What things can you usually find in a big city? Follow the link and play a quiz game



Fact file:

Mattafix were an English electronic duo, consisting of vocalist Marlon Roudette and producer & keyboardist Preetesh Hirji. Their sound was a fusion of hip hop, R&B, reggae, dancehall, blues, jazz, soul and world. Known for their 2005 hit single "Big City Life", they won the Sopot International Song Festival in 2006.

1. Listen to the clip from Big City Life by Mattafix

_____

Read the lyrics and try to explain how you understand it

Big City Life
Me try fi get by
Pressure nah ease up no matter how hard me try
Big City Life
Here my heart have no base
And right now Babylon deep on me case

Big City Life
Try fi get by
Pressure nah ease up no matter how hard me try
Big City Life
My heart have no base
And right now Babylon deep on me case

People in a show
All lined in a row
We just push on by
It's funny
How hard we try
Take a moment to relax
Before you do anything rash

2. Listen to the clip from a BBC radio programme. What city is the speaker in?

_____ . Listen again and fill the gaps.

The _____ loom into the bright blue sky above white _____ which are absolutely thronging with _____ , hundreds at the time cross the roads, and it looks like synchronized _____.

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3. Listen to the clip from another BBC radio programme _____. Why does the presenter call Tokyo "the Godzilla of all cities"?

a) Choose the cities which are NOT named in the clip:

New York Moscow Melbourne London

Los Angeles Tokyo Rio de Janeiro

b) Population of Tokyo is bigger than countries such as _____ or _____ .



c) _____ Fill the gaps with adjectives:

From a western prospective, there's a tendency to think of Tokyo as the _____ -

_____ _____ space: _____ , _____ , technologically _____.

d) _____ Fill the gaps with verbs:

But the Japanese economy _____ _____ in recession for two decades, and things

_____ quite shiny and futuristic as they _____ appear from a distance.

e) _____ Fill the gaps with nouns:

We're interested in Tokyo right now, pounding the city streets in search of the

_____ , the _____ , the _____ ; soaking up the _____, _____, and

_____.

READING

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Now you are going to read two excerpts including big cities description. Can you get the rhythm, the sounds, the air of the places? What do both authors use to make the descriptions sound full of life?





the veriest frumps	the most old-fashioned and unattractive
the most dejected of miseries	the most unhappy of the unhappiest
the tramp, trudge	the slow walk with heavy steps
the bellow	a deep roaring shout or sound
the uproar	a loud noise or disturbance

a barrel organ:



From the novel *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Wolf:

For having lived in Westminster—how many years now? over twenty,—one feels even in the midst of the traffic, or waking at night, Clarissa was positive, a particular hush, or solemnity; an indescribable pause; a suspense (but that might be her heart, affected, they said, by influenza) before Big Ben strikes. There! Out it boomed. First a warning, musical; then the hour, irrevocable. The leaden circles dissolved in the air. Such fools we are, she thought, crossing Victoria Street. For Heaven only knows why one loves it so, how one sees it so, making it up, building it round one, tumbling it, creating it every moment afresh; but the veriest frumps, the most dejected of miseries sitting on doorsteps (drink their downfall) do the same; can't be dealt with, she felt positive, by Acts of Parliament for that very reason: they love life. In people's eyes, in the swing, tramp, and trudge; in the bellow and the uproar; the carriages, motor cars, omnibuses, vans, sandwich men shuffling and swinging; brass bands;

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barrel organs; in the triumph and the jingle and the strange high singing of some aeroplane overhead was what she loved; life; London; this moment of June.

Before you read the next excerpt, look at the pictures, go through the text and try to figure out (you can google as well), then drag and drop the words next to the correct definitions





Brooklyn, NY



Hudson Street in TriBeCa

Brooklyn **suspenders** **forays** **TriBeCa**

shoddy **Barclays Center** **Maclarens** **impersonators**

airbrushed **Warby Parker** **tarnish**

sudden attacks or raids _____

a multi-purpose indoor arena in the New York City borough of Brooklyn _____

a borough of New York City, named after a Dutch village _____

a neighborhood in Lower Manhattan in New York City. Its name is a syllabic abbreviation of "Triangle Below Canal Street" _____

an American online retailer of prescription glasses and sunglasses based in NYC _____

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a pair of straps that pass over the shoulders and fasten to the waistband of a pair of trousers or a skirt at the front and back to hold it up _____

people who pretend to be someone else for entertainment or fraud _____

a brand of baby strollers, eponym _____

lose or cause to lose luster, especially as a result of exposure to air or moisture _____

badly made or done _____

altered or concealed (a photograph or a detail in one) using an airbrush _____

From the essay *Home to Flatbush* by Vincent Cunningham. Read, listen, and enjoy _____ :

What **Brooklyn** — the *real* Brooklyn — has to fear is not designer pickles, is not boutique mayonnaise; nor is it farmers markets, or shoestring **suspenders** (or the mustachioed hipsters from whose non-shoulders they hang), or periodic **forays** by Taylor Swift across the water from the bosom of **TriBeCa**.
Other items to ignore: boozy Sunday brunches, the practice and vocabulary of mixology, the word *refurbishment* — and its cousin, *conversion* — **shoddy** construction, overpriced pseudobodegas, the curvature and artful rust of the **Barclays Center**, gallery space, studio space, greenspace, retail pop-ups, the cast of the HBO show *Girls*, the word *artisanal*, noise pollution, yoga, joggers, **Maclarens**, real-estate-inspired neighborhood renamings, bad Banksy **impersonators**, top hats and fedoras, **Warby Parker**, the **airbrushed** and alienating gloss of Brooklyn Magazine, etc.

No: be not afraid. These things, they **tarnish** the body, but after that, there's little they can do.

The true and so far unheralded danger to Brooklyn — the *real* Brooklyn — is me. What I'm saying, I guess, is that I'm moving to Brooklyn. By time you read this I might already be there for good.

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