city, a medieval town, or a residential area?
3. Describe its central business district (if it has one).
4. What is your place known for? Think outside the box!

Let's reflect!

- Can you identify different types of places and compare and contrast their characteristics?

- Can you give your opinion on a range of aspects related to urban living?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.

End of the lesson

Idiom

hive of activity

Meaning: a very busy place

Example: The city centre is a hive of activity on weekday mornings.

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Additional practice

Categorise

Decide whether the points below state **positive** or **negative** sides of living in a **metropolitan area**.

1

transport of all types

2

high speed internet

3

pollution

4

education and job opportunities

5

high cost of living

6

vibrant

7

cultural hub

8

crime

9

traffic

Pros	Cons

Discuss

Answer the two questions below.

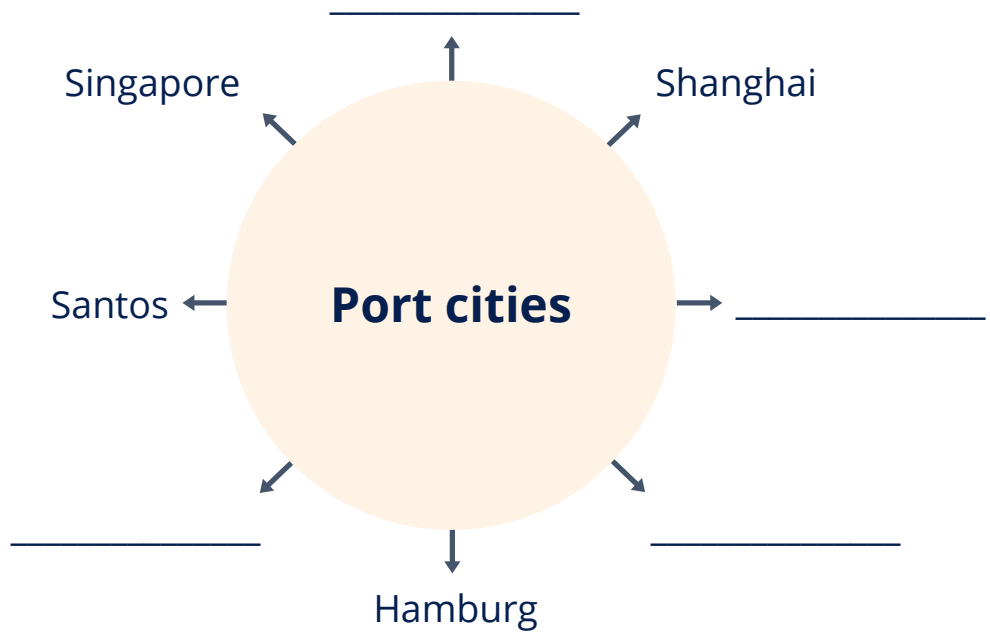**Would you rather live in a commuter belt or a city centre? Why?**

Are there any medieval towns in your country? Have you ever visited them?

Port cities

Brainstorm as many port cities as you can.

```
                    _____
                         ↑
   Singapore                        Shanghai
          ↖            ↗
              ┌─────────────┐
   Santos  ←  │ Port cities │  →  _____
              └─────────────┘
          ↙            ↘
 _____                        _____
                         ↓
                      Hamburg
```

Discuss

Answer the questions below.

What 3 adjectives would you use to describe your country's capital city?

Is there a city you don't like? Why?

Answer key

P.4: A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4
P.8: 1.) f 2.) d 3.) a 4.) b 5.) c 6.) e
P.15:
pros: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7
cons: 3, 5, 8, 9

Summary

Types of places to live
- *metropolitan area; port city; medieval town; residential area; suburbia*
- ***Metropolitan areas*** *are usually busy and densely populated.*
- *A **medieval town** can be a very pretty place to live.*

Discussing a place to live
- *grid plan; central business district; commuter belt*
- *It's easy to get around a city built on **a grid plan**.*
- *Many suburbs surrounding London are **commuter belts**.*

Urban planning
- *sociologist; urban planner; architect*
- *A **sociologist** asked me why I liked living in my neighbourhood.*
- *We hired an **urban planner** to help revitalise the town.*

Vocabulary

concrete jungle

metropolitan area

port city

medieval town

residential area

suburbia

grid plan

central business district

commuter belt

sociologist

urban planner

architect

Notes