

IN A BIG CITY

I was born in a big city and I have always lived here. I think that life in a big city is more comfortable and exciting than in the country or a small town.

First of all, cities offer better education and it is easier to find a good and interesting job. Hence, there are more opportunities to succeed in life. Moreover, there is a good selection of cinemas, theatres, galleries or restaurants where people may spend their leisure time. There is always something interesting to see or do and it is just impossible to be bored. The services in a big city are always better. There are a lot of good shops and department stores where shopping can be done easily and quickly.

Besides, there are many sports facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts or gym halls where people may practice their favourite sports.

However, living in a big city has also some disadvantages. Most city-dwellers are forced to live in blocks of flats where they are quite anonymous. It often happens that they do not even know their neighbours and in an emergency they cannot count on their help. Many of them feel lonely as it is rather difficult to strike up a friendship or close acquaintanceship in a big city. Young people are in a better situation. They go to clubs, discos and they have more opportunities to meet someone.

Heavy traffic is another big problem. Fumes emitted directly into the atmosphere pollute the air so heavily that many city-dwellers suffer from serious medical disorders. Besides, the noise never stops and there are numerous car accidents almost every day. Furthermore, it is very difficult to find a parking place, especially in the centre.

In addition to all this, the crime rate in most cities is very high. Some people never go out in the evening because they are afraid of being robbed or abused. They also dread leaving their flats as there are frequent burglaries in big cities nowadays.

In spite of all these disadvantages, many inhabitants love their cities and cannot imagine themselves living in the country, even if it is cheaper and healthier. They just claim that life in a big city has a different quality and it is never dull.

VOCABULARY A

big city – duże miasto
comfortable – wygodny
exciting – ekscytujące
in the country – na wsi
in small town – w małym miasteczku
to find a good and interesting job – znaleźć dobrą i interesującą pracę
more opportunities – więcej możliwości
to succeed in life – odnieść sukces w życiu
good selection – dobry wybór
to spend one's leisure time – spędzać czas wolny
to be bored – być znudzonym
services – usługi
shopping – zakupy
sports facilities – tu: obiekty sportowe
disadvantage – wada
city-dweller – mieszkaniec miasta
block of flats – blok

anonymous – anonimowy
in an emergency – w sytuacji wyjątkowej (naglej)
to count on one's help – liczyć na czyjąś pomoc
to strike up a friendship – zerwać przyjaźń
acquaintanceship – znajomość
more opportunities – więcej możliwości
heavy traffic – duży ruch
fumes – spaliny
to pollute the air – zanieczyszczać powietrze
to suffer from – cierpieć na
medical disorders – kłopoty zdrowotne
noise – hałas
car accidents – wypadki samochodowe
parking place – miejsce do parkowania
centre – centrum
crime rate – wskaźnik przestępczości
to be robbed – być okradzionym

to be abused – być obrzuconym obelgami
to dread leaving – bać się pozostawiania
frequent burglaries – częste włamania
inhabitant – mieszkaniec
cheaper – tańsze
healthier – zdrowsze
different quality – inna jakość
dull – nudne

VOCABULARY B

city centre – centrum miasta
skyscraper – drapacz chmur
tower block – wieżowiec
building – budynek
office building – biurowiec
detached house – dom jednorodzinny
terraced house – szeregowiec
villa – willa
developed – rozwinięty
historical – historyczny
modern – nowoczesny
picturesque – malowniczy
polluted – zanieczyszczony

SPEAKING

1. What are the advantages of living in a big city?
2. Where will people in the year 3000 be living?
3. Where would you like to live: in a big city or in the country? Why?

crowded – zatłoczony
destroyed – zniszczony
district – dzielnica miasta
suburbs – przedmieścia
square – plac
the main street – główna ulica
the Old Town – Stare Miasto
avenue – aleja
department store – dom towarowy
shopping centre – centrum handlowe
playground – plac zabaw
underground – metro
housing estate – osiedle mieszkaniowe
railway station – dworzec kolejowy
bus terminal – dworzec autobusowy
city transport – komunikacja miejska
to pollute the town – zanieczyszczać miasto
to go out of the town – wyjechać z miasta
to suffer from noise – cierpieć z powodu hałasu
to expand the town – rozbudować miasto

Adapted from Małgorzata Cieślak: *Repetytorium tematyczno-leksykalne 1*. Wagros.