

8 Better Cities

8A

VOCABULARY Features of a city

A Circle the correct words to complete the passage.

Singapore's large and diverse population makes this a very ¹(**residential** / **multicultural**) city. Most people work downtown. It's fairly quiet during the day but gets ²(**lively** / **charming**) at night. Because the weather is so hot, most people spend a lot of time shopping in indoor ³(**malls** / **industrial zones**). There are also art ⁴(**markets** / **galleries**), restaurants, and food ⁵(**theaters** / **markets**) where you can eat cheaply. You can also meet up with friends at the ⁶(**residential area** / **riverfront**) to relax and watch the boats go by.

Singapore also has a lot of ⁷(**galleries** / **business parks**) where many businesses have new and ⁸(**lively** / **modern**) office buildings. These are usually found in the ⁹(**markets** / **suburbs**) far from downtown, where land is cheaper.

B Answer the questions using your own words.

1 What is the liveliest part of your city?

2 What are the most interesting neighborhoods in your city or town?

3 Does your city have an industrial zone or a business park? If so, where is it?

LISTENING Library parks

A  **8.1** Listen to a talk about library parks. What are library parks?

- a** libraries that are set up in public parks for a short period
- b** a group of library buildings surrounded by green space
- c** libraries where you drive up to a window for a book, without needing to park a car

B ▶ **8.1** Listen again. Circle **T** for true or **F** for false.

- 1 Medellín was the first city ever to build a library park.
- 2 Bill and Melinda Gates opened the Spain Library in 2007.
- 3 Public libraries are usually rare in poorer communities.
- 4 The concept of library parks is only popular in Colombia.
- 5 Library parks are built primarily for people in poorer areas.

T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F

COMMUNICATION Talking about where you live

A Complete the conversation. Number the sentences (1–6) in the correct order.

- a _____ I'm really glad you like it here. Do you have a favorite place to hang out yet?
- b _____ I know that place! It's so cozy; I could spend the whole afternoon there.
- c 1 So how do you like our neighborhood so far?
- d _____ Yes, I do! My favorite place is Café Milano.
- e _____ Exactly! That's why my friends and I love hanging out there.
- f _____ Oh, I love living here. Everyone's so warm and friendly. It's a beautiful place too.

B Answer the questions using your own words.

- 1 Where is a nice place around your school to hang out?

- 2 What's your favorite place to go to with friends? Why?

- 3 What are three words that best describe your city?

8B

LANGUAGE FOCUS Talking about cities

A Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 If you have time, check (**out** / **in**) the Guggenheim Museum in New York.
- 2 When I was in London, I ran (**out** / **into**) an old friend from college.
- 3 Rio's city council quickly (**built** / **cleaned**) up the city after the Olympics.
- 4 The trams are a fun way to (**be** / **get**) around Hong Kong.
- 5 While you're in Geneva, can you pick (**up** / **on**) a box of chocolates?

- B** Underline the eight phrasal verbs in the passage below. Then add each to the chart under the correct heading. The first one is given.

I live in Istanbul, Turkey. I grew up here and love my city. I don't care for the traffic sometimes, but we have a great transportation system, so it's easy to get around. There is always something going on in the city. Most people head for the old city; the newer parts are lively and fun, too. You can eat out at one of the many outdoor restaurants there. My favorite is Topaz Restaurant. If you're ever in Istanbul, check it out! Any local can point it out to you.

separable	not separable
	<i>grew up</i>

- C**  **8.2** Listen. Number the sentences (1–6) in the correct order.

- a _____ After 150 meters, turn right on Harborfront Road.
- b 1 Go straight for 800 meters on Middle Ring Road.
- c _____ You have reached the City Art Museum.
- d _____ Slow down for road construction.
- e _____ Keep driving for 300 meters and turn left onto Flores Drive.
- f _____ Turn right at Third Avenue.

LISTENING FOCUS Intonation in tag questions

- A**  **8.3** If a speaker is asking for confirmation, the intonation of a tag question falls. If the speaker is asking to check the information, it rises. Listen and repeat what you hear.

