

Lesson 1_Places

Ex 1. Choose ONE WORD OR A NUMBER from the passage for each blank.

The happiest country in the world

Children growing up in Costa Rica are surrounded by some of the most beautiful and diverse landscapes in the world. Preserving tropical rainforests isn't Costa Rica's only success, because the government also makes sure everyone has access to health-care and education. So when the New Economics Foundation released its second Happy Planet Index, Costa Rica came out number one. The index is a ranking of countries based on their impact on the environment and the health and happiness of their citizens.

According to Mariano Rojas, a Costa Rican economics professor, Costa Rica is a mid-income country where citizens have plenty of time for themselves and for their relationships with others. 'A mid-income level allows most citizens to satisfy their basic needs. The government makes sure that all Costa Ricans have access to education, health and nutrition services.' Costa Ricans, he believes, are not interested in status or spending money to show how successful they are.

Created in 2008, the Happy Planet Index examines happiness on a national level and ranks 143 countries according to three measurements: their citizens' happiness, how long they live (which reflects their health), and how much of the planet's resources each country consumes. According to researcher Saamah Abdallah, the Index also measures the outcomes that are most important, and those are happy, healthy lives for everyone.

(adapted from Yes! Magazine)

The Happy Planet Index

Year started: **1**

Number of countries it lists: **2**

Measures each country's happiness according to:

- its *effect* on the **3** (i.e. the quantity of the Earth's **4** that it uses);
- the **5** of the population (i.e. how long people live);
- how happy its **6** are.

Ex 2.

A. Find words or phrases in the passage which have a similar meaning to the underlined words and phrases in the table below.

Vocabulary List:

- well-known: *famous*
- quality of life:
- excellent:
- most pleasant:
- very:
- not many:
- residents:
- a lot:

B. Now, read and choose ONE WORD from the passage to complete the table below.

The best cities in the world

In a recent internet survey, tourists and business travellers were asked to rate 50 cities around the world, from the best to the worst. Of the top three cities, two were in Europe and one was in Australia.

In third place was London, scoring highly mainly because it was the most famous city on the list of 50 surveyed. It was also seen as a very good place to do business, and was an important cultural centre. However, it lost points because people believed it was an extremely expensive place to live.

Sydney was also a very popular destination, achieving second place on the list because people believed it had the friendliest inhabitants, as well as the best standard of living and the nicest climate. It failed to make the top spot, however, because people thought there were very few things to see there, and many also thought it was too far away from other business and cultural centres.

At the top of the list was Paris. Despite problems such as the large amount of traffic, it beat other cities to first place because people considered it to be the most interesting city, with more museums, art galleries and places of interest than anywhere else. People also thought it was the best city to take a holiday in.

City	Overall position in survey	Perceived advantages	Perceived disadvantages
London	1	• Is more <u>well-known</u> than the other cities.	Is <u>very</u> 3

		Has <u>excellent</u> 2 opportunities.	
Sydney	Second	<u>Residents</u> are the 4 - Has the best <u>quality of life</u>. - Has the <u>most pleasant</u> 5	<u>Not many</u> things to see.
Paris	6	Is more 7 than other cities.	Has a <u>lot</u> of 8

Ex 3.

A. Match the words or phrases (1–7), which are underlined in the passage, with the words or phrases (a–g) which have a similar meaning.

Words / Phrases	Matching Meanings	Answer:
1. similar to	a. a number of	1. _____
2. each	b. every	2. _____
3. total	c. get a job	3. _____
4. several	d. helpful	4. _____
5. useful	e. like	5. _____
6. find work	f. local	6. _____
7. regional	g. maximum	7. _____

B. Now complete the notes below. Choose ONE WORD OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

A city survey with a difference

There are many websites on the Internet which provide lists of the world's best cities to visit, live or work in. These lists usually grade the cities in order, from 'best' to 'worst', and are based on facts and figures provided by local or national organisations.

The City Brands Index (CBI) also provides a list of best and worst cities. However, unlike other surveys, it is based on the idea that cities are similar to products in shops. It asks ordinary people in other countries to grade cities in the same way that they would grade a product, like a soft drink or a car. What is particularly different about the CBI is that the people who take part in the survey may not have ever visited the cities. Instead, they are asked to say what they think the cities are like, basing their opinions on things like news stories, magazine articles or television programmes they have heard or seen.

Each year, about 10,000 people in 20 countries take part in the CBI survey, and they grade a total of 50 cities. They do this by filling in an online questionnaire. There are several categories in the survey. These include things like the economy, education, the environment, local culture, climate and what the city's residents are like.

The CBI list is useful because it helps people choose a good place to live, find work or take a holiday. It also helps regional governments to understand why people and businesses are, or are not, coming to their cities, and so shows them areas which they could develop or improve.

The City Brands Index

The CBI believes that cities are like **1** which people can buy when they go shopping.

Surveys take place every **2**

A maximum of **3** cities are included in the survey.

A number of different **4** are included in the survey.

The CBI list is helpful for:

- people who are trying to decide where to **5** or get a job.
- people who are looking for a good **6** destination.
- local **7** who want to make their city a better place.

After finishing all the tasks above, remember to write down new words and complete keyword table in the link I have sent you!