

T.S. Shmeleva



Let's speak English

Part 2: Urbanization

Министерство науки и высшего образования Российской Федерации
ФГБОУ ВО «Удмуртский государственный университет»
Институт языка и литературы
Кафедра перевода и прикладной лингвистики
(английский и немецкий языки)



Т.С. Шмелева

ДАВАЙТЕ ГОВОРИТЬ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ!

Часть 2

УРБАНИЗАЦИЯ

Учебное пособие



Ижевск
2024

УДК 811.111(075.8)
ББК 81.432.я73
Ш722

Рекомендовано к изданию Учебно-методическим советом УдГУ

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Ш722 Давайте говорить на английском! – Ч. 2: Урбанизация
(=Let's speak English! – Р. 2: Urbanization) : учеб. пособие /
Т.С. Шмелева – Ижевск : Удмуртский университет, 2024. –
118 с.

ISBN 978-5-4312-1212-3

Представленные в пособии тексты затрагивают различные проблемы современного города. Материал пособия направлен на формирование навыков устной речи по предлагаемой тематике.

Пособие предназначено для студентов III курса факультетов (институтов) иностранных языков, студентов старших курсов неязыковых факультетов с углубленным изучением иностранных языков, а также для всех тех, кто уже владеет основами английского языка и изучает его самостоятельно.

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ISBN 978-5-4312-1212-3

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Предисловие

Предлагаемое учебное пособие представляет собой вторую часть пособия под общим названием “Let’s Speak English!” («Давайте говорить на английском!»). Пособие предназначено для студентов III курса факультетов (институтов) иностранных языков, студентов старших курсов неязыковых факультетов с углубленным изучением иностранных языков, а также для всех тех, кто уже владеет основами английского языка и изучает его самостоятельно.

Вторая часть пособия “Urbanization” («Урбанизация») предполагает изучение следующих аспектов: город и его роль в современном мире, что такое урбанизация, проблемы больших городов, будущее городов, что лучше: город или село. Материал пособия направлен на формирование навыков устной речи по предлагаемой тематике.

Включенные в пособие тексты разделены на тематические блоки. В каждый тематический блок включены тексты для обсуждения, задания, предполагающие просмотр кинофильмов и видеofilmов, прослушивание аудиозаписей по обсуждаемым темам (на кафедре создано аудиоприложение к пособию), а также тексты для перевода с русского языка на английский по обсуждаемой тематике, тексты для дополнительного чтения.

Тексты для дискуссии и перевода подбирались, в основном, из периодической печати (как зарубежной, так и отечественной), широко использовались материалы из сети Internet. Основными критериями их отбора являлась тематическая насыщенность лексикой, актуальность поднимаемых авторами вопросов и возможность дискуссии по содержанию.

Работа с текстом предполагает его детальное изучение как с содержательной, так и с лингвистической точки зрения. После каждого текста предлагается список лексических единиц, которые могут быть интересны в плане их использования и закрепления в речи.

Работа с текстом включает лексические упражнения – подбор соответствия в русском языке для изучаемых лексических единиц, описание значения слова или словосочетания на английском языке (*definition*), составление предложений на русском и английском языках с использованием изучаемой лексики, перевод с русского языка на английский (предполагающий употребление соответствующих лексических единиц) и т. д.

Задания на обсуждение текста носят коммуникативный характер, главной целью является всестороннее обсуждение содержания текстов на занятиях. Многие задания подразумевают парную или групповую работу в аудитории.

Обсуждение темы завершается итоговой дискуссией (*final discussion*), предполагающей повторение пройденного вокабуляра и использование ее в дискуссии, (студентам предлагается проанализировать и высказать свое мнение по поводу цитат известных личностей по обсуждаемой тематике).

Заключительный этап работы над темой подразумевает свободный перевод текстов с русского языка на английский, в процессе которого также должен активно использоваться пройденный вокабуляр.

В конце пособия приводится список письменных источников и Интернет-сайтов, которые могут быть полезны при работе над заявленными темами.

Автор

CITY

➤ 1. Discuss the following questions in groups:

1. In your opinion, what are some key characteristics that define a city as opposed to a town or village?
2. In your opinion, what makes a city truly sustainable and livable for its inhabitants?
3. What factors contribute to the growth or decline of a city's population?
4. What role do cities play in shaping cultural identity and diversity?
5. How do cities differ from rural areas in terms of lifestyle and culture?
6. How has technology impacted the development of cities?
7. What are some common challenges faced by city dwellers?
8. What is your favorite city and why?
9. Do you think cities will continue to grow in size and population in the future?

➤ 2. Read the text, be ready for the discussion.

Three common myths about modern-day cities

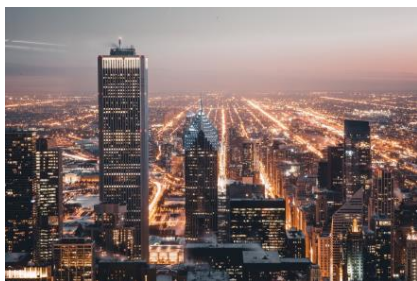
by Jenny McArthur

Urbanization is often touted as a solution to the world's various ills. It's been heralded as a fix for issues such as poverty, mass migration, and climate change. Cities will make our societies

healthier and more productive. Cities will make us happy. Cities are our inevitable future – or so we’re told.

While cities can vastly improve the way we live, and many of these ideas are important, there are several myths caught up in the current hype. Claims that there is a “global shift” towards living in cities, that urban economies abound with productivity benefits for all, and that cities will continue to grow and prosper, are all misleading. By busting some of these myths, we can get to grips with the real pros and cons of cities, and the role they’re likely to play in our future.

1. We’re entering the urban age



In 2008, the UN announced that, for the first time in human history, 50% of the world’s population lived in cities. Ever since, the statistic has been cited over and over as evidence of a global shift toward urbanization – the dawn of a new “urban age”. But these declarations disguise the many varied and diverging trends across the world’s different regions.

Over 40% of the world’s countries are still more rural than urban, and 18% have a smaller share of people in cities, compared with the year 2000. In both developing and developed regions, cities have grown larger in size, but they have also become less dense. This fact suggests that, in places where urban growth is occurring, cities are not just expanding – they’re transforming.

2. Cities are more productive

It's also taken for granted that city economies are more productive, and leave us better off economically. This is true in the



sense that urban centers are more productive in terms of their per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In London's case, this premium sits at around 15%, compared with the UK average.

The problem is, we're not comparing like with like. Urban firms aren't just better, more productive versions of their rural counterparts. In fact, their model of providing specialized, high-value goods or services is only viable in places with large populations. So, urban economies have a fundamentally different structure to rural ones. Outside of a city, many urban firms wouldn't simply be less productive – they would be out of business.

For example, corporate tax lawyers need a large population of local firms to generate enough work in their specific field. Niche businesses – dare I say it, cereal cafes – can only exist in big markets with a large number of potential consumers.

And not all sectors benefit from the urban premium equally. Education, emergency services and retail cannot specialize in the way that knowledge-based sectors can. As a result, workers in these crucial sectors don't see much of the added value that supposedly comes with being part of an urban economy.

3. Big cities are here to stay

History shows that cities are not stable systems. Cities are more likely to go through a “boom and bust” cycle than experience long-term stability, as they struggle to adapt to impacts of recessions and conflict. One striking example comes from North America: of the ten largest US cities in 1950, eight had lost at least 20% of their population by 2010, after they failed to adapt to economic and political shifts.

Even successful cities frequently encounter problems. Some of the world’s most “liveable” cities, such as Sydney, Vancouver and Auckland, are struggling with overheated real estate markets, as urban property becomes an attractive financial investment.

Increasing resilience to economic slumps, political change and new technologies one of the toughest challenges facing governments and city-dwellers today. Security and prosperity can only be ensured with careful investment and planning, together with strong communities and robust economies.

Clearing away the myths around urbanization is crucial, if we’re to understand the more nuanced forces that are driving urban growth, and shape the future of our cities for the better. Let’s trade in blind enthusiasm for a clearer vision of how our world is changing, and what governments and citizens can do to forge an urban future that works for all.

<https://theconversation.com/three-common-myths-about-modern-day-cities-51221>

Vocabulary

to be touted as	specialised goods	
to be heralded as	high-value goods	
a fix for issues	viable	
inevitable	emergency services	
to be caught up in the current	retail	
hype	knowledge-based sectors	
to abound with	supposedly	
to prosper	to be ensured	
to bust	a “boom and bust” cycle	
to get to grips with	experience long-term stability	
to cite	striking example	
to disguise	livable	
varied and diverging trends	overheated	real
rural	estate markets	
urban	resilience	
dense	robust	
to take for granted	to forge	
in terms of	city-dwellers	
per capita	security and prosperity	
counterparts		

➤ 3. Make up five sentences in Russian and five sentences in English, the translation of which will require the knowledge of the active vocabulary.

➤ 4. Choose the correct answer:

1. According to the text, what are some issues that urbanization is often seen as a solution for?

- A. Poverty, mass migration, and climate change
- B. Economic recession, political change, and new technologies
- C. Overheated real estate markets, urban property investments, and security
- D. Global shift towards living in cities, urban economies, and urban growth

2. What does the text say about the growth of cities?

- A. Cities are becoming more dense in both developing and developed regions.
- B. Over 50 % of the world's population lived in cities in the year 2000.
- C. Cities are transforming and becoming less productive.
- D. Urban growth only occurs in places with large populations.

3. Why are urban economies more productive compared to rural ones?

- A. Urban firms are better and more productive versions of rural firms.
- B. Urban economies benefit from a fundamentally different structure.
- C. Urban areas have a larger number of potential consumers.
- D. Urban economies have a higher per capita GDP.

4. What is one sector that does not benefit equally from the urban premium?

- A. Corporate tax lawyers
- B. Niche businesses
- C. Knowledge-based sectors
- D. Education, emergency services, and retail

5. According to the text, what is a common characteristic of cities?

- A. Cities are stable systems that experience long-term stability.
- B. Cities are more likely to go through a "boom and bust" cycle.
- C. Cities struggle to adapt to economic and political shifts.
- D. Cities have experienced population growth since 1950.

6. What does the text suggest is crucial for ensuring security and prosperity in cities?

- A. Blind enthusiasm and clear vision
- B. Careful investment and planning
- C. Overheated real estate markets and urban property investments
- D. Strong communities and robust economies

7. What is the main purpose of the text?

- A. To discuss the benefits of urbanization
- B. To expose the myths surrounding urbanization
- C. To highlight the challenges of urban growth
- D. To promote blind enthusiasm for urban development

➤ 5. Say whether these statements are true or false:

1. The UN announced in 2008 that 50% of the world's population lived in cities, marking the beginning of a new "urban age."

2. Over 40% of the world's countries are still predominantly rural, with a smaller share of people living in cities compared to the year 2000.

3. Urban economies are generally more productive and economically beneficial compared to rural economies.

4. Urban firms are more productive versions of their rural counterparts, leading to higher per capita GDP in cities.

5. Niche businesses, such as cereal cafes, can only exist in big markets with a large number of potential consumers.

6. Education, emergency services, and retail sectors benefit equally from the urban premium.

7. Cities are stable systems that do not go through boom and bust cycles.

8. Overheated real estate markets are a problem faced by the world's most "liveable" cities.

9. Increasing resilience to economic slumps, political change, and new technologies is not a challenge for governments and city-dwellers.

10. Clearing away the myths around urbanization is crucial for understanding the forces driving urban growth and shaping the future of cities.

➤ 6. Answer the following questions:

1. What are some of the claims that are often made about urbanization?

2. How do the actual trends in urbanization differ from the common perceptions?

3. Why are urban economies not necessarily more productive than rural economies?

4. What are some examples of cities that have declined in population over time?

5. What are some of the challenges that even successful cities are facing today?

6. Why is it important to clear away the myths around urbanization?

7. What can governments and citizens do to shape a better urban future?

➤ 7. Say whether these statements describe advantages or disadvantages of big cities.

1. Increased stress levels from the fast-paced lifestyle and constant noise and crowds.

2. Promotes economic growth through the generation of jobs, innovation, and higher productivity.

3. Facilitates social interactions and cultural exchanges among diverse groups of people.

4. Increases public transportation options for convenient and environmentally-friendly mobility.

5. Strains on infrastructure, such as transportation, housing, and sanitation, leading to overcrowding and pollution.

6. Better access to resources, services, and opportunities due to increased concentration of people in cities.

7. Loss of green spaces and wildlife habitats, causing environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity.

8. Risk of health issues, including exposure to air and noise pollution, stress, and spread of diseases in densely populated areas.

9. Crowded cities may lead to high cost of living, especially for housing and basic necessities.

10. Availability of diverse industries and job opportunities drives economic growth.

11. Pollution from transportation and industrial activities can negatively impact the health of citizens.

12. Overcrowding and lack of green spaces can lead to mental stress and decrease well-being.

13. Access to quality education, including prestigious universities and specialized schools.

14. High cost of living, especially in terms of rent and real estate prices.

15. Job opportunities in various industries due to a large and diverse population.

16. A wide range of cultural events, concerts, museums, and other forms of entertainment.

17. Lack of green spaces and nature, which can negatively impact mental health.

18. Better public transportation options, making it easier to get around the city.

➤ 8. Read the text, be ready for the discussion.

A trip to the second greatest city in the world

November 23, 2023



A few weeks before writing this article, I created a small poll among my followers on Instagram to determine the greatest city in the world. I first asked the question openly and the four cities mentioned the most were put to a final poll.

Around 200 people told me their favorite city and the four most frequently named cities were New York, Tokyo, Istanbul and London. In that order, with New York and Tokyo being mentioned equally often. It was no surprise to me that New York, Tokyo and London were in the top 4. However, I would not necessarily have expected Istanbul.

Of course, I didn't ask this question for no reason at all. It was a little warm-up for my trip to New York. Although I've been to the USA before, I've never made it to its biggest city. And since I have already been to 159 countries but not to New York, I also found that fact a bit embarrassing. After all, it seemed that practically everyone had already been to New York. It was time to close this educational gap.

But back to the poll. I actually expected New York to win the final round. But Tokyo did. Over 500 people voted and 158 of them chose Tokyo. That was 8 votes more than for New York, which came second. That meant it was time for me to travel to the – according to this poll – second greatest city in the world.

New York was also the starting point for a trip that would take me to Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Does it make sense to combine these places with New York? Not really. They are not even countries on the same continent.



However, I found dirt-cheap flights from New York to Guyana and took advantage of the opportunity to finally visit the Big Apple, while going to new countries. At the same time, I have to admit that my anticipation for the three Guianas was at best moderate. So, I wanted to add at least one cool destination to this trip.

Therefore, together with Kati I spent the first four days of this trip in America's largest city. It was mid-November, so from a weather point of view, it was a bit of a gamble. But because of my gamble in November 2022, when I booked Mont Saint-Michel and had sunshine and 18°C the entire weekend, I was daring. Spoiler: it paid off this time too.

I don't want to go through all the activities I did in New York day by day, as that would go beyond the scope of this article and there is plenty of "best things to do in New York" content on the internet. In the end, I visited plus minus the same places that most tourists do in New York. Instead, I'll jump to the conclusion. Is New York the second best city in the world? Or even the best? After all, I've already been to Tokyo and can compare the two cities.



First of all, New York is a fantastic city, there should be no two opinions about that. The city has so much to offer that you could spend weeks there and still have something new to discover every day.

The sights alone require a certain number of days. I managed to see the city's main attractions in four days. However, it was a bit

of a rush. While we were lucky with the weather, I hadn't taken into account that sunset in November is at 4.40 pm. The days were therefore short and we had to push ourselves.

This means, for example, that we only spent an hour in Central Park or an hour in DUMBO. You could easily spend half a day in both places. In the end, however, the fear of missing out was too strong. So I thought better to see the places in a rush than not at all.

To see everything at a more relaxed pace, I would probably have needed an extra day or two. And of course... we've now focused on the most important attractions. There would have been plenty of other things worth seeing.

