Life in a Big City

Living in a big city can sometimes be overwhelming. You always have to rush because there is hardly any time to relax. Most people usually start their day early in the morning and are constantly on the move. In the city center, you can rarely find peace as cars are almost always speeding by. However, there are places where life moves more slowly. Occasionally, you might find a quiet park to sit in, but even there, noise from nearby streets frequently interrupts the peace. Despite this, people love living in cities because they can quickly access everything they need.

On the other hand, small towns are far more peaceful. Life happens at a slower pace. People seldom rush, and it's common to see neighbors chatting calmly on the streets. While things don't happen as fast as in the city, many people find it refreshing. However, small towns can be too quiet for some, and you often feel that you have to travel far to find anything exciting. Nonetheless, both environments have their charm, and people usually prefer one or the other.

Comprehension Exercise: True/False

1. People in cities rarely rush. **True/False**
2. City centers are generally quiet. **True/False**
3. Small towns are calmer than big cities. **True/False**
4. In small towns, people are always rushing. **True/False**
5. Some people like living in small towns because it's peaceful. **True/False**

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Vocabulary Exercise

Fill in the gaps with the correct adverb or adverbial phrase:

1. She talks to her friends rarely - often because she is too busy.
2. He finishes his work quickly - hardly to have more free time.
3. He sings ___ (well/badly) at the concert, and everyone applauded.
4. They were talking so loudly - gently that I couldn't hear my own thoughts.
5. Eventually -Hardly, we found a solution to the problem.
6. She always - hard works late to meet deadlines.
7. The kids behaved ___ (badly/well) and were sent to the principal's office.

Grammar: Confusing Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases

Hard vs. Hardly

- **Hard**: describes effort or intensity (e.g., "She works hard.")
- **Hardly**: means barely, almost not (e.g., "She hardly works.")

Almost vs. Nearly

- **Almost**: general use, can describe quantity, time, or degree (e.g., "I almost missed the bus.")
- **Nearly**: emphasizes closeness to completion (e.g., "It's nearly finished.")

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Late vs. Lately

- Late: refers to time after the expected or usual time (e.g., "I arrived late.")
- Lately: refers to recent times (e.g., "I haven't seen him lately.")

Grammar Exercise

Complete the sentences with the correct adverb or adverbial phrase:

1. I _____ (hard/hardly) had any time to finish the report.
2. The movie was _____ (almost/nearly) finished when I arrived.
3. She has been busy _____ (lately/late), working on new projects.
4. We've been going out _____ (lately/late) to have fun.
5. He _____ (hardly/hard) tries to participate in class discussions.
6. They arrived _____ (late/lately) to the concert.
7. The project is _____ (almost/nearly) complete, we only have a few details left.

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