

B2.15 Town and Country- Handout

1 These questions are chiefly related to the topic of life in the city as opposed to life in the country. Although there are also some questions that relate to possible improvements to the environments where you and your partner live. One of the questions is quite difficult grammatically, so it also appears in the 'Useful Language' box. The question is, "*Do you wish you had grown up in a different place?*" and it is potentially confusing for the learner because the tense 'moves back one' after "*wish*" so the tense here is Past Perfect ("*had*" + Past Participle) instead of Past Simple.

Key language includes: *countryside, the country, benefits, drawbacks, metropolis, to introduce measures, rural and pollution.*

2 There are further questions here on the same theme, extending the topic into the areas of architecture, outdoor activities and the role of animals in the countryside. Key vocabulary includes: *contemporary architecture, capital city, hill-climbing, country walk, 'outdoors' person, hunting, blood sports and banned.*

3 The idea here is that your partner should attempt a 'long turn' in a debate format speaking persuasively on the topic of 'living in a city' versus 'living in the countryside'. They should be well-prepared for this by the preceding discussion questions. However, it is probably advisable for you to go first to provide a model. Issues that could be raised include: safety and crime, privacy and 'nosy neighbours', facilities/cultural venues and outdoor activities, pollution and 'quality of life'.

4 The debate format can be continued if it has proved to be successful and enjoyable for you and your partner. However, if it caused difficulty for the learner, then you may wish just to choose one or two of these controversial statements to discuss more freely.

5 As usual, please discuss together: which topic will be chosen to be written about, the position your partner intends to take and the reasons for their stance; as this will greatly facilitate the successful completion of this short discursive, writing task.