My highlights? Seeing New York from above. Whether it's the Top of the Rock, the Empire State Building, The Edge or a helicopter ride, seeing the city from above is a tremendous experience.

Which one was the best? Good question. All the viewing platforms were good, but the helicopter ride topped it all. Highly recommended if you're in New York. At 200 USD, it doesn't cost quite as much as you might expect by New York standards.



I also found the tour of the UN headquarters, the Brooklyn Bridge at night, DUMBO and the High Line interesting.

The Museum of the Modern Art was not my thing. In fact, we went to see the AI exhibition but missed it by a week. Apart from that, I asked myself why I see Picasso-paintings in a museum of the modern art. I also found seeing the Statue of Liberty

with the commuter ferry kind of lame. Somehow I was also a little disappointed by the 9/11 Memorial, but don't ask me why. I just didn't find the exhibition that exciting.

But New York is also interesting without the sights. For example, if you just walk through the streets of Manhattan and experience the vibe of the metropolis. The grid-like design and the numbered streets make Manhattan super-easy to navigate. Manhattan is also pedestrian-friendly and, despite its size, is very easy to explore on foot.

At the same time, New York City also offers plenty of entertainment such as sport (NBA, NFL, NHL etc.), the Broadway, stand-up comedy, nightlife and much more. The city is not called the city that never sleeps for nothing.

All of this fell a little short on our trip. Most of the time, we were simply too tired in the evening to do anything. Besides, some of these things cost a fortune. A UFC show was happening in the Madison Square Garden during our stay. The cheapest tickets cost \$850...

New York is also an extraordinary city when it comes to food, you will find simply everything here. Forget the many hot dog stands that are aimed solely at tourists. You have a huge choice of restaurants. To be honest, I wouldn't be surprised if you could find every cuisine in the world just in Manhattan.

There are New York originals such as Katz's Delicatessen, where you have to queue for 45-90 minutes for a simple pastrami sandwich and pay almost 30 dollars for it – without tip! But you know what? It's worth it! Besides, according to a man from Brooklyn we met while queuing, it's the only place in New York that is equally frequented by tourists and locals.

Apart from that, New York is a real metropolis, a big city where there is something new to discover every day. Of course, it's also a concrete jungle and if you don't like cities (there are actually people like that), you probably won't like New York either.

However, all that glitters is not gold. Because let's be honest... as much as New York has to offer, the city is also a shithole.

I already knew from other people's stories that New York has a third-world character to some extent. But I always assumed that this was limited to places like Queens and that Manhattan was fancy. But that wasn't the case. Manhattan was just as much a shithole.

What I mean by that exactly: the city is dirty and run-down in places, there are a lot of homeless and crazy people. Of course, there are crazy individuals in every big city, but I found that the number in New York was significantly higher than elsewhere.

At the same time, New York's infrastructure is crap. An unpleasant-smelling steam comes up from the sewers, which has to do with the city's heating system. I know these "steaming" streets from movies. I always thought it was a special effect to make the city look a little more mystical. Just to find out that this is the reality.



What's more, some of the streets in Manhattan are like those you would see in a big African city. And when I say that, I hope that the inhabitants of Luanda, where I was a month before, don't take it as an insult. Not a big thing, but just not what I expected to see in a city like New York.

But many things in New York seem to be getting on in years. Compared to cities like Dubai, Singapore or Shanghai, the skyline

also looks... well, like it's from the last millennium. 😊 And don't even get me started on JFK Airport, this airport is embarrassing for a city like New York.

New York is also busy, but not in the sense of Ho Chi Minh City or Bangkok. By busy, I mean that people seem to be stressed. During our stay, we saw people yelling at each other on the street because they weren't moving fast enough. Some people also bumped into us because we were standing in their way. We had a few of these situations during our stay, which is why I wondered whether the inhabitants of New York were happy with their lives.

And last but not least: New York is expensive as shit. Everything here costs so much that I wonder how the people who don't have white collar jobs can afford it. All in all, New York was about as expensive as Switzerland, considered by many to be the most expensive country in the world.

However, you shouldn't let that put you off, because New York is still amazing. Or you could simply say that quality has its price.

So, what's the bottom line? Is New York the second best city in the world? Maybe even the best? I would answer at least the second question with no. However, New York is definitely a top 10 city for me. And since I haven't seen too many cities in North America yet, I would definitely call New York the best city on the continent. Even on both Americas.



In my survey, Tokyo was voted the best city and in a direct comparison, I would also choose the Japanese capital over New York. For me, Tokyo remains the most interesting metropolis and the best city in

the world. I also have the feeling that of those who voted in my poll, more people have been to New York than Tokyo and the result would probably have been even higher among those who know both cities.

But in the end, it's also a matter of taste. New York was undoubtedly great and I will certainly go there again. I'm also glad to have finally been back to the United States after seven years. It probably won't be the last time before I reach 197.

<http://www.roadto197.com/2023/11/23>

► 9. What's the author's general impression of New-York? Would you like to visit New-York? What other cities would you like to visit? Why?

► 10. Prepare a virtual tour of your favorite city.

Describe a city by considering its:

- size,
- culture,
- age,
- geography,
- architecture,
- infrastructure,
- economy,
- climate,
- landscape,
- nightlife.

URBANIZATION: IS IT GOOD OR BAD

➤ 1. Discuss the following questions in groups:

1. How has urbanization changed the way people live in your community?

2. What are some advantages of living in a city compared to a rural area?

3. Have you noticed any challenges that come with increased urban development?

4. In what ways do you think urbanization affects local culture and traditions?

5. How does public transportation play a role in urban areas?

6. Can you share an experience where urban growth impacted your daily life?

7. What do you believe are the most important factors to consider when planning urban spaces?

8. How do you feel about the balance between nature and urban environments?

9. Do you think cities should prioritize affordable housing as they grow? Why or why not?

10. How can communities ensure that urbanization benefits all residents equally?

➤ 2. Read the text, be ready for the discussion.



Navigating the Complexities of Rapid Urbanization

Urbanization – the demographic transition from rural to urban living – is one of the defining phenomena of the 21st century. This shift, primarily driven by the pursuit of economic opportunities and a better standard of living, has resulted in more than 55% of the world's population residing in urban areas, a figure projected to swell to 68% by 2050. The implications of this rapid urban expansion are profound and multifaceted, impacting every aspect of life from the environment to socio-economic dynamics.

Historically, the lure of industrialization initiated the first wave of urbanization. Rural inhabitants migrated to cities in search of jobs, better education, and improved healthcare facilities. This trend has continued into the modern era, fueled by globalization and technological advancements. Cities have become hubs of innovation and economic activity, offering diverse opportunities not found in rural areas. They are melting pots of culture, home to museums, theaters, restaurants, and educational institutions, making them attractive destinations for individuals seeking a richer, more varied life.

However, the rapid pace of urbanization brings with it significant challenges. Housing shortages are one of the most immediate concerns. As more people flock to cities, the demand for affordable housing skyrockets, often outpacing supply. This imbalance leads to the proliferation of informal settlements or slums, characterized by overcrowded living conditions, inadequate

infrastructure, and lack of basic services like clean water and sanitation.

Another major challenge is the strain on urban infrastructure and services. Transportation systems become overwhelmed, leading to chronic traffic congestion and air pollution. Waste management becomes a critical issue as the volume of waste generated by large populations exceeds the capacity of existing facilities. The provision of essential services, such as healthcare and education, is stretched thin, affecting the quality of life of urban residents.



The environmental impact of urbanization is equally significant. The concentration of people and industries in urban areas leads to high levels of pollution – air, water, and noise.

This not only affects the health of residents but also contributes to broader environmental issues like climate change. The carbon footprint of cities is substantial, given their high energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels. Furthermore, urban expansion often encroaches upon natural habitats, leading to loss of biodiversity and disruption of ecosystems.

Addressing these challenges requires innovative and sustainable urban planning. The concept of smart cities, which use technology to improve the efficiency and quality of urban services, is gaining popularity. Features of smart cities include intelligent transportation systems that reduce traffic congestion, smart grids that optimize energy use, and e-governance services that make city management more efficient and transparent.

Green spaces are another critical aspect of sustainable urban development. Parks, gardens, and natural reserves within city limits offer numerous benefits. They provide recreational spaces for residents, help in the reduction of heat islands, improve air quality, and support biodiversity. Urban green spaces are not just aesthetic additions; they are essential for the well-being of city dwellers and the environment.



Economic and social policies also play a vital role in managing the effects of urbanization. Affordable housing initiatives, investment in public transportation, and waste management systems are crucial for creating liveable urban environments. Education and healthcare services must be scaled up to meet the needs of growing urban populations. Moreover, policies that promote economic inclusivity and social integration can help mitigate the disparities often seen in urban settings.

The social dynamics of urbanization are also noteworthy. Cities bring together people from diverse backgrounds, fostering multiculturalism and social integration. However, this can also lead to social tensions and challenges in maintaining cohesive communities. Urban planners and policymakers must consider the social fabric of cities, promoting inclusivity and community engagement.

The future of urbanization is inextricably linked with the pursuit of sustainable development. Balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship and social equity is the key to creating cities that are not only engines of prosperity but also places

of liveable and sustainable habitats. This involves a holistic approach, integrating economic, environmental, and social planning.

In conclusion, rapid urbanization is a complex phenomenon with far-reaching implications. While it presents significant challenges, it also offers unparalleled opportunities for innovation and development. The future of urban living depends on our ability to harness these opportunities while effectively managing the attendant risks. With thoughtful planning and proactive policy-making, cities can continue to be vibrant centers of culture, innovation, and economic activity, while also offering a high quality of life for all residents.

Vocabulary

defining phenomena
pursuit
to reside
profound
multifaceted
healthcare facilities
hubs
melting pot
the rapid pace of
to flock to
affordable housing
proliferation
overwhelmed
traffic congestion
to exceeds
substantial
reliance
to encroach

disruption of ecosystems
smart grids
transparent
well-being
to meet the needs of
to mitigate
disparities
to foster
cohesive communities
inextricably
pursuit
stewardship
far-reaching implications
harness
attendant risks
vibrant
residents

➤ 3. Make up five sentences in Russian and five sentences in English, the translation of which will require the knowledge of the active vocabulary.

➤ 4. Choose the correct answer:

1. What is the primary driver of the current wave of urbanization according to the passage?

- A. Industrialization
- B. Pursuit of economic opportunities
- C. Better education and healthcare
- D. Globalization and technological advancements

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a major challenge of rapid urbanization?

- A. Housing shortages
- B. Strain on urban infrastructure and services
- C. Lack of job opportunities
- D. Environmental impact

3. What is a key feature of smart cities as described in the passage?

- A. Intelligent transportation systems
- B. Improved waste management
- C. Expansion of green spaces
- D. Affordable housing initiatives

4. What is the primary benefit of urban green spaces mentioned in the passage?

- A. Aesthetic appeal
- B. Reduction of heat islands

- C. Support for biodiversity
- D. Provision of recreational spaces

5. Which of the following social challenges of urbanization is highlighted in the passage?

- A. Fostering multiculturalism
- B. Promoting social integration
- C. Maintaining cohesive communities
- D. All of the above

6. What is the key to creating sustainable and liveable cities according to the passage?

- A. Balancing economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social equity
- B. Investing in smart city technologies
- C. Promoting affordable housing and public transportation
- D. Scaling up education and healthcare services

7. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a benefit of urban green spaces?

- A. Improving air quality
- B. Reducing noise pollution
- C. Supporting biodiversity
- D. Providing recreational spaces

► 5. Answer the following questions:

1. What are the primary drivers of the global trend of urbanization?

2. How has urbanization impacted the economic and cultural landscape of cities?

3. What are some of the major challenges associated with the rapid pace of urbanization?

4. How do the environmental impacts of urbanization contribute to broader environmental issues like climate change?

5. What is the concept of "smart cities," and how can it help address the challenges of urbanization?

6. What is the importance of urban green spaces, and how do they contribute to the well-being of city dwellers and the environment?

7. What role do economic and social policies play in managing the effects of urbanization and creating livable urban environments?



➤ 6. Watch the video “Effects of urbanization” and do the following tasks.

➤ 7. Give Russian equivalents.

the rapid increase of
the explosion of cities
diverse
a population shift from rural to urban areas,
to adapt to the change.
the Gilded Age,
in search of industrial jobs
financial struggles,
social or religious oppression,
famine
to share the desire of the American dream.
the blending of diverse cultures
minority groups

to transform urban life
to improve one's living standards.
technological innovations
merchants
specialized labor
janitors
to provide services
enabled city boundaries to expand
to live within walking distance of
light manufacturing
to do domestic housework
the strains of urban life
gain popularity
philanthropy
the distorted life of cities
doubled
tripled
quadrupled
caused major health problems
living conditions
sanitation codes
outputted pollution
tenements
industrial workers
plumbing
heat
well-being
detrimental to one's health
life expectancy
receive the proper care

typhoid fever
fraud and bribery
graft
a steel frame
efficiency
positive outcomes
negative outcomes
pave the way to

➤ 8. Choose the correct answer:

1. What major factor changed America forever during the Gilded Age?

- A. Technological innovations
- B. Urbanization
- C. Industrial Revolution
- D. Immigration

2. Why did immigrants find the American lifestyle attractive?

- A. Economic struggles in their home countries
- B. Lack of freedom and social equality
- C. Political oppression in America
- D. Desire for religious traditions

3. What was a dividing factor during the time period discussed in the video transcript?

- A. Technological advancements
- B. Blending of diverse cultures
- C. Urbanization
- D. Industrial Revolution

4. What encouraged migrations to cities during the 19th and 20th centuries?

- A. Decrease in job opportunities
- B. Lack of technological innovations
- C. Improved living standards
- D. Decrease in housing construction

5. What new opportunities did women have in big cities due to urbanization?

- A. Factory work
- B. Domestic housework
- C. Limited educational opportunities
- D. Restricted access to universities

6. Who proposed to bring order and symmetry to the distorted life of cities around the country?

- A. Louis Sullivan
- B. Daniel Burnham
- C. Mr. Baker
- D. Justin

7. What was required by a New York state law in 1870 regarding urbanization?

- A. Elevators in every building
- B. Windows in every bedroom
- C. Parks in every district
- D. Libraries in every neighborhood

8. What was the main reason for the early development of skyscrapers?

- A. To provide housing for the urban population
- B. To accommodate the demand for jobs and factories
- C. To create modern entertainment halls

D. To improve city aesthetics

9. How did the urban population change from 1870 to 1920?

- A. It decreased by half
- B. It remained the same
- C. It tripled or quadrupled in size
- D. It doubled due to immigration

10. What were tenements primarily used for?

- A. Housing wealthy individuals
- B. Providing luxurious accommodations
- C. Housing industrial workers in slum dwellings
- D. Offering affordable apartments for families

11. Why were factories considered detrimental to one's health?

- A. Due to the lack of job opportunities
- B. Because of the dangerous factory work
- C. Because of the lack of government regulations
- D. Due to the absence of proper ventilation

12. What event led to the shock of middle-class America regarding tenement life?

- A. The Great Chicago Fire
- B. The rise of political machines
- C. The publication of "How the Other Half Lives"
- D. The increase in industrial accidents

13. What positive outcomes were associated with urbanization in America?

- A. Increased political corruption
- B. Technological advancements

- C. Decreased efficiency within the city
- D. Rise in unsanitary conditions

14. How did urbanization impact the lives of African-Americans, immigrants, and women?

- A. It provided new opportunities for all groups
- B. It restricted their access to jobs and housing
- C. It led to increased discrimination
- D. It had no impact on these groups

➤ 9. Say whether these statements are true or false:

1. Urbanization in America during the 19th century led to a decrease in diversity among the population.

2. The Industrial Revolution had no impact on the transformation of urban life.

3. Immigrants in America during this time period did not face any common struggles.

4. Urbanization primarily led to the creation of more rural areas.

5. The development of railroads, streetcars, and trolleys did not contribute to the expansion of city boundaries.

6. Women in big cities during this time period had limited opportunities for work outside of domestic housework.

7. The creation of art museums, concert halls, libraries, and parks in the 19th century was not influenced by philanthropy.

