Cities and hometowns ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper intermediate) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- How has your home town changed since you were a child?
- What are the best and worst things about living there?
- Where would you take a visitor for one afternoon?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
urban	relating to towns and cities	Most people now live in urban areas.
rural	relating to the countryside	She grew up in rural Ireland.
urban sprawl	the spread of a city into the land around it	Urban sprawl is destroying farmland.
gentrification	when richer people move into a poor area and change it	Gentrification has pushed up rents.
infrastructure	the basic systems of a city, like roads, water and power	The city needs better infrastructure.
urban planning	designing how a city grows and develops	Good urban planning makes cities greener.
densely populated	with a lot of people living in a small area	Hong Kong is densely populated.
congestion	too much traffic in an area	The new charge reduced congestion.
amenities	useful things in a place, like shops, parks and pools	The apartment is close to all amenities.
sprawling	spreading over a large area in an untidy way	It's a sprawling city of 20 million.

Speaking (15 min): Mayor for a day

The learner is mayor with a budget for three changes. They present each change, who benefits and who complains. You play a local journalist with one difficult question per change.

Useful language

- It's in the north / on the coast / near...
- There's plenty to do. / There's not much going on.
- It's much bigger than it used to be.
- It's famous for...
- crowded · lively · safe · run-down
- You should definitely go to...

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about cities and hometowns using at least six words from the lesson.
- Self-study: the B2 cities and hometowns vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Cities and hometowns (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

picturesque · up-and-coming · soulless · concrete jungle · off the beaten track · bustling · a hidden gem · the rat race

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. I left the _____ for the coast.
2. It's an _____ neighborhood.
3. We found a cafe _____.
4. We stayed in a _____ fishing village.
5. We walked through the _____ market.
6. They quit _____ and moved to the country.
7. This bookstore is _____.
8. The new business district feels _____.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. Would you rather live in a big city or a small town? Why?
2. Which city that you have visited would you like to live in?
3. What is missing in your town?
4. Is your neighbourhood a good place to grow up?
5. What do people from your town have in common?

Write

Write 80–120 words about cities and hometowns. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 concrete jungle · 2 up-and-coming · 3 off the beaten track · 4 picturesque · 5 bustling · 6 the rat race · 7 a hidden gem · 8 soulless