You grew up here, didn't you?

The speaker believes the listener grew up here.

You grew up here, didn't you?

The speaker's unsure if the listener grew up here or not.

- B**  **8.4** Listen to the tag questions. Does the intonation rise or fall? Draw an arrow for each tag question.

- 1 You get around by bus, don't you?
- 2 You're not looking for me, are you?
- 3 You'll drop by later, won't you?
- 4 You're going to clean this up, aren't you?
- 5 You don't have to head out now, do you?
- 6 You didn't pay for that bus ticket, did you?

- C**  **8.5** Listen to each question. Circle the correct answer.

- 1 a The speaker believes Dan is coming.
- 2 a The speaker believes Kel is from Dublin.
- 3 a The speaker believes the café opens at 10.
- b The speaker is unsure if Dan is coming.
- b The speaker is unsure if Kel is from Dublin.
- b The speaker is unsure if the café opens at 10.

READING

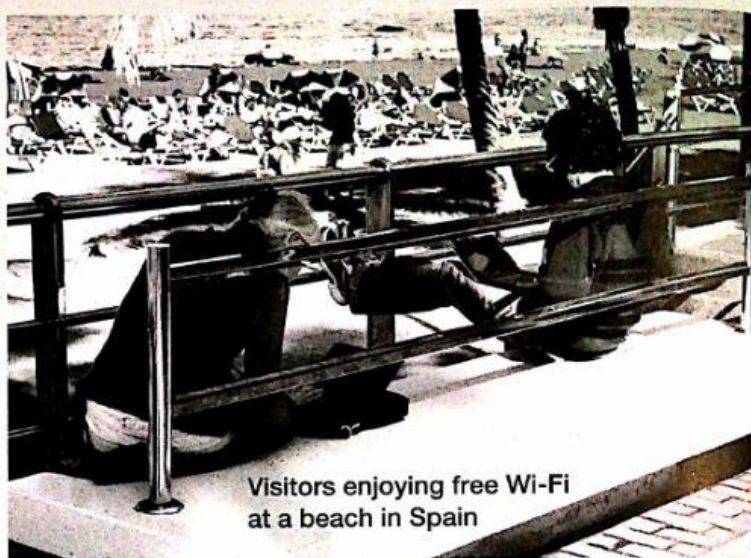
Read the passage and answer the questions below.

¹ **T**he United Nations claims that about 84 percent of people will live in cities by the end of the century. How will these cities cope? Cities clearly need to be a lot smarter if they want to remain livable spaces. Barcelona, Spain's second largest city, is leading the way. In 2013, the city decided it wanted to be much smarter. So what did city officials do?

² You might not notice anything at first, but take a walk down a street and you'll see a box on each streetlight. Inside is a computer that measures noise, traffic, pollution, and crowd numbers. There are sensors in the garbage containers that indicate when they're full and need to be emptied. There are also sensors in the streets under the parking spaces to let drivers know via an app if a space is available or not. Drivers no longer have to circle around looking for an empty parking spot. Barcelona reorganized its bus routes to be more efficient, increasing the number of riders by 30 percent while reducing pollution.

³ At the city's main beach, there are 22 wind- and solar-powered lights. These can store enough energy to light the area for six days. There is also free Wi-Fi along Barcelona's beaches, parks, and other public spaces. Barcelona is considered one of the most wired cities in the world.

⁴ In 2015, Juniper Research, a mobile and digital tech analyst firm, ranked Barcelona its number one smart city. Researchers estimate that in the next few years, cities like Barcelona will save \$17 billion a year in energy bills by using smart streetlights and smart devices like parking and garbage sensors. "The smart city concept is barely off the ground," says researcher Steffen Sorrell. "The endgame figure will be much larger."



Visitors enjoying free Wi-Fi at a beach in Spain

A What is the passage mainly about?