8. The urban population in the United States increased from 10 million to 54 million between 1870 and 1920.

9. Overcrowded cities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries led to improved health conditions.

10. Factories in the early 20th century had strict sanitation codes to maintain cleanliness.

11. Tenements were luxurious housing options for industrial workers in the late 1800s.

12. Industrial jobs in the early 1900s had a high rate of deaths and injuries, with around 35,000 deaths and 1 million injuries per year.

13. Factory owners were held accountable for deaths and injuries of their workers in the early 1900s.

14. Children working in factories in the early 1900s were provided with proper care and education.

15. Indoor plumbing was common in most households in the late 1800s.

16. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 lasted for less than 12 hours and resulted in minimal destruction.

17. Jacob Riis' book "How the Other Half Lives" depicted the luxurious lifestyles of the upper class in America.

➤ 10. Answer the following questions:

1. How did urbanization in the 19th century impact the diversity of American cities?

2. What were some common struggles faced by immigrants who moved to urban areas during this time?

3. In what ways did the Industrial Revolution contribute to the transformation of urban life?

4. How did the development of transportation systems like railroads and streetcars affect urban expansion?

5. What new opportunities did big cities offer to women during the 19th century?

6. How did the wealthy contribute to the cultural development of cities during this period?

7. Who was Daniel Burnham and what was his role in shaping urban development in America?

8. How did the early development of skyscrapers relate to the demand for jobs and factories in urban areas?

9. What were some of the major health problems caused by overcrowded and unsanitary cities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries?


10. Why were tenements considered slum dwellings for industrial workers, and what were some of the living conditions in these buildings?

11. How did industrial safety become a significant issue during the early 20th century, and why was it challenging to hold factory owners accountable for deaths and injuries?

12. What were the working conditions like for children in factories during this period, and how were they treated by their employers?

13. What role did indoor plumbing, or the lack thereof, play in the prevalence of diseases like cholera and typhoid fever in urban areas?

14. How did the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 highlight the challenges related to plumbing, water supply, and fire hazards in cities during that time?

 ➤ 11. Listen to the text “Urbanization and Its Challenges” and do the following tasks.

➤ 12. Match the word to its meaning:

words	definitions
1. to encroach on natural habitats	a. social problems characterized by conflict and unfair treatment among different groups of people.
2. the expansion of urban areas	b. reductions in the amount of tax owed, often given to encourage certain behaviors or support low-income individuals.
3. targeted initiatives	c. the pressure put on public services and structures due to increased use or demand.
4. unrest and inequality	d. the growth of cities into surrounding land, often increasing population density.
5. to restore undeveloped areas	e. to fulfill the need or desire for something, ensuring enough supply is available.
6. impoverished areas	f. to change empty houses for new uses, such as turning them into shelters or community centers.
7. transportation facilities	g. specific programs designed to address particular issues or needs within a community.
8. to repurpose vacant homes	h. regions where many residents live in poverty and lack essential resources.
9. poor waste management	i. ineffective handling of garbage and recycling, leading to pollution and health issues.
10. to govern rent control	j. to improve and bring back natural spaces that have not been built upon or used.

11. financial incentives	k. to ensure that everyone has access to safe and reasonably priced homes.
12. to place into effect	l. improvements in tools and methods that make tasks easier or more efficient.
13. to meet the demand	m. to gradually invade and take over spaces where wildlife lives, disrupting their environment.
14. low-income households	n. to start using a new rule, law, or plan officially.
15. technological advances	o. places and systems that help people move from one location to another, like buses and trains.
16. to enhance	p. to manage laws that limit how much landlords can charge for renting properties.
17. the strain on infrastructure	q. to improve the quality or value of something, making it better than before.
18. poor living conditions	r. situations where housing lacks basic needs such as cleanliness, safety, and comfort.
19. tax credits	s. families or individuals who earn less money than what is needed to meet basic living expenses.
20. to provide affordable and adequate housing for all residents	t. monetary rewards offered to motivate people or businesses to act in a desired way.

➤ 13. Choose the correct answer:

1. What is the main reason people migrate from rural areas to cities?

- A. Improved transportation
- B. Economic opportunities
- C. Population growth
- D. Political instability

2. What is one major challenge cities face due to rapid urbanization?

- A. Shortage of skilled labor
- B. Declining cultural diversity
- C. Traffic congestion
- D. Lack of economic growth

3. How has the expansion of urban areas impacted the natural environment?

- A. It has led to better waste management.
- B. It has improved biodiversity.
- C. It has had no significant impact.
- D. It has encroached on natural habitats.

4. What is one potential benefit of increased cultural and ethnic diversity in cities?

- A. It can boost economic growth.
- B. It can reduce social inequality.
- C. It can improve urban life.
- D. It can lead to political stability.

5. According to the passage, what percentage of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas by 2050?

- A. 55%
- B. 60%
- C. 65%
- D. 68%

6. What is one policy initiative that can address the issue of affordable housing?

- A. Increase property taxes
- B. Limit population growth
- C. Promote rent control regulations
- D. Encourage rural-to-urban migration

7. What is one potential consequence of the divide between different social groups in urban areas?

- A. Improved infrastructure
- B. Increased cultural exchange
- C. Enhanced environmental protection
- D. Growth of impoverished areas

➤ 14. Answer the following questions:

1. What are some of the factors that have contributed to urbanization in the past?

2. What challenges do cities face as a result of rapid urbanization?

3. How does the increase in urban population affect housing and living conditions?

4. What are some of the social and cultural impacts of urbanization?

5. What are the current trends in global urbanization according to the UN?

6. What initiatives can governments and urban developers implement to address the housing challenges caused by urbanization?

7. How can fair and inclusive housing policies help reduce social inequalities and unauthorized settlements?

THE FUTURE OF THE CITY

- 1. Read the text, be ready for the discussion.

The Future of Cities

Professor of Urban Planning Sarah Holmes looks at the challenges of urban living. The World Health Organization has produced a report predicting that 9.8 billion of us will be living on this planet by 2050. Of that number, 72% will be living in urban areas – a higher proportion than ever before. Presented with this information, governments have a duty to consider how best to meet the needs of city residents, and not just for the short- term. Certain problems associated with urban living have been highlighted by research company Richmond-Carver in its latest global survey.

At the top of the list of survey respondents' concerns is the fact that competition amongst tenants for rental properties has driven the median price up - so much so people need to hold down two or more jobs to meet all their expenses. Another issue the survey highlighted is the difficulty commuters face. Overcrowding means that seats are often not available on long journeys, but more significant is that schedules are unreliable.

Many studies have shown the effect that has on a country's productivity. Interestingly, certain problems seem more common in

some cities than others: respondents from increasingly crowded European cities, including Manchester and Barcelona, commented on how their quality of life was affected by loud machinery, other people's music and car alarms. Something the survey failed to ask about was the value people placed on having access to nature in urban neighborhoods. However, some countries are already moving forward. Singapore is a prime example; its rooftop gardens make the city a far more desirable place to live. It is the Singaporean government that is behind this push for sustainable living.

Perhaps some clearer government direction would benefit other cities. Take New York City, a place where I frequently meet up with other researchers in my field. Luckily for me, I am driven from the airport to the research center, so do not need to navigate the freeways and constant congestion. Admittedly my experience of the urban lifestyle here is limited to the hotels I stay in, and the blocks within a three-kilometer walk. But whenever I leave my room in search of an outlet providing fruit or anything with nutritional value, none can be found. It seems ridiculous that this should be the case. New York has made great advances in redeveloping its museums and arts centers, but authorities must recognize that people's basic needs must be met first.

Sometimes these basic needs are misunderstood. In some urban areas, new residential developments are provided with security features such as massive metal fences and multiple gates in the belief that these will make residents safer. There is little evidence such steps make a difference in this way, but we do know they make residents feel reluctant to go outside and walk around their neighbourhood. Instead they are more likely to remain inactive indoors. Grassy areas inside fenced developments are hardly used by

householders or tenants either. All this adds up to a feeling of being cut off from others.

So where are planners and developers going wrong? Inviting a group of locals to attend a consultation event is the conventional method for discovering what a community might want. The issue here is that it often attracts the same few voices with the same few wishes. But the internet now makes it possible for others to contribute. A community website can be a place where local people propose ideas for making their neighborhood a better place to live. Developers that pay attention to these ideas can get a clearer picture of the things residents actually want and reduce the risk of throwing away money on things they don't.

An example of a project that truly meets the needs of residents is Container City – a development in London's Docklands area. Constructed from metal containers once used to transport cargo on ships, it is a five-storey architectural masterpiece. The containers have been turned into sunny work studios, and despite their limited size, some come with a bed, shower and kitchen unit.

Smart planning and skilful construction mean they take up very little room. Furniture and fittings are made from recycled products. Other countries have their own versions of Container City – Amsterdam and Copenhagen have created container dormitories to house students – but the Docklands site shows how work and living areas can effectively be combined. The units are ideal for young entrepreneurs hoping to establish a business while keeping costs down.

Successful development is taking place in many urban areas around the world, and city planners have a duty to see for themselves the transforming effect this can have on residents lives. There is no better way to do this than to visit these places in person.

These might be neighborhoods constructed for the first time, or developers might have transformed what was already there. In either case, the idea of cars determining urban planning, and indeed the whole concept of private car ownership, is now outdated and must be abandoned.

Instead, the layout of an area under development must make it easier for people to meet up in pedestrianized zones and community spaces. At the heart of the development should be a cultural area, providing venues for art, music and street theatre. Such activities bring communities together, and do far more for positive relations than a new mall or shopping precinct. For this reason, these kinds of performance spaces should be prioritized.

Finally, planners and developers must be obliged to create, within the same neighborhood, different types of homes for wealthy professionals, for families, for the elderly and for young people just starting out. This kind of mix is essential to ensure people can buy a home in an area convenient for work, and for a community to stay alive.

Vocabulary

to meet the needs of	nutritional value
rental properties	ridiculous
to drive the median price up	feel reluctant
to hold down two or more	grassy areas
jobs	to reduce the risk
to meet all their expenses	dormitory
to have access	to house
sustainable	to visit a place in person
admittedly	pedestrianized zone
in search of	shopping precinct
an outlet	

➤ 2. Make up five sentences in Russian and five sentences in English, the translation of which will require the knowledge of the active vocabulary.

➤ 3. Choose the correct answer:

1. What is the main reason cited in the passage for the high cost of rental properties in urban areas?

- A. Increased demand for housing due to population growth
- B. Lack of affordable housing options being built by developers
- C. Excessive competition among tenants for available rental units
- D. Ineffective government regulations on rental prices

2. According to the passage, what is one way Singapore has made its urban environment more desirable to live in?

- A. By constructing fenced-in residential developments
- B. By improving the reliability of public transportation
- C. By creating rooftop gardens and green spaces
- D. By prioritizing the development of shopping malls

3. What problem does the passage suggest is common in some crowded European cities like Manchester and Barcelona?

- A. Unreliable public transportation schedules
- B. Lack of access to healthy food options
- C. Excessive noise pollution from machinery and alarms
- D. Difficulty finding available seating on long commutes

4. What does the passage suggest is the main issue with the traditional method of community consultation events?

- A. They are too expensive for developers to organize
- B. They often fail to gather feedback from diverse voices
- C. They do not provide a platform for residents to share ideas
- D. They tend to focus more on the wishes of local authorities

5. What type of urban development project does the passage describe as an example of successful planning?

- A. High-rise residential towers with luxury amenities
- B. Mixed-income neighborhoods with different home types
- C. Repurposed shipping containers used as living and work spaces
- D. Pedestrian-friendly zones with cultural and entertainment venues

6. According to the passage, what key concept in traditional urban planning must be abandoned?

- A. The emphasis on public transportation infrastructure
- B. The reliance on community consultation events
- C. The prioritization of car-centric development
- D. The focus on creating secure residential areas

7. What does the passage suggest is essential for fostering a thriving and diverse community in urban neighborhoods?

- A. Providing a range of housing options for different demographics
- B. Constructing large shopping malls and entertainment complexes
- C. Designing neighborhoods with ample green spaces and playgrounds
- D. Encouraging the development of gated residential communities

► 4. Say whether these statements are true or false:

1. The author believes that urban living will become less challenging in the future.
2. The survey indicated that many people are struggling to afford rent in urban areas.
3. Commuters in crowded cities often find reliable schedules for their journeys.
4. The author suggests that security features in new developments may not improve residents' safety.
5. Container City in London is an example of a successful urban development project.
6. The author thinks that private car ownership is essential for urban planning.
7. It is important for urban developments to include a variety of housing types for different community members.

► 5. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the predicted population growth and urbanization trend according to the World Health Organization report?
2. What are some of the key issues highlighted by the Richmond-Carver survey regarding urban living?
3. How has the government of Singapore addressed the challenges of urban living?
4. What are some of the basic needs that the author believes are being overlooked in the development of urban areas, using New York City as an example?
5. What are some of the potential drawbacks of security features like fences and gates in urban residential developments?

6. How can developers and planners better understand the needs and desires of local communities when planning new urban developments?

7. What are some examples of successful urban development projects that the author cites, and how do they address the needs of residents?



➤ 6. Watch the video “Urbanization and the Future of Cities” and do the following tasks.

➤ 7. Match words and their Russian equivalents:

1. ancestors	a. ирригация
2. to raise food	b. выращивать еду
3. semi-permanent villages	c. защищать
4. to relocate	d. облегченные
5. to deplete	e. обработка почвы
6. the advent of	f. тележки,
7. irrigation	g. в массовом масштабе
8. soil tilling	h. в пешей доступности
9. food surpluses	i. разворачивать
10. surplus food	j. самодостаточный
11. tools	k. начать
12. crafts	l. перемещать
13. facilitated	m. излишки еды
14. carts,	n. появление
15. ports	o. ремесла,
16. within walking distance	p. порты
17. to defend	q. инструменты
18. to get one's start	г. полупостоянные деревни
19. to deploy	s. гибкий
20. on a mass scale	t. возобновляемый
21. renewable	и. излишки еды

22. self-sufficient	в. предки
24. malleable	w. истощать

➤ 7. Answer the following questions:

1. How has the degree of urbanization changed over time?
2. What led to the development of semi-permanent villages and eventually permanent settlements?
3. How did the development of cities and trade impact the growth of cities?
4. What were some of the challenges faced by early cities in terms of population density and transportation?
5. How did the Industrial Revolution impact the development of modern cities?
6. What are some of the challenges that cities will need to address to accommodate future population growth?
7. What are some of the potential changes in the way cities are designed and function in the future?

➤ 8. Read the text, be ready for the discussion.

What is meant by a Smart City?

The depth and breadth of technologies implemented under the smart city model make it difficult to offer a precise definition. However, the meaning of a smart city is generally accepted to be an urban area that leverages technology to provide services and solve problems. Data is collected using different types of electronic methods and sensors. It is then analyzed using special tools, and the insights gained used for operational improvements in traffic movement, garbage collection, crime management, utility supply,

environmental management, and the management of social services. Information and communication technologies allow city officials to monitor the city in real-time and interact with the community. Smart cities improve the citizens' quality of life and drive economic growth.

What are the features of a Smart City?

For a city to be regarded as smart it must possess the following features or characteristics:

- Fulfilling Citizens' Needs: education, health care, housing, infrastructure needs, and digital equality.
- Infrastructure & Resources: delivering enhanced key services to citizens and businesses reliably and cost-effectively.
- Jobs & Competitiveness: improving the city's competitiveness, economic growth, creating jobs, and retraining programs.
- Security: protection against cyber-attacks and natural disasters.
- Smart Planning and Citizen Support: "intelligent" data analysis and broad community involvement.
- Sustainability/Circular Economy: managing environmental change, urbanization, and coping with population growth and climate change.
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Use of smart technology to support community needs.

What are the important features of a smart city?

