

# 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

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

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

### 3 Complete the sentences.

- 1 You sometimes see quite a lot of ..... people in big cities; it's very sad.
- 2 We walked along a narrow ..... from the park to the road.
- 3 There was a lot of ..... in the family when the children didn't arrive.
- 4 It's not a nice area: you get a lot of ..... hanging around.
- 5 Two workmen were cleaning the ..... off the side of a bridge.
- 6 The street was filthy, and it was pouring with rain. It was very ..... .
- 7 You often see teenagers ..... around in the centre of town with nothing to do.
- 8 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 .....
- graffiti .....
- homeless people sleeping in the street .....
- filthy pavements .....
- gangs of youths .....



## 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

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

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

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

### 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