The best and worst cities to live in around the world

Today, let's talk about the best and worst cities to live in around the world in 2012. Everyone has their favourites that they might like to live in. The survey by the *Economist Intelligence Unit global "liveability" study*, looked at how "tolerable" it is to live in a particular place given its quality of medical care, its crime levels, its levels of censorship, the threat of conflict, the temperature, its schools and finally its transport links.

The results are extremely interesting, especially when comparing the best and worst cities together. Safe countries like Australia and Canada do well in the survey. Melbourne tops the list. Apparently it is '*the'* place to live! Adelaide, Sydney and Perth also make the top ten best cities to live in the world. Canadian cities like Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary do very well. Maybe we should move to these cities? Perhaps Canadians and Australians prefer the big cities to live in, with their good infrastructure and facilities, as opposed to the vast amounts of nothing beyond them. It is good to see safe European cities like Vienna and Helsinki making the top ten. They also offer expats a nice environment and a good quality of life.

It is interesting to compare 'the top ten best cities to live in' with that of 'the top ten spatially adjusted liveability top ten cities to live in'. The results are completely different! Quite why this is - is worth thinking about. Hong Kong tops this list. The place oozes with oriental wonder and is always a favourite among expats. It certainly offers cultural diversity. Yet Amsterdam, which comes in at number two is completely different. It offers expats something rather Dutch! The second survey I think is much more diverse. There are more European cities listed like Berlin, Paris and Munich. Japan still remains a highly popular place with Osaka and Tokyo making the top ten.

The top ten worst cities to live in (listed on page 2) are not so unsurprising. All of the cities in this category are either in South East Asia or Africa. According to the survey Dhaka in Bangladesh is the worst place to live in the world followed by Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. In third position is Lagos in Nigeria with Harare in Zimbabwe and Algiers in Algeria in fourth and fifth place respectively.

Category: Living / Cities / Best & worst
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

The best and worst cities to live in around the world – *20ᵗʰ August 2012*

The top ten best cities to live in

1) Melbourne, Australia

2) Vienna, Austria

3) Vancouver, Canada

4) Toronto, Canada

5) Calgary, Canada

6) Adelaide, Australia

7) Sydney, Australia

8) Helsinki, Finland

9) Perth, Australia

10) Auckland, New Zealand

The top ten Spatially Adjusted Liveability top 10

1) Hong Kong, China

2) Amsterdam, Holland

3) Osaka, Japan

4) Paris, France

5) Sydney, Australia

6) Stockholm, Sweden

7) Berlin, Germany

8) Toronto, Canada

9) Munich, Germany

10) Tokyo, Japan

The top ten worst cities to live

1) Dhaka, Bangladesh

2) Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

3) Lagos, Nigeria

4) Harare, Zimbabwe

5) Algiers, Algeria

6) Karachi, Pakistan

7) Tripoli, Libya

8) Douala, Cameroon

9) Tehran, Iran

10) Abidjan, Ivory Coast

EXERCISES

1. The best and worst cities in the world to live are…? What are the best and worst cities in the world to live in? Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.
        a)   What is the article about?
        b)   What do you think about the article?

6. Geography: Dhaka and Melbourne: Where are they? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

7. The best and worst cities in the world: In pairs think of YOUR top five favourite cities you might want to live in. Why? Then add YOUR top five worst cities you wouldn't want to live in. Why not? Write them below. Discuss together.

Favourite cities	Worst cities
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. Let's roleplay 1: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Debate FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *The best and worst cities in the world to live in.*

1	A Canadian	3	A Bangladeshi
2	A person from Vienna	4	Someone from Africa

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

3

9. Let's roleplay 2: Two of you are in the pub enjoying a quiet drink. Start a conversation about '*The best and worst city in the world to live in'. Allow 5-minutes.*

10. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A
1)   Name the unit.
2)   Name the best city.
3)   Name the worst city.
4)   Name three criteria the survey included.
5)   What country is Lagos in?

Student B
1)   Which city is a favourite among expats?
2)   According to the author which survey is more diverse?
3)   What makes Canadian and Australian cities popular?
4)   What do Vienna and Helsinki offer expats?
5)   What country is Port Moresby in?

11. Reasons to like a city: In pairs think of four reasons why you might like a city. Write them below. Discuss together.

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

12. Your city/town: In pairs think of four good things you like about your city/town. Then add four things you don't like about it. Write them below. Discuss together.

Good things	Bad things
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)
4)	4)

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

13. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about*: **The best and worst cities in the world***.

14. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

a) The best city _____

b) The worst city _____

c) I would live in _____

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DISCUSSION

Student A questions
1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
2) Why is Europe more popular on the second list?
3) Would you like to visit Harare in Zimbabwe? Explain.
4) Why does Port Moresby do so badly?
5) Had you heard of Douala in Cameroon before this lesson?
6) What makes Auckland in New Zealand so appealing?
7) Why did Abidjan in the Ivory Coast do so badly?
8) Do you prefer to live in a village, a town or a city? Explain.
9) How does the weather affect where people live?
10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

Student B questions
1) What do you think about what you read?
2) Would you like to live in Dhaka? Explain.
3) Would you like to live in Vienna? Explain.
4) What makes Amsterdam an interesting city to live in?
5) Why are Canadian cities so popular?
6) Why does Africa do so badly in the survey?
7) Would you like to live in Africa? Explain.
8) What makes Australia special?
9) Have you ever visited Japan?
10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Your best and worst cities in the world

Allow 10 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

20 things about your best and worst cities around the world – and why!