The most important feature of a smart city is the use of technology and artificial intelligence to run the city. This aspect is what gives it the "smart" moniker. The use of tech and AI ensures efficient infrastructure use, the effective engagement between

officials and citizens, and provides a learning framework that fosters quick adaptation and innovation to changing circumstances.

Do we need Smart Cities?

This is the wrong question to ask. It isn't a matter of whether we need smart cities; the real question is whether we can do without them. Today's cities grapple with a wide range of problems. These problems include never-ending traffic snarls, runaway pollution, high crime levels, high energy consumption, unemployment, inadequate or overstretched social services, and a myriad of other challenges. Broadband communications systems, cybersecurity concepts, and smart city planning are the key to making 21st-century urban living better.

Are Smart Cities worth it?

To the extent that smart cities can solve contemporary urban problems, they are worth the investment. However, smart does not automatically mean better, more livable, or more secure. For example, living in a smart city might curtail our privacy and potentially threaten democratic core values such as freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The reason is that technology has consequences such as loss of privacy, hackers, and techno-terrorist attacks. In smart cities, the already wide divide between rural and urban populations, culture, and politics has the potential to become wider with dangerous implications. Human beings must work hard to make our cities places where we would want to live and raise our families. Technology is not a panacea. It provides an improvement in the quality of life only with proper planning and clear thinking.

What is the difference between a Smart City and normal city?

There are stark differences between a smart city and a normal city. Probably the key distinguishing feature of a smart city is the presence of connected objects. In a smart city, objects are more than meets the eye. For example, what may appear to be a simple lamp post may also be a weather sensor and traffic camera that's connected to the Internet. It may also use smart lighting that auto-adjusts based on natural light. In a smart city, the Internet of Things – the idea that 5G Internet will make it possible to connect a vast range of devices – creates a wide range of possibilities.

Secondly, smart cities have engaged citizens. The citizens build the city by participating in data collection through their devices. It is the power of data that leads to cities becoming smart cities.

Smart cities also have streamlined transportation systems. Users can consult real-time information about public transport, and transportation routes are optimally planned.

Environmental friendliness and sustainability are additional hallmarks of smart cities. Smart cities are administered by following energy-efficient policies resulting in massive annual savings.

These are just some of the things that differentiate smart cities from normal cities.

How do Smart Cities aim to be sustainable?

The concept of sustainability in a smart city refers to using intelligent planning and management to conserve the natural environment, manage natural resources prudently, and save on energy costs. Sustainability is a critical principle because of the challenges posed by rapid urbanization. According to the United

Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), 66% of the global population will be residing in urban areas. This will put tremendous pressure on existing infrastructure, natural resources, and drive-up energy needs, hence the need for sustainable management. Smart cities leverage technology to solve these problems.

What would a future smart city look like?

A future smart city is a scene straight out of a science fiction movie. Some of the technologies that will define cities of the future include:

- Advanced Cybersecurity
- Artificial Intelligence and Super Automation
- Driverless Transport
- Human-Machine Interfaces
- Internet of Everything
- M2M Communications and Pervasive Broadband Mobile
- Smart Energy Grids
- Talking and Serviceable Bots
- Telecity Architecture and Virtual Companies
- Telework, Tele-education and Tele-Health Services

Which city is known as Smart City?

Several cities are considered to be leading the smart cities initiative. One of these is Singapore, a city-state in South Asia. According to Juniper Research, Singapore ranks at the top for four smart indices, namely, mobility, health, safety, and productivity. This makes it a leading contender for the smart city title. It is the second-most densely populated city in the world and has an aging population. Confronted by these facts, the government sought ways

to improve productivity in an advanced economy. Sensors linked to aggregation boxes collect information throughout the city. Vehicular and human traffic data is sent to analysts for action and as input in service delivery. Broadband is widely available with Internet penetration one of the highest in the world. The government plans to install energy-efficient intelligent lighting on all roads and install solar panels on about 6,000 buildings by 2022.

How many Smart Cities are there?

Smart cities are popping up on all continents and in all parts of the world. It is not possible to state an exact because this is a rapidly evolving area. Suffice it to say that almost all countries have smart city initiatives ongoing or in the planning stages.

What is the aim of Smart Cities?

There are several things we can say for sure. The future urban world will be rife with significant change, as will be seen in the following areas:

- Better resource management.
- Social, economic, and cultural changes.
- Human-machine interfaces will be critical to security and progress.
- Lifelong education and retraining will become a way of life.
- Multiple job changes and careers will be commonplace as we cope with super-automation.
- People will live longer.
- Environmental protection and prudent management of natural resources.

What makes a Smart City smart?

The use of technology to collect data and solve problems is at the core of what makes a city smart. However, although smart technology is critical, what makes a smart city is re-envisioning its design and function to produce a better quality of life and living standards for its citizens. A smart city provides a community with the following:

- Improved health care and educational opportunities.
- Higher security against natural and human-made disasters
- Social and political stability and freedom.
- Economic prosperity and thriving businesses
- Better housing.
- Seamless transportation, communications, networking, energy, and all other critical utilities.

What is a Smart City example?

There are dozens of smart city examples from around the world. In the United States, you have Boston, New York, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco. Examples in Europe would include Oslo, Amsterdam, Barcelona, London, and Copenhagen. Key examples in Asia and Oceania would include Singapore, Hong Kong, Seoul, Melbourne, Tokyo, Wuxi, and Yinchuan.

Which is the Smartest City in the world?

Several cities can be said to be the trailblazers in implementing smart city concepts. The smartest city tag depends on the scoring criteria. For example, according to IESE Cities in Motion Index, London was the smartest city in 2020 for a second consecutive year. Other researchers rank Singapore as the smartest

city in the world. A high population density has forced the Singaporean government to fast-track smart city initiatives. Other cities that can claim the crown include Dubai, Oslo, Copenhagen, Boston, Amsterdam, New York, Barcelona, and Hong Kong.

How does a Smart City work?

Smart cities rely on connected devices and sensors. Devices include smartphones and other Internet-enabled mobile gadgets, electronic devices, vehicles, connected home appliances, and just about any device with an Internet connection. Sensors are installed in various places around the city to collect data such as foot and vehicle traffic, weather information, crime incidents, energy consumption, other utility usages, and much more data. This data is analyzed in real-time by city officials and citizens to make decisions such as traffic routes and security deployments. Historical data reveals trends that inform infrastructure planning decisions and resource management.

What are the Smart Cities in the world?

New cities are continuously joining the ranks of smart cities. According to the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) 2020 Smart Cities Index, 109 cities worldwide are implementing technology across five key areas: mobility, health and safety, governance, activities, and opportunities. In so doing, they are mitigating the shortcomings of urbanization and can be side to be smart. The top ten 2020 rankings by IMD are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Singapore | 4. Auckland |
| 2. Helsinki | 5. Oslo |
| 3. Zurich | 6. Copenhagen |

7. Geneva
8. Taipei City

9. Amsterdam
10. New York

Where is the first Smart City?

There is no consensus on which city was the first smart city. Los Angeles was the first city to conduct a massive data collection project in 1974. But at that time, there lacked ubiquitous computing and networking capabilities and data analytic tools. Though there is no consensus, Santander in Northern Spain is likely the first truly smart city. The city has had over 20,000 sensors distributed across the city since 2009. These sensors measure everything from soil moisture to traffic data.

What are the four pillars of Smart City?

The four pillars of a smart city are insights drawn from the developmental roadmap of leading smart cities from around the world. They include:

- Network connectivity: an IoT-enabled infrastructure with a robust network of devices and connected applications.
- Effective mobility: this could be achieved in several ways, such as through intelligent transport systems, shared mobility, mobility as a service, and so on.
- Cyber resilience: the ability to strike a delicate balance between efficiency and data privacy.
- City engagement: Involvement by citizens in smart city initiatives.

<https://itchronicles.com/smart-city>

➤ 9. Answer the following questions:

1. How can cities fulfill citizens' needs in a Smart City?

2. What are the challenges faced by smart cities in terms of security and cyber attacks?
3. How do smart cities leverage technology for operational improvements in various sectors?
4. What impact can smart planning and citizen support have on a city development?
5. How do smart cities contribute to economic growth and job creation?
6. What role does artificial intelligence play in the functioning of a smart city?
7. How can smart cities ensure sustainability and efficient use of resources?
8. What potential consequences can the implementation of smart city technology have on privacy and democratic values?
9. What distinguishes a smart city from a normal city in terms of infrastructure and technology?
10. How can smart city initiatives improve the quality of life for residents and promote environmental friendliness?

➤ 10. Prepare a project “The city of the future”.

CITY OR COUNTRYSIDE

➤ 1. Read the text, be ready for the discussion.

Why the Big City Isn’t Necessarily Where Dreams Are Made

As a young girl I dreamed of moving to the “big city”. I knew I wanted to work in fashion and it felt, to me, like moving to London was the fastest way to pursue my ambitions. Set on following my dreams, I secured a place at University and worked my way through to complete my degree. During this time, I also

started my blog The Elgin Avenue, which I maintained in addition to my schoolwork.

During the first three years I was very happy with city life, waitressing part-time in a local restaurant, interning, attending class, and creating content for my site. I didn't foresee my state of happiness changing, and when I graduated, I couldn't have been more excited to embark on my new goal: full-time blogging in, you guessed it, the big city. So I graduated, quit my waitressing job and internships and focused full-time on my site which, by this time, was a business in itself.



Things, however, turned out in a way I wasn't expecting. My big city dream began to unravel and within six months I found myself leaving the city and moving to the countryside. Here is why I made the move and ultimately the benefits I discovered.

The big city dream isn't for everyone

Cities can be incredible places full of culture, exciting opportunities, and interesting people. But for all the positives, cities can also be very difficult places to live. I found myself caught in an expansive and expensive situation. I found myself increasingly buckling under the pressure of high rent, and feeling lonely working from home with my friends living on the other side of town.

You would think that living in the same city I would see friends often, but with journeys of one hour or more across town, it

just wasn't that easy to see one another. I could feel myself becoming isolated. Everything came to a head when I was on the phone with my mum, and something triggered a reaction – I burst into tears and finally realized I wasn't happy where I was.

Cities are expansive and expensive... I realized that in order to pursue my own values, I had to re-negotiate my living circumstances

There were many things contributing to my overall feeling of unease: finances, isolation, a difficult period of deciding who I was (common in your early twenties, I know), and being caught in a “comparison trap” (estimating my worth against the perceived success of others). It was exhausting and not making me happy. I realized that in order to pursue my own values, I had to re-negotiate my living circumstances.

It's OK to give up on your dream – and opt for a new one

The prospect of leaving the city filled me, to my surprise, with huge relief but also hesitation. I still planned to blog full-time, but I worried how I would be viewed by my peers and business contacts. Would I still be deemed “relevant?” I decided that the relief far outweighed the hesitation and I set about moving to a beautiful cosmopolitan countryside town.

And just when I decided to leave the city, I took a holiday with my dad in Menorca, Spain. I needed a break to regroup my thoughts and rest. Having battled with the pressures of my unhappy life in the city for six months, I was exhausted. That first night I slept for fourteen hours straight. And for the first few days I couldn't think about anything serious; it was as if my mind and body had shut down to allow itself time to heal and regroup. In a

way, I imagine it was a short grieving period for my big city dream – I realized I needed to let it go.

Toward the end of our holiday, I took out a pen and paper and wrote down two lists: my core values as a person and my accomplishments so far.

Soon enough I found myself mapping a life I wanted to live, and the values weren't based on any specific location.

My confidence was at rock bottom and I felt pretty down about everything that had happened. I wasn't sure how I was going to progress with the life I wanted to build. And so I wrote down all of the things that are innately important to me – being close to my family, being kind, working in an environment I love, and soon enough I found myself mapping a life I wanted to live, and the values weren't based on any specific location.

I realized that things like financial freedom were hugely important to me, and that I needed to find a way of living which allowed me to truly embody these values.

My second list of accomplishments surprised me. Working so hard for the city dream, I had rarely taken a moment to acknowledge what I had achieved. When I read back through everything I had done, I felt proud of all the small milestones which led up to the life I was leading.

I realized that there was more to life than 'what you do' and that it was more important to focus on who you are.

Armed with my list of values and accomplishments, I felt infinitely more confident returning from holiday than when I'd left home a week earlier. (A tan and a new haircut helped too!)

I realized my old dream still existed, but it had evolved: I still wanted to work in fashion and on my blog, but I needed to fulfill my

core values too. I realized there was more to life than “what you do” and that it was more important to focus on who you are.

Happiness first

I often say I believe happiness causes a ripple effect – if you are happy, it positively impacts every area of your life.

Though I was concerned about leaving the city, once I prioritized my happiness everything else fell in to place. My relationship with my friends, family, and boyfriend became better and more real and I finally felt awake. (I felt like a complete zombie toward the end of my time in the city). I have also enjoyed the most rewarding period in my career after leaving behind any thoughts of comparison.

My overall wellbeing has increased ten fold. I now live in a beautiful countryside town, my boyfriend and I live in a two-bedroom maisonette and we pay less than half the rent I did previously for a space double the size. I even have a home office in a room all of its own!

I learned that living in an environment that stimulates your happiness is critical. I love living somewhere I can take a walk in the fields but where I can also get a killer flat white coffee. Because yes, moving out of the city doesn’t mean giving up a luxurious lifestyle – far from it!

There is life outside the city

It’s easy to have your blinkers on when you live in a big city as there are so many exciting things happening all the time. With so much to entertain you, it seems unfeasible that anywhere else could be as exciting! However, I can confirm that there are many cool things outside of the big city.

In our countryside town there is a fabulous tapas restaurant, pizzeria, Indian restaurant, and many buzzing watering holes. There are cool cafes, delis, bakeries, and even boutique shops which stock the likes of Anya Hindmarsh and Valentino!

Giving up the city does not mean giving up your lifestyle – if anything it is opting to select a lifestyle which best suits YOU.

In a smaller town there's a real sense of community. I know our neighbors look out for us, and vice versa, and we are only a few steps away from some great friends who all lead interesting successful lives. Giving up the city does not mean giving up your lifestyle – if anything it is opting to select a lifestyle which best suits YOU.

Work is out there

Work was one of my greatest concerns when leaving the city – I felt I was risking being deemed irrelevant by my industry. (I need not have worried!)

Once I made the change, and realized how unhappy I had been pursuing work in the city, I opted for an honesty policy with anyone who asked why. I shared my experience (edited down for ease of listening!) and discovered that many people could relate to the feeling of pressure and never quite catching up with yourself. I discovered that there was support in my industry I didn't even know was there, and in opening up I secured true relationships. I discovered that I was very much not alone, which in itself was a huge comfort. So many people, if not every person, I spoke to had been through similar feelings of doubt.

By moving to the countryside I was not giving up my work, in fact, I was scaling back my costs so I could reinvest in my small business.

For me, the city is still important – I take meetings there once a week and attend events often. I fell back in love with the city once I could view it for all of its exciting possibilities and culture once more. By moving to the countryside I was not giving up my work, in fact, I was scaling back my costs so I could reinvest in to my small business.

One of the greatest lessons I learned is that financial pressure can cripple inspiration and motivation, especially when you are constantly worrying about paying next month’s rent. It’s hard to come up with new content for your website, or innovative ideas for moving your business forward if worry is always present. With the help of my boyfriend, I set up a life that works for my budget – leaving me with the creative headspace to pursue the career I wanted. I have never had a better financial year or worked on more exciting and fulfilling projects than when I left the city and put my happiness first.

What life is like two years later

It has now been two years since I left the city, and I cannot believe how much my life has changed. The biggest shift for me was prioritizing my happiness first and in doing this everything else fell in to place. I love waking up every morning, being able to go for a walk in the beautiful rolling fields near our house, buy fresh fruit from the market vendor we live above, and generally enjoying where I live. I am pursuing a career I love and have been able to reinvest and grow for the future.

I have certainly made adjustments over the last two years to further maximize my life in the country. I schedule my meetings in bulk so I only have to travel once a week, I see friends and make date plans with my boyfriend often, and generally try to appreciate

everything, every day, for what it is. I am no longer hung up the pressure to do things which ultimately don't feel like a good fit, even if they were once part of my dream plan.

