

Faculty of Earth Sciences

Department of Urban Planning & Geography

Subject: English for Urban Planning

Lesson:1

I- Vocabulary Builder

1. City Form

Grid layout: It is a systematic street network that intersects at right angles, forming a pattern of rectangular blocks.

Sprawl: It is the unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of urban areas into rural lands.

Density: It's the concentration of people, buildings, and activity within an area of a city.

Public realm: accessible open spaces in a city like streets, parks, plazas, and waterfronts.

Walkability: the accessibility of amenities within a reasonable walking distance.

1. City Problems

Informal housing: settlements built outside of official government control.

Congestion: when demand exceeds the available capacity of a system.

II- Grammar Focus:

In urban design, we often make **recommendations** and describe **requirements**. These forms help us do that clearly:

- **Should**: used to give positive recommendations.

Example: "Cities should create more pedestrian-friendly streets."

- **Shouldn't**: used to give negative recommendations.

Example: "Planners shouldn't ignore local community feedback."

- **Need to**: used to express requirements or necessities.

Example: "Designers need to consider accessibility standards."

Structure:

Affirmative: Cities should create more pedestrian-friendly streets

Subject+ should+ stem

Designers need to consider accessibility standards

Subject+ need to + stem

Negative: Planners shouldn't ignore local community feedback.

Subject+ shouldn't/should not+ stem

III- Reading Material:

What makes a city “good”?

Urban planners argue that a successful city is not only efficient but also pleasant to live in. A good city provides **accessibility**, allowing people to move easily from home to work, school, and public services. It also offers high-quality **public spaces**, such as parks and walkable streets, where citizens can interact. A strong **public transport system** reduces congestion and pollution, while **mixed-use neighborhoods** bring housing, shops, and workplaces closer together.

However, many cities face challenges: rapid **urbanization**, lack of affordable housing, and poor planning strategies. To create better cities, planners must balance **heritage**, modern development, and environmental protection. A good city is ultimately one that supports both people and the planet.

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Lesson:2

I- Vocabulary Builder

1. Urban Growth Concepts

Urban expansion: the outward growth of a city into surrounding rural areas.

Suburbanization: the movement of people from city centers to suburban areas.

Vertical growth: building upward through towers and high-rise buildings.

Zoning change: modifying the official rules that decide how land can be used.

Redevelopment: replacing older or damaged buildings with new construction.

Regeneration: improving a neglected urban area to make it more functional and attractive.

1. Sustainability Vocabulary

Renewable energy: energy from natural sources that do not run out, such as the sun or wind.

Waste management: systems for collecting, recycling, and disposing of waste safely.

Carbon footprint: the total amount of greenhouse gases produced by a person, activity, or city.

Climate resilience: a city's ability to cope with climate impacts like heatwaves, floods, and storms.

II- Grammar Focus

In urban analysis, we often compare cities, neighborhoods, and levels of development. These structures help us make comparisons clearly:

- **Comparatives**: used to compare two things.

Examples:

“Downtown is more crowded than the suburbs.”

“The new district is cleaner than the old one.”

- **Superlatives**: used to show the highest or lowest degree.

Examples:

“It is the most accessible area in the city.”

“This is the least polluted neighborhood.”

Structure:**Comparatives:**

adjective + -er + than

or

more/less + adjective + than

Superlatives:

the + adjective + -est

or

the most/least + adjective

III- Reading Material**What is a sustainable city?**

A sustainable city aims to protect the environment while improving people's quality of life. Such a city supports green mobility by encouraging electric buses, trams, and cycling to reduce pollution. It also promotes higher density to avoid urban sprawl and protect agricultural and natural lands. Sustainable cities save energy by using renewable energy sources and improving building efficiency.

However, rapid urban growth creates challenges like informal housing, congestion, and waste problems. To become sustainable, cities must plan carefully and involve citizens in decision-making. A sustainable city is ultimately one that remains healthy, resilient, and livable for future generations.