

## USEFUL VOCABULARY WHEN TALKING ABOUT CITIES AND HOUSING



**AMENITIES:** desirable or useful features of a place- such as parks, swimming pools, public toilets

**BIN:** container for waste: litter bin, a rubbish bin, a recycling bin.

**BOLLARD:** a post that is put in the middle or at the end of a road to keep vehicles off or out of a particular area

**CITIZEN:** a person who is a member of a particular country and who has rights because of being born there or because of being given rights, or a person who lives in a particular town or city

**CITY COUNCIL:** the local government of a city

**CITY COUNCILLOR (US city councilmember, city councilman, city councilwoman):** a person who is a member of the local government of a city:

**CITY DWELLERS:** People who live in a city

**CITY HALL:** a building used as offices by people working for a city government

**CROSSING:** a place where something such as a road, river, etc. can be crossed safely, or a place where a road and a railway meet and cross each other

**DUMPSTER** US trademark /'dʌmp.stər/ (**UK skip**) a brand name for a large metal container into which people put unwanted objects or building or garden waste, and which is brought to and taken away from a place by a special truck when people ask for it

**GUTTER** /'gʌt.ər/ US /'gʌt.ə/: the edge of a road where rain flows away

**HOARDING (US billboard)** a very large board on which advertisements are shown, especially at the side of a road:

**HOUSING:** buildings for people to live in; e.g. rented/private housing 55% of respondents live in rented housing and 30% are owner-occupiers /affordable/cheap/low-cost housing

**HOUSING PROJECT** UK /'haʊ.zɪŋ ˌprɒdʒ.ekt/ US /'haʊ.zɪŋ ˌprɒː.dʒekt/ (also project); (**UK council estate**) a group of houses or apartments, usually provided by the government for families who have low incomes

**HOUSING ESTATE / HOUSING DEVELOPMENT:** an area containing a large number of houses or apartments built close together at the same time

**KERB:** the edge of a raised path nearest the road

**LANDMARK:** a building or place that is easily recognized, especially one that you can use to judge where you are

**MAYOR** UK /meər/ US /mer/: a person who is elected or chosen to lead the group who governs a town or city

**METROPOLIS (formal)** /mə'trɒp.əl.ɪs/ a very large city, often the most important city in a large area or country

**PAVEMENT (US sidewalk):** a path with a hard surface on one or both sides of a road, which people walk on

**PEDESTRIAN:** a person who is walking, especially in an area where vehicles go

**POTHOLE:** a hole in a road surface

**RAILING:** noun [C usually plural] /'reɪ.lɪŋ/ a vertical post, usually metal or wooden, that is used together with other such posts to form a fence. *Eg. Tourists pressed their faces against the palace railings.*

**RESTORE:** to return something or someone to an earlier good condition or position

**REVAMP:** to change or arrange something again, in order to improve it.

**ROAD SIGN:** a notice giving information, directions, warnings etc.

**SLUM:** a very poor and crowded area, especially of a city: an inner-city slum

**STREET CLUTTER:** unnecessary signs, railings and advertising hoardings that make streets untidy and confusing

**TRAFFIC CONGESTION:** a situation in which there is too much traffic and movement is difficult

**TRAFFIC JAM:** a large number of vehicles close together and unable to move or moving very slowly

**URBAN PLANNING (Also town planning):** the planning of the way in which towns and cities are built in order to make them pleasant to live in

**URBAN RENEWAL:** the improvement and sometimes replacement of buildings in a city, especially of whole neighbourhoods of housing

**URBAN SPRAWL** US/'ʒr-bən 'sprɔl/: the spread of a city into the area surrounding it, often without planning: *E.g. Huge tourist attractions have produced choking urban sprawl.*

**VACANT LOT:** an area of land that is not built on, usually in a town or city, sometimes one that is available to buy or rent.

**VANDALIZE:** To damage public property

**WAREHOUSE:** a large building for storing things before they are sold, used, or sent out to shops