The big city isn't necessarily where dreams are made and it is OK to recognize this, to do something about it, for you.

➤ 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What was the main motivation for the author to move to the big city in pursuit of her dreams?

2. How did the author's feelings about city life change over time, and what were the reasons for these changes?

3. What factors contributed to the author's decision to leave the big city and move to the countryside?

4. How did the author feel about giving up on her dream of full time blogging in the city, and what ultimately led her to make that decision?

5. How did the author's perspective on happiness change after moving to the countryside and focusing on her core values?

6. What benefits did the author experience after prioritizing her happiness and moving to the countryside?

7. How did the author's new lifestyle in the countryside positively impact her career and relationships?

8. What are some of the attractions and amenities available in the countryside town mentioned in the text?

9. How did the author's perception of work and career opportunities change after moving to the countryside?

10. How did the author's financial situation improve after leaving the city?

11. How has the author's life changed in two years since leaving the city?

12. How has the author adjusted their lifestyle in order to maximize their time and enjoyment in the countryside?



➤ 3. Watch the video “Big city life or countryside” and answer the following questions:

1. What are the main reasons the speaker prefers living in a big city like London over living in the countryside or a smaller village?

2. How does the convenience factor of living in a big city benefit the speaker?

3. What does the speaker mean by the "mobility factor" of living in a big city?

4. Why does the speaker find the "novelty factor" of living in a big city appealing?

5. How does the speaker feel the "buzz of the big city" can be comforting?

6. What are some of the advantages of living in nature and green spaces that the speaker acknowledges?

7. How does the speaker respond to the potential criticism that big cities lack natural environments?

8. What are some natural areas in the big city that the speaker mentions?

9. How does the speaker's perspective on living in the countryside versus the big city differ?

10. How often does the speaker post new videos?

11. What social media platforms does the speaker encourage viewers to follow?

12. What does the speaker say about the comments section of the video?

13. What does the speaker say about their experience growing up in the countryside?

14. What does the speaker say they cannot wait to do?

➤4. Read the text, be ready for the discussion.

Young People Explain Why They Ditched the City for the Country

Is it all desperate loneliness and frostbite, or something more life-affirming? We asked writers who quit the cities for rural life how they've found it and why they left it behind.

We've all thought it when we come home from a night out, trampling over the city's detritus of chicken bones, chips, and filth, waiting for an Uber that's on a triple fare surge: Wouldn't life be better, easier, calmer if we just sacked it all off for a quieter life in the middle of nowhere?

But what is life like for the people who actually do it? Is it stifling solitude, or peaceful tranquility? We asked writers who've left city life in their 20s and 30s how it panned out for them.

Amy Liptrott, 34: "Rather than city nightlife, it's this land of big cliffs, harsh winds, and strong seas that is mine."



My move back to Orkney, the group of islands at the north of Scotland where I grew up, was much more practical than idealistic. My life in London had taken the boring trajectory of alcoholism. After years of attempts to control or stop my drinking, I quit my job to attend a rehab treatment program and when this finished after three

months, I was unemployed and fragile. I returned to Orkney for what I thought would be a few weeks while I applied for jobs, leaving my belongings in a friend's loft. They stayed there for three years.

I spent a while helping my dad out on the farm – repairing stone walls and assisting at lambing time. Then I unexpectedly got a job working for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), tracking a rare bird – the corncrake – through the night. I started swimming in the sea. The longer I was there, the more I knew and appreciated the phases of the moon and tides, the birds, the changing weather, and local folklore. Most importantly, bored and hungry, I began to write about these things.

I took myself off to one of the smallest Orkney islands, Papay, population 70, for a winter to write. Because I am a farmer's daughter from the islands, I knew what I was letting myself in for. The short hours of daylight and windswept landscape could seem bleak and unpromising, but I knew that you needed imagination to live there. Years ago a friend told me, "You'll write a good book about Orkney," and I thought that was extremely unlikely, but Doris Lessing said that "every writer has a myth country," and I've learned, although I resisted, that rather than city nightlife, it's this land of big cliffs, harsh winds, and strong seas that is mine.

Kids stream out of universities and unfashionable counties to cities, in search of experience and stimulation. But it's possible to only mix with people more and more like yourself in the city and remain unchallenged. It's often the small towns and rural areas, the families and friends you thought you left behind, where the fertile weirdness lies. Some people who spend most of their work and leisure time alone with a computer are realizing they might as well

do this in the countryside – where the rent is cheaper and the air cleaner.

The book is written and is, of course, about Orkney, but I needed a willingness to get down and dirty, get sober, and to look at myself and the best place to do this was the isles. Ironically, though, due to the complexities of life, work and love, I am currently living back in east London. The push and pull, like the tide, is ongoing.

► 5. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the author decide to move back to Orkney after struggling with alcoholism in London?

2. How did working for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) impact the author's relationship with nature and her surroundings in Orkney?

3. What was the author's experience like living on the small Orkney island of Papay during the winter for writing purposes?

4. How does the author compare the experience of living in a city versus living in a rural area like Orkney in terms of finding inspiration and challenging oneself?

5. Despite the author's deep connection to Orkney, why has she returned to east London, and how does she feel about the constant push and pull between two places?



Katie Harkin, 29: "I feel better equipped to grapple the isolation of the country than I ever did the loneliness of the city."

As a touring musician, my relationship to my home runs hot and

cold. I'm either totally absent or a permanent fixture. After graduating from university, I lived in four UK cities in five years, but it wasn't until my most recent move to the Peak District that I felt at home.

The "Peak District" is not, as a guy I once met at an NYC party assumed, Manhattan real estate jargon, but the UK's oldest National Park. I didn't consciously set out to find a rural home, but when my old band wrote our last record in a Sheffield warehouse, I found myself driving uphill to find a quiet place to work on lyrics and fell for the blank beauty of the horizons.

Nearly two years in, I feel like my new home has forced me to live a more purposeful life. The only place to buy food nearby is the church, and a cup of coffee made by someone else is a seven-mile round-trip hike. Instead of punctuating my day with the conveniences of the city, I've had no choice but to stock up in advance. This, coupled with cheaper rent, has meant that Peaks life is not just more affordable, but has created a routine within which I've found myself being more spontaneously creative rather than living by the city's schedules.

There are practical challenges, like the morning when, having risen earlier than the farmer who ploughs the village roads, I had to drag my suitcase uphill through a snowstorm to catch an airport train. The most important experiences since I've moved have, however, come from wrestling interior landscapes. I've come to feel better equipped to grapple the isolation of the country than I ever did the loneliness of the city.

Isolation has been its own challenge, though. When I first arrived, I basked in what was a one-dimensional and perhaps naïve admiration of how beautiful my surroundings were. After the sudden loss of a friend who had a keen appreciation for nature, I

began to respect my environment in a more holistic fashion. I now see how impermanent the landscape can be, not simply the eternal, infinite, and immovable prospect I thought at first. Realizing that has felt like a parting gift from him.

Often, my anxiety in the city was rooted in the fact that I felt more like an observer than an instigator. Not having an immediate creative community here has meant I've had to be more active in my own creative consumption.

Not far from where I live now is Mam Tor, which is sometimes known locally as the "Shivering Mountain," due to frequent landslips. I came here craving peace and stillness, but I've come to see that pursuing that is futile. Nature is propulsive. Even the mountains are shivering.

➤ 6. Answer the following questions:

1. What factors led the narrator to finally feel at home in the Peak District?

2. How has living in a rural area impacted the narrator's daily routine and creativity?

3. How has the narrator's perception of their surroundings evolved since moving to the Peak District?

4. How has the absence of a creative community impacted the narrator's creative process?

5. How has the narrator's relationship with nature and the environment changed since living in the Peak District?

Milly McMahon, 30: "My nights out are spent in local pubs where people chat about life rather than work."



I left London two years ago after I reached a crossroads in my life that felt pretty critical. Living in Hackney for just short of ten years and working at a fashion magazine for nearly eight of those, my friends and familiarities were rooted in the capital. Everything, apart from my happiness, was dedicated to continuing on the same path that I had imaged my life would travel. Each month was full of dramatic highs and lows – traveling to exotic places, interviewing amazing people, struggling to hit deadlines, and finding innovate new ways to make rent.

But the office nine to five felt stale and repetitive. Whenever I asked those around me, "How are you?" the answer came back predictably: "Busy." Chat outside of working hours focussed on how stressed we all were. Every Friday, the control we carefully exercised over our professional lives spiraled dangerously out of control. I fell into the hedonistic cycle of rave then recover that is so normal in the city. I felt overwhelmed, sad, and hopeless. I enjoyed my work, but I didn't want to die for it. So I abandoned that life, that home, that job, and that future to return to my roots, in the Worcestershire countryside.

I'm about to enter into my third year studying for a nursing degree at the local university. My first placement here was working in a small community hospital in Leominster, on the Welsh border. My shifts were 15 hours long, and my duties consisted mainly of nursing patients suffering with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, dementia, or terminal illnesses. I remember washing a man hours from his

final breath one morning. As I listened to him struggle to inflate and deflate his lungs, I did not feel busy or stressed, but deeply connected to my patient and his need for dignity in these final hours. I suddenly felt a whole new level of affinity with the job that I'd chosen to sacrifice so much in favor of.

When I lived in London, every weekend was spent pushing my body to the max. Now my nights out are spent in local pubs, where people chat about life rather than work.

I still keep in touch with my London friends. I'm aware my work grosses a lot of them out and sounds boring. Conversations briefly touch on what I'm up to and how I spend my time, and I still visit Hackney to remember the energy and freedom the vibrance of the city inspires. London is a journey, and mine ended at the right point, when I realized that each 24-hour period deserves its own opportunity to achieve something new and not be spent recovering from something old and ugly.

►7. Answer the following questions:

1. What prompted the narrator to leave London and return to the Worcestershire countryside?

2. How has the narrator's perspective on work and life changed since leaving London?

3. What type of patients did the narrator work with during their nursing placement in Leominster?

4. How does the narrator's social life differ now that they are living in the countryside compared to when they lived in London?

5. How has the narrator's perception of time and personal growth shifted since leaving the city?

Tom Usher, 28: "I don't wake up randomly from roommates doing coke at 3 AM any more".



I have ties to the countryside because my parents divorced when I was ten, and my mom responded, seemingly in a fit of panic, by buying a run-down semi-detached cot-tage in the hamlet of Sternfield, Suffolk. One day, she picked me and my brother up from school in

London and dropped us both in the ass-end of nowhere, at what we thought at the time was a vacation home. When I saw the cobwebs, no furniture, and taps that only ran a muddy brown, I thought, *I can't wait to get back to London*. Then I saw two large moving vans pull up outside.

That was the first of three times that I have, forcibly or by my own volition, moved to the countryside. When I was 22, I had to move out of the admittedly less imperious metropolis of Norwich and back this time to Cookley, still in Suffolk, because the person I was living with in Norwich didn't like me and kicked me out in favor of his friend. I'd moved to Norwich via Nottingham and Leeds – where I'd been a student, drinking and taking drugs pretty much every day, so the move back to country felt like jumping into a silent film. The nearest town was an hour's walk through winding country lanes, the nearest city another hour from there by train. I'd failed my driving test twice and was too poor to take any more lessons, so I was completely reliant on my mom for lifts, which felt OK at 16 but was bitterly embarrassing at 22. It felt like I was constantly cooped up, and my weekends away in whatever city I could get to became

explosive. The swings between unbearable weekday silence and weekend binges were incredibly unhealthy for me.

Then I moved back to London and got stuck into a string of apathetic nine to fives, squandered pay checks, and participated in the yearly routine of debasing yourself in the name of rented property. I loved it, but it got too much. The only constants in London seemed to be terrible apartments, terrible Mondays, and terrible financial health, so I packed my bags and left.

This time I'm finding it a lot more peaceful. Maybe I'm just older, but instead of feeling cooped up, I feel calmed down. I'm sleeping better, I'm not thinking about the weekend, and I don't wake up randomly from sirens or roommates doing coke at 3 AM. It's nice to marvel at how things are cheaper, rather than more expensive than what you expected. It's not perfect – the entire populace is over 60 and way too friendly, and my only Tinder matches list horse-riding as a hobby. But what I've found is that it's best to not try and replicate your city life in any way. There's no pizza, no craft ales, and no problems with housing, and actually that blank openness is nice. It doesn't mean I don't miss the city still, but at this time in my life, the change has seemed to aid rather than hinder my well-being.

►8. Answer the following questions:

1. How did the speaker end up moving to the countryside three times?
2. What was the speaker's experience like living in London?
3. How did the speaker feel about living in the countryside when they were younger versus now?
4. What do they appreciate about living in the countryside now?

5. How has the speaker's well-being been impacted by living in the countryside?

Annette Barlow, 33: "I'd pay \$1,000 to get a curry delivered to my house right now."



It's negative 5 degrees outside, and leaving the house is a risky business. I've just walked 100 feet down our snow-packed driveway to take the trash out, and despite my sub-zero temperature proof coat, every bit of my exposed skin feels – ironically – like it's on fire. Some glass bottles of water we accidentally left in the car overnight have frozen solid and exploded. The other day, when my hulking pickup truck refused to drive any farther up a steep icy road on a cliff edge, we had to coast back down it in reverse. A death-defying 50-minute round-trip, all for a bag of coffee.

It's my husband's birthday tomorrow, and we've just realized that he won't get any cards. Not because he's universally disliked or anything, but our house, according to the US mail system, just doesn't exist. We've had to open a PO box at the local post office, which is completely normal for rural populations. It's actually OK – picking up your post is a great way to meet your closest neighbors, none of whom live close enough for you to meet in passing.

Our neighbors were too close in London: a rowdy family who hosted BBQs every weekend, complete with screaming children and middle-age-denial garage music blasting from tinny speakers; and a lonesome older lady who we tried to have sympathy for, until she started claiming we were responsible for

her gas bills and rifling through our bins at midnight. We were submerged in other people's noise 24 hours a day. The Piccadilly line rumbled beneath our house, which meant we couldn't ever hear ourselves: our bodies, our thoughts, our grievances, our joys. Everything we did was filtered through the lens of London's other 9 million residents, and our lives stopped being our own. We were taut rubber bands, hamsters on a wheel, and every other city-living cliché. The latent hippies in us wanted to gambol in nature, be outdoorsy, and choose our own adventure. New York State's Hudson Valley offered us everything we needed: vertiginous mountains, cheap land, and proximity to NYC should Bikini Kill ever reform, and I'd need to see them.

It's not all near-death experiences, loneliness, and frostbite, though. The sky is different. It's not the dishwater sky you find in cities; it's licorice black at night and sprinkled with stars. The mountain views and waterways are so wild and mighty, you kind of lose your breath. Sure, you're 30 minutes from the nearest doctor, and it's easier to airlift you to hospital than it is to drive, but it's also silent, majestic, and life-affirming. When the ground thaws, we'll fell our own trees and chop our own wood. We buy our food directly from farms, and the internet disappears so often that I've taught myself to knit just to stay entertained. While it's one of the hardest things I've ever done, it's also the best. Even though I'd pay \$1,000 to get a curry delivered to my house right now.

►9. Answer the following questions:

1. How does the narrator describe the experience of living in a rural area in comparison to living in the city?

2. What challenges are faced by the narrator in terms of mail delivery and access to essential services?

3. How does the narrator describe the natural beauty of their surroundings in the Hudson Valley?

4. What are some of the unique experiences the narrator has had, such as exploding water bottles and driving on icy roads?

5. How has living in a rural area impacted the narrator's daily life and sense of self?

A FINAL DISCUSSION

► 1. Give your opinion on the following quotations:

Great cities are not static, they constantly change and take the world along with them.

Edward Glaeser

Cities force growth and make people talkative and entertaining, but they also make them artificial.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The point of cities is multiplicity of choice.

Jane Jacobs

City life is millions of people being lonesome together.

Henry David Thoreau

Urbanization is not about simply increasing the number of urban residents or expanding the area of cities. More importantly, it's about a complete change from rural to urban style in terms of industry structure, employment, living environment and social security.

