

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 ,prɒdʒ.ekt/ US /'haʊ.zɪŋ ,pra:.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.əlɪs/ 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] /'reɪlɪŋ/ 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 /'ɜːr·bən 'sprɔːl/: 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