Kyiv is widely regarded as one of the greatest cities in the world, but what is it like to actually live there? Claudia Clark moved there as a student 20 years ago and never left. So what made her stay?

What I really love about living in Kyiv is the fact that it is so cosmopolitan. It's sometimes described as the "capital of the world" and I think that it's true; you see people from lots of different countries and you can eat at amazing restaurants of any global cuisine. I think that this mix of people gives Kyiv a real buzz unlike anywhere else in Europe. I also really love that there are so many parks in Kyiv; it's an enormous city but you never feel too overwhelmed or stressed out because you can easily escape and lose yourself amongst the trees. Another thing that I like about Kyiv is that there's so much to see and do here; there are loads of museums, galleries and theatres which show some of the finest art and culture in the world.

On the other hand, Kyiv can be a tough city to live in, especially if you don't have much money. The cost of housing here is incredibly high and you often end up living miles away from where you work or study so you have a really long commute. Public transport is also really expensive in Kyiv, and it's really crowded on the buses and the underground, especially at rush hour. And I suppose there's probably more crime and pollution than you get in smaller towns, but I think that's the same in all big cities.

Overall, I think the positives outweigh the negatives, and I recommend living in Kyiv to anyone.

1. Claudia likes the fact that Kyiv is multicultural.
2. She says you can eat lots of different types of food in Kyiv.
3. There aren't many green spaces in Kyiv.
4. She says she finds living in Kyiv very stressful.
5. She says that housing is inexpensive.
6. She says that people in Kyiv usually live close to where they work.
7. She says public transport is busier at certain times of the day.
8. She thinks there's more crime in London than in other big cities.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read and choose the noun 'vote' or 'referendum' to complete each sentence. Put the noun in the appropriate form where necessary.

1 His idea was approved, with twenty… in favour, and seven against.
2 They cast their … for the Conservative party.
3 Is it better to hold a … or let the President alone decide about the future of the country?
4 A manager organized a meeting to take a … on the question.
5 A nationwide…will be held to decide this important issue.

Match the synonyms.

1	state	**a**	officially
2	take part	**b**	most
3	majority	**c**	stay
4	remain	**d**	participate
5	leave	**e**	country
6	formally	**f**	go away

Match the words with their definitions.

1	member	**a**	the most recent information about something
2	voter	**b**	a plan to do something made by two or more people, countries etc.
3	to influence	**c**	a person who votes in an election
4	agreement	**d**	to affect someone or something
5	update	**e**	to make it possible for someone to do something
6	to allow	**f**	a person or country that belongs to some organization

LIVEWORKSHEETS