Li Keqiang

Cities have always been the fireplaces of civilization, whence light and heat radiated out into the dark.

Theodore Parker

Cities force growth and make people talkative and entertaining, but they also make them artificial.

Ralph Waldo Emerso

TEXTS FOR FREE TRANSLATION

«Я переехала в мегаполис и потеряла себя»: как выжить в большом городе

Для человека, прожившего всю жизнь в маленьком городе, переезд в мегаполис – не только большое достижение, но и выход из зоны комфорта. К сожалению, зачастую наши ожидания от новой жизни не оправдываются, и реальность оказывается куда суровее. Историю нашей читательницы комментирует психолог.

«Мне сказали дома: если я уеду, то могу перестать считать себя частью семьи»

Милена, 22 года

«Три месяца назад я переехала в Москву. До этого жила в Тамбове – там я получала высшее образование. А родилась и выросла я в маленьком городке в области. О переезде в столицу я задумалась еще на первом курсе, а на четвертом начала копить деньги, ради исполнения мечты устроилась на вторую работу. Так что к концу учебы я уже была финансово готова к переезду.

Самым сложным оказался разговор с родителями. Они с трудом отпустили меня в Тамбов, и вдруг я решила уехать еще дальше. У меня и так были не самые лучшие отношения с семьей, а после моего объявления о переезде посыпались упреки и самые настоящие угрозы. Мне сказали, что если я уеду, то могу перестать считать себя частью семьи. Меня это не остановило, и я все равно переехала в Москву.

Чего я ожидала от жизни в мегаполисе? Конечно, больших возможностей для развития. И все же больше ожиданий было от самой себя: хотелось много знакомств, походов на выставки, поездок, интересной работы. Мне действительно понравился быстрый темп жизни столицы, однако почти сразу после переезда я почувствовала, что моих сил хватает только на работу.

В первый месяц меня еще хватало на вылазки в центр, но потом я будто потухла.

С работой все тоже оказалось не так просто. Мне хотелось чего-то интересного и ответственного. У меня было уже три года опыта работы, портфолио с проектами.

Однако в большом городе я почувствовала себя чистым листом – не в хорошем смысле. Я отправила около сотни резюме, лишь две организации предложили звонок, в одну из них я смогла устроиться. Пришлось согласиться на зарплату меньше ожидаемой и не в таком перспективном месте.

На новой работе я поняла, что не могу применить все свои знания и опыт. Задания казались мне скучными, а организация работы – беспорядочной и некомфортной. Все ощущалось неправильным. А еще присутствовало четкое ощущение, что коллеги мне не рады, пристально смотрят за каждым моим шагом, накручивают значимость моих ошибок.

Во мне росло отторжение. Не хотелось вставать так рано ради поездки на работу, по вечерам я перестала находить в себе силы на общение и хобби. Я начала чувствовать, что теряю себя и свои любимые занятия в рабочих буднях.

В итоге чувство полного неудовлетворения перевесило мой страх сидеть без зарплаты. И я решила уйти.

Я поняла, что окончательно выгорела. Хочу полностью сменить сферу деятельности. Пришлось резко урезать свои желания и планы, нужно сильно экономить, добавился стресс. Я чувствую, что в большом потоке людей легче потеряться. Толпы несут куда-то и могут легко затоптать если ты затормозишь или остановишься. Здесь меньше держатся за людей. Мне кажется, если я не буду активно себя проявлять, то меня просто выкинет. Большой город пугает меня своей жестокостью. Появился страх, что не справлюсь со всеми трудностями.

Как я могу помочь себе в стрессовых ситуациях, когда на меня накатывает тревога? Мне стало сложным объективно оценивать свои навыки, стоимость своего труда – что делать? Как выйти из режима выживальщика и начать получать удовольствие от жизни и ее возможностей? Как совладать со страхами по причине и без? Я чувствую, что снова стала трусливой и даже в какой-то момент отказываюсь от возможностей».

«В наших неудачах содержится много информации о том, что делать дальше, а чего впредь следует избегать»

Ксения Бекенова, психолог

Милена, в первую очередь хочется отметить вашу целеустремленность. Вы действительно умеете ставить перед

собой задачи и направлять себя. К сожалению, зачастую одних наших стремлений оказывается недостаточно для успеха. Не менее важны такие факторы, как наличие жизненного опыта, адекватная оценка своих возможностей, а также подходящая социальная среда и поддержка (их, как мне кажется, вам не хватило, а также умения принимать ситуацию такой, какая она есть).

Сам по себе город эмоционально никак не заряжен по отношению к человеку.

Дело не в том, что Москва беспощадная. Она очень разная. И любой мегаполис может быть, как жестоким, так и щедрым. Это большой организм, в котором есть возможность столкнуться со всеми проявлениями общества – как с хорошими, так и с плохими. Это как море, в котором нужна навигация. А она всегда осуществляется через людей.

Вы довольно быстро замкнулись на своей неудаче. Такое бывает, когда основным нашим ориентиром выступают ожидания быстрого успеха или изначальной расположенности к вам в коллективе. К сожалению, мгновенные результаты – это большая редкость. Не везде люди приветливы и готовы помогать нам. Вам стоит больше внимания уделить выстраиванию своих коммуникативных навыков, чтобы они были устойчивыми, а вы могли поддержать беседу и расположить к себе окружающих.

Бояться нормально, но делать выводы в пользу страха – это детская позиция.

Сейчас важно усмирить свой страх, потому что он может действовать как паралич. В наших неудачах содержится много информации о том, что делать дальше, а чего впредь следует избегать. Не забывайте, что ошибки – это тоже возможность

для роста, а еще к ним можно относиться как к нераскрытому потенциалу.

Помочь себе вы можете именно пониманием того, как будете достигать новой цели.

В первую очередь нужно сформировать новый, более продуманный старт. Для этого нужно вспомнить о своих сильных сторонах и объективно оценить свои навыки. Проведите ревизию своих личных качеств и страхов. Пропишите пять конкретных реализуемых действий, которые вы можете сделать прямо сейчас, и начинайте двигаться в новом направлении. Начните со скромных шагов, и они приведут вас туда, где можно будет по-настоящему раскрыть свои амбиции.

Прежде чем двигаться к новой цели, проанализируйте свои ошибки.

Вы написали о том, что разослали огромное количество резюме, но откликнулись всего две компании. Стоит задуматься, все ли нормально с вашей самопрезентацией. Также встает вопрос о том, почему вы согласились на предложение, если вас изначально не устраивали ни размер зарплаты, ни организация. Ведь после таких тяжелых поисков устройство на работу, которая не устраивает вас, – это гарантированный внутренний надлом.

Силу надо набирать постепенно. Она будет прибавляться по мере того, как вы будете приближаться к своей новой цели. Точно так же появятся мотивация вдохновение, вера в свой успех – они приходят только в те моменты, когда мы действуем.

<https://www.psychologies.ru/>

Современная урбанизация – благо или зло?

Развитие городов, их история, условия жизни в городах, различия городского и сельского образа жизни всегда интересовали ученых. В значительной мере многообразие этих проблем сконцентрировано в понятии «урбанизация». *Урбанизация* – сложный многогранный социально-экономический процесс, связанный с развитием производства, накоплением интеллектуальной информации и совершенствованием форм социального общения, увеличением доли городского населения, ростом значения городов в жизни общества, распространением городского образа жизни. Существуют и другие аспекты урбанизации.

Кратко динамику урбанизации в мире можно охарактеризовать следующим рядом цифр. В 1800 г. доля городского населения во всем населении планеты не превышала 3 %, в 1850 г. она увеличилась до 6,4 %, в 1900 г. достигла 19,6 %, а в 1990 г. уже 43 % населения Земли жило в городах. Еще более стремительными темпами шла урбанизация в России. В 1913 г. городское население составляло всего 17 %, в 1920 г. – 15 %, далее рост шел по нарастающей: 1926 г. – 18 %, 1940 г. – 34 %, 1950 г. – 43 %, 1960 г. – 54 %, 1970 г. – 62 %, 1980 г. – 70 %, 1990 г. – 74 %, 1995 г. – 74 %, 2012 г. – 74 %.

В экологии человека, которая большинством исследователей рассматривается как наиболее общее понятие по отношению к различным проблемам взаимодействия общества и окружающей среды, сформировались различные научные направления, в том числе и такие, как экология городов и экология городского населения. Архитекторы-проектировщики пишут об урбоэкологии, хотя не всегда понятно, относится этот термин к экологии города или

городского жителя. Следует особо подчеркнуть, что в каждом из названных направлений рассматриваются принципиально различные пространственно-временные системы. При исследовании экологии города речь идет об урбоэкосистеме, т. е. о мегасистеме, в центр которой помещен город, находящийся в сложных взаимоотношениях со своим природным и социально-техногенным окружением. Изучение экологии горожан происходит с использованием парадигмы: антропоэкосистема с населением города (или определенной группы горожан) в центре, а природная социально-техногенная структура города составляет остальные блоки антропоэкосистемы.

В некотором смысле город можно сравнить с единым сложно устроенным организмом, который активно обменивается веществом, энергией и информацией с окружающими его природными и сельскохозяйственными территориальными комплексами, и другими городами.

Города служат центрами притяжения людских и материальных ресурсов. В крупных и крупнейших городах концентрируются высококвалифицированные специалисты и рабочие, научная и творческая интеллигенция, хранятся огромные материальные, культурные, исторические, научные ценности. В города поступает промышленное сырье и полуфабрикаты, готовая продукция, плоды сельскохозяйственного производства. Одновременно города экспортируют промышленную продукцию, выбрасывают в окружающую среду огромное количество отходов. Они становятся центрами техногенных биогеохимических провинций. Фактически любой крупный город как при импорте вещества и энергии, так и при экспорте готовой продукции и своих отходов связан

со всей планетой. Сырье, детали, станки и механизмы, продукты питания поступают в города (прямо или косвенно) из разных регионов и отправляются во многие страны мира. Химические вещества, выбрасываемые из заводских труб больших городов (например, тяжелые металлы), включаются в глобальный круговорот и выпадают на поверхность Земли на десятки и сотни тысяч километров от источников загрязнения. Но наиболее существенное влияние города оказывают на свое непосредственное окружение.

Количественное и качественное развитие городов способствует увеличению доли городского населения в регионе, росту значения городов в жизни общества, распространению городского образа жизни. При изучении городов на первый план выступают и другие аспекты этой проблемы:

- *экологический* – концентрация большого числа факторов, вредных для человека и природы, на территориях с высокой плотностью населения;

- *медицинский* – обычно хорошо развитая система здравоохранения и увеличение заболеваний, связанных с городским образом жизни (появление так называемых болезней цивилизации);

- *культурный* – потребление населением культурных ценностей при одновременной нагрузке информационным мусором;

- *технический* – рост использования технических средств, облегчающих условия труда и жизни человека (развитие транспорта, электрификации быта и т. д.);

- *социально-психологический* – изменение образа жизни людей, их социально-психологического статуса.

При анализе социальных аспектов городского населения возникают принципиально важные вопросы:

- восприятие горожанами городской среды;
- социально-культурная идентификация жителей городов;
- проблемы общения горожан.

С конца XX в. в городах возникла новая тенденция – стремление городских жителей за пределы городов при сохранении всех благ городской жизни. Жизнь на природе среди живописных ландшафтов при сохранении работы в городских офисах стала возможной благодаря достижениям электроники (дистанционная связь), развитой системе автомобильных дорог, широкому распространению комфортабельного транспорта. Видимо, эта тенденция будет расширяться, хотя города по-прежнему будут играть ведущую роль в жизни государства.

<https://studref.com/>

Отсутствие пробок и зелень вокруг. Какими будут города будущего

Города до сих пор остаются самым популярным местом жительства: согласно всероссийской переписи населения за 2010 год, в РФ в сельской местности проживает 37 542 763 человек, а в городах – 105 313 773. Разница почти в три раза – и она будет расти по мере развития технологий. Разберемся, как изменится облик городов.

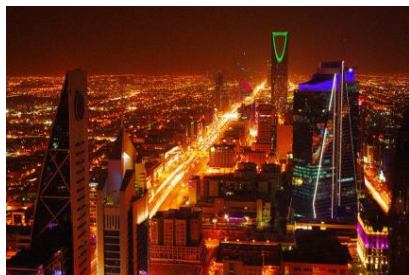
По мнению специалистов первые города появились во времена, когда в Междуречье от сельского хозяйства отделились ремесло и торговля. Одним из таких считается Вавилон – крупнейший город древней истории. Подобные

населенные пункты являлись средоточиями достижений времени – уже в Древней Руси города были благоустроены: там работал водопровод, а люди ходили по мощеным улицам.

Мегаполисы будущего

Чикагские архитекторы Адриан Смит и Гордон Гилл создали проект современного городка-сателлита рядом с крупным китайским мегаполисом Ченду. Отличительная черта – отсутствие автомобилей. Проект называется Great City, и спроектирован он таким образом, что добраться до любой точки в городе можно будет за 10 минут пешком или на велосипеде. Возможно это в том числе и благодаря площади Great City – всего 1,3 квадратных километра. Жить в городке должны 80 000 человек, а основные задачи, поставленные при строительстве – обеспечение энергоэффективности и экологичности.

Экология – тема большая не только для Китая (там уже взяли курс на исправление проблем), поэтому разумно пред-



положить, что подобные тенденции будут наблюдаться и в других городах будущего. А городки вроде Great City подойдут уставшим от шумной жизни мегаполиса: небольшие, зеленые и крайне уютные.

Great City приятно выглядит на концептах, но настоящей футуристичности в нем нет – за этим потребуется отправиться в ОАЭ, город Масдар. Это первый настоящий эко-город, согласно проекту его можно назвать автономным: здания отапливаются солнечной энергией, дождевая вода собирается

для нужд города, высокая плотность застройки и солнечные панели обеспечивают дневную тень. Масдар призван объединить энтузиастов экотехнологий, обеспечить нулевой выброс углерода и показать нам настоящий пример города будущего. Строительство ведется аж с 2006 года – они прерывались из-за финансового кризиса 2008 года.

Масдар кому-то покажется красивой восточной сказкой – посреди пустыни строят будущее. Проект в 2016 году критиковала The Guardian. Отчасти справедливо – сказка не выдержала столкновения с реальностью. По состоянию на 2019 год Масдар не достроен, первоначальная концепция нулевого выброса менеджерами отвергнута – но проект функционирует, начинает окупать себя, и к 2030 году город планируют достроить КЛАМА.

Еще один впечатляющий концепт – город Шан-Суи, созданный компанией MAD Architects. Идея заключается в создании мегаполиса с многофункциональными небоскребами, который тесно интегрирован в природу. Высокая плотность застройки используется и здесь – этот подход будет популярен в будущем, так как позволяет быстро добраться до любой нужной точки. Близкое расположение важных объектов позволит людям ходить пешком или использовать велосипеды для перемещения. Городской транспорт в таких случаях будет использоваться только для поездок на дальние расстояния.

Если вышеописанное не кажется достаточно футуристичным, то посмотрите на проект наследного саудовского принца Мухаммада ибн Салмана: искусственный дождь, интеграция smart-систем, летающие машины и огромная искусственная Луна над всем этим технологическим великоле-

нием. Город, по словам представителя команды разработчиков, назовут Неом – и это будет самое современное и технологичное место из существующих на Земле.

Первые шаги к новым городам

Масдар, Great City и Шан Суи – прекрасные проекты городов будущего. Но они создаются с нуля – очевидно, что так будет не со всеми. Уже построенные города не исчезнут, они трансформируются под нужды нового времени.

В тех же ОАЭ будет не только Масдар, в Дубае уже есть квартал площадью в 46 гектар, называющийся «Устойчивый город» (Sustainable City) – он создает энергии больше, чем потребляет, а также перерабатывает отходы и грязную воду. Логично, что успешный опыт одного квартала распространится впоследствии на город, а затем и на все ОАЭ.

