



STANDARD OF LIVING

Discussion

Basic Questions

1. What's your standard of living like?
My standard of living is...
2. Has your standard of living gone up or down over the years?
Yes... / No.....
3. Would you include issues like the climate and crime in measuring the standard of living?
I think....
4. What part does the Internet play in the standard of living?
Internet plays....
5. Would you like to move to the country with the highest standard of living?
Yes, I would... / No, I wouldn't...

Extended Questions

1. What is the standard of living like in your country compared to its neighbours?
In our country.....standard of living is....
2. What do you think your standard of living will be like when you retire?
I think it will be....
3. Is it possible for all countries to enjoy the same standard of living?
Yes, it is.... / No, it isn't....
4. Is life today better than in the past?
Yes, it is... / No, it isn't....

VOCABULARIES

1. **Social exclusion** / ,sou.ʃəl ɪk'sklu:ʒən/
(noun) a situation in which some people who are poor or who do not have a job do not feel part of the rest of society
Ex.: The movie is an example of a social exclusion.
2. **Social class**
(noun) a division of a society based on social and economic status.
Ex.: Now it is known to affect all groups regardless of social class or ethnic origin.
3. **Minority** /mə'nɔ:ɪ-ti/
(noun) a group that is different racially, politically, etc, from a larger group of which it is a part
Ex.: These children are only a small minority.

4. Austere /ɔ' stiər/

(adjective) the way of living is simple and not very comfortable

Ex.: Despite their wealth, they lead an austere life.

5. Gracious /' greɪ·ʃəs/

(adjective) having the qualities great comfort and luxury made possible by wealth

Ex.: He was used to gracious living.

6. Nomadic /nəʊ'mædɪk/

(adjective) moving from place to place rather than staying in one place

Ex.: They led a nomadic life in the Autonomous region in China.

7. Monastic /mə'nastɪk/

(adjective) a life that is quiet and simple

Ex.: The number of monastic institutions in the island is very small.

8. Societal /sə'saɪ·ɪ·təl/

(adjective) of or relating to human society

Ex.: Rapid societal changes have complicated parents' task.

9. New age /'nu'eɪdʒ/

(adjective) relating to a way of life and thinking that stresses awareness of your spirit

Ex.: They are New Age types – into yoga and strict vegetarianism.

Useful Expressions

1. **champagne on a beer budget** - Someone who likes expensive things that they cannot afford

Ex.: Eve borrows money to buy expensive designer clothes, it's a champagne taste on a beer budget!

2. **keep up appearances** - A person who keeps up appearances maintains an outward show of prosperity or well-being in order to hide their difficulties from others.

Ex.: He continued to keep up appearances even when business was bad.

3. **keep wolf from door** - In order to keep the wolf from the door, you need to have enough money to buy food and other essentials.

Ex.: My grandparents earned barely enough money to keep the wolf from the door.

4. **live from hand to mouth** - If you *live from hand to mouth*, you don't have any money to save because whatever you earn is spent on food and other essentials.

Ex.: Most families in North Korea live from hand to mouth.

5. **live in clover** - Someone who *lives in clover* has enough money to lead a very comfortable life.

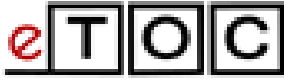
Ex.: I dream of making an enormous amount of money and living in clover for the rest of my life!

Exercise

Moscow is the world's costliest city

Thinking of moving to another world capital? A new report compiled by the human resources consultancy Mercer suggests you need to think carefully about how costly it is in other parts of the world. Surprisingly, Mercer ranks Moscow as the world's costliest city, with London a close second. This is bad news for students wanting to study in the Russian and English capitals. Mercer gathers information on 143 cities around the globe. Its annual survey measures and compares the costs of more than 200 items, including rent, transportation, food, clothes, household goods and entertainment. This data is invaluable for companies wishing to open offices in far-off lands. A Mercer spokeswoman said: "As companies continue to send employees on expatriate assignments, they must closely monitor changes in the cost of living."

A major theme of the latest survey is how currency movements have changed the rankings of different cities. Mercer stated: "There have been some significant changes in the rankings since last year....These are primarily due to exchange rate fluctuations - in particular the weakening of the U.S. dollar and the strengthening of the euro." Last year, London was ranked fifth, but due to a weak dollar, it has risen three places. Seoul was the third-placed city, followed by Tokyo and Hong Kong, both down a place from last year. Asuncion was the cheapest city for expats for the fifth year in a row. The world's most expensive apartments are in Tokyo and the most affordable are in Johannesburg. The dearest fast food is in Copenhagen. Zimbabwe's Harare dropped off the list this year due to its rates of hyperinflation.



English Teachers On Call

ESP 1.16 Copyright © 2017 by eTOC All Rights Reserved.

ESP (English speaking Practice)- ADVANCED- STANDARD OF LIVING

6

Guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F)

- a. **Moscow is the world's costliest city for human resource companies. T / F**
- b. **Students might not be able to afford to study and live in London. T / F**
- c. **An international price comparison was made between 143 cities. T / F**
- d. **Expatriates need to write assignments before living overseas. T / F**
- e. **Changes in exchange rates made cities more expensive to live in. T / F**
- f. **The dollar has become weaker and the euro stronger recently. T / F**
- g. **Asuncion was the cheapest city for the fifth consecutive year. T / F**
- h. **The world's most expensive fast food is in Copenhagen.**