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

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

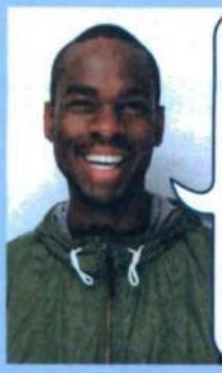
4 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY **Do you often see these things in your country? Write your answers, or talk to another student.**

- litter on the ground _____
- graffitti _____
- homeless people sleeping in the street _____
- filthy pavements _____
- gangs of youths _____

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

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

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS