



APEX ENGLISH

Your voice. Global.

B2 · GENERAL ENGLISH

UNIT 9 · 9B

Super cities

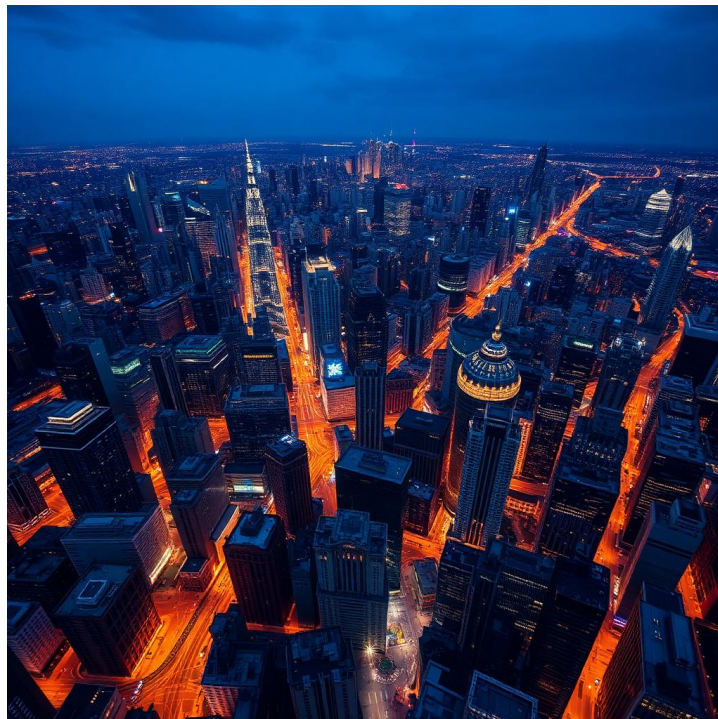
Theme · City Life



Unit 9 · 9B

Super cities

Theme: City Life



Learning objectives

- Use UNCOUNTABLE nouns (traffic, advice, information, luggage, news, research) with singular verbs and no article 'a'.
- Handle nouns that behave differently in English than in your language (accommodation, furniture, homework).
- Use PLURAL-ONLY nouns (police, people, clothes, jeans, scissors) with plural verbs.
- Build new words with common PREFIXES (over-, under-, mis-, re-, dis-, un-) and SUFFIXES (-able, -ness, -ity, -ise/ize, -less, -ful).
- Predict where the stress falls when a prefix or suffix is added.
- Describe a megacity using precise B2 vocabulary of urbanisation and quality of life.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Class Book

Warm-up · rank the megacities

Rank these five megacities from BEST to WORST to live in. Compare in pairs — defend your ranking with ONE reason each.

Tokyo — 37 million people, spotless streets, subway punctual to the second.

Lagos — 22 million and growing fast, chaotic energy, low cost of living.

Mexico City — 22 million, incredible food, altitude and pollution.

São Paulo — 22 million, non-stop nightlife, extreme traffic.

New York — 20 million, expensive, everything at every hour.

followUp: Listen for TRAFFIC, POLLUTION, ACCOMMODATION, INFORMATION — those are today's uncountable nouns hiding in your answers.

Lead-in: 'a city problem or a city plus?'

Read each mini-description (1–6) and decide: is it a PROBLEM (P) or a PLUS (+)? Compare with a partner.

1. Rush-hour traffic that adds ninety minutes to every commute.
2. Twenty-four-hour public transport that runs every four minutes.
3. Air pollution that makes joggers cough by 8am.
4. Affordable, walkable neighbourhoods with parks on every corner.
5. Rent that eats seventy per cent of an average salary.
6. World-class universities, museums and hospitals within an hour of home.

P · traffic congestion

+ efficient infrastructure

P · air pollution

+ walkability & green space

P · unaffordable housing

+ world-class amenities

1 → P · TRAFFIC CONGESTION (uncountable — 'traffic', not 'a traffic')

2 → + · efficient INFRASTRUCTURE (uncountable)

3 → P · AIR POLLUTION (uncountable)

4 → + · WALKABILITY, GREEN SPACE

5 → P · UNAFFORDABLE housing (prefix UN- + AFFORD + suffix -ABLE)

6 → + · world-class AMENITIES (plural noun)

followUp: Every megacity is a mix of both. Today we'll get the grammar right — and the vocabulary sharp.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Reading: 'the megacity paradox'

By the middle of this century, roughly seventy per cent of humanity will live in cities. Already, more than forty urban areas around the world have populations bigger than the whole of Norway. These are the megacities — Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, São Paulo, Cairo, Mexico City, Mumbai — and they are the most complicated machines humans have ever built.

