

26 Cities

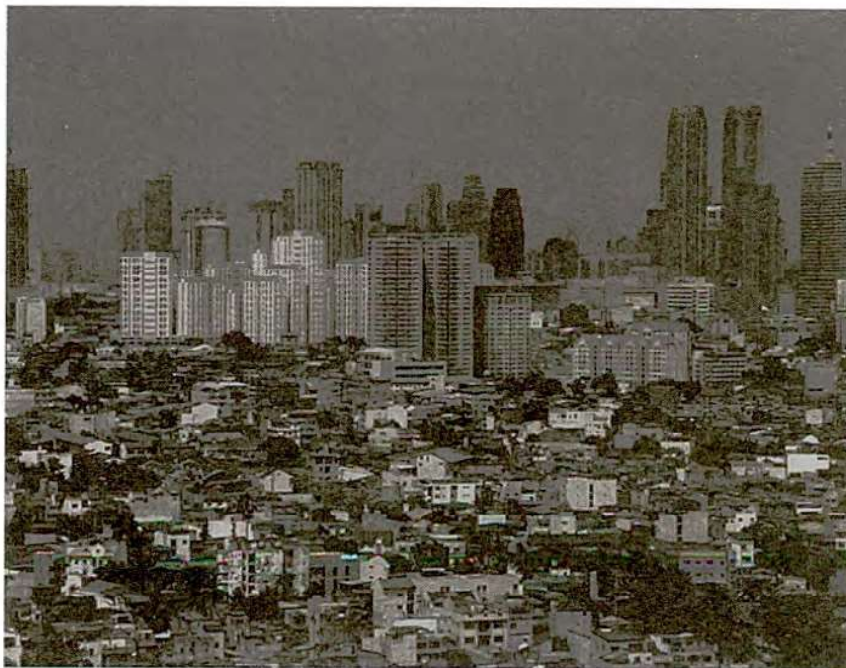
Urban growth, urban living

Urban growth

1.1 Think of a city you know well.

Which of these phrases do you associate with it? Put a (✓).

- an important commercial centre _____
- a vibrant cultural centre _____
- a major tourist attraction _____
- a sprawling metropolis _____
- gridlocked rush-hour traffic _____
- accessible open spaces _____
- run-down estates _____
- affluent suburbs _____
- steeped in history _____
- seriously polluted _____
- densely populated _____
- friendly and welcoming _____



1.2 Choose the best words to complete the text.

Urban sprawl is the unchecked spreading of a city or its (1) *suburbs* / *residences*. It often involves the (2) *demolition* / *construction* of residential or commercial buildings in (3) *rural* / *environmental* areas or otherwise undeveloped land on the (4) *outskirts* / *neighbourhoods* of a city. Typical (5) *residents* / *commuters* of these areas live in single-family homes and travel by car to their jobs in the city. Concerns over urban sprawl largely focus on negative (6) *costs* / *consequences* for residents and the local (7) *environment* / *space*. The tendency of people living in these neighbourhoods to commute to work means that urban sprawl is sometimes associated with increased air (8) *pollution* / *pollutant* from car exhaust fumes.

1.3 Find words in the text which match these definitions.

- 1 related to towns and cities _____
- 2 related to trade or business _____
- 3 particular part of a place _____
- 4 not previously built on _____
- 5 people who live in a place _____

Vocabulary note

This book draws attention to language chunks of the following types:

COLLOCATIONS = words frequently used together: *densely populated*, *leafy suburbs*, *open spaces*, *violent crime*

COMPOUND NOUNS = nouns made up of two or more words: *tourist attraction*, *skyscraper*, *cost of living* (See Unit 5, 2.1 for more on compound nouns.)

DEPENDENT PREPOSITIONS = some adjectives, nouns and verbs are followed by particular prepositions: *steeped in history*, *plagued by crime* (See Unit 24, 2.1 and Unit 25, 2.2 for more on dependent prepositions.)

PHRASAL VERBS = two- or three-part verbs with idiomatic meanings: *break down*, *get around*, *look forward to* (See Unit 25, 2.3 for more on phrasal verbs.)

IDIOMS = phrases with special meaning that cannot be understood from the individual words: *go to town on something*, *hit the road*, *cut and dried*

1.4 WORD BUILDING Complete the table with words which have related meanings.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
demolition	_____	_____
_____ (place, activity)	_____	_____
_____ (company, person)	_____	undeveloped
resident (person)	_____	_____
_____ (place)	_____	_____
environment	x	_____
_____ (person, activist)	_____	_____
pollution (problem)	_____	_____
_____ (substance)	_____	_____

1.5 Complete the compound nouns in these sentences with words from the box.

area attractions city fumes jams pollution rush traffic transport

- The Eiffel Tower is one of the most popular tourist _____ in the world.
- Our council is doing everything it can to combat _____ congestion, including charging drivers every time they drive into the _____ centre.
- The underground is an integral part of the public _____ system in many large cities.
- Since the town centre became a traffic-free pedestrian _____, shopping has been a more pleasant experience.
- Exhaust _____ from cars, buses and lorries are the main cause of air _____ in cities.
- There are frequent traffic _____ during the morning and evening _____ hours in many towns and cities.

V Vocabulary note

Some adjectives have a special meaning as noun suffixes.

-free = without an undesirable thing: *I always buy fat-free yoghurt.*

-friendly = suitable for or welcoming of: *Child-friendly software comes pre-installed.*

-mad = liking or doing something obsessively: *My husband is football-mad.*

Note: The noun in these phrases is singular.

