

Unit 5 Town and country

5.2

Where would you prefer to live?

LEVEL
Intermediate

TOPIC
City or country living

ACTIVITY TYPE
Note-taking

READING FOCUS
Speed-reading, recognising main ideas

TIME
30–40 minutes

KEY LANGUAGE
Past, present and future tenses

PREPARATION
One photocopy for each student; map of Britain

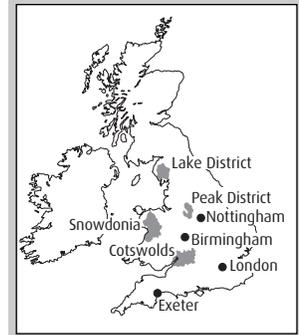
Warm up

- 1 Ask students if they are happy living where they do. Or would they prefer to live in a different environment? Explain to students that they are going to read about and discuss living in the city and living in the country.
- 2 Ask students *What are the good and bad points of living in a city?* Then ask *What are the good and bad points of living in the country?* Make four lists on the board.
- 3 Explain to students that they are going to read about the experiences of four people. Ask students to predict the kind of things the people will say. Use the headings in the chart in Answer key below (after 6) to guide them. Add the headings to a chart on the board as you discuss what the people will say. Then write the four names down the side of the chart.

Main activity

- 1 Give each student a photocopy. Allow students two minutes to find the names of four cities and four country areas in the text.
- 2 Check the answers with the class. Use a map of Britain to explain where the places are.
- 3 Tell students to copy the chart on the board. They then read the texts quickly to find the answers to the questions *Where does the speaker live now?* and *Where does the speaker want to live?* They complete the chart with either *city* or *country*.
- 4 Check the answers with the class and write them in the chart on the board. Make sure that students understand that Patrick was only on holiday in the Cotswolds.
- 5 Ask students to read the text again and make notes in the last column of the chart to show the reasons each speaker gives for wanting to live in the city or country. Remind students to use the four lists on the board that they discussed in the Warm up.
- 6 Check the answers with the class and write them on the board.

Answer key



Answer key

	Where does the speaker live now?	Where does the speaker want to live?	What reasons does the speaker give for wanting to live in one environment and not the other?
Patrick	city	city	country = terribly quiet; very few people, nearest restaurant, cinema and theatre, 20-minute drive away
Alice	city	country	city = dirty and noisy country = fresh air and the views are out of this world
Nicola	country	country	country = everything she needs; no pub or restaurant near, but there are supermarkets in the nearest town city = had to wear a suit and tights every day; lived in a block of flats
Jake	country	city	country = nothing to do; nobody to do things with; only early buses to and from Nottingham city = will be able to go out with friends in the evening; won't have to get up so early

- 7 Ask students a) *Who talked about where they used to live?* b) *Who liked it?*

Answer key

- a) Patrick, Nicola b) Patrick

Follow up

- Tell students to imagine that a year has passed. Alice and Jake have both moved. But something has gone wrong, and life has not quite worked out as they imagined! Ask students to write a paragraph about where one of them lives now.

Where would you prefer to live?

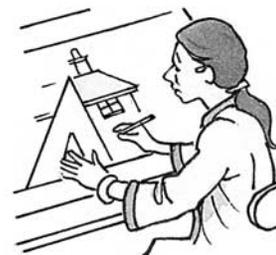
5.2

Where would you prefer to live? Write and tell us about your experiences.

Patrick: The best thing about travelling by train ... is that you get back to London at the end of it! I've just been to the Cotswolds for a week, and I couldn't get back to the city fast enough. The village where I was staying was terribly quiet. There were no shops, no restaurants and, it seems, hardly any people. Perhaps the houses were all holiday homes, and the owners were having a bad season. I don't know - I never found anyone to ask. I don't want to cook every evening when I'm on holiday - but the nearest restaurant was a 20-minute drive. That's not too far, you might say, but I'd gone by train. Perhaps there was a cinema and a theatre next to the restaurant - I never found those either. I've always lived in cities - the country is not the place for me.



Alice: I work as an architect. I went to university in Exeter and then just stayed on afterwards. I've been here for ten years now, but I don't really like the noise and dirt of city life. So, I'm selling my flat and moving to the Lake District. When I was a child, I used to visit my grandparents in the Lake District and I loved it. My grandfather and I went walking every day, and my grandmother taught me to swim in one of the lakes. My goodness, the water was cold! Three years ago, I met two other architects - at my grandfather's funeral, in fact. We got talking and soon became friends. I started visiting them at weekends, then they suggested that I move up there and start working with them. What an opportunity! The air is so fresh, and the views are out of this world. I can't wait to sell my flat.



Nicola: I'm an outdoor pursuits instructor and I share a cottage with three of my colleagues in Snowdonia. During the day, I teach canoeing, mountain-biking and rock-climbing. I love being outside. After work my friends and I take turns to cook a meal - we grow all our own vegetables - and then we play cards or watch TV. We've got everything we need here - it's true, there isn't a pub or restaurant for miles, but we're all reasonable cooks and there are supermarkets in the nearest town. I used to work in a solicitor's office, but I had to wear a suit and tights every day. I lived in a block of flats near the centre of Birmingham. I hated my old life. I don't know how I put up with it so long.



Jake: I'm eighteen years old and I live in a small village in the Peak District, not far from Nottingham. I live with my parents, and younger brother and sister. I grew up in this village, so I know everyone here. That's not the problem - the problem is that there's nothing to do, and nobody of my age to do it with! At the moment I travel into Nottingham every day to the shop where I work - there's a bus at 7.30 in the morning and the last bus back in the evening is at 5.30. From September, however, I'm going to stay in Nottingham with my aunt and uncle when my cousin goes into the Navy. I can use his room. I'm really looking forward to living in Nottingham - I'll be able to go out with my friends in the evening, and I won't have to get up so early in the morning.