The paradox is simple. Megacities are, on paper, catastrophic. The traffic is unmanageable. The air pollution shortens lives. The infrastructure is under permanent, expensive strain. Accommodation is unaffordable for most of the people who actually keep the city running. Rubbish collection alone is a small national economy.

And yet, people keep coming. Every day, on average, another 200,000 people move from the countryside into a city somewhere in the world. They come because the megacity, despite all its problems, is still the fastest engine of opportunity ever invented. Wages are higher. Healthcare, education and freedom of movement are wider. A child born in a rural village in India has, statistically, a very different life ahead of them than a child born in urban Mumbai — even in one of its poorest districts.

Urban planners now talk less about STOPPING this movement and more about MANAGING it. Well-designed cities are walkable, mixed-use, endlessly reusable. Badly-designed ones are car-choked, unaffordable and unbreathable. The difference is not the size of the city — Tokyo works at 37 million; some cities of two million barely function. The difference is the decisions the city made about buses, parks, housing and rubbish thirty years ago. Every megacity we build today is a bet on a future we can't quite see.

1. By mid-century, how much of the world's population will live in cities?
 - (A) Around 30%
 - (B) Around 50%
 - (C) Around 70%
2. What is the 'megacity paradox'?
 - (A) Cities are cheap but boring
 - (B) Cities are catastrophic on paper, yet people keep moving to them
 - (C) Cities can never grow bigger than 20 million
3. Why do people keep moving to megacities, according to the text?
 - (A) For the weather
 - (B) Because rural life is illegal
 - (C) Because cities offer higher wages, better healthcare and education
4. What determines whether a megacity 'works', according to the text?
 - (A) Only its size
 - (B) The decisions made about buses, parks, housing and rubbish decades earlier
 - (C) The number of tourists

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5. Which of these is presented as an UNCOUNTABLE problem?

- (A) Buses
- (B) Air pollution
- (C) Buildings

Megacity vocabulary in context

Match each expression from the text to its closest meaning.

megacity — an urban area with more than 10 million people

infrastructure — roads, water, power, transport (all uncountable)

urbanisation — the movement of people from countryside to cities

car-choked — so full of traffic it can hardly move

mixed-use — housing, shops and offices in the same district

unbreathable — so polluted the air is difficult to breathe

Vocabulary: word building — prefixes & suffixes

intro: At B2 you don't just learn 'live' — you learn LIVE → LIVEABLE → UNLIVEABLE → LIVEABILITY. Prefixes change meaning; suffixes change word class. Master four common prefixes and four common suffixes and you multiply your vocabulary overnight.

1. **label:** Prefixes — change the meaning

2. **label:** Suffixes — change the word class

3. **label:** Megacity problems (uncountable!)

4. **label:** Megacity pluses

practice

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box (correct form). One word per gap.

1. The metro is packed, and the rents are ____ for anyone on the average salary.

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2. Twenty years ago the district was run-down; it's been completely ____ since then.

3. The city's air is barely ____ in the summer months.

4. Bogotá is a surprisingly ____ city — you can cross most of the centre on foot.

5. The buses are old, dirty and unreliable — the whole system feels ____.

6. There's a huge ____ between what people earn and what a flat costs.

7. The city is trying to ____ its bus network for the first time in forty years.

8. The neighbourhood I grew up in was ____ — nobody talked about it, but it had incredible food.

Practice 2 — collocations & rewrite

Rewrite each sentence replacing the underlined phrase with ONE word from this lesson's vocabulary. Keep the meaning identical.

1. Rent in the centre has become <u>impossible for most people to pay</u>.

2. The old docks were <u>renewed and brought back to life</u> after decades of neglect.

3. The city centre is genuinely <u>easy to get around on foot</u>.

4. The transport system feels <u>badly run</u>, with constant delays.

5. There's a huge <u>gap between what the rich and the poor earn</u> in this city.

Practice 3 — discursive writing

prompt: Discuss what makes a city genuinely liveable, beyond its famous landmarks.

Use at least FOUR of the target words from this unit.

Vary sentence length and use one relative clause.

Aim for a reflective, cohesive C1 register.

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sample: When people ask what makes a city liveable, they usually picture its landmarks, but I think the real answer lies elsewhere. A district that has been regenerated well feels entirely different from one that has simply been made unaffordable for the people who used to live there. I've spent time in cities that are genuinely walkable, where you can cross half the centre on foot, and others where the transport network feels so mismanaged that a short journey takes an hour. What troubles me most, though, is the disparity between neighbourhoods just a few streets apart — one thriving, one neglected, both technically part of the same city. A place only feels truly liveable, I've come to believe, when that gap starts to close.



