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A city is a large community where people are lonely together.
Herbert Prochnow, US banking executive

9B Megacities

1 READING

a Read the article quickly and choose the word that best describes Shanghai, according to the writer.

a dangerous b stimulating c modern d polluted

b Read the article again and choose the correct answers.

1 Puxi and Pudong are…
   a two cities near Shanghai.
   b two districts of Shanghai.
   c two rivers crossing Shanghai.
   d two people from Shanghai.

2 The residents of Shanghai often go outside because…
   a they don't have enough space at home.
   b the weather is always fine.
   c the food stalls sell good food.
   d they need fresh air to do their hobbies.

3 The roads of Shanghai are dangerous because…
   a there are no traffic lights.
   b drivers do not obey the rules.
   c there is too much traffic.
   d pedestrians do not use the crossings.

4 Tourists visiting Shanghai should always…
   a use public transportation.
   b travel with a guide.
   c avoid talking to strangers.
   d be careful when they arrive.

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5 According to the writer, Shanghai is special because it has…

a a lot of historical monuments.
b an excellent public transportation system.
c a mixture of different things to see and do.
d the best hotels in the country.

Reading: Shanghai

Shangha I, with a population of around 23.5 million, is currently the fifth of the world's megacities. Its location on the mouth of the Yangtze River Delta in eastern China makes it one of the busiest ports in the world. The Huang Pu River, a tributary of the Yangtze, separates the historic center of the city, the Puxi area, from the newly developed financial and **commercial** area called Pudong.

On their arrival in Shanghai, visitors are hit by an explosion of sights, sounds, and smells. Rents are high, and apartments tiny, so most residents prefer to **hang out** outside. The street is a place to eat, play, read, and relax, and it is not unusual to see people **strolling around** in their nightgowns and pajamas. The street serves as an extension of the workplace as well. Hair stylists sit their customers on chairs outside their salons to cut their hair, and there are food stalls on every street corner piled high with delicious steamed buns filled with meat, vegetables, or mushrooms.

However, it is not only the sidewalk that is crowded. Despite the **extensive** metro system - Shanghai has the third longest network in the world - the traffic in the city is terrible. During rush hour, it can take two hours to drive a 30-minute route. In general, drivers do not like to follow the rules of the road, and they regularly ignore speed limits and traffic lights. This makes crossing the road extremely **hazardous** for pedestrians, whose safety is not guaranteed even when the green light is showing. In China, road accidents are the major cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 45, with an estimated 600 traffic deaths per day.

But as far as crime is concerned, Shanghai is a relatively safe city. You rarely hear of crimes being committed, although pickpockets are known to operate in crowded areas and tourists are sometimes the target for scams. The most common of these consist of unofficial taxi drivers **overcharging** passengers for the ride to their hotel from the airport, or bar owners getting an accomplice to bring an **unsuspecting** tourist to their bar only to present him with a terribly high check when he tries to leave. In general, however, the Chinese are very friendly to foreigners and they treat them with a lot of respect. **Nonnative** residents usually become good friends with their Chinese neighbors, once they have gotten used to each other.

The city of Shanghai offers a **fusion** of East and West; old and new. Visitors staying at the brand new five-star Ritz Carlton Hotel can explore the ancient Buddhist temples when they go sightseeing. Passengers travel on the Shanghai Meglev, the fastest train in the world, while messengers transport impossible **loads** on their bicycles. Sometimes, the contrasts can be exhausting, but one thing is certain: Shanghai is a city where nobody ever feels bored.

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2 VOCABULARY prefixes and suffixes

a Complete the sentences with the prefixes from the box.

~~anti~~	auto	bi	mega	mis	mono
multi	over	post	sub	under	

1 The doctor prescribed *anti*biotics for my brother's chest infection.
2 There was a food shortage in many countries during the _____war period, between 1946 and 1960.
3 Some of the residents of megacities live in _____standard housing.
4 My English teacher recommends us to use a _____lingual dictionary, one that is only in English.
5 My colleagues are always complaining that they are _____worked and _____paid.
6 The leader of the protest used a _____phone to make himself heard.
7 You couldn't miss Sandra – she was the one in the _____colored coat.
8 The town has just celebrated its _____centennial.
9 Hundreds of fans were waiting for the singer hoping to get an _____graph.
10 It's a popular _____conception that cold weather can make you sick. This is simply not true.

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b Complete the sentences with nouns formed from the words in parentheses.

1 I borrowed the money with the *intention* of giving it back to you. (intend)
2 His greatest _____ is his inability to express his feelings. (weak)
3 There is a general _____ that house prices will rise before the end of the year. (believe)
4 You need to have _____ and stamina to become a professional athlete. (strong)
5 He wasn't chosen for the basketball team because of his _____. (high)
6 Teachers are trying to fight _____ in schools throughout the country. (race)
7 The _____ of online shopping means that fewer people are shopping in the malls. (convenient)
8 Gandhi was a humanist who believed in the _____ of man. (brother)
9 There's been a great _____ in public transportation recently. (improve)
10 I didn't have much _____ finding work in the city, so I moved back to the country. (succeed)

3 GRAMMAR uncountable and plural nouns

a Circle the correct answer. Check (✓) if both are possible.

1 Can I have *a piece of bread* / *some bread*, please? ✓
2 My grandmother suffers from *bad health* / *a bad health*.
3 I bought *a new piece of furniture* / *some new furniture* for my living room.

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4 Can you please give me *a piece of advice | some advice*?
5 We lost *a luggage | a piece of luggage* on the way back from Singapore.
6 Jackie's upset because she's had *a bad news | some bad news.*
7 Be careful with that vase – it's made of *glass | a glass.*
8 My girlfriend gave me *a pair of pajamas | some pajamas* for my birthday.
9 The teacher gave the boy extra points for *a good behavior | good behavior.*
10 Can you lend me *a paper | some paper*? I left my notebook at home.

b Complete the sentences with *is* or *are*.

1 My clothes _are_ really wet. I got caught in a thunderstorm.
2 The traffic _____ terrible during rush hour in the city.
3 John's climbing equipment _____ very heavy. I can hardly pick it up.
4 The new research into sleep patterns _____ fascinating.
5 The outskirts of the town _____ run-down and a little bit depressing.
6 The good news _____ that we're getting married in the spring!
7 The flight crew on this plane _____ very young.
8 Politics _____ really fascinating – particularly for politicians!
9 Do you think my belongings _____ safe in the hotel room?
10 Police _____ investigating the murder of an elderly woman in her home.

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5 LISTENING

a iChecker Listen to five people talking about their favorite big cities. Match five of the cities in the box to the speakers.

Auckland	Boston	Buenos Aires	Hong Kong	Melbourne
Montreal	Rio de Janeiro	Seoul	Vancouver	Washington, D.C.

Speaker 1 _____ Speaker 4 _____

Speaker 2 _____ Speaker 5 _____

Speaker 3 _____

b Listen again and match the speakers with the sentences. There is one sentence which you do not need to use.

Speaker number
↓

- ☐ **A** You can go sightseeing here, but you can also relax by the ocean.
- ☐ **B** It's the perfect place to go if you want to see a particular dance.
- ☐ **C** The city is surrounded by areas of stunning natural beauty.
- ☐ **D** It has a reputation for having the best nightlife in the world.
- ☐ **E** It's a city where two different ways of life exist side by side.
- ☐ **F** It's a great place to visit if you're interested in history.

LIVEWORKSHEETS