- a why Barcelona became a smart city
- b what Barcelona needs to do to get smart
- c what makes Barcelona a smart city

B Circle all the things that the text says Barcelona has.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 noise sensors | 4 pollution sensors | 7 free selfie cameras |
| 2 interactive bus maps | 5 free parking | 8 garbage-container sensors |
| 3 free Wi-Fi on beaches | 6 wind-powered lights | 9 solar-powered lights |

LISTENING

A  **8.6** Listen. Complete the four main points using information from the talk.

- 1 Cities are becoming _____.
- 2 Cities are working to reduce _____.
- 3 Cities are getting _____.
- 4 Cities are becoming more _____.

B  **8.6** Listen again. Match the cities to the correct information.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 Andernach | ☐ | ☐ a | got its first place for charging electric cars in 2015. |
| 2 Linz | ☐ | ☐ b | once had the world's tallest building. |
| 3 Moscow | ☐ | ☐ c | uses sensors to collect information about the environment. |
| 4 Shanghai | ☐ | ☐ d | has fruit trees planted around the city. |
| 5 Santander | ☐ | ☐ e | has a law that requires some new buildings to have a green roof. |

C CRITICAL THINKING Which of the trends above apply to the city of Barcelona? List examples from the passage to support your claim.

VOCABULARY BUILDING

A Complete the information using the words in the box.

citizens elections pay a fine required vote

In many countries around the world, ¹_____ can choose whether or not to
²_____. But in some countries, people are ³_____ to
do so by law. They have to ⁴_____ if they don't vote. Some people believe
this is wrong because certain individuals may not wish to be involved in ⁵_____.
They may have no preference for a candidate. These people feel that participation is a basic
right—but so is not participating.

B Read the definitions. Then complete the sentences using the phrases in **bold**.

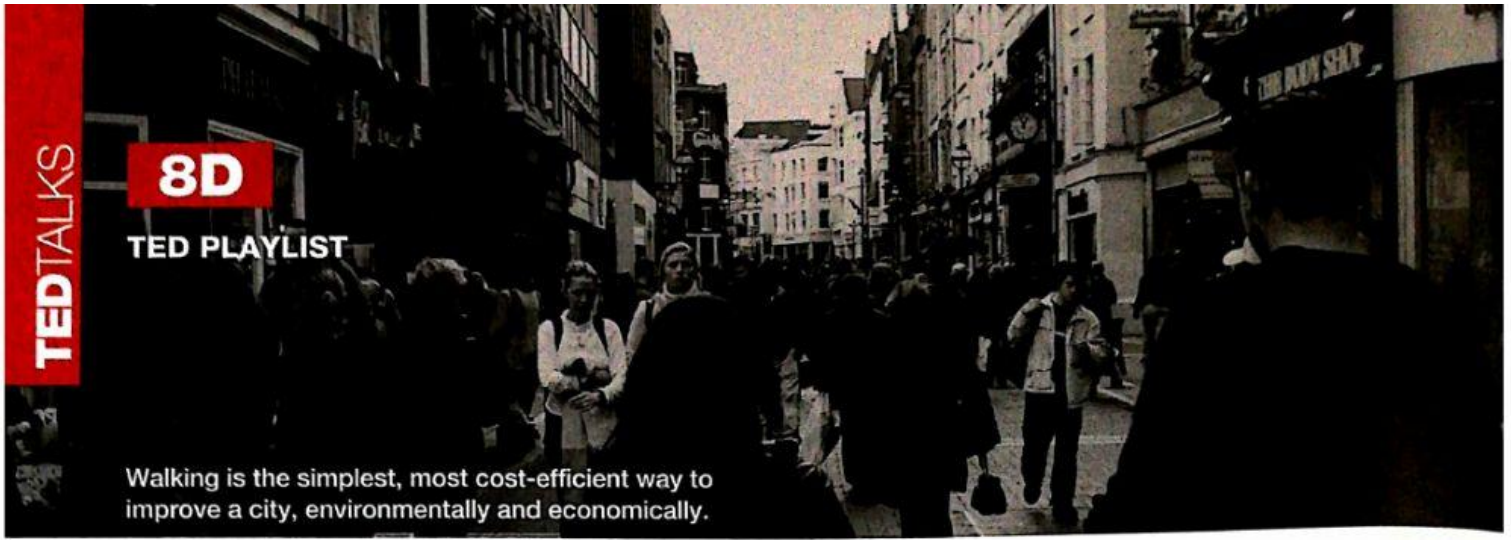
pay a fine: to pay a sum of money because of an offense or crime

