

G uncountable and plural nouns

V word building: prefixes and suffixes

P word stress with prefixes and suffixes



Is there an “art to making attractive cities”? Alain de Botton, writer and founder of alternative education group *The School of Life*, seems to think so, and has made a video that he claims explains just how to do it. “It’s not a mystery why we like some cities so much better than others,” he says. “There are six fundamental things a city needs to get right.”

Order and variety

A love of order is one of the reasons people love Paris and New York, but we must avoid too much of it. The key is to create an “organized complexity.” De Botton gives the example of the square in Telc, Czech Republic, where the individual houses are different in color and detail, but all the buildings are the same height and width.

Visible life

Streets need to be full of people and activity in order to be beautiful instead of bleak. Sadly, modern cities often contain too many characterless office buildings and industrial zones where there is no street life.

Compactness

Good cities are compact, not sprawling. Think Barcelona as opposed to a spread-out city like Phoenix, Arizona. De Botton says that attractive cities have beautiful squares that are ideal meeting places. The best designed are those that are not too large, so that people can recognize a face on the other side of the square.

Orientation and mystery

The best cities offer a mixture of big and small streets. But too many cities prioritize vehicles over humans. A city should be easy to navigate for both humans and vehicles, with big boulevards for orientation and small streets to allow us to wander and create a sense of mystery and exploration.

Scale

Our urban skylines have become dominated by tall buildings dedicated to banking and commerce. Instead, we should be building at an ideal height of five stories, resulting in dense and medium-rise cities, like Berlin and Amsterdam.

Local color

The sameness of cities is a problem. Cities need to demonstrate their local culture and history. They should be built from locally sourced materials in a way that suits their individual climate and traditions.

1 READING

- Look at the title of the article. How attractive do you think the city where you live (or your nearest city) is? What score would you give it out of 10?
- Read the article once. With a partner, explain what the six criteria mean. Do you agree with any of them? Does your city meet any of them?
- Can you think of any things that Alain de Botton hasn’t mentioned? Make a note of them. Then talk in small groups, and make a group list.

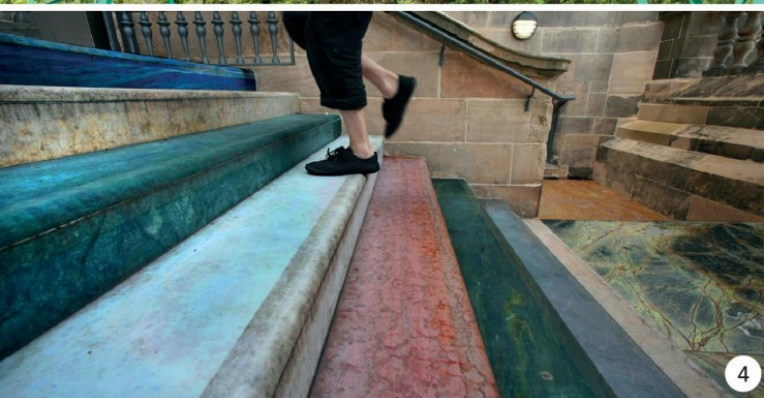
For me, one thing that’s missing is water. I think the most beautiful cities always have a river running through them, or are near the ocean.

2 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- 9.9 You’re going to listen to five well-traveled people talking about the most beautiful city they’ve been to. Look at the countries. Which city do you think they’re going to say? Listen to their first sentences and check.

1 _____, Italy	4 _____, Scotland
2 _____, Brazil	5 _____, Japan
3 _____, Canada	
- 9.10 Listen and try to write the names of some places in these cities that they’re going to mention. Compare in pairs and agree on the spelling.

the _____ Bridge	the _____ Museum
the _____ Canal	the _____ Steps
the _____ Opera House	the River _____
the Bosque _____	the _____ Temple
- 9.11 Now look at photos 1–5 and listen to what the speakers say about each city. What is the place in the photo? Is it something to see or something to do? What information do they give about it?
- Listen again. What other thing(s) does each speaker recommend? Did they mention any of Alain de Botton’s six criteria?



e Did they mention anything from your group's list in 1c?

f Talk in small groups.

- 1 Have you been to any of the cities the speakers mention? Do you agree with what they say? Of those you haven't visited, which one would you most like to go to? Why?
- 2 What's the most beautiful city you've ever been to? What's one thing you would recommend to see and do there?
- 3 Are there any cities you haven't really liked? Why?

3 GRAMMAR uncountable and plural nouns

a Circle the correct form.

- 1 A good city guidebook will give you *advice* / *advices* about what to see.
- 2 You may have *some bad weather* / *a bad weather* if you go to London in March.
- 3 Walking around cities in the summer can be *hard work* / *a hard work*.
- 4 It's best not to take *too much luggage* / *too many luggages* if you take a quick vacation to a city.
- 5 The old town center is amazing, but *the outskirts is* / *the outskirts are* a little depressing.
- 6 I just heard *an interesting news* / *some interesting news*.

b p.149 Grammar Bank 9B

c Play **Just a minute** in small groups.

JUST A MINUTE

RULES

One person starts. He / She has to try to talk for a minute about the first subject below.

If he or she hesitates for more than five seconds, he / she loses his / her turn and the next student continues.