Гетеборг – второй по величине город Швеции, специалисты Фредрик Кьелгрэн и Йоаким Камински из компании Kjellgren Kaminsky Architecture спроектировали вариант его трансформации. Проект Суперустойчивого города базируется на предыдущей зеленой инициативе «Гетеборг 2050», и предполагает активное использование крыш для размещения на них огородов, солнечных панелей и ветряных мельниц. Вкупе со сверхплотной застройкой это позволит горожанам полностью обеспечивать себя свежими продуктами и энергией.

Специалисты из John Wardle Architects представили свое видение Мельбурна через 100 лет – проект назвали «Множественность».

Мельбурн будущего показывает, что наши города не смогут постоянно расти вширь – им придется двигаться вверх

и вниз. А над самым городом, согласно проекту, раскинется «крыша», используемая для сбора солнечной энергии, воды и выращивания пищи.

По каким улицам будут гулять наши дети

Вышеописанные проекты пока не закончены – что-то остается на стадии концепта, от чего-то приходится отказываться. Но вектор движения уже угадывается.

Транспортная система изменится. Часть концептов уже предполагает полный отказ от классических автомобилей – все будет переведено на общественный транспорт и беспилотные электрокары. Иного выхода нет: аналитики Всемирного банка подсчитали, что к 2050 году количество автомобилей может вырасти вдвое. Это грозит не только транспортным коллапсом, но также еще большими проблемами с экологией.



Переход на беспилотный транспорт позволит избавиться от пробок – транспортным потоком сможет управлять ИИ, разгружая отдельные узлы и выстраивая адаптивные маршруты. В отдельных городах вроде Great City частного транспорта может не быть вообще.

По прогнозам ООН, население Земли достигнет отметки в 9,7 миллиардов к 2050 году – поэтому в большинстве приведенных выше проектов задействованы солнечные панели, огороды на крышах и сбор дождевой воды. Наши дети и внуки будут жить в городах, которые частично будут обеспечивать себя сами.

Города, функционирующие на энергии солнца и ветра, утопающие в зелени, свободные от пробок и подходящие для прогулок – это прекрасный вариант будущего. Остается его дождаться.

<https://hi-tech.mail.ru/news>

TEXTS FOR FURTHER READING

Story of cities: what will our growing megacities really look like?

Will we live in buildings made out of waste, heavily surveilled smart cities, or maybe floating communities designed to cope with rising sea levels?

Amid the much-mythologised graffiti that appeared around Sorbonne University during the French civil unrest in May 1968, one line still stands out as intriguing and ambiguous: “The future will only contain what we put into it now.”

What appears at first utopian has more than a hint of the ominous. While augmented reality creates a city individualised for every occupant, and developments in modular architecture and nanotechnology might result in rooms that change form and function at a whim, the problem lies in the unforeseen. The smart city will also be the surveillance city.

For the moment, we remain largely wedded to superficial visual futures. The likelihood is that the prevailing chrome and chlorophyll vision of architects and urbanists will become as much an enticing, but outdated, fashion as the Raygun Gothic of The Jetsons or the cyberpunk of Blade Runner. Rather than a sudden leap into dazzling space age-style cityscapes, innovations will unfold in real-time – and so too will catastrophes. The very

enormity of what cities face seems beyond the realms of believability, and encourages postponement and denial.

“Survivability” should be added to urban buzzwords like connectivity and sustainability. Three quarters of all major metropolises lie on the coastline. In China alone, 20 million people per year move to cities, with the flood-prone Pearl River Delta now the world’s largest urbanised area, according to the World Bank.

A recent report by Christian Aid places more than a billion people in coastal cities vulnerable to severe flooding and extreme weather due to climate change by 2070, with Kolkata, Mumbai and Dhaka topping the list. Many more people face the knock-on effects of severe flooding such as fresh water shortages, refugee crises and political instability.

The question remains whether large-scale adaptation will be possible in the face of short electoral cycles, the abiding influence of commercial interests, and a sense of inertia beneficial to the status quo. Since Kenzō Tange’s Tokyo Bay Plan (1960), one tendency has been towards proposing intriguing but as yet ephemeral “floating” cities. For real cities facing sea-level rise, Seth McDowell from Mcdowellespinosa architects identifies three strategies: “Defence, retreat and adaptation.”

“Cities and populations with generous resources and engineering capacity will likely simply take the defence strategy and build mega engineering structures to keep the water away – similar to the Delta Works in the Netherlands. For those with less cultural and economic investments in the water’s edge, we will likely see retreat as a strategy. However, I see retreat as both a horizontal and vertical operation. So, retreating does not just mean packing up and moving inland, but could also mean elevating above the water.”



Venice is the commonly quoted model for this process, but a more recent example (though considerably less aesthetically appealing) is the platform oil city of Neft Daşlari in Azerbaijan. “Water becomes a new datum – not so much a habitable space, but rather a fluctuating ground,” McDowell explains. “Cities would be designed or reconfigured to accept rising water levels and adapt... to allow for a co-existence between water and civic activities. You can see this strategy in projects like De Urbanisten’s Water Square Benthemplein in Rotterdam, where a public square doubles as a water storage basin.”

Architecture group Terreform One adopts a similarly counter-intuitive but practical approach in its Governors Hook project, where “instead of keeping the water out, the design allows the water in”. The relationship between the urban and rural must be reconsidered, co-founder Mitchell Joachim suggests, to prevent cities adopting a siege mentality and fighting a losing battle with the elements.

“We need to find these much larger soft buffer zones that are accepting of these two worlds of nature and city. Before Hurricane Sandy, we were using these ghost fleets, old military vessels as artificial reefs that would be embedded into the edges of our city and allow sediment and life-forms to build up on top of them over time and create these middle zones between land and sea.” The devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy made these plans seem particularly pertinent, if not prophetic.

Dealing with waste

The population explosion and advances of the industrial age have produced unprecedented levels of waste into landfill, the sea and the sky. Countering measures, such as developing nanotechnology that would see buildings alleviate pollution at a molecular level, are still in their infancy.

In the meantime, waste is as much a testament to civilisation as our urban skylines. McDowell proposes a shift in thinking: “Waste is just a material state,” McDowell says. “Since it tends to be unwanted, it is cheap.

“The main issue to overcome in viewing waste as raw material is the energy required to transform the material from a state of refuse to a state of sophistication. There is also the perceptual challenge – how can waste be transformed to acceptable visual and performance standards? We’ve explored this idea in projects such as City of Blubber, which imagines converting Hong Kong’s food waste into a productive bioplastic material.”

What we might see as absurd is already happening through necessity in settings like Manshiyat Naser in Egypt, where a “Garbage City” functions on the refuse of Cairo. Mitchell Joachim agrees that our current approach is a problem. “There is no such thing as waste. Waste is supposed to go away but there is no ‘away’. We look at fully ‘upcyclable’ cities where projects, products, concepts that we make are always intended to be cycled upwards again and again.”

This is reflected in Terreform One’s Rapid Re(f)use project – a “future city [that] makes no distinction between waste and supply”.

Engaged in projects from the shifting pods of Peristaltic City to the transformed-Arctic Ecotarium of Future North, Joachim

suggests a radical change in our economic and political systems to match our technological ingenuity. “They say we’re in the age of the Anthropocene but really it’s more accurate to say we’re in the Capitalocene. Everyone has to grow and show proof of growth. And we know that is impossible. Nothing grows to infinity. There will always be stresses whether on the market or the environment that will cause it to feedback.



“At Terreform One, we’re anticipating, not an endless growth system, but a state where waste doesn’t exist – a steady state or closed, stable economy that cycles back and recognises the limits of the earth’s metabolism and what we can take out. This would be done with footprint calculations and life-cycle analyses on anything we produce.”

Rather than view the city architecturally, Joachim encourages us to see it also as a series of interconnected metabolic systems, akin to a biological organism. “In a culture of biology, you just don’t design something for a single purpose. A cherry tree is servicing thousands of other forms of life. It produces thousands of cherries that get absorbed into the soil and feed all different types of flora and fauna. It’s connected into a web of life.”

Terreform One’s ideas and designs might seem wildly visionary on first glance but looking closer, they go beyond speculative concepts into proposing functioning models. “What we do is create very detailed fictive scenarios that don’t promise the future will end up this way, but rather we think about what the inherent issues are and bring these to the foreground and talk in a logical way how cities might respond.”

The obstacle in adapting cities is the same obstacle in tackling fossil fuel emissions; what Joachim identifies as “predatory drag”. “If you’re an oil company, you’re going to say ‘Yes, solar panels are great, we’ll invest in that. We think in 2050, we’ll all be using solar panels.’ Until then, every single day they are in business, there are such enormous profits for them that the point is to delay.”

Given how embedded these interests are in political circles, change from within needs an unlikely synthesis of the community-orientated philosophy of Jane Jacobs and the force, connections and leverage of Robert Moses. It will likely take a disastrous jolt (“an environmental Pearl Harbour”) to alter the calculus of negligence economics, provide a rousing symbol and focus the issue, by which stage it might be too late.

One day, cities may be forced to follow their inhabitants in becoming mobile. Ron Herron’s Walking City or Archigram may still suggest the outer reaches of science fiction, but the idea of moving a city has already happened: the Swedish town of Kiruna was relocated two miles away.

And with developments in the assembling of buildings through drones, nanotechnology-enhanced materials and industrial 3D printing, disassembling and deploying them elsewhere could be much easier than at present.

Changing cities

Perhaps the likeliest outcome is that cities will simply continue as they are, or be deserted. The costs of change may result in inundated areas simply being abandoned (in the model of Detroit or New Orleans) while more privileged areas will be protected. Sacrifice zones and ruins may form in coastal cities as the authorities and the rich move up or out.

Containing a critique of the present, as every prophesy does, Clouds Architecture Office's Aqualta envisages a partially submerged metropolis where life nevertheless carries on. "The city would in effect lift its skirt allowing water to flow beneath its feet," explains partner Ostap Rudakevych.

"Thinking through the ramifications – flooded subway tunnels, submerged roads and sidewalks, street level retail underwater – allows for new conditions to emerge, such as transport by boat or dirigible, suspended walkways, oyster beds, and a generally slower and quieter lifestyle. Perhaps fossil fuels would be gone by then, yielding a quieter city without the sounds of engines or motors.

"Rather than devising ever more complex technologies in an escalating battle against nature, we adapt and invite the water in."

Beyond the initial surprise, there are sound ideas and a scathing perceptiveness underlying the project: "Aqualta was guided by the observation that people are resistant to change, especially if it means sacrificing comfort or convenience. Needed lifestyle adjustments have been gradual or non-existent. Aqualta was intended as a kind of slow-burn wake-up call, a seductive portrayal of where we're headed, like it or not."

To go beyond the superficial aspects of future cities requires seeing past the architectural shell and the marketing to the systems,

relationships and people within – the citizens rather than the citadels.

“A city is more than a place in space,” Patrick Geddes pointed out, “it is a drama in time.” Change will be continuous, because “designing a city is like painting a watercolour in a stream”, says Joachim.

In order to be preserved, the city must become adaptable. So too must its designers and its inhabitants – but they must do so together. We are endlessly, fancifully predicting the future partly in order to distract ourselves from the fact that we’re already creating it, for good and ill.

The cities of the future

Skyscrapers made of bamboo. Green roofs. Smart glass. Houses that are cool in summer and warm in winter without burning through loads of energy. All around the world, the future of cities and urbanization looks to bring smarter, more energy-efficient, healthier buildings to the urban environment. An unattainable utopia or simply a necessity in a rapidly urbanizing world that needs to find sustainable solutions to the cities of the future?

The building industry is a significant contributor to global CO2 emissions with estimates by the International Energy Agency (IEA) showing that the buildings and construction sectors together account for approximately 39% of global energy-related CO2 emissions. This includes both operational emissions from energy use in buildings and embodied emissions from the construction and manufacturing of building materials.

Worryingly the emissions from the sector have also been on a rising trend as growth in urbanization, population, and building stock, especially in rapidly developing countries, has driven higher energy demand and associated emissions. What is more, the use of energy-intensive materials, inefficient building systems, and a lack of energy-saving measures have come together in a perfect storm that leads to rising emissions.

Inverting this trend will rely on policy frameworks, technological advancements, and the adoption of sustainable practices that can redefine the way we think about the buildings in which we live, work and play. This includes rethinking the way we certify the sustainability of buildings.

In fact, there is a growing recognition of the deep interconnection between decarbonization in the building sector and our ability to address climate change leading to increasing emphasis on energy-efficient building design, renewable energy integration, and sustainable building materials.

Governments and organizations worldwide are implementing policies and regulations to promote energy efficiency and low-carbon buildings. This includes building codes, energy performance standards, and financial incentives for sustainable construction practices. And it isn't just about climate change but also about ensuring that the people living in cities, which are some of the most exposed to the impacts of climate change, lead healthier and more prosperous lives.

Fighting the urban heat island with sustainable buildings

As the world continues to warm urban communities are among those that are expected to feel the brunt of the warming. Built environments not only heat up more than natural ones but

also retain that heat, meaning that there is no night-time cooling for example.

Urban greening is seen as one of the main ways of tackling the urban heat island effect but there are also new studies that explore the potential for sustainable building materials to act as urban coolers.

Things like light-colored or reflective materials, including cool roofs or reflective pavements, can reduce the absorption of solar radiation and heat by reflecting a greater portion of the sunlight back into the atmosphere. Or, green roofs and walls whereby vegetation absorbs and evaporates water through a process known as evapotranspiration, which helps cool the surrounding air. Green roofs and walls also provide shading and insulation, further reducing surface and ambient temperatures.

Regardless of the actual materials, sustainable building materials need to be incorporated into a broader sustainable urban design approach. Incorporating green spaces, tree planting, and integrating sustainable building materials into urban planning can create more shade, increase evapotranspiration, and improve air circulation, all of which help reduce the urban heat island effect.

By using sustainable building materials that address energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and environmentally friendly design principles, cities can reduce energy consumption, lower the heat island effect, improve air quality, and enhance the overall livability and sustainability of urban environments.

There is no one miracle material that will solve the issue of how we built our cities in a more sustainable fashion. Rather it is a matter of finding the right material in the right context. To this end there are a series of prominent experts and organizations that specialize in sustainable building materials.

Architect and designer William McDonough, pioneered the Cradle to Cradle approach which emphasizes the use of environmentally friendly materials and processes in building design. An approach that is also reflected in the mission of the Ellen McArthur Foundation which also looks at how to build more sustainably and in a circular way.

Certification systems

Governments and organizations worldwide are implementing policies and regulations to promote energy efficiency and low-carbon buildings. This includes building codes, energy performance standards, and financial incentives for sustainable construction practices. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) are two of the most widely used systems which assess and promote sustainable practices in the design, construction, and operation of buildings.

LEED was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to evaluate and certify the sustainability performance of buildings which it does so by considering various aspects such as energy efficiency, water conservation, materials selection, indoor environmental quality, and innovation.

Mahesh Ramanujam, CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council describes it as having “revolutionized the way we think about buildings and communities by fundamentally reshaping the way we approach design, construction, operations, and maintenance”

ON the other hand, BREEAM is a certification system developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in the United Kingdom and it assesses and rates the environmental and

sustainability performance of buildings across various categories, including energy, water, materials, health, and wellbeing.

According to Alan Yates, Technical Director of BREEAM at BRE: “BREEAM sets the standard for best practice in sustainable building design, construction, and operation and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognized measures of a building’s environmental performance.”

Yet for some these certification schemes fail to address some key issues. One of the most common is that LEED certification is based on predicted performance rather than actual measured outcomes and that it can be manipulated through design decisions without truly achieving sustainable performance.

In an interview for the New York Times, Henry Gifford, Energy Efficiency Consultant and author of *Buildings Don’t Lie*, claims that “LEED gives architects and building owners points for telling the computer they will save energy, not for proving they actually do save energy.”

In fact, some buildings that have scored highly on LEED criteria have been shown to be extremely energy inefficient.

A similar criticism has also been leveled at BREAM whereby design intent rather than the actual performance of buildings in terms of energy and water consumption during their operational phase are what is given priority.

