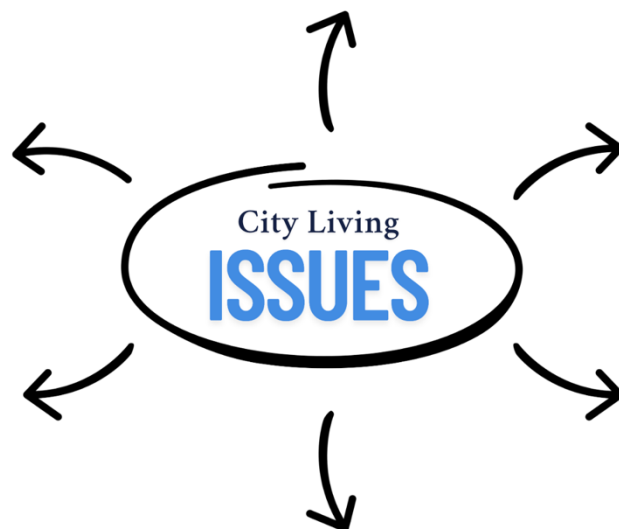




CITY LIVING BRAINSTORM

1. In pairs or small groups, talk about all the problems people face living in cities.
Think about: daily life, transportation, housing, environment, noise, safety, technology, work, leisure, social justice, population growth and any other categories you can think of.
2. Write down **as many different issues as you can**—no idea is too small or too big!
3. Be creative! Think about things you’ve experienced, seen in the news, or even imagined in future cities.
4. After a few minutes, we’ll come together and share.
Let’s see how many different ideas we can collect as a class!



9B Megacities

1 READING & SPEAKING

- What do you think a 'megacity' is? Read the introduction to the text to check your answer. With a partner, in two minutes list what you think are probably the biggest problems for people who live in a megacity.
- Read the article once. In which city are the things you discussed in a a problem: Tokyo, Mexico City, both, or neither?
- Read the article again. Then, in pairs, using your own words, say why the following are mentioned.

TOKYO

33 million eight million a letter from the train company
driving schools 25 square metres the *Hikikomori*
Rent a friend the *Hashiriya*

MEXICO CITY

taco stands Mariachi bands two-and-a-half hours
social imbalance kidnapping Kevlar

- Find words in the article which mean...

TOKYO

- _____ *adj* operated by machines not people (paragraph 1)
- _____ *adj* impossible to imagine (paragraph 1)
- _____ *noun* the number of people who don't have a job (paragraph 1)
- _____ *adj* with too many people in it (paragraph 2)
- _____ *noun* a feeling that you don't belong to a community (paragraph 3)
- _____ *noun* the feeling of not having any friends (paragraph 3)

MEXICO CITY

- _____ *noun* the process of making air (and water) dirty (paragraph 2)
- _____ *noun* the state of being very rich
- _____ *noun* the state of being poor
- _____ *adjective* not having a house

- Talk to a partner.

- If you had to go to work or study in either Mexico City or Tokyo, which would you choose, and why?
- What do you think are the main advantages of living in a big city?
- What's the biggest city you've ever been to? Why did you go there? What did you think of it?

Andrew Marr's Megacities

BBC 1 Wednesday 8.00 p.m.

By 2050, 70% of the world will live in cities, and by the end of the century three-quarters of the entire planet will be urban. There are now 21 cities called 'megacities', i.e. they have more than 10 million inhabitants. In Andrew Marr's BBC series *Megacities* he travelled to five of these cities, including Tokyo and Mexico City.



TOKYO

Tokyo, with a population of 33 million people, is by far the largest city in world. It's also the most technologically advanced, and the city runs like digital clockwork. The automated subway*, for example, is so efficient that it is able to transport almost eight million commuters every day and on the rare occasions that it goes wrong, nobody believes it. If you are late for work in Tokyo and, as an excuse, you say that your train was late, you need to provide written proof from the train company. The idea of late trains is almost unthinkable. There is very little crime, violence, or vandalism in Tokyo and the streets are safe to walk by day or night. There is also relatively low unemployment compared to other big cities in the world.

But such a huge population creates serious problems of space, and as Marr flew over Tokyo in a helicopter he saw football pitches, playgrounds, even driving schools constructed on top of buildings. Streets, parks, and subways are extremely overcrowded. Property prices are so high and space is so short that a family of six people may live in a tiny flat of only 25 square metres.

There are other problems too, of alienation and loneliness. The *Hikikomori* are inhabitants of Tokyo who cannot cope with 'the mechanical coldness and robotic uniformity' of a megacity and have become recluses, rarely or never leaving their homes. There is also a new business that has grown up in Tokyo which allows friendless people to 'rent a friend' to accompany them to a wedding or just to sit and chat to them in a bar after work.

