

## B2.15 Town and Country

### You can learn:

- How to compare life in the country and life in the city.
- How to have a debate with your partner.

1



**Discuss the questions in the box, which are all related to the topic of living in the town and living in the country, with your partner.**

- Do you live in the city, a town or the countryside?
- What are the advantages of living in a small town?
- What are the good things about living in a metropolis?
- What are the benefits of living in the countryside?
- What are the drawbacks of life in a big city?
- Would you feel safe walking alone in a big city in your country at night? Why/why not?
- What can be done to make life where you live better?
- Are any of these measures likely to be introduced?
- Which cities have you visited in the world? Which was your favourite and why?
- Which is the most beautiful rural area in your country? Is it in danger from pollution?
- Do you wish you had grown up in a different place?

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2



**Look at the pictures below and discuss your answers to the questions with your partner.**



*Do you prefer contemporary architecture or more traditional? Which type of architecture is typical of your capital city? Is there a capital city you would like to visit in the future? Would you like to live there?*



2

*Would you rather swim in a clean lake or go hill-climbing? Are you an 'outdoors' person? Have you ever gone for long country walks? Why/why not? Is it healthier to live in the countryside?*



*What animals are 'working' animals in your country? Are any animals hunted? Should blood sports be banned? Where are the most beautiful views in your country? In the countryside, or across a city?*

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# The Great Debate

Have a debate with your partner on the following issue:

*"It is better to live in a city than in the country."*

Decide who will agree with the proposition (the statement above) and who will disagree. It does not really matter if this is not your real opinion, in fact sometimes it can be more interesting to argue against what you really believe. We use an idiom in English to describe this, we call it 'playing Devil's advocate'. You and your partner should each speak for about five minutes each, without interrupting each other. Then, at the end, you can discuss the issue while disagreeing and interrupting more freely.

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### Key Language for Debates

*I think that/I believe that ... because/since...*

*'X' is better than 'Y' because...*

#### Expressing Opinions

*As far as I'm concerned...*

*In my opinion...*

*The way I see it is...*

#### Disagreeing

*You said that ...but, I disagree because...*

*While it may be true that...I believe that...*

#### Stating Your Case

*For example/If I may give you an example... (by giving examples)*

*Everyone knows that... (by appealing to common sense)*

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**Choose one or two of the controversial statements in the box below and debate these with your partner.**

Controversial Statements

*"Social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.) does more harm than good."*

*"Books, T.V., newspapers and the internet should be free of all censorship on moral grounds."*

*"Some jobs should never be done by women."*

*"Religion is the greatest force for moral good in the world."*

*"People work harder if they receive higher wages."*

*"The sale of tobacco and all associated products should be banned."*

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**Choose one of the controversial statements from the box above then write a paragraph stating your opinion on the issue giving reasons for your views.**

*In my opinion, adults should be free to buy tobacco...*

