

An aerial, high-angle view of a dense urban landscape, likely New York City, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The scene is rendered in a cool, blue-toned aesthetic. A semi-transparent, light blue rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the main title and subtitle.

CITIES & TOWNS

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INDUSTRY

☐ **Primary industries** (dealing with raw materials)

- Agriculture
- Mining
- Farming
- Fishing
- Oil and Gas

☐ **The manufacturing industry**

☐ **The finance industry**

☐ **The IT industry**

☐ **The entertainment industry**

The service industry

- Tourism
- Hospitality
- Recreation
- Food and beverage

*My hometown **relies** mainly **on***

*It's **famous for***

*Its main source of revenue **comes from***

*The economy **depends** mainly **on***

Words to describe **the city**:

Cosmopolitan: including people from many different countries.

Bustling: (of a place) full of activity.

Hectic: very busy and fast.

Vibrant: full of energy, color, and life.

Sprawling: spreading out over a large area in an untidy or irregular way.

Contemporary: existing and happening now.

Touristic: relating to or popular with tourists.

Words to describe **things in the city:**

High-rise (adjective): tall with many floors.

High-rise (noun): a tall modern building with many floors.

Pavement cafe: cafe with tables outside on the pavement.

Chain stores: well-known brands with shops in multiple cities.

Fashionable boutiques: fashionable clothes shops.

Upmarket shops: expensive fashionable shops.

Pop-up shop: a pop-up shop is opened temporarily to take advantage of a faddish trend or seasonal demand.

Words to describe **the town/countryside:**

Rural: in, relating to, or characteristic of a countryside.

Run-down: weak or in a bad condition.

Quaint: attractively unusual or old-fashioned.

Close-knit: bound together by strong relationships and common interests.

Outskirts: the outer parts of a town or city.

Suburb: an area on the edge of a large town or city, where people who work in the town or city often live:

Picturesque: visually attractive, especially in a quaint or charming way.

Words to describe **things in the countryside:**

Out-of-town: in a place outside the main part of a town.

Boarded-up shops: shops that are no longer doing business.

Orchard: a piece of enclosed land planted with fruit trees.

Pavement cafe: cafes with tables outside on the pavement.

Vineyard: a plantation of grapevines, typically producing the grapes used in winemaking.

Mom-and-pop shop: "mom-and-pop" is a colloquial term used to describe a small, family-owned or independent business

Collocations to describe cities

Here are some collocations to describe the city where I live, Bangkok, in Thailand.

- ❖ Bustling center
- ❖ Urban living
- ❖ Reliable public transport
- ❖ Long opening hours (shops and restaurants)
- ❖ Upmarket shops
- ❖ Pricey /overpriced restaurants (expensive)
- ❖ Lively bars
- ❖ Fashionable clubs
- ❖ High-rise flats

Describing Buildings

- Utilitarian
- Derelict
- An eyesore
- Fallen into disrepair
- Dilapidated
- Prefabricated
- Tear down
- Has outlived its original purpose
- Instantly recognisable
- Pleasing to the eye
- Eye-catching
- An architectural marvel/gem
- Soaring/towering
- Iconic

Synonym Match

[utilitarian / derelict / an eyesore / fallen into disrepair / dilapidated / prefabricated / tear down / has outlived its original purpose / instantly recognisable / pleasing to the eye / eye-catching / soaring, towering / an architectural marvel, gem / heavily ornate / our architectural heritage / saving, restoring / preserve]

Example: I work in a **functional** office block. (Answer – utilitarian)



1. The Council are going to **demolish** the building. take down
2. Frank Lloyd Wright's Waterfall House is an **amazing piece of architecture**. an architectural marvel, gem
3. It is important to **protect** historical buildings. preserve
4. It is worth **keeping** old buildings. saving, restoring
5. Take a look at this **too much decorated** hotel on its special day. heavily ornate
6. The Glass Pyramid in front of the Louvre is **a focal point**. eye-catching
7. Many houses built in the post-war era were **factory made**. prefabricated
8. The building **is no longer used for its original purpose**. has outlived its original purpose
9. Neglected for many years, the building has almost collapsed and may **be beyond repair**. have fallen into disrepair
10. The Petronas Towers **dominate the cityscape**, rising above the streets. are instantly recognisable

