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City Life Vocabulary

High-rise /'haɪraɪz/ (Adj) - A tall building with a lot of floors.

Example: The business district has a lot of high-rise office buildings.

Bustling /'bʌslɪŋ/ (Adj) - Describes a place which is busy and there's a lot of activity.

Example: The city center is always bustling on Friday and Saturday nights.

Housing estate /'haʊzɪŋ ɪs'teɪt/ (N) - An area that has a lot of residential buildings, such as houses or apartments.

Example: I grew up in the largest housing estate in the city

Public space /'pʌblɪk speɪs/ (N) - An area of the city that is open to the public, usually for recreation.

Example: Our city has a lot of public spaces such as parks.

Slum /slʌm/ (N) - A very crowded and poor residential area of the city.

Example: The number of slums has increased in the city because a lot of people are migrating here from the countryside.

Sprawling /'sprɔːlɪŋ/ (Adj) - Describes a city or place in a city that covers a large area of land.

Example: London is a sprawling city that covers a lot of square kilometers.

Office block /'ɒfɪs blɒk/ (N) - A large building containing offices.

Example: Our company will relocate to a new office block in the commercial district.

Urbanization /ˌɜːb(ə)nəɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ (N) - The practice of people moving from the countryside to cities.

Example: Urbanization has resulted in people abandoning a rural lifestyle.

Neighborhood /'neɪbəhʊd/ (N) - An area close to someone's home.

Example: When I was growing up, everyone in our neighborhood knew each other.

Cycle path /'saɪkl paːθ/ (N) - A route specially for bicycles.

Example: It's trendy now for cities to build cycle paths.

Rush hour (N) A busy period of the day when citizens are going to or returning from work

Example: I try to leave work early to avoid the rush hour because it's so difficult to find a taxi.

City life: Idioms

On skid row - To be very poor, unemployed and homeless.

Example: He ended up on skid row after he lost his job and the bank foreclosed his mortgage.



A city that never sleeps - A city that has activities 24 hours a day.

Example: New York has been described as the city that never sleeps.

Hustle and bustle - A lot of activity and noise.

Example: Tourists love the hustle and bustle of the Saturday morning market.



Urban myth - Something that's untrue but believed by many to be true.

Example: It's an urban myth that wild dogs roam the city center at night.

Boom town- A place that experiences a sudden economic growth.

Example: My city was a boom town 100 years ago because of the discovery of a huge oil deposit only 50km from the town.

