

SERENDIPITY

ENGLISH, THE MOST FORTUNATE
DISCOVERY

Hello!

Welcome to Opportunities for Serendipity English Course!

OPPORTUNITIES
English!



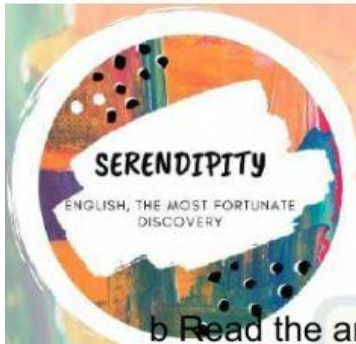
Superlative cities

1 Grammar; superlatives (+ever + present perfect)

a Match the photos and cities. Which European countries are the cities in?
What do you know about them? Have you ever been to any of them?

Barcelona Copenhagen Dublin Paris Venice





b Read the article and complete it with the cities in a.
Travel survey gives its verdict on European cities

London is **the dirtiest** city in Europe, says a new survey by travel website TripAdvisor, but it has **the best** public parks and **the best** nightlife. According to the survey of almost 2,400 travellers...

1 is **the most romantic** city.

2 is **the cleanest** city.

3 has **the best-dressed** people.

4 has **the best** architecture.

5 is **the friendliest** city.

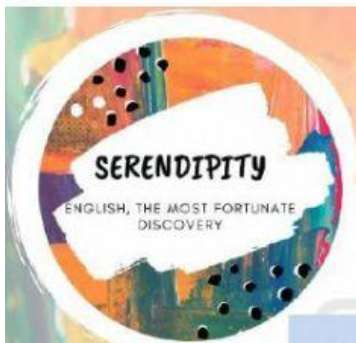
"Europe's big cities all have their highs and lows, but they offer travellers a huge variety of culture and sights within very short distances," said a TripAdvisor spokesman.

c Think about your country or continent. Which cities would you choose?

d Look at the bold superlative adjectives in the survey. How do you make the superlative of ...?

- 1 a one-syllable adjective
- 2 a two-syllable adjective that ends in -y
- 3 a three-syllable adjective
- 4 good and bad

- 1 It's **the dirtiest** city in Europe.
It's **the most popular** holiday destination in the world.
- 2 It's **the most beautiful** city I've ever been to.
It's **the best** film I've seen this year.



- 1 Use *the* + superlative adjective to say which is the biggest, etc. in a group.
 - After superlatives we use *in* + names of places or singular words for groups of people, e.g.
*it's **the noisiest** city **in** the world.*
- 2 We often use *the* + superlative adjective with the present perfect + *ever*.

adjective	comparative	superlative
cold	colder	the coldest
hot	hotter	the hottest
pretty	prettier	the prettiest
beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	further	the furthest

2 Pronunciation.

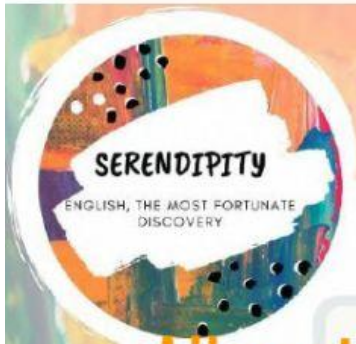
a Listen and repeat the questions. Copy the rhythm. 2.44

- 1 What's the most **beautiful** city you've ever been to?
- 2 What's the most **expensive** thing you've ever bought?
- 3 Who's the most **impatient** person you know?
- 4 Who's the most **generous** person in your family?
- 5 What's the most **frightening** film you've ever seen?
- 6 What's the most **exciting** sport you've ever done?
- 7 What's the most **interesting** book you've read recently?
- 8 What's the most **romantic** restaurant you've ever been to?

3 Reading and Speaking

a Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What are the three tests?
2. Do you think they are good ones?
3. Which city do you think will be the friendliest /most unfriendly?



All capital cities are unfriendly- or are they?

Big cities often have a reputation for being rude, unfriendly places for tourists. Sunday Times journalist Tim Moore went to four cities, London, Rome, Paris, and New York, to find out if this is true. He went dressed as a foreign tourist and did three (not very scientific!) tests to see which city had the friendliest and most polite inhabitants. The three tests were:

1 The photo test

Tim asked people in the street to take his photo (not just one photo, but several – with his hat, without his hat, etc.). Did he find someone to do it?

2 The shopping test

Tim bought something in a shop and gave the shop assistant too much money. Did the shop assistant give back the extra money?

3 The accident test

Tim pretended to fall over in the street. Did anybody come and help him?

b Read about what happened in New York, Paris and Rome and answer.