Oliver Heath, Sustainable Architect and Designer also notes that “BREEAM is a valuable tool for raising the level of sustainability of the built environment. However, the emphasis on a certification at the design and construction stage can mean that environmental performance isn’t fully integrated into the project lifecycle.”

Certification schemes can help constructors gain tax credits, attract tenants, charge premium rents and project an image of environmental responsibility. However, there is often a gap between design and construction which leads to highly certified buildings that don't necessarily do what they were designed for.

The key is bringing together policy and technology innovation that can meet the growing need, and demand, for sustainable buildings so that the cities of the future becomes bastions of sustainability and not vice-versa.

<https://www.climateforesight.eu/>

World Reimagined: The Potential of Smart Cities

The past few years have been a bit more challenging, to put it mildly. Local organizations have been amongst the most disrupted as managing the various aspects of the pandemic like the accelerated need for digital transformation often occurred at the local level. As it turns out, around 45% of government organizations were ill-prepared for the challenges of the pandemic. This has resulted in an increased push towards improving local infrastructure and with it, the evolution of smart cities that can better manage challenging conditions and be more attractive to potential residents as more employers offer remote work options and flexibility.

What is a smart city?

Smart cities (also referred to as eco-cities or sustainable cities) use technology to improve efficiency and sustainability and to provide a better quality of life for their residents. This means improved traffic management, waste removal, resource management and security. A smart city uses information and communication technologies to improve its livability, workability

and sustainability. If this is the kind of thing that really floats your boat and you are into rankings (or are considering moving), check out the Smart Cities Index (2021 Full Report), which rates cities around the world. Spoiler alert: London won again.

Dublin, Ireland is as an example of just what a smart city can offer. In 2015, Dublin City Council implemented the Mayflower Central Management System to integrate city-wide smart sensors and applications. The system monitors the noise level of cars on the streets, CO2 emissions, the energy consumption of street lighting, weather conditions, and even groundwater levels as the city is vulnerable to flooding. In 2016, the Smart Dublin initiative was created to explore new technology and working practices to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Dublin and future-proof the city. The result is a city where people are safer walking at night, cars consume less fuel which reduces pollution levels and optimal locations are created for new schools, hospitals and homes.

Do we need smart cities?

In 1800, less than 10% of people lived in urban areas but according to the UN World Urbanization Prospects, urban populations overtook the total in rural areas by 2007, and today, over half of the world's population (around 55%) live in urban areas. By 2050 that proportion is expected to increase to 68%, adding another 2.5 billion to urban areas. By 2030, the world is expected to have 43 megacities with over 10 million inhabitants, most of them in developing regions.

With the human population becoming increasingly urbanized, economic and environmental success will largely depend on what happens within cities and how they manage resource constraints. We also don't want billions of people going

bonkers from the stresses of city life. As Jesse Berst, founder of the Smart Cities Council put it, "If cities are our best hope for a better future, smart technologies are the path to that better future."

Aside from the environmental and livability concerns, the pandemic acutely and painfully highlighted the dangers of working in silos, leading experts at the World Economic Forum to suggest that global data governance and data exchanges be at the core of smart city ecosystems, another tailwind for technology infrastructure spend. In addition, with fertility rates plummeting in the developed world, the competition for talent will intensify. Already, the U.K. announced last month that it will grant visas to graduates and their families from top universities around the world.

Why is this an investment opportunity?

The Internet of Things (IoT) is today growing at an accelerating pace within smart cities. While estimates vary depending on the organization, the growth in smart city spending is expected to be profound.

- According to the SmartAmerica Challenge, city governments in the United States alone will invest around \$41 trillion over the next 20 years to upgrade their infrastructure and take advantage of IoT solutions.

- A recent report from Research and Markets indicates that globally, the smart cities market is likely to grow at a CAGR of over 20%, reaching 2.5% trillion by 2025. This growth is driven by increasing urbanization worldwide and rising technology spending on smart city programs as well as infrastructure development.

- Markets & Markets predicts a CAGR of around 19% as the global IoT in smart cities grows from \$130.6 billion in 2021 to \$312.2 billion by 2026.

- International Data Corporation expects direct digital transformation (DX) investments to total \$6.8 trillion between 2020 and 2023.

- Grandview Research predicts that by 2030, the global smart cities market will reach nearly \$7 trillion, which translates into a CAGR of around 24%.

Companies investing in smart city technology

Given the level of public debt around the world, funding smart city development is a challenge. Many cities are developing public-private partnerships, such as Siemens' (SIEGY) \$600 million investment in Berlin. The Siemensstadt "Siemens City" is Siemens' largest investment in its history, covers 70 hectares (about 173 acres), and is expected to "transform a large industrial area into a modern, urban district of the future for a diverse range of purposes." Siemens smart city offerings range from MindSphere Application Centers implemented in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Dubai to resilient resource management to infrastructure financing.

OneMind Technologies, a subsidiary of Affluence Corporation (AFFU), is partnering with Dell Technologies (DELL) and Orange Business Services to deliver comprehensive data to city decision-makers. [Click here](#) for an interview with James Honan, CEO of Affluence, discussing IoT and smart city technology.

Digging more into the details of just what is being done and how, smart city devices are being used to make everyday tasks easier and more efficient while at the same time reducing the pain points around public safety, traffic congestion and environmental impact.

Resource Management

As the world looks to get a lot smarter about energy generation and consumption, “smart meter” IoT devices are being used by utility companies to better manage energy flow and to allow users to monitor their own consumption. According to Insider Intelligence, utility companies will save \$157 billion by 2035 from the implementation of smart meters. Companies such as Cisco Systems (CSCO), General Electric (GE), IBM (IBM), Microsoft (MSFT) and Schneider Electric (SBGSY) offer various “smart grid” solutions.

One of the biggest problems with power grids around the world is just how highly centralized they are. To increase capacity and resiliency, smart grid technology is shifting towards a more distributed model wherein customers generate some of their own power through the use of solar panels and sell any excess back to the grid. The distributed grids also include household/business storage units that are connected to the city’s grid. These batteries can reduce demand during peak hours by storing energy during low usage hours. Companies such as Tesla (TSLA), Generac (GNRC) and Panasonic (PCRFF) offer residential and business battery solutions.

No natural resource is quite as precious as water and with nearly one-fifth of the world’s population living in areas of physical scarcity, this is yet another area with considerable innovation, from rainwater management to water reclamation and even rapid leak detection. Companies like IBM, Microsoft, Evoqua Water Technologies Corp (AQUA), Xylem (XYL), and Ecolab (ECL) provide a range of water management solutions.

Waste Removal

Anyone who has been caught behind a trash truck can attest that the odiferous vehicular behemoths can cause serious traffic congestion, along with a desire to shove an air freshener up one's nose. Smart solutions monitor bin levels which can be used by waste management companies, in conjunction with traffic monitoring tech, to identify the least disruptive and most efficient pick-up routes and prevent overflow from contaminating surrounding areas.

Smart bins, such as those from Bin-e, can take human error out of the initial sorting process using AI-based recognition system, lowering waste management costs by as much as 80%. The Evo bin by EvoEco educates and “motivates” users to properly dispose of their trash in the correct bin. Others like the Bigbelly system from MassTrans use solar power to send out an alert when it is full and compacts waste internally to reduce pickup frequency. Rubicon Technologies, which is expected to go public through a merger with Founder SPAC (FOUN), is using technology to end waste by using AI to improve waste management and increase recycling. Then there is the route South Korea took when constructing the city of Songdo. All the city's trash is transported via an underground pneumatic pipe system to a plant where it is separated and either recycled or burned for energy.

Transportation Management

In 2014, Westminster, London implemented SmartPark from Smart Parking Limited (ASX:SPZ), which allows drivers to quickly locate open parking spaces, rather than driving around endlessly, adding to congestion and infuriating fellow drivers.

To reduce congestion and emissions, Pittsburgh implemented Rapid Flow Technologies Scalable Urban Traffic Control (Surtrac). Surtrac is an AI/robotic system that treats the intersection control challenge in a whole new way – as a single machine scheduling problem. According to Rapid Flow, Surtrac’s implementation has gotten people to their destination 25 % faster, with 40 % fewer stops, resulting in an overall reduction in emission of 20 %. What’s not to like? Rapid Flow reportedly plans to release a platform called Routecast that will be fully deployed in the fall of 2022 that can save drivers as much as 10–12 seconds per intersection, up from the 4 to 6 with its current product.

The bottom line is that more and more of us are going to be living in urban environments that are likely to be increasingly dense, and without smart-tech, congested and polluted. Economic and environmental success and frankly, our collective sanity, will require these urban areas to get a whole lot smarter and that is a world worth reimagining.

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What is Urbanization and What are the Positive and Negative Effects?

by Daniel Krainlew

Urbanization is something that eventually happens in any developing country, as the population condenses into smaller cities and towns. Agriculture begins to decline, and industrialization fuels the move from rural areas to urban ones.

There are some positives and negatives to urbanization. When done correctly, urbanization means a greater variety of opportunity for residents. If it gets out of hand, though, crime and poverty start to rise uncontrollably.

Ahead, we'll answer the questions: what is urbanization?
And: How does it affect us?

What is Urbanization?

Urbanization is when people move from rural farmland to cities and towns. Rural areas are more densely packed and offer greater opportunities to their residents in the form of higher paying jobs and a larger variety of job opportunities.

Most developing countries experience the process of urbanization, especially once they start becoming industrialized. Cities and towns become hubs of trade and culture, and more people start moving out of the country to gain access to some of these social and financial benefits.

Urbanization is a natural part of developing society, but it has its downside as well. As populations in cities and towns rise, they expand and eventually invade rural areas. We need to strike a balance with urbanization if we want to flourish as a society.

What Causes Urbanization?

Urbanization is inevitable as a country's production moves away from agriculture and towards industry. People begin to move to the cities for better access to employment and resources.

Multiple actors contribute to urbanization, and many of them are positive. People seek the best opportunity to provide for themselves and their families, and urban environments are often the answer.

An Increase in Employment Possibilities

Urban areas have more jobs to offer and can lure people out of rural areas with the promise of a better life and a higher-paying salary. People find more jobs in virtually every industry while looking in cities and towns than they do searching rural locations.

There are more people in urban areas, which means there is more demand. The increased demand opens the door to employment opportunities for a lot of people who can't find a job in their rural hometown.

In developing countries, employment opportunities often open rapidly through the process of industrialization. Every developing country goes through a period of industrialization, where jobs move from agriculture to production. People begin to move to cities and towns more frequently, adding to the urbanization of that country.

Access

Another reason people flock to cities and towns is the access they present. In urban areas, people have access to better schools, healthcare facilities, better living standards, and increased trade opportunities.

There is a long list of social benefits associated with moving to urban environments. A lot of the time, people move to these areas to start a family and offer their kids access to better schooling and health care possibilities.

Trade is another form of access that is enhanced in urban areas. Cities are especially home to greater trade opportunities, and some people move to have access to more commercial options.

Modernization

There's something inherently romantic about moving to the city. Cities are more modern than rural environments, and people are attracted to the fashion, food, and ideas flowing in the city.

People often move to cities for a fresh start. They want to learn more about culture and experience the hustle and bustle of daily city life. Some people dream of moving to the "big city" for

most of their lives. They might be disappointed when they get there, but a lot of cities have a modern, romantic draw to them.

How Does Urbanization Affect Us?

Urbanization has several positive effects on our society, but too much of it is detrimental. As more people move to the city, the promised opportunities begin to dwindle. Traffic will become nearly unbearable, and poverty rises as jobs fill-up.

At some point, the cities and towns become worse than the rural areas from which people moved. Urbanization might be a natural societal process, but too much urbanization can lead to catastrophe.

Increased Employment and Access

As we stated above, urbanization isn't all bad. It opens the door for people to move to a place that gives them more employment choices and access to better schools and health care. Cities and towns give people more upward mobility, and they're no longer stuck in the social class in which they were born.

As people move towards cities and towns, jobs open up to attend to the influx of people. Demand rises, and supply must match, so companies hire more people to work for them. The surrounding area profits as property value rises, and people can move up the social ladder.

Overcrowding

If too many people start moving from rural areas to urban areas, the cities and towns begin to experience overcrowding. It's at this point that the benefits of urbanization start to dwindle and the negatives rear their heads.

Since cities and towns offer the promise of greater opportunities, more rural residents move to them. Eventually,

urban areas experience a tipping point where the possibilities begin to dry-up. Too many people pack themselves in a small space, and we start to see unemployment and crime rise.

Housing becomes an issue when cities and towns experience overcrowding. The housing prices rise, which is fantastic for people who own property but can be devastating for everyone else. Since everyone is looking for a job to pay rent, competition becomes nearly unmanageable. The net result is people moving to the city and can't afford a place to live.

Unemployment and Poverty

Another effect of overcrowding of urban areas is a sharp uptick in unemployment. Jobs become scarce as people struggle to make enough money to keep up with the rising cost-of-living. It might be easy to find a position at first, but when the city or town becomes overcrowded, the competition is too stiff.

As a result, more people become unemployed or underemployed. They might be qualified to work in an office, but need to take a job working at a convenience store to afford housing.

Since rent becomes so expensive as people move to urban locations, slums and ghettos begin to develop. Area for housing dries up, and people must live in small spaces to save some money.

Where opportunities used to be plentiful, they start to become scarce. Education and social services become strained, and poverty rises. As people struggle to feed themselves, crime and drug use starts to spike. Crime isn't isolated to urban environments, but it's certainly more common.

What Can We Do About Urbanization?

Since urbanization has some significant disadvantages, we need to start changing the way we tackle cities and towns. Ahead are some steps our societies can use to prevent some of the negatives of urbanization.

Preventing Overpopulation

Overpopulation is one of the back-breakers for urban environments. Populations rise in cities, and the overcrowding starts to exacerbate the already existing problems.

Fighting overpopulation starts with education, so providing more educational resources is one of the best ways to combat excessive urbanization. We need to teach citizens about the overpopulation problem, as well as provide access to contraception and prevent unplanned pregnancy.

Building Better Cities

Overcrowded cities quickly become unhealthy for their residents. Pollution skyrockets when a large number of people live in a small space. The only way to limit these effects is to build cities with the environment in mind.

Sustainability is the keyword when considering “what is urbanization?” A lot of cities across the globe are unsustainable. Instead of resigning to building expensive housing and low-cost slums, we should focus on creating cities that work for everyone.

City planners should use renewable energy, water recycling, and green travel to their benefit. Local governments need to be more mindful of their city planning so their populations can thrive for the foreseeable future.

Creating Opportunity

Opportunity is one of the reasons people move to cities and towns in the first place, but they dry up quickly. One of the ways to make urban environments more sustainable is to create more jobs and opportunities as the population rises.

Companies can use the surrounding environment to their advantage to create more jobs. Promoting tourism and enhancing living spaces gives people more variety in employment. Supporting schools increases access to education, which makes for a more qualified workforce.

Keeping city residents comfortable is essential. Once they become restless, crime starts to creep in.

Keeping Urbanization Sustainable

People will eventually start moving away from rural areas and towards cities and towns. There's nothing we can do to prevent this natural societal mobility, but we can take steps to make it more sustainable.

Creating jobs and opportunities will allow people who move to urban areas ways to make a living. There will always be a bit of poverty in cities, but we can provide education and resources to help pull people out of the cycle of poverty.

If urbanization is to continue, we need to start planning for the future. Building sustainable cities is a start, but businesses need to find ways to create more jobs for people living in the area. Urbanization is inevitable, but it doesn't always have to be a bad thing.

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Учебное издание

Шмелева Татьяна Сергеевна

Давайте говорить на английском!

Часть 2. Урбанизация

(=Let's speak English!

Part 2: Urbanization)

Учебное пособие

Авторская редакция

Подписано в печать 11.12.2024. Формат 60x84 ¹/₁₆.

Усл. печ. л.6,97. Уч.- изд. л. 4,5.

Тираж 58 экз. Заказ № 2302.

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