

Rural life

- 1.1 ▶ 25 Listen to two people talking about where they live. Decide whether they live in a rural or urban area.

Speaker 1: _____

Speaker 2: _____

- 1.2 ▶ 25 Now listen again and make a note of the advantages and disadvantages of rural life that the speakers mention.



Speaker	Advantages of rural life	Disadvantages of rural life
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____

- 2.1 Use a dictionary to help you put the words in the box in the correct parts of the mind map.

a public transport system open spaces high rises cottages pollution fresh air isolated congestion simple peaceful crowded remote slow pace countryside overpopulated tranquil frantic overdevelopment infrastructure a sense of community traditional



- 2.2 Complete the passage with words or phrases from the mind map. You may need to change the form of the words.

One of the main disadvantages of rural life in developed countries is the sense of
 1 _____ many people can feel. There isn't a developed 2 _____,
 so people are very dependent on their cars to get around. It is often difficult for city dwellers to appreciate the benefits of the rural lifestyle, so it can be difficult to persuade doctors and teachers to come and work in the 3 _____. However, people born and raised in rural areas enjoy the 4 _____ of life and often feel overwhelmed by the 5 _____ pace of the city. Life may be 6 _____ in the countryside, but people living there enjoy the 7 _____ aspects that exist because things have remained relatively unchanged for hundreds of years.

3.1 Read the passage and answer the questions below. Do not use a dictionary.

The human species evolved some two million years ago. Our natural habitat was the savannah, where our forefathers made their living by hunting and gathering. This way of existence required frequent moving. Within Europe, permanent settlement became the rule only after the Agrarian Revolution, which appears to have started some ten thousand years ago. Most people came to live in farmhouses, often grouped in villages. A few villages developed into towns and even cities. However, the percentage of the population that lived in an urban setting remained small in agrarian society. In Medieval Europe, some 90% of the population lived in the country. This pattern changed drastically after the Industrial Revolution, when, in less than two centuries, massive urbanisation took place.

Curiously, this massive exodus from the land to the city was not accompanied by negative attitudes to rural living. In fact, the reverse occurred. It would seem that the less rural life is practised, the more it is cherished and the greater the emphasis on the hazards of urban life. In the years following the Industrial Revolution, a new artistic theme emerged: the theme of pastoral idyll. Lyrics, novels and paintings began to emphasise the beauty of nature and the virtues of rural life. A constant undertone in this theme is that rural living is more satisfying than life in the town. We are led to believe that, in the country, we can find the safe, simple serenity that is so desperately needed by the alienated city dweller. In reality, various studies on life satisfaction have revealed that there is no advantage to living in a rural setting. In developed countries, rural people tend to be just as satisfied with life as city people. Moreover, in the developing countries, rural dwellers are markedly less happy than city dwellers. The results of a survey conducted to find out where people would prefer to live given the choice showed that the pattern of preference is in fact the reverse of the pattern of settlement. Rural living is preferred more in the most urbanised parts of the world, while urban living is seen as most desirable in the least urbanised parts.

Write

- YES** If the statement agrees with the claims of the writer
NO If the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
NOT GIVEN If it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

- Our original ancestors were unable to live in permanent villages.
- The Agrarian Revolution occurred later in Europe than in other parts of the world.
- The Industrial Revolution led to food shortages in urban areas.
- When people stop living in rural areas, they idealise rural life.
- Studies on life satisfaction support city dwellers' beliefs about rural life.
- In developed countries, people living in urban areas are happier than those living in rural areas.

**Test tip**

Yes / No / Not given questions are slightly different to True / False / Not given ones. They are based on opinions or claims in the passage rather than facts. But the questions will still come in the same order as the information in the passage and should have information that will help you find the correct part of the passage. Even for Not given questions, you should still be able to find the part of the passage that might contain this information.

3.2 PARAPHRASE Highlight or underline words in the passage with a similar meaning to the following words and phrases.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 developed gradually | 6 characteristic (that isn't obvious) |
| 2 proportion | 7 became known |
| 3 a huge amount of | 8 peacefulness |
| 4 opposite | 9 made not to feel a sense of belonging |
| 5 remembered fondly | 10 noticeably |

City life

4.1 COLLOCATION Combine a word from box A with a suitable word from box B to form a new word.

A
concrete pedestrian traffic outer
housing high-rise police emergency
public urban recreational sewage water
garbage noise/air inner-city shanty

B
force estate services town congestion
crossing sprawl pollution suburbs
slums jungle transport facilities
buildings supply system collection

4.2 Which six of the phrases suggest a negative aspect of city life?

4.3 Complete the sentences with phrases from 4.1.

- We need a stronger _____ to help keep the crime levels in our major cities down.
- The city has far more _____ than rural areas, so young people don't get bored so easily.
- An efficient _____ and frequent _____ are both essential to maintaining sanitation in densely populated areas.
- _____ creates enormous problems for people travelling around the city at peak times.
- Many people who move to the city from rural areas end up living in _____ because of a shortage of housing.
- It is difficult to determine where the city ends because of the _____.

5 ▶ **26** Listen to a talk about urbanisation and answer the questions with **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

- A 'megacity' is a city with at least how many people?
- How many people were living in Rome in the early Middle Ages?
- What percentage of the world's population was living in cities at the end of the twentieth century?
- How many cities had more than one million people in 2007?
- According to the UN, what proportion of the population will be living in cities in 2030?
- What element of a megacity is it difficult to establish?
- According to the UN, where will two billion people be living in 2030?

6 In Part 1 of the Speaking test, you will be asked questions about things that are familiar to you. Look at the following questions and make a note of any new vocabulary from this unit you could use in your answers. Then answer the questions as fully as you can.

- How would you describe the city or town where you live?
- Do you prefer city life or country life?
- Do you think your town or city has changed very much in the last 20 years? (If so, in what way?)
- What changes would you like to see in the future?
- What areas of your town or city would you recommend to visitors? (Why?)
- In your country, where can people go to escape from busy city areas?

Listening Section 1

▶ 27

Questions 1–10

Complete the notes below with **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER**.

New accommodation

Need to find accommodation close to the children's hospital.....

Area 1 Broadgreen

Advantages:

- has several types of 1
- no need to pay for 2
- average rent 3 a week

Disadvantages:

- not many local 4

Area 2 West Derby

Advantages:

- good 5

Disadvantages:

- unlikely to find a 6 in the area
- may be too 7

Contact

John 8

tel: 9

arrange appointment for: 10



Test tip

Listen carefully to the words to see if you need to write a plural. Check your answers at the end – should any of them have an 's' at the end?