

A

The rush hour*

“For me, the rush hour is the worst time of day. Everywhere is busy, and everyone seems to be **in a hurry**¹. I usually drive to work, but sometimes I **get stuck**² in **traffic jams**³, and when I get to work I find there’s **nowhere to park**⁴ because the **car park**⁵ is already full. But if I get the bus, it takes me longer, and that makes the journey very **stressful**⁶. When I get home in the evenings I often feel **exhausted**⁷ – more from the travelling than from my work.”

* the time when people travel to and from work

¹ want to go somewhere / do something quickly

² become unable to move or go anywhere

³ long lines of cars that are not moving

⁴ no place to leave the car

⁵ place to leave a car

⁶ causing a lot of worry

⁷ very tired

Common mistakes

The situation was **stressful**, and I was very **stressed** (NOT I was **stressing**, or it was **stressing**).

I couldn’t find a **car park**. OR I couldn’t find a **parking space**. (NOT I couldn’t find a **parking**.)

B

The nightlife*



“One of the **advantages of**¹ living in the city is the **nightlife**. The **town centre** is always **lively**² in the evening, and there is a wide **variety of**³ bars, clubs and restaurants to go to. If you are more interested in **culture** and **cultural activities**, you can go to the cinema, the theatre, concerts, art galleries, etc.”

* places to visit in the evening for social reasons

¹ the positive things about a situation; *opp*

disadvantages

² full of activity

³ many different things

C

Advantages and disadvantages

“Cities always seem **crowded**¹, and they can be **dirty** (*opp* **clean**) and **dangerous** (*opp* **safe**) places to live. **Pollution**² is worse in big cities, and so is the **crime rate**³. I only walk home **at night**⁴ if I’m with a friend. When I’m on my own, I get a taxi.

Life in cities is also more expensive. Flats cost a lot, and I think you get better **value for money**⁵ in a smaller town or village.

On the positive side, **you get**⁶ a real **mix**⁷ of people and nationalities in a big city; that makes life more interesting. I also enjoy the fact that there’s always something **going on**⁸ in a big city, so life is never **dull**⁹.”

¹ full of people; *opp* **quiet**

² dirty air and water

³ the number of crimes that happen

⁴ in the period when it is dark

⁵ If something is **good value for money**, you are happy with what you receive for the amount of money you pay.

⁶ you find / there exists

⁷ different types

⁸ happening

⁹ boring; *opp* **exciting**