

# UNIT 1

## “The Way We Live Now”

# LESSON 1. Big City Life

**Ex. 1 ~ Comment on the following quote.**

**WILLIAM COWPER**

*God made the country, and man made the town.*

**Ex. 2 ~ What problems of big cities do the pictures below illustrate?**











**Ex. 3 ~ Read and discuss these two predictions with a partner. Do you think these trends are positive or negative? Why?**

- According to U.N.-Habitat, 60 % of the world's population will be living in cities by 2030.
- The urban population will grow from 2.86 billion to nearly 5 billion.

**Ex. 4 ~ You are going to listen to two experts being interviewed about unchecked urban growth. Before listening, match the words and phrases listed below to their Russian equivalents.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1. cutting edge issues** | a. трущобы |
| **2. to affect sb's life** | b. перенаселенность |
| **3. an advocate *for* sth** | c. невысокий жизненный уровень |
| **4. at an unchecked pace** | d. пригодный для жилья |
| **5. overcrowding** | e. актуальные вопросы |
| **6. slums** | f. разрастание города (за счет сельской местн.) |
| **7. affordable housing** | g. влиять, отражаться на чем-л. |
| **8. urban sprawl** | h. необузданно (нар.), ничем не сдерживаемый |
| **9. mediocre quality of life** | i. сторонник чего-л. |
| **10. livable *(city)*** | j. доступное (по цене) жилье |

a) Which of the four statements represents the main point Fiona is trying to make?
b) Which statement best represents Hector's opinion?

**1. Fiona** ____ **a.** good planning can solve urban problems **b.** it's more violent in our cities

**2. Hector** ____ **c.** we must limit the growth of our cities **d.** a more organized transportation system is the key

[14, 9]

**Ex. 5 ~ Answer the following questions?**

1. What issues are facing urban areas in your country?
2. If you were an urban planner, what improvements would you suggest for your city?
3. What are some of the difficulties of living in a city? How can governments make urban life better for everyone?

***Use the following hints:***

- The **cost of living** is higher than in rural areas.
- **Housing** is usually much more expensive.
- Homelessness and poverty **are common** in cities.
- There is a **gap** between the rich and poor.
- Life in cities can be extremely **stressful**.
- There are problems like **traffic** congestion and **crime**.
- Cities lack a **sense of community**.
- Cities are sometimes described as "**concrete jungles**".

**USEFUL LANGUAGE**

| | |
|---|---|
| living conditions/standards | accommodation |
| cost of living | urban sprawl |
| noise/air-pollution | slums suburbs |
| ethnic tensions | fast pace |
| crime rate | poverty |
| traffic jams/congestion | violence |
| rush hour | commuting |
| illegal migrants | stress |

**Ex. 6 ~ Complete each sentence with one of the words or phrases given.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *residential* | *subsistence* | *suburbs* |
| *commute (v)* | *squats* | *ghetto* |
| *slum* | *violence* | *accommodation* |
| *pace (n)* | *alluring* | *sprawl* |
| *tough* | *unemployment* | |

1) The …….. of life in the village is slow and easy.
2) The whole urban …….. of Ankara contains over 2.6m people.
3) Orlando itself is vibrant, full of affordable …….. and great places to eat.
4) All successful business people know how …….. life at the top is.
5) Mark wanted to move from the downtown to a smart …….. area.
6) For those living at …….. level, even buying essentials is a struggle.
7) Penniless students in large cities try to save money by living in ……., that is, houses which they find to be empty.
8) Financial problems can lead to stress within the family and …….. between family members.
9) Taiwan is the most …….. city in South-East Asia.
10) A poor, densely populated area of a town or city lived in mainly by one racial group is called a(n) …….. .
11) In the developed world run-down and derelict housing in the inner city where people still live is called a(n) ……..
12) People working in large cities often like to live away from the center in pleasant …….. .
13) People who work in the city centre but live outside have to …….. to work everyday.
14) In some countries, you don't qualify for …….. benefit if you own your house.

**Ex. 7 ~ Answer the following questions using the words in *italics*:**

1. What difficulties may people living in the *suburbs* face?
2. What makes life in a big city so *alluring* to lots of people?
3. What essentials can you buy if you live at *subsistence* level?
4. Is it easy for you to adjust to fast *pace* of life in Moscow?
5. What are the most attractive *residential* areas in your city?
6. Do you think that *accommodation* in your city is affordable?
7. Do you/your relatives have to *commute* to work?
8. Why is the problem of *unemployment* so acute in big cities?
9. Is *violence* on the streets a big issue in your city?

**Ex. 8 ~ Complete the text using the words and phrases given.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *emulate* | *social life* | *rush hour* |
| *allure* | *self-image* | *metropolis* |
| *minded* | *stuck* | *sticks* |
| *metropolis* | *provinces* | *accommodation* |
| *pace* | | |

## A View of the City

If you grow up in the …… (1) then capital cities have a very special …… (2). They represent sophistication, choice and freedom. When you've settled in the city, you can think of the people back home as 'country cousins' who 'live in the …… (3). They haven't experienced life as it should be, in the city.

And what have you gained by moving to the …… (4)? First, a major change in …… (5). You're one of the special ones, you've the break. All those famous places that were previously just names read in the paper or seen on TV become familiar personal landmarks glimpsed as you go to work or explore the capital developing your …… (6).

You're never …… (7) for something to do - everything's there, on your new doorstep: discos, night-clubs, pubs. If you're culturally …… (8), there are museums, cinemas, theatres, concerts. And then the people! You never know who you will meet and where. Their status and lifestyle are something you want to …… (10).