Grammar: uncountable and plural nouns

1. Uncountable nouns — the big ones — Uncountable nouns (also called 'mass nouns') take a SINGULAR verb and NO article 'a/an'. • The traffic IS terrible today. (NOT 'the traffics are') • I need SOME information. (NOT 'an information / informations') • Common uncountables: traffic, information, advice, news, research, luggage, furniture, accommodation, homework, work, weather, money, progress, equipment, software.

2. Making them countable — 'a piece of' — To count uncountable things, use a partitive noun: • a PIECE OF advice / information / furniture / news • a BOTTLE OF water / a LOAF of bread / a SHEET of paper • an ITEM OF luggage / clothing ✗ 'Can you give me an advice?' → ✓ 'Can you give me some advice / a piece of advice?'

3. False friends — nouns that trick you — In many languages these are countable, but in English they are UNCOUNTABLE: ACCOMMODATION, FURNITURE, INFORMATION, ADVICE, RESEARCH, HOMEWORK, WORK (=job activity), NEWS, PROGRESS, TRAFFIC, EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, SPAGHETTI, TOAST. ✗ 'I have two homeworks.' → ✓ 'I have two pieces of homework / two assignments.' ✗ 'The furnitures are beautiful.' → ✓ 'The furniture is beautiful.'

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4. Plural-only nouns (always plural verb) — These nouns have no singular form and take a PLURAL verb: • PEOPLE — 'People ARE waiting.' (never 'people is') • POLICE — 'The police ARE here.' (never 'the police is') • CLOTHES — 'My clothes ARE wet.' • JEANS / TROUSERS / SHORTS / PYJAMAS / SCISSORS / GLASSES — 'Where ARE my glasses?' To count them: 'a PAIR OF jeans / scissors / glasses'.

5. Group nouns — singular OR plural (BrE) — Nouns for groups (team, government, family, staff, band) can take a SINGULAR verb (the group as one unit) or a PLURAL verb (the individuals). Both are correct in British English. • The team HAS won. / The team HAVE won. • The government IS deciding. / The government ARE deciding. In American English, singular is strongly preferred.

6. Common mistakes — ✗ 'I need an advice.' → ✓ 'I need some advice / a piece of advice.' ✗ 'The news are bad.' → ✓ 'The news IS bad.' (news = uncountable, singular verb!) ✗ 'The police is coming.' → ✓ 'The police ARE coming.' ✗ 'People is friendly.' → ✓ 'People ARE friendly.' ✗ 'My jean is dirty.' → ✓ 'My jeans ARE dirty.' / 'This pair of jeans is dirty.'

Exercise A — pick the correct verb

Choose IS or ARE.

1. The traffic ____ terrible today.
(A) is
(B) are
2. The police ____ investigating the case.
(A) is
(B) are
3. The news from Tokyo ____ shocking.
(A) is
(B) are
4. People ____ moving to the suburbs.
(A) is
(B) are
5. My jeans ____ in the wash.
(A) is
(B) are
6. The furniture ____ new.
(A) is
(B) are

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7. Her research ____ groundbreaking.
(A) is
(B) are
8. The staff ____ complaining about the changes.
(A) is
(B) are

Exercise B — spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. I need an advice about the city.

2. The furnitures in the flat are old.

3. People is friendly here.

4. The news are terrible today.

5. I have two homeworks tonight.

6. The police is on their way.

7. Where is my jeans?

8. She gave me some informations.

Exercise C — countable or uncountable?

Add 'a/an' if the noun is countable in English. Otherwise leave it blank.

1. I'd like ____ coffee and ____ toast, please.

2. She gave me ____ good advice.

3. He bought ____ new laptop and ____ software.

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4. The city is famous for ____ great weather and ____ hospitality.

5. We stayed in ____ lovely accommodation near the beach.

6. I read ____ interesting news article this morning.

Exercise D — the megacity report (gap-fill)

Complete the text with ONE word from the box (each used once).

Word bank: traffic · pollution · accommodation · infrastructure · people · police · news · advice · research · amenities

Lagos, one of the world's fastest-growing megacities, adds another 3,000 (1) ____ every single day. The (2) ____ during rush hour is famous — a five-kilometre journey can take three hours. Air (3) ____ is a serious health problem. (4) ____ in the centre is unaffordable for most residents.

The city's (5) ____, though, is improving fast: a new light-rail line opens next year, and neighbourhoods are getting basic (6) ____ — clean water, schools, clinics — for the first time.

Recent (7) ____ from the World Bank shows that better public transport can reduce commute times by 40%. The Governor's office released the (8) ____ yesterday. A traffic officer we spoke to (the (9) ____ prefer not to be named) offered this (10) ____: 'Leave the house at 4am, or don't leave at all.'

people

traffic

pollution

Accommodation

infrastructure

amenities

research

news

police

advice

Listening: 'moving to the megacity'

Priya, considering a job offer in Tokyo, calls her friend Sam who has lived there for eight years. Two clearly different voices, no name-introductions in the audio.

Before you listen

Predict: what will Sam warn Priya about?

Predict: what will he say is the BEST thing about living in Tokyo?

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**First listen — gist**

1. Why is Priya calling Sam?

2. What is Sam's overall verdict on the city?

3. What single 'trap' does he warn her to avoid?

Second listen — detail

1. Why does Sam say the accommodation is a shock?

2. What does he say about the public transport?

3. How does he describe the traffic?

4. What kind of neighbourhood does he recommend, and why?

5. What warning does he give about the 'information overload' in the first weeks?

6. What is the ONE piece of advice he ends with?

A: OK, I got the job. Tokyo. They want an answer by Friday. Tell me — brutally — should I go?

B: Yes. Absolutely. Best decision I ever made. But the first six months are brutal, and you need to know that before you sign anything.

A: Brutal how? The salary is good.

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B: The salary is fine. It's the accommodation. The flats are tiny, unaffordable in the centre, and the deposits are enormous. On top of that, most landlords ask for what's called 'key money' — a gift, non-refundable, to say thank you for letting you rent from them.

A: Wait — a gift on top of the deposit?

B: On top of the deposit, the agency fee and the first month's rent. Four months of rent, sometimes, just to walk in the door. So my first piece of advice: rent something small and cheap for six months first. Don't sign a two-year lease before you understand the neighbourhoods.

A: What about the traffic? I hate cities where you sit in traffic for two hours.

B: There basically IS no traffic in the centre. Everyone takes the metro. It's astonishingly clean, astonishingly punctual — a forty-second delay makes the news. If you're on time to the second, you'll love it.

A: And information? I don't speak Japanese.

B: That's the other brutal thing. The first month is information overload. Signs, menus, forms, packaging — thousands of characters, all at once. You just have to accept you won't understand most of what's around you for months. That's fine. People are extraordinarily kind about it.

A: And the good side?

B: The good side is that once you find your neighbourhood, it becomes the best place I've ever lived. Walkable, safe at 3am, full of amenities — every station has a bakery, a bookshop and a bar that seats six. You'll never want to leave.

A: OK — one sentence of advice.

B: Rent small for six months, walk everywhere at the weekends, and only then decide where you want to spend the next five years.

Speaking: 'design your ideal megacity'

In pairs, design your ideal megacity of 15 million people. Decide on the FIVE priorities. You MUST use: (a) 3 uncountable nouns with the correct verb, (b) 3 prefix/suffix word-building items, (c) 1 plural-only noun (people, police, staff, amenities).

1. **label:** Transport · **hint:** 'The public transport IS...', 'Traffic congestion is...'

2. **label:** Housing · **hint:** 'Accommodation IS affordable / unaffordable...'

3. **label:** Environment · **hint:** 'Air pollution is minimal because...'

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4. **label:** Amenities · **hint:** 'The amenities ARE walkable / world-class...'

5. **label:** People · **hint:** 'People ARE from every background...'

example: Right, our megacity is fifteen million people, and priority one is public transport — it IS clean, punctual, and free at weekends. Priority two is housing: we make accommodation genuinely affordable by capping rents in the central districts. Air pollution is basically zero because private cars are banned inside the ring road. Every neighbourhood is walkable and mixed-use — you can reach a school, a park and a clinic in ten minutes on foot. And, crucially, the amenities ARE spread evenly across the city, not just concentrated downtown. Our city's motto is 'liveability, not size.'

challenge: ■ Extra ■ if you sneak in 'the news', 'the police' AND a word made with a prefix in the same pitch.

Writing mini-task — 'a megacity report' (120–150 words)

Write a short report on a megacity you know or have read about. Structure: (1) size & basic facts, (2) TWO problems (use uncountable nouns), (3) TWO pluses, (4) one recommendation for the future. Use at least THREE prefix/suffix words and TWO uncountable nouns with correct verbs.

Wrap-up · three quick prompts

Pick ONE and finish it out loud. Class votes on the sharpest verdict.

1. **label:** Prompt 1 — the confession · **prompt:** The megacity I would move to tomorrow is... because...

2. **label:** Prompt 2 — the warning · **prompt:** The one megacity problem no city has really solved is... and here's why...

3. **label:** Prompt 3 — the prediction · **prompt:** In 2050, the world's most liveable megacity will be... because...