Another strange group of people are the *Hashiriya*, Tokyo's street racers who risk their lives driving at ridiculous speeds along the city streets. During the week these men have ordinary jobs and they're model citizens. But on Saturday nights they spend the evening driving through the city as fast as they possibly can. It's a deadly game, but it's just one way of escaping the daily pressures of life in the metropolis.

* the underground or metro system





TOKYO



MEXICO CITY

MEXICO CITY

As a complete contrast to Tokyo, Marr takes us to Mexico City, a colourful and vibrant city of about 20 million people where people live their lives in the street. Marr says that 'in Mexico City, food and friendship go hand in hand'. The city is full of taco stands and cafés where people meet and socialize and Mariachi bands stroll through the boulevards and squares playing songs for money. And on Sundays people of all ages gather to dance in the street.

But it's a city with problems of its own, too. It can take two-and-a-half hours for commuters to drive to and from work in the rush hour through choking traffic fumes, and pollution levels are high. And, looking down from a helicopter, Marr shows us the huge social divide. On one hillside we see massive, luxurious houses and on the next hill, slums. It's a city of great wealth but also extreme poverty, and there are many homeless people. Because of this social imbalance it can be a dangerous city too, with high levels of crime, especially kidnapping. In fact, there are boutiques which sell a rather special line in men's clothes: the shirts, sweaters, and jackets look completely normal but are in fact bulletproof, made of reinforced Kevlar.

But despite the crime, the traffic, and the pollution Andrew Marr describes Mexico City as 'a friendly, liveable place' and the most enjoyable megacity of all that he visited.

2 VOCABULARY

word building: prefixes and suffixes

Prefixes and suffixes

A **prefix** is something that you add to the beginning of a word, usually to change its meaning, e.g. *pre* = before (*pre-war*), or a negative prefix like *un-* or *dis-* (*unhealthy*, *dishonest*). A **suffix** is something you add to the end of a word, usually to change its grammatical form, e.g. *-ment* and *-ness* are typical noun suffixes (*enjoyment*, *happiness*). However, some suffixes also add meaning to a word, e.g. *-ful* = full of (*stressful*, *beautiful*).

- Read the information about prefixes and suffixes. What prefix can you add to *city* meaning *big*? What suffix can you add to *home* meaning *without*? Can you think of any other examples of words with this suffix?
- **p.163 Vocabulary Bank** *Word building*.

3 PRONUNCIATION & SPEAKING

word stress with prefixes and suffixes

Word stress on words with prefixes and suffixes

We don't put main stress on prefixes and suffixes that are added to nouns and adjectives. However, there is usually secondary stress on prefixes, e.g. *un* in *unemployment*.

- Underline the stressed syllable in these multi-syllable nouns and adjectives. The secondary stress has already been underlined.

ac|com|mo|da|tion an|ti|so|cial bil|ling|ual
en|ter|tain|ment go|vern|ment home|less
lon|el|iness mul|ti|cul|tu|ral neigh|bour|hood
o|ver|crow|ded po|ver|ty un|der|de|vel|oped
un|em|ploy|ment van|dal|ism

- 5 16** Listen and check. Practise saying the words.
- Answer the questions below with a partner.

Which city (or region) in your country do you think...?

- is the most multicultural
- offers the best entertainment (for tourists / for locals)
- has a bilingual or trilingual population
- is very overcrowded
- has very serious pollution problems
- has a lot of homeless people
- has some very dangerous neighbourhoods
- has the highest rate of unemployment
- has the worst levels of poverty
- suffers from the worst vandalism and antisocial behaviour

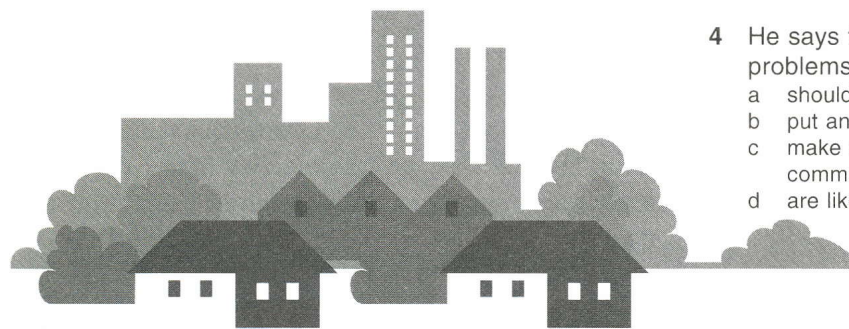
THE MODERN CITY


1 Describe the nicest neighbourhood in your (nearest) city or town. What kind of people live there? What kinds of houses and services does the neighbourhood have?
Now compare this description to the worst neighbourhood in your town or city.

2 Are there homeless people in your town or city? Where can you find them?

Are there any organizations working to help them?

The speaker in the following exercise has some definite views on the homeless. Many people might disagree; imagine you are one of them and make notes to give an opposing speech.



