

A

City life

Read this advertisement for new houses in the city and note the collocations.

Secure your new home now in the exciting city of Lorchester

In the **bustling**¹ centre you can enjoy high-quality **urban living**, with **reliable public transport** and shops and restaurants whose **long opening hours** will suit your busy lifestyle.

Phone us now on 00345 877223 to visit our extensive range of show houses and apartments, or take a virtual tour at www.incitilife.com.



¹ full of busy activity

B

Country life versus city life

Jerome has just moved from his home village into a big town. He emails Rosie about it.

[Reply](#) [Forward](#)

Hi Rosie,

Well, I did it. I moved into town. I must say I don't miss the **rustic charm**¹ of life in the **back of beyond**²! For some people my old village is a **rural idyll**, but for me it was always just a **quiet backwater**³ in the middle of nowhere where nothing ever happened and where I was **bored rigid**⁴. I've only been in town a week, but I love everything about it – the **crowded streets**, the **hectic pace**⁵ of life, the fact that you can get a cappuccino or **hail a taxi** at two in the morning.

So when are you coming to visit?

Jerome

¹ appeal that is simple and picturesque

² an extremely isolated place

³ a quiet, isolated village

⁴ (informal) extremely bored

⁵ very busy and fast pace

C

City Council plans

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GOOD NEWS FOR INNER CITY LIFE

City councillors last night approved extensive plans for **urban regeneration**.

Key features of the plan include the restoration of **derelict buildings**¹ and a **tree-planting scheme**.

The hope is that the **inner city** will soon resemble the **leafy suburbs** as an attractive and **desirable place to live**. Planners believe that an increase in the number of **residential dwellings**² in the town centre will ease the problem of **congested roads** and night-time crime: with commercial and recreational facilities **within walking distance** and **open all hours**, it is hoped that many people will choose to leave their cars at home, and that it will be safer to walk on the street at night.

¹ buildings that are not cared for and are in a very bad condition ² (formal, official) homes

Exercises

32.1 Complete each sentence with *the city* and *the country* in the correct space.

- 1 There is a less hectic pace of life in than in
- 2 It's much easier to hail a taxi in than in
- 3 You are less likely to find reliable public transport in than in
- 4 You are more likely to find rustic charm in than in
- 5 You are more likely to find congested roads in than in

32.2 Explain the difference in meaning between the sentences in each pair.

- 1 The roads are very congested. The streets are very crowded.
- 2 We live in the inner city. They live in the leafy suburbs.
- 3 He lives in a quiet backwater. She lives in a bustling city centre.
- 4 I enjoy urban living. I love my rural idyll.

32.3 Put the collocations in the box into pairs that are similar in meaning.

city life long opening hours rustic charm in the back of beyond open all hours
 urban living in the middle of nowhere rural idyll

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32.4 Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence using a collocation from the opposite page.

- 1 The village is regarded as a quiet place where nothing happens, but the people who live there love it.
- 2 She lives in a simple cottage miles away from any other inhabited places.
- 3 The government plans to provide funds to subsidise the modernisation and improvement of our cities.
- 4 The city announced a plan to plant more trees.
- 5 The south side of the city is an area where many people would like to have a home.
- 6 The city council has declared that part of the town may only be used for people's homes.

32.5 Find collocations on the opposite page with the opposite meaning to these phrases.

- 1 smart, modern buildings
- 2 quiet roads (2 answers)
- 3 a quiet city centre
- 4 urban decay
- 5 the urban nightmare
- 6 restricted opening times (2 answers)

32.6 Use a dictionary to find three collocations for these words.

- 1 countryside
- 2 landscape
- 3 village(s)

32.7 Answer these questions.

- 1 Do any types of TV programmes or films bore you rigid? If so, what types?
- 2 Would you consider living in a remote country village in your country to be living in a rural idyll?
- 3 Do you have a reliable public transport system in the place where you live?
- 4 Are there any derelict buildings where you live?
- 5 What sort of facilities are there within walking distance of the house or flat where you live?