Of course, there are shocks. The cost, for one thing, of things like …… (11), transport and entertainment. The crowds, especially during the …… (12). The fast …… (13) at which everyone lives. But you soon learn to keep your wits about you and develop the special veneer that city living requires. [1, 9-10]

**Ex. 9 ~ Discuss the following questions.**

1. What makes city so alluring to people coming from the provinces?
2. What changes does a person undergo after moving to town?
3. What advantages and disadvantages may be found in city life?
4. How do you think life in big cities could be made easier?
5. What do you think cities will be like in 50 years' time?
6. In your country, where can people go to escape from busy city areas?

**Ex. 10 ~ Complete the sentences below with forms of the words on the right.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1.** The number of …… to London has dropped by 100,000. | **COMMUTE** |
| **2.** During one period, a person might be backwoodsy and rural, testing the simple life, and in another take on the fast-…… challenge of a city. | **PACE** |
| **3.** He was in his late twenties, married and living in a semidetached …… house. | **SUBURB** |
| **4.** The 18th century was a period of rapid …… . | **URBAN** |
| **5.** Some local …… joined the students' protest. | **RESIDENTIAL** |
| **6.** A quarter of current inmates have committed …… crimes. | **VIOLENCE** |
| **7.** It is less …… than power stations fuelled by oil, coal and gas. | **POLLUTE** |

**HOMEASSIGNMENT 1**

**Ex. 11 ~ Translate into English.**

1. Прежде район на другом берегу реки считался неспокойным (rough). Там, в тесных квартирках в уродливых многоэтажных зданиях жили малоимущие (low-income) семьи. Было небезопасно отправляться туда по вечерам. После закрытия единственной фабрики в округе уровень безработицы, а значит и преступности, вырос, и район превратился в настоящую головную боль для местных властей (local authorities). Однако пару лет назад удалось вдохнуть новую жизнь (to renew) в эти трущобы. Старые фабричные цеха были превращены (converted) в художественные галереи современного искусства и модные клубы. Неподалеку построили большой торговый центр, который предоставил рабочие места для жителей района. Большинство многоквартирных домов, жители (tenants) которых переселились в более просторные жилища, были перестроены (to renovate). В них поселились студенты, молодые семьи и содружества (communities) художников и музыкантов. В районе появилось нормальное уличное освещение. В результате в городе возникла яркая и оживленная местность с молодым населением, интересной культурной жизнью и развивающейся инфраструктурой. [2, 168]

2. Центр города не самое удобное место для жизни. Во-первых, здесь постоянно возникают пробки, иногда движение полностью останавливается. Из-за большого количества машин иногда бывает невозможно припарковаться. По той же причине вывоз мусора (rubbish removal) осуществляется реже, чем на окраинах. Во-вторых, содержание исторических зданий очень дорого. Наконец, жителям негде гулять. Немногочисленные скверы гибнут в загрязненном воздухе, а пешеходные зоны всегда многолюдны из-за туристов. [2, 168]

**Ex. 12 ~ You are going to listen to an extract from a radio programme. Before listening, match the words and phrases listed below to their Russian equivalents.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1. against their will** | a. запретить автомобили в центре города |
| **2. concrete blocks** | b. высотки |
| **3. an eyesore** | c. дорожно-эксплуатационные работы |
| **4. urban sprawl** | d. против воли |
| **5. out-of-town shopping facilities** | e. скопление машин, пробки на дорогах |
| **6. unaffordable** | f. торговые зоны за пределами города |
| **7. to ban cars from the centre** | g. разрастание города |
| **8. traffic congestion** | h. престижный, элитный, фешенебельный |
| **9. road maintenance** | i. бетонные здания |
| **10. upmarket** | j. бельмо на глазу, отталкивающее зрелище |
| **11. high-rise buildings** | k. недоступный (по цене) |

**Ex. 13 ~ Complete the tasks below.**

**a) Listen to an extract from a radio programme called "***Do they really know best?***", as you listen decide who says what:**

***G*** *for Gareth*
***J*** *for Jennifer*
***B*** *for both*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Who argues that high-rise housing was an improvement for certain people? | |
| 2. Who says they grew up in a deprived area? | |
| 3. Who expects more mistakes in city planning to occur? | |
| 4. Who criticizes the development of suburbs? | |
| 5. Who wants to live in the center of London? | |
| 6. Who believes that buildings should have more than one function? | |
| 7. Who thinks that city people should be able to own cars? | |

**b) Listen again and mark statements that are true T or false F.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1.** Gareth dislikes the 60s buildings. | |
| **2.** City planners and architects always consulted city dwellers when constructing new buildings. | |
| **3.** Gareth grew up in the center of London. | |
| **4.** Jennifer also finds 60s architecture unattractive. | |
| **5.** Gareth believes that city expansion doesn't do any harm to the countryside. | |
| **6.** Gareth lives in the city center. | |
| **7.** According to a TV phone-in the majority of people favor the ban of cars from central London**.** | |

[3, 160]

**Ex. 14 ~ Listen to a talk about urbanisation and answer the questions.**

1. A 'megacity' is a city with at least how many people?
2. How many people were living in Rome in the early Middle Ages?
3. What percentage of the world's population was living in cities at the end of the twentieth century?
4. How many cities had more than one million people in 2007?
5. According to the UN, what proportion of the population will be living in cities in 2030?
6. What element of a megacity is it difficult to establish?
7. According to the UN, where will two billion people be living in 2030?