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Workbook — home practice



Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Super cities - Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary - megacity words (word building)

Choose the word that fits best.

1. Rents are so high nobody can afford them - the city is completely ____.
(A) afford
(B) unaffordable
(C) affordability
(D) affording
2. The bus network was in ruins; it needed a full ____.
(A) regenerate
(B) regenerated
(C) regeneration
(D) regenerative
3. The air is barely ____ in the summer months.
(A) breathe
(B) breathable
(C) breath
(D) breathless
4. Everyone talked about the ____ of moving so many people so fast.
(A) urban
(B) urbanise
(C) urbanisation
(D) urbanised
5. The government has done nothing - the whole project feels totally ____.
(A) manage
(B) mismanaged
(C) management
(D) manager
6. The metro is so old and unreliable - it desperately needs to be ____.
(A) modern
(B) modernise
(C) modernity
(D) modernised

2. Vocabulary - gap-fill (uncountable nouns)

Complete each sentence with ONE noun from the box (no changes).

BOX: traffic · pollution · accommodation · advice · information · news

1. The ____ is unbearable in the summer - you can taste it.
2. Can you give me some ____ about which neighbourhood is safest?
3. The ____ from Tokyo this morning is really shocking.
4. ____ in the city centre is completely unaffordable.

5. There was so much ____ on the motorway that we missed our flight.
6. I couldn't find any useful ____ about visas online.

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Write 120-180 words: 'Megacities offer unparalleled opportunities but also significant challenges for sustainable living. Discuss the necessity of urban regeneration in modernised cities.'

Checklist:

- [] Use target lexis from the megacity and word-building sections
- [] Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. correct verbs with uncountable nouns)
- [] Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- [] Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

[illegible]

3. Grammar - IS or ARE?

Choose the correct verb.

1. The news from Delhi ____ terrible.
(A) is
(B) are
2. The police ____ investigating.
(A) is
(B) are
3. People ____ leaving the city for the suburbs.
(A) is
(B) are
4. My jeans ____ in the wash.
(A) is
(B) are

5. The furniture ____ brand new.
(A) is
(B) are
6. Her research ____ groundbreaking.
(A) is
(B) are
7. The traffic on the ring road ____ moving very slowly.
(A) is
(B) are
8. The staff ____ complaining about the shift changes.
(A) is
(B) are

4. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has *ONE* mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. I need an advice about the visa.
2. The furnitures in the flat are old.
3. People is friendly here.
4. The news are terrible today.
5. I have two homeworks tonight.
6. The police is on their way.
7. Where is my jeans?
8. She gave me some informations.

5. Word building - form the noun / adjective / verb

Complete the table by writing the correct form.

1. afford → adjective (opposite): 'The rent is ____.'
2. urban → noun (process): 'Rapid ____ is changing India.'
3. pollute → noun: 'Air ____ is a huge problem.'
4. modern → verb: 'They plan to ____ the bus network.'
5. walk → noun (quality): 'The city has excellent ____.'
6. manage → adjective (opposite): 'The traffic is completely ____.'
7. develop → noun: 'The area needs urgent re____.'
8. rate → verb + prefix 'under-': 'The neighbourhood is really ____.'

6. Reading - true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

In 2015 the city of Medellín, in Colombia, was still recovering from decades of extreme violence and had one of the highest inequality rates in Latin America. Ten years later, it is regularly cited as one of the world's most innovative urban regeneration stories. The change did not happen by accident. The city built libraries in the poorest neighbourhoods, opened public escalators up steep hillsides so that residents could reach the metro, and reorganised the whole bus network to serve the outer districts first. Air pollution fell.

Homicide rates fell. Tourism doubled. Not everything is fixed - accommodation in the central districts has become unaffordable for many locals, and homelessness has risen slightly. But the mayor at the time argued that the goal was never a perfect city; it was a city that could keep improving.

1. Medellín used to have very high inequality. [T / F / NG]
2. Public escalators were built for tourists. [T / F / NG]
3. The bus network was redesigned to focus on outer districts. [T / F / NG]
4. Tourism in Medellín has doubled in the last ten years. [T / F / NG]
5. The changes have solved every problem in the city. [T / F / NG]
6. The current mayor's name is mentioned in the text. [T / F / NG]

7. Writing - a megacity report (120-150 words)

Write a short report on a megacity you know or have researched. Include: (1) size and basic facts, (2) TWO problems (use uncountable nouns), (3) TWO pluses, (4) one recommendation for the future. Use at least THREE prefix/suffix words.

