



In the city

Lesson code: KSXM-LPBB-ADLZ-9

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

1 Warm up

Watch the video, go to <http://linguahouse.com/r/1s> or scan the QR with your smartphone. Can you name the cities in the clips?



London

Rome

New York

Sydney

Prague

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Have you visited any of these cities? Which of them would you prefer to visit?

Study the words below. In which clips did you notice these features?

high-rise buildings

a double-decker bus

a cobbled street

a waterfront

a famous landmark

heavy traffic

neon lights

a distinctive telephone box

a commercial district

a pedestrian zone

an opera house

Does your hometown or capital city have any of these features?

2 Features of American cities

Americans have different terms for some of the features of their cities. Can you match the American terms to their definitions or equivalent British/Australian English terms?

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. downtown | a. a building containing flats that are owned, not rented |
| 2. uptown | b. a car park |
| 3. a mall | c. a flat |
| 4. a condominium (condo) | d. a petrol station |
| 5. an apartment | e. a shopping centre |
| 6. a parking lot | f. in the city centre |
| 7. a gas station | g. in the residential areas outside the city centre |
| 8. the subway | h. the underground, the tube (London) |



In pairs, answer the questions below giving reasons. Use British or American English.

1. Which type of city housing do you prefer?
2. Where do you go shopping when you are in the city? Which places do you avoid?
3. Which part of a city do you prefer to live in?

3 Describing a city

Now imagine you are travelling around the world and keeping a video blog of your journey. You decide to post the comments below next to each video clip. In pairs, study the sentences. What do you think the underlined adjectives mean?

1. This part of the city is extremely impoverished. The standard of living is very low.
2. It's totally deserted here. Where is everybody?
3. This district is very rundown. It urgently needs redevelopment.
4. It's very drab here. Looks like most of the buildings were constructed during the Soviet era.
5. What a picturesque little town! It looks just like a postcard.
6. The city centre is really overcrowded. There's no room to breathe!
7. This area is really vibrant. There's so much life.
8. This part of town is very touristy. There aren't many locals here.

Now match the comments to the video clips. Play the video file, go to <http://linguahouse.com/r/1t> or scan the QR code with your mobile device.

- Clip 1. _____ Clip 2. _____ Clip 3. _____ Clip 4. _____
 Clip 5. _____ Clip 6. _____ Clip 7. _____ Clip 8. _____



4 Name that city!

Study the descriptions of the cities below. Try to guess the city.

1. This vibrant city lies on the west coast of the United States. It is the second most populous city in the United States with a population of nearly 4 million people. The city is famous for its movie studios and is the home of many film stars. While the downtown area is generally regarded as safe, the rundown ghetto areas of the east and south of the city are considered to be dangerous, high-crime areas.

Answer: _____

2. This city is situated in South-East Asia. With a population of 7 million people, it is one of the most densely populated areas in the world and has more high-rise buildings than any other city. It is also one of the world's leading financial centres. The city is renowned for its spectacular waterfront views and for famous actors such as Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan.

Answer: _____



3. This capital city has the largest community of billionaires in the world. However, there is also very high inequality and many impoverished areas in the outskirts of the city. The centre of the city features beautiful parks and historical landmarks. This contrasts sharply with drab suburban areas, which still feature Soviet-era tower blocks. It also has one of the most overcrowded and stressful metro systems in the world.

Answer: _____

4. This European capital city is one of the oldest cities in the world with a history of around 3400 years. It is widely regarded as the birthplace of democracy. The heritage of the past is still evident in the city's ancient monuments, temples and works of art. The city is home to two UNESCO World Heritage sites and it hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Today, it is a cosmopolitan metropolis and an economic, financial, industrial, political and cultural centre.

Answer: _____

5. This European city is considered to be one of the most picturesque cities in the world. It is home to an abundance of historic sites, buildings, museums. The city is built on over 100 small islands and has more than 150 canals and 400 bridges. Not surprisingly, it is also known as the 'Floating City'.

Answer: _____

Take turns to describe a city. Other students must try to guess its name. You may find the expressions below useful.

- The city lies on ... / is situated in/on ...
- The city is considered to be ... / is regarded as ...
- The city has a population of about ...
- The city is renowned for ...
- The city is home to a number of .../several .../plenty of .../a few .../an abundance of ...
- The centre of the city features ...



1 Warm up

Play the video file or have smartphone users access the video with their devices. If you do not have the means to play the video, you can skip this task.

Answers:

1. New York 2. Rome 3. Prague 4. London 5. Sydney

Go through the terms and check understanding. Play the video again if necessary. If you do not have the means to play the video, ask the students in which cities they would expect to find each feature.

1. high-rise buildings (tall, multi-story buildings) - Clips 1 and 5
2. a double-decker bus (a bus with two 'decks'/levels) - Clip 4
3. a cobbled street (a street paved with large, round stones) Clip 3
4. a waterfront (where the city meets a river, lake, sea or ocean) - Clip 5
5. a famous landmark (a well-known feature of a town or city that allows someone to establish their location) - Clips 2 and 5
6. heavy traffic - Clip 1
7. neon lights - Clip 1
8. a distinctive telephone box - Clip 4
9. a commercial district - Clip 1
10. a pedestrian zone - Clip 3
11. an opera house - Clip 5

2 Features of American cities

Students can do this task individually and check in pairs. Go through the answers and do the discussion activity to reinforce the vocabulary. Point out that the distinction between 'subway' and 'underground' is a general one. Each city's underground railway system has a common name that has developed historically. The word 'metro' is also used for a number of cities including Paris, Moscow and even Washington D.C.

1. f 2. g 3. e 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. h

3 Describing a city

Students must try to work out the meaning of the adjectives from the context. Do a feedback session to check answers, then have the students match the comments to the video clips. Play the video file or have smartphone users access the video with their devices. If you do not have the means to play the video, you can set this task for homework.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. very poor | 2. appearing to be empty |
| 3. in need of repair | 4. dull and grey |
| 5. visually attractive | 6. containing too many people |
| 7. full of energy and excitement | 8. attracting tourists (and therefore not very authentic) |

Video clips:

1. 6 2. 8 3. 2 4. 1 5. 7 6. 5 7. 3 8. 4

4 Name that city!

Have the students read the descriptions individually or in pairs. Alternatively, have them cover up the text and read out the descriptions to them. Be prepared to explain any unfamiliar vocabulary. Students try to guess each city. If you prefer, you can read out your own descriptions. Each student then describes a city preferably using vocabulary from this lesson. The other students try to identify it. Alternatively, students can do this activity in pairs.



1. Los Angeles

2. Hong Kong

3. Moscow

4. Athens

5. Venice