1.6 Complete the following sentences using the words in bold and a suffix from the Vocabulary note.


- Our neighbourhood doesn't have any **crime**. It's a _____ neighbourhood.
- There's a zone around the school where **cars** cannot go. It's a _____ zone.
- The council is planning to make the city centre suitable for **cyclists**. It's going to be a _____ centre.
- I need accommodation where they allow **pets**. I need _____ accommodation.
- The young people around here are all obsessed with their **cars**. They're all _____.
- Many of my colleagues are obsessive about their **work**. They're all _____.

ERROR WARNING

In everyday speech and writing we use *people* as the plural form of *person*: *There were a lot of people on the station, but only one person got on the train.*

The plural form *persons* is rarely used in speech, but is used in certain formal contexts: *The crime was committed by person or persons unknown.*

Urban living

2.1  **33** Listen to two people talking about living in a city. Complete these sentences with words used by the speakers.

- 1 I just love all the _____ and bustle.
- 2 In my work and my _____ life, I come into regular _____ with people from all over the world.
- 3 You just take for granted the incredible _____ of entertainment on offer.
- 4 The only downside is the _____ of living.
- 5 Her parents own a flat in the _____ of London.
- 6 It was really convenient, just being able to _____ on a bus or take the _____.
- 7 Crime _____ are higher in cities than in _____ areas.

2.2 What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of city life? Make two lists. Use expressions from 2.1 and add your own ideas.

ADVANTAGES	convenient public transport,
DISADVANTAGES	crime,

2.3 Match the two-part expressions in *italics* with their definitions.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 I love the <i>hustle and bustle</i> of life in the city. | a good times and bad times |
| 2 Some people move to the country for the <i>peace and quiet</i> . | b busy, noisy activity |
| 3 We've been weighing up the <i>pros and cons</i> of commuting. | c compromise |
| 4 Most people have <i>ups and downs</i> at work. | d calm atmosphere |
| 5 We need some <i>give and take</i> between residents and developers. | e advantages and disadvantages |

2.4 **WORD TRANSFORMATION** Complete the text with the correct forms of the words in capitals at the ends of the lines.

The (0) explosive growth in the number of closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance systems in recent years is transforming city centres in some countries. For some people, the cameras have a (1) _____ benefit, as they take comfort in the (2) _____ that they are being watched and protected. In some neighbourhoods, there are even socially (3) _____ CCTV systems, which allow local (4) _____ to tune in to community TV and watch what is happening outside their front doors. People know the cameras can be (5) _____ in solving crimes, but are they right to believe that cameras are keeping them safer? According to one crime expert, they are not. He conducted a study of 14 CCTV systems and found that, in general, the (6) _____ of cameras has (7) _____ little impact on crime. In only one of the 14 areas could a (8) _____ drop in crime levels be linked to CCTV.

EXPLODE

PSYCHOLOGY
BELIEVE

INCLUDE
RESIDE

HELP

INSTALL
SURPRISE
SIGNIFY

Exam practice

Reading and Use of English Part 5

You are going to read a magazine article. For questions 1 – 6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.



Exam tip

There are often questions which relate to the main idea of the text as well as questions about detail. In this practice task, question 1 relates to the main idea.

Rome: ancient life in a modern city

Sigmund Freud once compared the human mind to the city of Rome. He was talking about its intriguing layers. Just as the mind has a build-up of memories, Rome has a history that goes deeper and deeper: every modern building is on top of a renaissance one, and under that you find the medieval buildings, and then ancient Rome itself. Freud might also have said that – just as with the mind – as you go deeper into the city you find the unpleasant parts like the slums as well as the clean, splendidly ‘proper’ parts.

Ancient Rome was home to a million people and was, in its time, the biggest city in Europe. Most of that million, from the dockworkers to the hairdressers, didn’t live in spacious marble villas. They were packed into tower blocks that lined narrow streets, with hardly any public services. It must have been a tough place to survive in.

So where can you still find signs of these ordinary ‘high-rise Romans’? Amazingly, the answer is ‘all over the city’. You only need to know where to look, and keep your eyes open. My favourite remnant of ordinary ancient Roman life is still standing in the heart of tourist Rome. It’s part of a tower block, still surviving to five storeys in a modern square – just underneath the Victor Emmanuel monument. Most of these blocks have fallen down, but this one was lucky: it survived because it was turned into a church.

It’s easy to work out the basic organisation of the block. At street level, there are shops and workshops. The principle was ‘the higher you went, the worse it got’. On the first floor you can see some spacious family flats; and above that, bedsits. The question is, how many people were squashed into these rooms? If they were for one person, then this was very “tight living”. But if they were single rooms without bathroom or cooking facilities, designed for whole families, they must have been really dreadful conditions.

And in ancient Rome – as this particular high-rise block reminds us – rich and poor lived and worked side by side. There weren’t many zones given over exclusively either to the rich or the poor. In fact, if you look hard enough, you can find traces of ordinary people inside the most luxurious and ceremonial buildings of the city.

A visit to the ancient Roman Forum can be a disappointment. This was once the centre of Roman public life, where the senate met. It is now a rather mysterious set of ruins, with just a few standing landmarks: two splendid triumphal arches and the three vast columns of the Temple of Castor. The Forum becomes far more interesting if you also look down for the evidence of the ordinary men and women who shared this space with the great and the good – and who had their own things to do there, from a bit of gambling to basic dentistry.

Running along its south side are the now decidedly unimpressive ruins of what was once the splendid Basilica Julia, home of one of Rome’s law courts, plus some government offices. Not much survives beyond the floor and the steps leading up to it. A barrier now prevents visitors from walking inside; but actually you don’t need to. Look over the barrier on to the steps, and you will see the clear traces cut into the stone of scores of ‘gaming boards’. We haven’t a clue about the exact rules of the games, but never mind. It’s clear that the Basilica Julia wasn’t just a place for busy lawyers; go back 2,000 years and you would find the place littered with men with time on their hands, betting on some ancient equivalent of backgammon.