

COMMUNICATION

Talking about places and urban living

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2031X

LANGUAGE

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.



Warm-up

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.

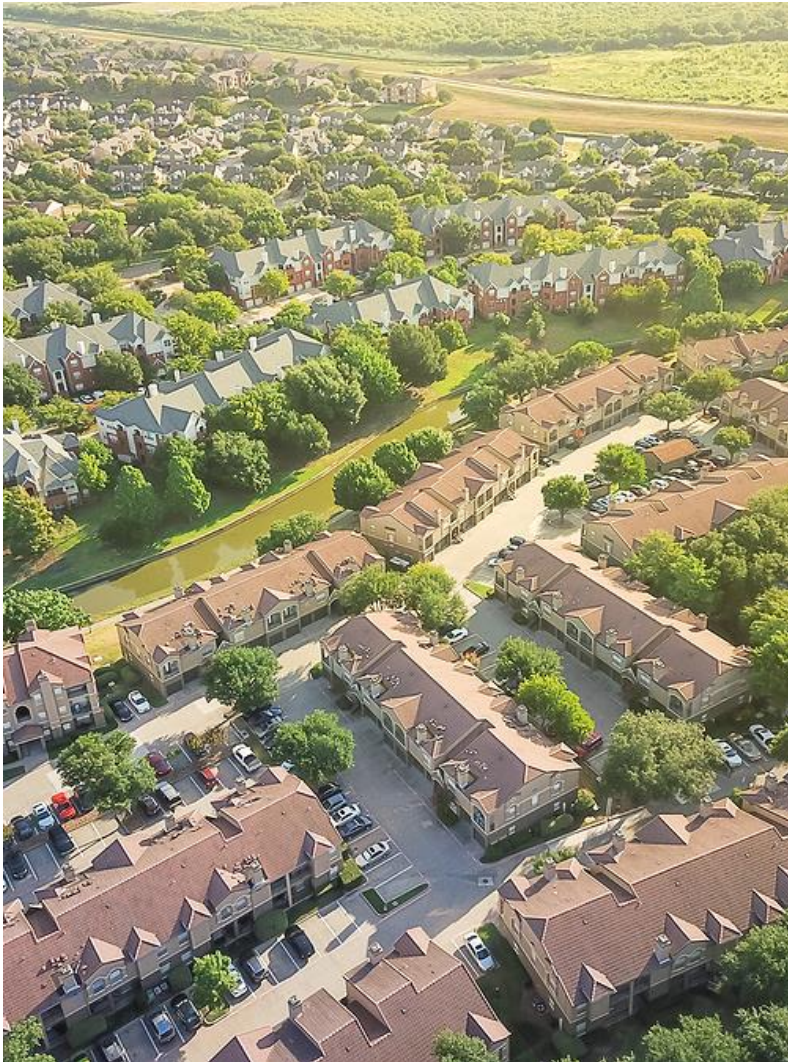
1 metropolitan areas

2 port cities

3 medieval towns

4 residential areas

- A** They date from the Middle Ages. Most of them arose along rivers or at important crossroads. They are often surrounded by walls that were intended to keep out hostile enemies. They usually have ancient churches, narrow streets, and small shops.
- B** They are large and busy. They are usually of national importance, both economically and politically. They are densely populated and have many concrete buildings. There is often a lot of traffic.
- C** They are located next to the coast where ships are able to anchor, so they can receive imports via the sea. They are usually protected by a sea wall. They often have strategic naval and economic importance.
- D** They are places where people live. Some of them are in suburbs, on the outskirts of a city. If they're in suburbs, they usually have easy access to the centre of towns and cities.



A large percentage of the country's population lives 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

metropolita
n 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.

2 Most of the businesses and restaurants are in the **central business district**.

3 Many people living in the **commuter belt** use electric bicycles to get to work.

4 The **sociologist** interviewed me about why I liked living in my neighbourhood.

5 The **urban planner** was hired to help revitalise the town.

6 The **architect** unveiled her plans for the new symphony hall.

a the area surrounding a city where many people who work in the city live

b someone who studies society and human social relationships

c Someone who develops plans to create communities and accommodate growth.

d the commercial and business centre of a city

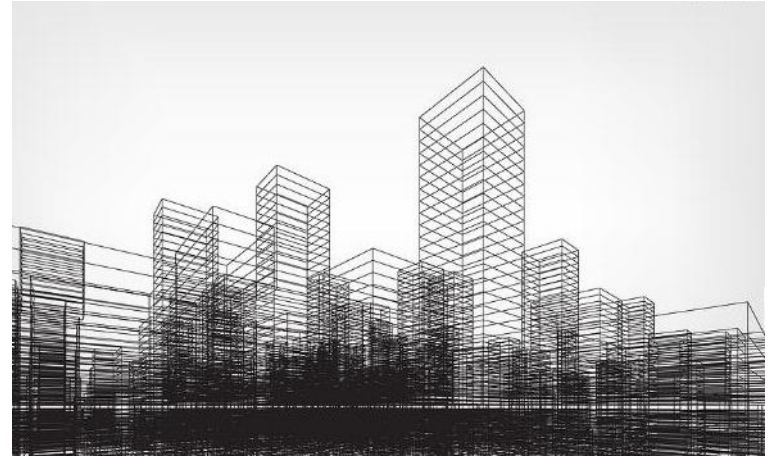
e someone who designs buildings and advises in their construction

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!



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.



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?

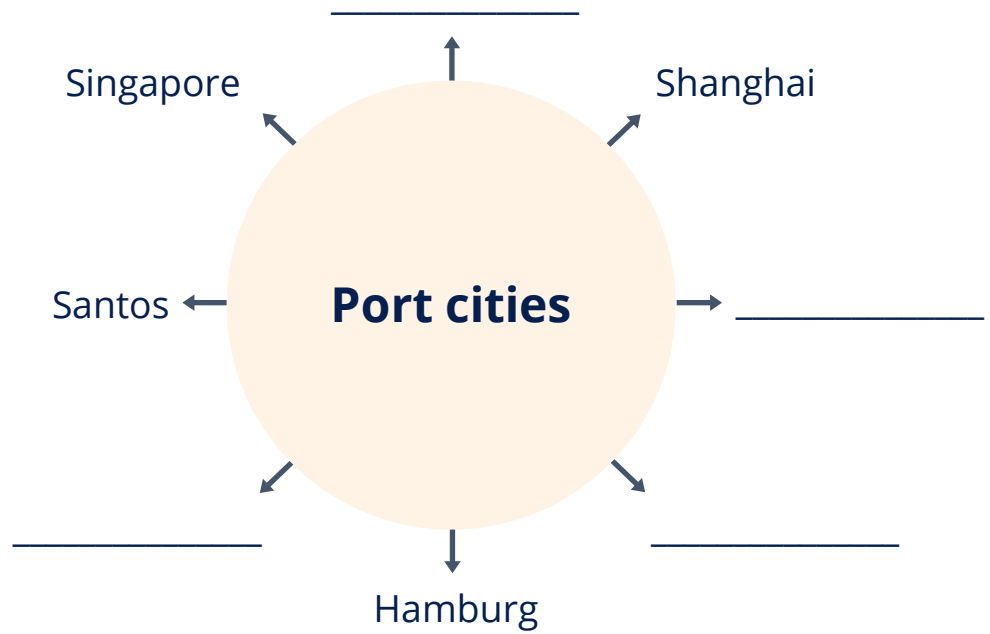


Are there any medieval towns in your country? Have you ever visited them?



Port cities

Brainstorm as many port cities as you can.





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

