

A

The rush hour*

“For me, the rush hour is the worst time of day. Everywhere is busy, and everyone seems to be **in a hurry**¹. I usually drive to work, but sometimes I **get stuck**² in **traffic jams**³, and when I get to work I find there's **nowhere to park**⁴ because the **car park**⁵ is already full. But if I get the bus, it takes me longer, and that makes the journey very **stressful**⁶. When I get home in the evenings I often feel **exhausted**⁷ – more from the travelling than from my work.”

* the time when people travel to and from work

¹ want to go somewhere / do something quickly

² become unable to move or go anywhere

³ long lines of cars that are not moving

⁴ no place to leave the car

⁵ place to leave a car

⁶ causing a lot of worry

⁷ very tired

Common mistakes

The situation was **stressful**, and I was very **stressed** (NOT I was **stressing**, or it was **stressing**).

I couldn't find a **car park**. OR I couldn't find a **parking space**. (NOT I couldn't find a **parking**.)

B

The nightlife*



“One of the **advantages of**¹ living in the city is the **nightlife**. The **town centre** is always **lively**² in the evening, and there is a wide **variety of**³ bars, clubs and restaurants to go to. If you are more interested in **culture** and **cultural activities**, you can go to the cinema, the theatre, concerts, art galleries, etc.”

* places to visit in the evening for social reasons

¹ the positive things about a situation; *opp* **disadvantages**

² full of activity

³ many different things

C

Advantages and disadvantages

“Cities always seem **crowded**¹, and they can be **dirty** (*opp* **clean**) and **dangerous** (*opp* **safe**) places to live. **Pollution**² is worse in big cities, and so is the **crime rate**³. I only walk home **at night**⁴ if I'm with a friend. When I'm on my own, I get a taxi.

Life in cities is also more expensive. Flats cost a lot, and I think you get better **value for money**⁵ in a smaller town or village.

On the positive side, **you get**⁶ a real **mix**⁷ of people and nationalities in a big city; that makes life more interesting. I also enjoy the fact that there's always something **going on**⁸ in a big city, so life is never **dull**⁹.”

¹ full of people; *opp* **quiet**

² dirty air and water

³ the number of crimes that happen

⁴ in the period when it is dark

⁵ If something is **good value for money**, you are happy with what you receive for the amount of money you pay.

⁶ you find / there exists

⁷ different types

⁸ happening

⁹ boring; *opp* **exciting**

Exercises

26.1 Match the words on the left with the words on the right.

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 town | ☒ | a for money |
| 2 traffic | ☐ | b hour |
| 3 night | ☐ | c rate |
| 4 value | ☐ | d centre |
| 5 crime | ☐ | e space |
| 6 rush | ☐ | f jam |
| 7 car | ☐ | g life |
| 8 parking | ☐ | h park |



26.2 Write the opposite.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 It's safe. <i>It's dangerous.</i> | 4 It was very exciting. |
| 2 It was crowded. | 5 There are advantages. |
| 3 It's very clean. | 6 There's a place to park. |

26.3 Complete the dialogues with one word in each gap.

- A: Is there plenty to do in the evening?
B: Yes, the nightlife is great.
- A: And are there lots of activities in the town?
B: Yes. There's a cinema, theatre, concerts, and so on.
- A: Is it good for shopping?
B: Yes, there's a of shops.
- A: Are you worried about walking home late in the evening?
B: Yes, it can be dangerous at
- A: Is the traffic bad?
B: Yes, I often get in traffic jams.
- A: Is your flat expensive?
B: Well, it's not cheap but I think it's quite good for money.

26.4 Rewrite the sentences without the underlined words. Keep the meaning the same.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 There were <u>different types</u> of people there. | There was a good <u>mix</u> of people there. |
| 2 I was <u>very tired</u> . | I was |
| 3 I was very <u>nervous and worried</u> . | I was very |
| 4 The place is always <u>full of activity</u> . | The place is always very |
| 5 The <u>air is dirty</u> . | There's a lot of |
| 6 They want to do everything <u>very quickly</u> . | They want to do everything in a |
| 7 There was nowhere to <u>leave the car</u> . | There was nowhere to |
| 8 There isn't much <u>happening</u> here. | There isn't much here. |
| 9 Poverty <u>doesn't exist</u> here. | You don't here. |

26.5 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- What's the rush hour like where you live?
- What's the nightlife like in your town?
- Is it good for cultural activities?
- Is there much pollution?
- Is the crime rate bad?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of where you live?