Checklist:

- [] 120-150 words
- [] Correct verbs after uncountable nouns (traffic IS, news IS)
- [] 3+ prefix/suffix words (unaffordable, regeneration, liveability...)
- [] Structured: facts → problems → pluses → recommendation
- [] At least ONE plural-only noun (people ARE / amenities ARE)

[illegible]

8. Listening - 'life in a megacity'

Read the transcript (two clearly different voices). Answer the questions.

Audio: Long-time resident (Voice A) giving honest tips to a new arrival (Voice B) · two clearly different voices

1.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

9. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2-5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. 'The government isn't managing the transport well.' → The transport network is being _____. (KEYWORD: MIS)
2. 2. 'You can't afford to rent here.' → Rents here are completely _____. (KEYWORD: UN)
3. 3. 'Many people move from villages to cities.' → We're seeing rapid _____. (KEYWORD: URBAN)
4. 4. 'The neighbourhood was rebuilt from scratch.' → The area was fully _____. (KEYWORD: RE)
5. 5. 'The city has done more than people think.' → The city is really _____. (KEYWORD: UNDER)
6. 6. 'The bus system is very old.' → The buses need to be _____. (KEYWORD: -ISE)

10. ■ Challenge - where's the stress?

Underline the stressed syllable in your notebook. Then reveal the answer.

1. photograph → photographer
(A) PHOtographer
(B) phoTOgrapher
(C) photoGRAPHer
2. pollute → pollution
(A) POLLution
(B) pollUTION
(C) pollutlON
3. urban → urbanisation
(A) urbaniSAtion
(B) URbanisation
(C) urBANisation
4. stupid → stupidity
(A) STUpidity
(B) stuPIDity
(C) stupidITY
5. afford → unaffordable
(A) UNafFORDable
(B) unafFORDable
(C) unaffORDable
6. modern → modernise
(A) MODernise
(B) moDERnise
(C) modernISE

11. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- ☐ I use singular verbs after uncountable nouns (traffic IS, news IS, information IS).
- ☐ I use plural verbs after PEOPLE, POLICE, CLOTHES, JEANS, STAFF, AMENITIES.
- ☐ I never say 'an advice / an information / a furniture' - I use 'a piece of...'.
☐ I build new words with over-, under-, un-, mis-, re-, dis-.
- ☐ I know that -ion / -ity / -ic pull the stress ONE syllable back.
- ☐ I can describe a megacity with 6+ B2 words (urbanisation, walkability, regeneration, liveability, unaffordable, mismanaged).

Super cities — Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary — megacity words (word building)

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2. Vocabulary — gap-fill (uncountable nouns)

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BOX: traffic · pollution · accommodation · advice · information · news

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2. Can you give me some ____ about which neighbourhood is safest?
3. The ____ from Tokyo this morning is really shocking.
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(B) are

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(B) are
6. Her research ____ groundbreaking.
(A) is
(B) are
7. The traffic on the ring road ____ moving very slowly.
(A) is
(B) are
8. The staff ____ complaining about the shift changes.
(A) is
(B) are

4. Grammar — spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has *ONE* mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. I need an advice about the visa.
2. The furnitures in the flat are old.
3. People is friendly here.
4. The news are terrible today.
5. I have two homeworks tonight.
6. The police is on their way.
7. Where is my jeans?
8. She gave me some informations.

5. Word building — form the noun / adjective / verb

Complete the table by writing the correct form.

1. afford → adjective (opposite): 'The rent is ____.'
2. urban → noun (process): 'Rapid ____ is changing India.'
3. pollute → noun: 'Air ____ is a huge problem.'
4. modern → verb: 'They plan to ____ the bus network.'
5. walk → noun (quality): 'The city has excellent ____.'
6. manage → adjective (opposite): 'The traffic is completely ____.'
7. develop → noun: 'The area needs urgent re____.'
8. rate → verb + prefix 'under-': 'The neighbourhood is really ____.'

6. Reading — true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

In 2015 the city of Medellín, in Colombia, was still recovering from decades of extreme violence and had one of the highest inequality rates in Latin America. Ten years later, it is regularly cited as one of the world's most innovative urban regeneration stories. The change did not happen by accident. The city built libraries in the poorest neighbourhoods, opened public escalators up steep hillsides so that residents could reach the metro, and reorganised the whole bus network to serve the outer districts first. Air pollution fell.

Homicide rates fell. Tourism doubled. Not everything is fixed — accommodation in the central districts has become unaffordable for many locals, and homelessness has risen slightly. But the mayor at the time argued that the goal was never a perfect city; it was a city that could keep improving.