Positive Collocations with building:

Adjectives – attractive, fine, impressive, magnificent, imposing, stylish, stunning, spacious, breathtaking, breathtakingly modern, iconic, instantly recognisable

A building that works well in its surrounding environment

A building that fits in well with its surroundings

A building that demands your attention

A building that conveys a sense of light and space

Negative Connotations with building:

Adjectives - disused, derelict, abandoned, neglected, crumbling, fallen into disrepair

The building has fallen into disrepair:

The roof leaks

The paint is peeling

And the walls are crumbling

Out of place/ does not fit with its surroundings

Sticks out like a sore thumb

Incongruous

Adjectives to view cities/suburbs/towns

FOR GOOD POINTS

- picturesque
- historic
- spacious
- elegant
- magnificent
- lively
- urban
- comfortable

FOR NEGATIVE POINTS

- deserted(no one on the street at night) city
- packed (very crowded)
- filthy (very dirty)/
- run-down (in a very bad condition)
- sprawling city
- shanty town (=houses made of discarded materials, e.g., tin cardboard, plastic)
- bustling (=with lots of movement) can be positive or negative.

Cities and their problems

- **Urban wasteland** (in bad condition)
- **Run-down buildings** (falling apart)
- **No-go areas** (with the high crime)
- **The volume of traffic** (amount)
- **Bumper-to-bumper traffic** all day long (congested/jammed)
- **Exhaust fumes** (gas emission)
- **The incessant roar** of trucks and buses (very loud noise)
- **Deprived areas** (without necessary things, e.g. enough money, good living conditions)

Phrasal Verbs

build up: To increase over time.

“Traffic builds up in the city during rush hour.”

spread out: To extend over a large area.

“The city spreads out for miles.”

go up: To be built or to rise.

“New buildings are going up all over the city.”

knock down: To demolish a building or other structure.

“They had to knock down the old building to make way for the new road.”

spring up: To appear or develop quickly and/or suddenly.

“New shops and restaurants are springing up all over the city.”

IDIOMS

Idioms can add colour and interest to your language.

concrete jungle: A city or urban area which is characterised by large modern buildings and a lack of green space.

“The city is a concrete jungle of skyscrapers.”

bright lights, big city: The attractions and excitement of a large city.

“She was drawn to the bright lights, big city of New York.”

city slicker: A person who is sophisticated or stylish and lives in a city.

“He’s a city slicker who knows all the best restaurants and clubs.”

melting pot: A place where different types of people, styles, etc. are mixed together.

“The city is a melting pot of cultures.”

PART 1

- What is it like where you live?
- Could you tell me a bit more about your hometown?
- What do you like about your hometown?
- What do you not like about your hometown?
- How has your hometown changed over the years?
- Do you like living in the city?
- Do you get many tourists visiting your area?

PART 2



Describe an interesting town or city in your country that visitors might enjoy.

You should say:

- what the place is called.
- where it is
- what the facilities are like
- and say why visitors might enjoying going there.



PART 2



Describe a town or city you have visited.

You should say:

- where it is
- when you were there
- why you liked or disliked it
- And explain what influence the place had on you.



PART 2



Describe your favourite city.

You should say:

- where it is
- what kind of city it is
- when you visited it
- And say why it is your favourite city.



PART 2



Describe a city you have lived in.
You should say:

- what city it was
- the reason you lived there
- what you liked about it
- and say what was most memorable about it.



PART 2



Describe an enjoyable/unforgettable experience you had in the countryside.

You should say:

- what was the activity?
- When did you do it?
- Who did you do it with?
- Why was it enjoyable?



PART 3

- What are the advantages of living in a city or big town?
- In your experience, are city centres usually attractive places?
- What are some of the challenges facing towns and cities?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a big city?
- What changes have you observed in your city in past 5 years?
- If you were mayor of your city, what would you do to improve it?
- Which is better, living in the countryside or in the city?



“Urban life is a canvas painted
with the vibrancy of
people, culture, and diversity.”

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