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The best and worst cities to live in around the world

Today, let's talk about the best and (1)_____ cities to live in around the world in 2012. Everyone has their (2)_____ that they might like to live in. The survey by the *Economist Intelligence Unit global "liveability" study*, looked at how "tolerable" it is to live in a particular place given its quality of medical care, its crime levels, its levels of (3)_____, the threat of (4)_____, the temperature, its schools and finally its (5)_____ links.

The results are extremely interesting, especially when comparing the best and worst cities together. (6)_____ countries like Australia and Canada do well in the survey. Melbourne tops the list. Apparently it is '*the*' place to live! Adelaide, Sydney and Perth also make the top ten best cities to live in the world. Canadian cities like Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary do very well. Maybe we should move to these cities? Perhaps Canadians and Australians prefer the big cities to live in, with their good infrastructure and facilities, as opposed to the (7)_____ amounts of nothing (8)_____ them.

It is interesting to compare 'the top ten (1)_____ cities to live in' with that of 'the top ten (2)_____ adjusted liveability top ten cities to live in'. The results are completely different! Quite why this is - is worth thinking about. Hong Kong tops this list. The place oozes with oriental wonder and is always a favourite among (3)_____. It certainly offers cultural (4)_____. Yet Amsterdam, which comes in at number two is completely different. It offers expats something rather Dutch! The second survey I think is much more diverse. There are more European cities listed like Berlin, Paris and Munich. Japan still remains a highly (5)_____ place with Osaka and Tokyo making the top ten.

The top ten worst cities to live in (listed on page 2) are not so unsurprising. All of the cities in this (6)_____ are either in South East Asia or Africa. According to the (7)_____ Dhaka in Bangladesh is the worst (8)_____ to live in the world followed by Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea.

beyond

safe

censorship

worst

vast

transport

conflict

favourites

diversity

popular

place

best

spatially

expats

survey

category

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The best and worst cities to live in around the world

Today, let's talk about the best and worst cities to live (1)___ around the world in 2012. Everyone has their favourites that they might like to live in. The survey by the *Economist Intelligence Unit global "liveability" study*, looked (2)___ (3)___ "tolerable" it is to live in a particular place given (4)___ quality of medical care, its crime levels, its levels of censorship, the threat of conflict, the temperature, its schools and finally its transport links.

The results are extremely interesting, especially when comparing the best and worst cities together. Safe countries like Australia and Canada do well in the survey. Melbourne tops the list. Apparently it is '*the'* place to live! Adelaide, Sydney and Perth also make the top ten best cities to live in the world. Canadian cities like Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary do very well. Maybe (5)___ should move to these cities? Perhaps Canadians and Australians prefer (6)___ big cities to live in, with their good infrastructure and facilities, (7)___ opposed to the vast amounts (8)___ nothing beyond them.

It is interesting to compare 'the top ten best cities to live in' (1)___ (2)___ of 'the top ten spatially adjusted liveability top ten cities to live in'. The results are completely different! (3)___ why this is - is worth thinking about. Hong Kong tops (4)___ list. The place oozes with oriental wonder and is always a favourite among expats. It certainly offers cultural diversity. Yet Amsterdam, (5)___ comes in at number two is completely different. It offers expats something (6)___ Dutch! The second survey I think is (7)___ more diverse. There are more European cities listed like Berlin, Paris and Munich. Japan (8)___ remains a highly popular place with Osaka and Tokyo making the top ten.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	finally	11	crime
2	extremely	12	temperature
3	threat	13	worst
4	censorship	14	especially
5	perhaps	15	facilities
6	favourites	16	infrastructure
7	environment	17	conflict
8	liveability	18	intelligence
9	unsurprising	19	tolerable
10	respectively	20	yet

LINKS

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/9475307/London-slips-down-list-of-best-cities-despite-glorious-Olympics.html
http://www.theage.com.au/national/greater-melbourne/our-liveable-city
http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/dailybrew/three-world-top-liveable-cities-canada-171302912.html
http://www.slideshare.net/renatomfreitas/liviability-ranking-2012

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: The best and worst cities to live in around the world: Today, let's talk about the best and **worst** cities to live in around the world in 2012. Everyone has their **favourites** that they might like to live in. The survey by the *Economist Intelligence Unit global "liveability" study*, looked at how "tolerable" it is to live in a particular place given its quality of medical care, its crime levels, its levels of **censorship**, the threat of **conflict**, the temperature, its schools and finally its **transport** links.

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It is interesting to compare 'the top ten best **cities** to live in' with that of 'the top ten **spatially** adjusted liveability top ten cities to live in'. The results are completely different! Quite why this is - is worth thinking about. Hong Kong tops this list. The place oozes with oriental wonder and is always a favourite among **expats**. It certainly offers cultural **diversity**. Yet Amsterdam, which comes in at number two is completely different. It offers expats something rather Dutch! The second survey I think is much more diverse. There are more European cities listed like Berlin, Paris and Munich. Japan still remains a highly **popular** place with Osaka and Tokyo making the top ten.

The top ten worst cities to live in (listed on page 2) are not so unsurprising. All of the cities in this **category** are either in South East Asia or Africa. Many are third world countries that its people live in. According to the **survey** Dhaka in Bangladesh is the worst **place** to live in the world followed by Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. **(V4)**

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