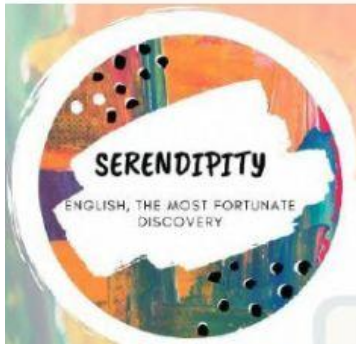
- 1 Who did Tim ask to take a picture of him?
- 2 What was the man who took the photo like?
- 3 Did Tim get back the extra money in the shops?
- 4 Did someone come and help Tim when he fell over in the street?

New York

The photo test

I asked an office worker who was eating his sandwiches to take a photo of me. He was really friendly and said 'Of course I'll take your picture.' When I asked him to take more photos he said 'Sure! No problem.' When he gave me back my camera he said 'Have a nice day!'





OPPORTUNITIES
English!

The shopping test

I went shopping near Times Square and I bought an 'I love New York' T-shirt and some drinks from two different people. I gave them too much money, but they both gave me the exact change back.

The accident test

I went to Central Park and I fell over. I only had to wait about thirty seconds before a man came to help me. 'Is this your camera?' he said, 'I think it's broken.'

5 Who did Tim ask to take a picture of him?

6 What were the people who took the photo like?

7 Did Tim get back the extra money in the shop?

8 Did someone come and help Tim when he fell over in the street?

Paris

The photo test

I was standing in front of the Eiffel Tower and I asked some gardeners to take some photos of me. They couldn't stop laughing when they saw my hat, but they took the photos.

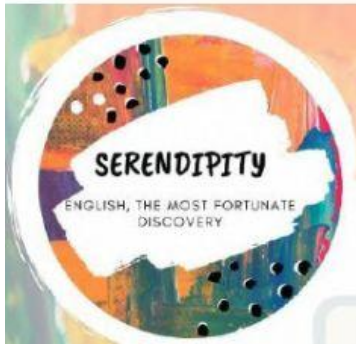
The shopping test

I went to a greengrocer's and I bought some fruit. I gave the man a lot of euro coins and he carefully took the exact amount.

The accident test

I fell over in the Champs Elysees. The street was very busy, but after a minute someone stopped and said to me, 'Are you OK?' He was Scottish!





- 9 Who did Tim ask to take a picture of him?
- 10 What was the person who took the photo like?
- 11 Did Tim get back the extra money in the shop?
- 12 Did someone come and help Tim when he fell over in the street?

Rome

The photo test

I asked a very chic woman who was wearing sunglasses to take some photos. She took a photo of me with my hat on, then without my hat. Then another photo with my sunglasses. Then she asked me to take a photo of her!

The shopping test

I bought a copy of The Times newspaper from a newspaper seller near the railway station. It was three euros. I gave the man four euros and he didn't give me any change.

The accident test

I went to a busy street near the station. When I fell over about eight people immediately hurried to help me.



4 Listening.

a Now listen to Tim Moore talking about what happened in London. How well does London do in each test?

2.45

b Listen and answer the questions.

The photo test

1. Who did he ask first?
2. What did the person say?
3. Who did he ask next? What happened?

The accident test

1. Where did he do the accident test?
2. Did anyone help him?
3. What did the man say?

The shopping test

1. Where was the tourist shop?
2. How much did the bus and key ring cost?
3. How much did he give the man?
4. Did he get the right change?



c Think about the nearest big city to where you live. Imagine you did the three tests there. What do you think would happen? Is it a friendly city?

5 Vocabulary; describing a town or city

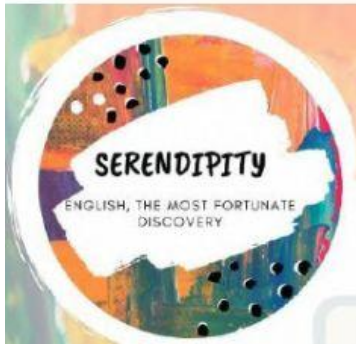
a Think about how to answer these questions about where you live; Do you live in a village, a town, or a city? Where is it? How big is it? What's the population? What's it like?

b **Where is it? How big is it?** Look at the map. Then read the description of Reading and choose the correct words or phrases.

Reading is a town in the *south/ north* of England, on the *River Thames / the South coast*. It is 40 miles *east / west* of London. It is a *small / medium sized / large* town and it has a population of about 250,000. It is famous for its music festival, which is one of the biggest in the UK.



c Listen and check 2.46



d **What is it like?** Adjectives to describe a town or city.

Adjectives

Opposite adjectives

1 There are a lot of bars and clubs with loud music.

2 The air is very dirty.

There are too many people.

3 The buildings were all built quite recently.

4 There's nothing to do.

5 You have to be careful, especially at night.

e Listen and check. 2.47.

f **What is there to see?** Put the words in the right column.

castle	cathedral	church	department store	market	mosque
museum	palace	shopping centre	statue	temple	town hall

Religious buildings	Places where you can buy things	Historic buildings and monuments

g Listen and check. 2.48.

h Which of these places are there / aren't there in your city?

6 Writing; describing where you live. Write a description of the place where you live.