26 City life

A The rush hour*

"For me, the rush hour is the worst time of day. Everywhere is busy, and everyone seems to be **in a hurry**[1]. I usually drive to work, but sometimes I **get stuck**[2] in **traffic jams**[3], and when I get to work I find there's **nowhere to park**[4] because the **car park**[5] is already full. But if I get the bus, it takes me longer, and that makes the journey very **stressful**[6]. When I get home in the evenings I often feel **exhausted**[7] – more from the travelling than from my work."

* the time when people travel to and from work
[1] want to go somewhere / do something quickly
[2] become unable to move or go anywhere
[3] long lines of cars that are not moving
[4] no place to leave the car
[5] place to leave a car
[6] causing a lot of worry
[7] very tired

Common mistakes

The situation was **stressful,** and I was very **stressed** (NOT I was ~~stressing~~, or it was ~~stressing~~).
I couldn't find a **car park**. OR I couldn't find a **parking space**. (NOT I couldn't find a ~~parking~~.)

B The nightlife*



"One of the **advantages of**[1] living in the city is the **nightlife**. The **town centre** is always **lively**[2] in the evening, and there is a wide **variety of**[3] bars, clubs and restaurants to go to. If you are more interested in **culture** and **cultural activities**, you can go to the cinema, the theatre, concerts, art galleries, etc."

* places to visit in the evening for social reasons
[1] the positive things about a situation; *opp* **disadvantages**
[2] full of activity
[3] many different things

C Advantages and disadvantages

"Cities always seem **crowded**[1], and they can be **dirty** (*opp* **clean**) **and dangerous** (*opp* **safe**) places to live. **Pollution**[2] is worse in big cities, and so is the **crime rate**[3]. I only walk home **at night**[4] if I'm with a friend. When I'm on my own, I get a taxi.

Life in cities is also more expensive. Flats cost a lot, and I think you get better **value for money**[5] in a smaller town or village.

On the positive side, **you get**[6] a real **mix**[7] of people and nationalities in a big city; that makes life more interesting. I also enjoy the fact that there's always something **going on**[8] in a big city, so life is never **dull**[9]."

[1] full of people; *opp* **quiet**
[2] dirty air and water
[3] the number of crimes that happen
[4] in the period when it is dark
[5] If something is **good value for money,** you are happy with what you receive for the amount of money you pay.
[6] you find / there exists
[7] different types
[8] happening
[9] boring; *opp* exciting

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

26.1 Match the words on the left with the words on the right.

1 town	d	a	for money
2 traffic		b	hour
3 night		c	rate
4 value		d	centre
5 crime		e	space
6 rush		f	jam
7 car		g	life
8 parking		h	park



26.2 Write the opposite.

1 It's safe. *It's dangerous.*
2 It was crowded. .....
3 It's very clean. .....
4 It was very exciting. .....
5 There are advantages. .....
6 There's a place to park. .....

26.3 Complete the dialogues with one word in each gap.

1 A: Is there plenty to do in the evening?
B: Yes, the *nightlife* is great.
2 A: And are there lots of ..... activities in the town?
B: Yes. There's a cinema, theatre, concerts, and so on.
3 A: Is it good for shopping?
B: Yes, there's a ..... of shops.
4 A: Are you worried about walking home late in the evening?
B: Yes, it can be dangerous at ..... .
5 A: Is the traffic bad?
B: Yes, I often get ..... in traffic jams.
6 A: Is your flat expensive?
B: Well, it's not cheap but I think it's quite good ..... for money.

26.4 Rewrite the sentences without the underlined words. Keep the meaning the same.

1 There were <u>different types</u> of people there. There was a good *mix* of people there.
2 I was <u>very tired</u>. I was ..... .
3 I was very <u>nervous and worried</u>. I was very ..... .
4 The place is always <u>full of activity</u>. The place is always very ..... .
5 The <u>air is dirty</u>. There's a lot of ..... .
6 They want to do everything <u>very quickly</u>. They want to do everything in a ..... .
7 There was nowhere to <u>leave the car</u>. There was nowhere to ..... .
8 There isn't much <u>happening</u> here. There isn't much ..... here.
9 Poverty <u>doesn't exist</u> here. You don't ..... here.

26.5 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

1 What's the rush hour like where you live?

2 What's the nightlife like in your town?

3 Is it good for cultural activities?

4 Is there much pollution?

5 Is the crime rate bad?

6 What are the advantages/disadvantages of where you live?

LIVEWORKSHEETS