

34 Urban living

A The inner city

... the **inner** city streets became very narrow, so I parked the car and went the rest of the way on foot. I soon **regretted** that decision. The pavements were **filthy** with **litter**, and there was a gang of **youths** **hanging around** on one of the street corners. I started to feel **concerned for** my safety, so I turned into a long **passage** at the back of a factory. It was covered in **graffiti**, and two **homeless** young men were sleeping on the cold **damp** ground. It was a **depressing** place altogether.

GLOSSARY

inner	close to the centre of a place. The inner city is often associated with social and economic problems.
regret	(with an -ing form or noun) feel sorry that you did sth or that you did not do sth regret <i>n</i>
filthy	very dirty
litter	the paper that people don't want and leave on the ground
youth	a young man, usually one you do not have a good opinion of
hang around/ about <i>inf</i>	stay in or around a place not doing very much
concerned (about/for sth)	worried concern <i>n, v</i>
passage	a long narrow area with walls on either side that connects one room or place with another
graffiti <i>pl</i>	pictures or writing on a wall in a public place
homeless	having no home
damp	a little wet
depressing	making you feel very sad and without enthusiasm
	depressed very sad and without enthusiasm

1 Circle the words which usually suggest a negative idea.

regret filthy litter abandon damp
homeless hang around graffiti depressing concerned

2 Complete the definitions with a single word.

- filthy = very
- the inner city = parts of a city close to the centre
- regret = feel you did or did not do something.
- litter = paper left on the
- damp = a little
- concerned =
- depressing = making you feel
- graffiti = on a wall in a public place

3 Complete the sentences.

- You sometimes see quite a lot of people in big cities; it's very sad.
- We walked along a narrow from the park to the road.
- There was a lot of in the family when the children didn't arrive.
- It's not a nice area: you get a lot of hanging around.
- Two workmen were cleaning the off the side of a bridge.
- The street was filthy, and it was pouring with rain. It was very
- You often see teenagers around in the centre of town with nothing to do.
- It started to rain so I not taking an umbrella.

4 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Do you often see these things in your country? Write your answers, or talk to another student.

- litter on the ground
- filthy pavements
- graffiti
- gangs of youths
- homeless people sleeping in the street



B In the suburbs



I live in a block of flats that is **surrounded by** trees, which is rather nice. **On the whole**, it's considered a **desirable district** because it's a nice quiet suburb, near local shops and good schools, but also **handy** for town. The main **drawback** is that, although there is a pub **nearby**, it's not a particularly lively area – there's not much **going on** in the evenings, so you have to go into town for a **decent** nightlife. The other thing is that as time **goes on**, the area is getting more **built-up**, and **that's a shame**.

SPOTLIGHT *go on*

This phrasal verb has several meanings:

- 1 **be going on** be happening or taking place (as in the text)
- 2 (of time) pass SYN **go by**: *As time went on/by, things improved.*
- 3 (of a situation) continue: *It could go on like this for a long time.*

GLOSSARY

surround	be or go all around sth: be surrounded by sth ; surrounding <i>adj</i>	drawback	sth that is not good or causes problems SYN disadvantage
on the whole	generally, but not true in every case SYN in general, generally	nearby <i>adv, adj</i>	not far away in distance: <i>We went to a nearby restaurant.</i> (NOT <i>We went to a near restaurant.</i>)
desirable	wanted, often by many people	lively	full of interest, with things to do
district	an area of a town or country that has particular features	decent	of a high enough standard: <i>They have decent food there.</i>
suburb	an area where a lot of people live, outside the centre of a town	built-up	(of an area of land) with a lot of buildings
handy (for sth) <i>inf</i>	located near to things you need SYN convenient (for sth)	shame	a fact or situation that makes you feel disappointed SYN pity : <i>That's a shame/pity. What a shame/pity.</i>

5 Do the words and phrases in *italics* have the same meaning? Write S or D.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <i>In general / On the whole</i> it's a nice place. | 5 A <i>handy / lively</i> area. |
| 2 They live <i>nearby / next door</i> | 6 What's <i>going on / happening</i> here? |
| 3 It's <i>convenient / decent</i> | 7 The school is very <i>handy / built-up</i> |
| 4 What a <i>pity / shame</i> | 8 It's quite a poor <i>suburb / district</i> |

6 Complete the sentences with a word or phrase.

- 1 There used to be lots of open spaces, but now it's a really area.
- 2 I live in a pleasant, about two kilometres from the centre.
- 3 Unfortunately, the whole area is by factories, which is a big
- 4 It's very because it's close to my children's school and the place where I work. The area is also nice, with a park, children's playground and open spaces.
- 5 It's close to the centre and quite a poor There are good shops but in the evening it can be dangerous. The council say the area will improve, but I expect it to like this for ages.
- 6 For young people it's not that in the evenings, which is a However, it does have a few restaurants, which is good.
- 7 There are one or two drawbacks, but it's a nice place to be.
- 8 For many families, the most aspect of the area is that it has good schools.

7 ABOUT YOU Write your answers, or ask another student.

- 1 Is the area where you live built-up, or is there a feeling of space?
- 2 What is your home surrounded by?
- 3 What shops do you have nearby?
- 4 Is your home handy for most things?
- 5 What are the drawbacks?
- 6 As time goes on, do you think the area will improve or get worse? Why?



TEST YOURSELF