1. Medellín used to have very high inequality. [T / F / NG]
2. Public escalators were built for tourists. [T / F / NG]
3. The bus network was redesigned to focus on outer districts. [T / F / NG]
4. Tourism in Medellín has doubled in the last ten years. [T / F / NG]
5. The changes have solved every problem in the city. [T / F / NG]
6. The current mayor's name is mentioned in the text. [T / F / NG]

7. Writing — a megacity report (120–150 words)

Write a short report on a megacity you know or have researched. Include: (1) size and basic facts, (2) TWO problems (use uncountable nouns), (3) TWO pluses, (4) one recommendation for the future. Use at least THREE prefix/suffix words.

Checklist:

- 120–150 words
- Correct verbs after uncountable nouns (traffic IS, news IS)
- 3+ prefix/suffix words (unaffordable, regeneration, liveability...)
- Structured: facts → problems → pluses → recommendation
- At least ONE plural-only noun (people ARE / amenities ARE)

8. Listening — 'life in a megacity'

Read the transcript (two clearly different voices). Answer the questions.

■ **Audio:** Long-time resident (Voice A) giving honest tips to a new arrival (Voice B) · two clearly different voices

1.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

9. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2–5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. 'The government isn't managing the transport well.' → The transport network is being _____. (KEYWORD: MIS)
2. 2. 'You can't afford to rent here.' → Rents here are completely _____. (KEYWORD: UN)
3. 3. 'Many people move from villages to cities.' → We're seeing rapid _____. (KEYWORD: URBAN)
4. 4. 'The neighbourhood was rebuilt from scratch.' → The area was fully _____. (KEYWORD: RE)
5. 5. 'The city has done more than people think.' → The city is really _____. (KEYWORD: UNDER)
6. 6. 'The bus system is very old.' → The buses need to be _____. (KEYWORD: -ISE)

10. ■ Challenge — where's the stress?

Underline the stressed syllable in your notebook. Then reveal the answer.

1. photograph → photographer
(A) PHOtographer
(B) phoTOgrapher
(C) photoGRAPHer
2. pollute → pollution
(A) POLLution
(B) pollUTION
(C) pollutlON
3. urban → urbanisation
(A) urbaniSAtion
(B) URbanisation
(C) urBANisation
4. stupid → stupidity
(A) STUpidity
(B) stuPIDity
(C) stupidITY
5. afford → unaffordable
(A) UNafFORDable
(B) unafFORDable
(C) unaffORDable
6. modern → modernise
(A) MODernise
(B) moDERnise
(C) modernISE

11. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- I use singular verbs after uncountable nouns (traffic IS, news IS, information IS).
- I use plural verbs after PEOPLE, POLICE, CLOTHES, JEANS, STAFF, AMENITIES.
- I never say 'an advice / an information / a furniture' — I use 'a piece of...'.- I build new words with over-, under-, un-, mis-, re-, dis-.
- I know that -ion / -ity / -ic pull the stress ONE syllable back.
- I can describe a megacity with 6+ B2 words (urbanisation, walkability, regeneration, liveability, unaffordable, mismanaged).



Answer key — Class Book

Reading: 'the megacity paradox'

1. (C) Around 70%
2. (B) Cities are catastrophic on paper, yet people keep moving to them
3. (C) Because cities offer higher wages, better healthcare and education
4. (B) The decisions made about buses, parks, housing and rubbish decades earlier
5. (B) Air pollution

Vocabulary: word building — prefixes & suffixes

1. unaffordable
 2. regenerated
 3. breathable
 4. walkable
 5. mismanaged
 6. disparity
 7. modernise
 8. underappreciated
1. Rent in the centre has become unaffordable.
 2. The old docks were regenerated after decades of neglect.
 3. The city centre is genuinely walkable.
 4. The transport system feels mismanaged.
 5. There's a huge disparity between rich and poor in this city.

Grammar: uncountable and plural nouns

1. (A) is
 2. (B) are
 3. (A) is
 4. (B) are
 5. (B) are
 6. (A) is
 7. (A) is
 8. (B) are
1. I need some advice / a piece of advice about the city.
 2. The furniture in the flat is old.
 3. People ARE friendly here.
 4. The news IS terrible today.
 5. I have two pieces of homework / two assignments tonight.
 6. The police ARE on their way.
 7. Where ARE my jeans?
 8. She gave me some information / a piece of information.
1. a coffee and (—) toast (coffee here = countable 'a cup of'; toast = uncountable)
 2. (—) good advice / some good advice / a piece of good advice
 3. a new laptop and (—) software
 4. (—) great weather and (—) hospitality
 5. (—) lovely accommodation (uncountable — never 'an accommodation')
 6. an interesting news article ('article' is countable, so a/an is fine)

Listening: 'moving to the megacity'