pay attention: to listen, watch, and consider something carefully

pay your respects: to honor someone after their death, usually by going to their funeral

pay the price: to suffer the consequences for doing something bad or risky

- 1 Be sure to _____ in Mr. Cook's class, or you may miss something important.
- 2 My stomach hurts! I knew I was going to _____ for eating too much.
- 3 It is a custom in my village to _____ when someone dies.
- 4 My neighbor got in trouble for burning leaves in his yard. The city council has asked him to _____.



Walking is the simplest, most cost-efficient way to improve a city, environmentally and economically.

THE WALKABLE CITY

With careful planning and smart growth, city planner Jeff Speck shows how we can become less **dependent** on cars, which he calls "time-wasting." He aims to make our cities more walkable, more livable, and more pleasant.

TAKE BACK YOUR CITY WITH PAINT

When he was mayor of Tirana, Albania, Edi Rama transformed the city's public spaces with colorful designs, creating a strong sense of **pride** among the country's citizens. With projects that put the people first, Rama decreased crime—and showed his citizens they could respect their leaders.

HOW TO UPGRADE DEMOCRACY FOR THE DIGITAL ERA

Pia Mancini realized that traditional politics was **far removed** from its citizens—and that no one was likely to fix it. She and her colleagues want to upgrade democracy in Argentina and beyond. Through their open-source mobile platform, they want to get more citizens involved in politics.

A Circle the best title for the playlist.

- a** Beautifying Your City **b** Changing the Lives of Citizens **c** Using Technology to Upgrade Cities

B Match each quote to the correct speaker.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| 1 "And when colors came out everywhere, a mood of change started transforming the spirit of the people." | ☐ | ☐ a Jeff Speck |
| 2 "I have the feeling that we can all agree that we're moving towards a new model of the state and society. But, we're absolutely clueless as to what this is or what it should be." | ☐ | ☐ b Edi Rama |
| 3 "Working families, which are defined as earning between \$20,000 and \$50,000 a year in America, are spending more now on transportation than on housing." | ☐ | ☐ c Pia Mancini |

C Match each word in **red** to its definition.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 dependent ☐ | ☐ a very different from something else |
| 2 pride ☐ | ☐ b a feeling of self-respect and personal worth |
| 3 far removed ☐ | ☐ c needing someone or something for support |

D Decide which talk you most want to watch. Watch it online at www.ted.com.

WRITING A change for the better

A Read the sample passage about a change someone would like to make to their city.

Start by stating the problem.

Say what change you would like to make.

My city has many large buildings with blank walls. They are on the sides of office buildings, malls, and even schools. They are boring to look at and sometimes even ugly. I think they make people feel depressed when they look at them.

I would like to see paintings on these walls because I think they will make people smile. The images could celebrate what makes our city special and would create a sense of pride. We could involve a lot of different people and even vote on the best wall design.

Say how this makes you feel or how it affects you personally.

Remember to use new words from this unit.

B Think about a problem your city faces and suggest one change you would like to see. Answer the questions to plan your passage.

- 1 What is the problem?

- 2 How does this problem affect you or make you feel?

- 3 What change would you like to make?

- 4 How would it help?

C Now write your passage. Then complete the checklist below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Did you use correct spelling and punctuation? | ☐ Did you use some new words from this unit? |
| ☐ Did you identify a problem that your city faces? | ☐ Did you say what change you would like to make? |