3  Read the questions below and try to predict the answers. Then listen to the recording and check if you were right.

- 1 The speaker says that homelessness can be blamed on
 - a society.
 - b the breakdown of families.
 - c the economic situation.
 - d homeless people.
- 2 He says that homeless people don't have jobs because
 - a they're drunk all of the time.
 - b they don't want to.
 - c they're too dirty.
 - d they have mental problems.
- 3 He says that the main thing that annoys him is
 - a seeing them sleeping around the train station.
 - b being asked to buy alcohol for them.
 - c the use of taxes to pay for homeless programmes.
 - d that society neglects people with mental problems.
- 4 He says that homeless people with mental problems
 - a should be in institutions.
 - b put an unnecessary burden on their families.
 - c make up only a small percentage of the homeless community.
 - d are like brothers to him.

The Modern City

Urban 'geography'

population density
census
seaboard town / coastal town
port × harbour
holiday resort
provincial × industrial town
market town
suburbs / suburban sprawl
ribbon development
built-up area
town centre (GB) / downtown (US)
commercial centre
on the outskirts × inner city
cathedral (makes a town a city)
community church
church hall
community centre
mosque (for Moslems)
temple (for Hindus and mainly Buddhists)
gurdwara (for Sikhs)
synagogue (for Jews)
art-gallery
botanical gardens

amusement park / funfair
busker (GB) / street musician
playground
adventure playground
climbing frame
slide
sandpit
sports complex / centre
gasworks
brewery
cemetery / graveyard
barracks
warehouse
office block / skyscraper
police station / headquarters
multi-storey car-park
out-of-town shopping centre
hypermarket
slum / economically and socially deprived area
shanty town
neglected area / shabby housing
housing estate (GB) / neighbourhood (US)

council estate (GB) / flats / high-rise estate / housing project (US)
graffiti
ghetto
vandalism
green spaces / parks / greenbelt
wide, straight streets × narrow, winding alleys
high street (GB) / main street (US)
blind alley / cul-de-sac
pedestrian precinct

Types / names of streets

avenue
road
alley
lane
row
terrace
embankment (GB) / riverside drive (US)
crescent
boulevard
arcade
square
circus

WASTE DISPOSAL AND OTHER SERVICES

1 Going through the rubbish, take a look at the contents of one household's dustbin. Which of these items could be recycled, reused, or put to use in a better way than being thrown out?



empty tins of soup
beer bottles
potato peelings
an old ripped shirt
lawn clippings
newspapers
food that has gone off
empty mayonnaise jars
plastic shopping bags
a broken plate
junk mail
plastic bottles

2 How would you expect household rubbish to be different in 1950 and today?

3 What do you think is better for the inhabitants of towns – should services like waste disposal, water supply or fire brigade be private enterprises or is it more advantageous if they are run by local councils or even by the state?

4 The town council of Crustystyville is going to debate the following proposal. Does your city offer any of these?

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF CRUSTYSTYVILLE

will today hear a motion to rework the Crustystyville Waste Disposal Centre to make it more environmentally friendly. Some of the proposed changes are:

1. Placing recycling bins outside the disposal centre.
2. Setting up a recycling centre which would take old furniture & appliances and fix them up for sale later.
3. Making a separate section for wood & garden cuttings, which could be turned into farming products such as mulch or compost.

5 Now take a role card from your teacher and act out the meeting.

Waste Disposal

dustbin (GB) / garbage can (US)
dustbin day (GB) / garbage pick-up (US)
dustman / waste disposal operative (GB) / garbage collector / man (US)
dustcart (GB) / garbage truck (US)
rubbish dump (GB) / tip (US)
to recycle
biodegradable
incinerator
scrap-heap (GB) / junk yard (US)
bottle bank
skip
street cleaners / street sweepers
fly-tipping / illegal dumping
(to) litter
litter-bin (GB) / trash can (US)
toxic waste
waste refrigerants / fluorocarbons
to damage the ozone layer
packaging
plastic bags
styrofoam / polystyrene

Water

town reservoir (the dam is the wall that holds it back)
annual rainfall
drought / dry spell × floods
available reserves
algae bloom
garden hose
hosepipe ban
metered water
waterworks
home filters
sanitation, department of sanitation
drain
gutter
sewer
sewage disposal plant
maintenance personnel in uniform × in plain clothes
rat
vermin
unhygienic conditions
chemical runoff
public lavatories / toilets / conveniences

Emergency Services

to dial 999 (GB) / 911 (US)
fire escape
fire extinguisher
fire brigade (GB) / fire department (US)
fire station
fire engine (GB) / fire truck (US)
siren
ladder
extension ladder
(fire)hose
hydrant
overcome by smoke
(in)flammable × non-inflammable
fire-resistant fabric
fireproof material
local council budget
lax enforcement of regulations
not enough inspectors