1. She's been offered a job in Tokyo and wants honest advice from someone who lives there.
 2. It's the best place he's ever lived — but the first six months are brutal.
 3. Signing a two-year lease on an expensive central flat before she knows the neighbourhoods.
1. It's tiny, expensive and the deposits are enormous — many landlords also ask for a 'key money' gift on top.
 2. It's astonishingly punctual and clean — trains are so on time that a 40-second delay makes the news.
 3. There's almost no car traffic in the centre — everyone takes the metro.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



4. A residential district thirty minutes out — cheaper, walkable, and full of amenities without the tourists.
5. There are thousands of signs and menus in Japanese; she'll need to accept she won't understand everything for months, and that's fine.
6. Rent a small place for six months first, walk everywhere at weekends, and only then decide where to sign a long lease.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Answer key — Workbook

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Super cities - Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary - megacity words (word building)

1. **(B)** *unaffordable*
2. **(C)** *regeneration*
3. **(B)** *breathable*
4. **(C)** *urbanisation*
5. **(B)** *mismanaged*
6. **(B)** *modernise*

2. Vocabulary - gap-fill (uncountable nouns)

1. ***pollution***
2. ***advice***
3. ***news***
4. ***Accommodation***
5. ***traffic***
6. ***information***

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Sample answer

Rapid urbanisation has transformed the global landscape, creating megacities that are both engines of growth and hubs of inequality. In many cases, accommodation in central districts has become completely unaffordable, forcing residents into mismanaged outer districts. To improve liveability, a city must prioritise urban regeneration and modernise its infrastructure. While some cities boast a world-class metro, others suffer from unmanageable traffic and high levels of pollution that make the air barely breathable in summer. Providing reliable information and advice to new arrivals is essential, yet the news from many growing cities remains concerning. We must ensure that the benefits of development are not concentrated only in a few leafy districts. If a city fails to address the needs of its diverse population, its long-term stability is at risk. Ultimately, the goal of urban planning should be to create cities that are not just large, but truly liveable and sustainable for all their inhabitants.

3. Grammar - IS or ARE?

1. **(A)** *is*
2. **(B)** *are*
3. **(B)** *are*
4. **(B)** *are*
5. **(A)** *is*
6. **(A)** *is*
7. **(A)** *is*
8. **(B)** *are*

4. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

1. *I need some advice / a piece of advice about the visa.*
2. *The furniture in the flat is old.*
3. *People ARE friendly here.*
4. *The news IS terrible today.*
5. *I have two pieces of homework / two assignments tonight.*
6. *The police ARE on their way.*
7. *Where ARE my jeans?*
8. *She gave me some information / a piece of information.*

5. Word building - form the noun / adjective / verb

1. *unaffordable*
2. *urbanisation*
3. *pollution*
4. *modernise*
5. *walkability*
6. *unmanageable*
7. *redevelopment*
8. *underrated*

6. Reading - true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **T**
4. **T**
5. **F**
6. **NG**

7. Writing - a megacity report (120-150 words)

Sample answer

São Paulo is Brazil's largest city, with roughly 22 million people in its wider metropolitan area. It has serious problems. The traffic is unmanageable - a ten-kilometre journey can take two hours. Air pollution is high, and accommodation in the central districts has become unaffordable for many working families. But the pluses are just as real. The public transport is genuinely world-class, especially the metro, and the cultural amenities are among the best in Latin America - museums, restaurants, live music, everything. People are open, hard-working and diverse. My recommendation: the city needs to keep investing in regeneration of its outer neighbourhoods, so that liveability isn't concentrated only in a few central districts. If it manages that, São Paulo will be a model megacity for the rest of the region.

8. Listening - 'life in a megacity'

1. *The cost/size of the accommodation and the amount of new information (signs, forms, characters) in the first weeks.*
2. *Astonishingly punctual and clean - trains almost never late.*
3. *There basically isn't any - everyone uses the metro.*
4. *So that the newcomer can walk around at weekends and understand the neighbourhoods before signing a long lease.*
5. *Rent small for six months, walk everywhere at the weekends, and only then decide where to spend the next five years.*
6. *It's the best place they've ever lived - once you find your neighbourhood, you never want to leave.*

9. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

1. *mismanaged*
2. *unaffordable*
3. *urbanisation*
4. *regenerated / redeveloped*
5. *underrated*
6. *modernised*

10. ■ Challenge - where's the stress?

1. **(B)** *phoTOgrapher*
2. **(B)** *polLUtion*
3. **(A)** *urbaniSAtion*
4. **(B)** *stuPIDity*
5. **(B)** *unafFORdable*
6. **(A)** *MOdernise*

11. Self-check

Self-assessment — no fixed answers.

Super cities — Workbook — Answer Key

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4. **T**
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