The person who is talking when one minute is up gets a point.

the most beautiful scenery I've seen

the traffic in my town / city

the police in my town / city

the weather I like most

good advice I've been given

what's in the news right now

clothes I love wearing

modern furniture

chocolate

4 READING & SPEAKING

- a Look at this photo of Songdo, a new city in South Korea. What do you think might be the advantages or disadvantages of living there?



- b Now read an article about Songdo. Answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 What are the three main advantages of living in Songdo?
- 2 Which two things that were promised haven't happened yet?
- 3 What other disadvantages are mentioned?

- c Read the article again. For each of the **highlighted** words and phrases, choose the best meaning, a or b.

- 1 a advantages b disadvantages
- 2 a break its promise b keep its promise
- 3 a leaving home b going home
- 4 a not enough b too much
- 5 a very advanced b very simple
- 6 a be different from b be similar to
- 7 a overpopulated b underpopulated
- 8 a close together b spread out

- d Talk to a partner.

- 1 If you went to live in Songdo, what would you like best and what would you miss the most?
- 2 What's the most modern city you've ever been to? Why did you go there? What did you think of it?
- 3 If you had to choose between an ultra-modern megacity and a classically beautiful old city, which would you prefer?
- 4 What is the approximate population of your city or nearest big city? Do you think it will grow? What effect might the change in population have on the city and its services?

Is this the future

Three years ago, 35-year-old English teacher Lee Mi-Jung moved with her husband from the small coastal city of Pohang across the South Korean peninsula to Songdo. Described as the world's "smartest city," it was planned as a showpiece of 21st-century urban design, promising an efficient trash system, an abundance of parks, and a vibrant international community – all the ¹perks of megacity Seoul without the capital city's crowded sidewalks, choking traffic, and air pollution. The city claimed to do "nothing less than banish the problems created by modern urban life." And for foreign corporations looking for access to Asian economies, Songdo would be a glitzy business capital to rival Hong Kong and Shanghai. "I'd imagined this would be a well-designed city, that it would be new, modernized, and simple – unlike other cities," says Lee. "So my expectations were high."

As far as hi-tech conveniences go, Songdo does ²deliver. Pneumatic tubes send trash straight from Lee's home to an underground waste facility, where it's sorted, recycled, or burned for energy generation. Everything, from the lights, to the temperature in her apartment, can be adjusted via a central control panel, or from her phone. During the winter, she can warm up the apartment before ³heading home. But the one thing she hasn't been able to find is a vibrant community.

"When I first came here during the winter," Lee says, "I felt something cold." She wasn't just talking about the coldness of the weather, or the chilly modernism of the concrete high rises all over town. She felt ⁴a lack of human warmth from neighborhood interaction. "There's an online forum where we share our complaints," she said, "But only on the internet – not face to face."

Songdo was built on reclaimed land from the Yellow Sea. The 1,500-acre development sits an hour outside of Seoul. It was planned as an eco-city. Its buildings and streets have sensors that monitor energy use and traffic flow. There's a ⁵state-of-the-art water-recycling facility and plenty of green spaces, including a 100-acre oceanside park modeled on, and named after, New York City's Central Park.



of cities?



For a place that is striving to become car-free, however, the roads of Songdo are crazily wide, with as many as ten lanes. These are partly intended to ⁶echo the wide, tree-lined boulevards of Paris, and also wide enough for city planners to, say, put in a light rail or streetcar network, which may bring Songdo one step closer to fulfilling its car-free promise. But for now, cars are still common, and, for residents like 32-year-old Lindy Wenselaers from Belgium, they're an essential tool. Lindy ended up buying a car after only five months in Songdo – she could no longer face a 20-minute walk to the nearest supermarket in the wintry weather. She misses the lack of direct connections from one part of town to another; on the weekend, she often drives an hour to Seoul.

Songdo's biggest problem is that it only has a third of the people it was designed for. Parts of it feel more like a ⁷sparsely populated American 1970s suburb. The wide roads and ⁸sprawling scale means that human activities are located far apart from one another. Occasionally, you see small touches, like an artificial *hanok* village (a traditional village where houses with old-school architecture remain intact) to remind you that, yes, you are still in Korea. It's not exactly a ghost town, as some reports have claimed, but as you drive past cluster after cluster of identical concrete residential high-rises, it feels empty, and there's a curious urban silence. "There's a ton of people living here, but you don't really see them," says Wenselaers. "The city is alive, but it's invisible."

Adapted from the CityLab website

5 VOCABULARY word building: prefixes and suffixes

Prefixes and suffixes

A **prefix** is something that you add to the beginning of a word, usually to change its meaning, e.g., *pre* = before (**pre**-war), or a negative prefix like *un-* or *dis-* (**un**healthy, **dis**honest). A **suffix** is something you add to the end of a word, usually to change its grammatical form, e.g., *-ment* and *-ness* are typical noun suffixes (**enjoyment**, **happiness**). However, some suffixes also add meaning to a word, e.g., *-ful* = full of (**stressful**, **beautiful**).

a Answer the questions. Check your answers in the article in 4.

- 1 What prefix can you put before *city* to add the meaning a) *enormous*, b) *environmentally friendly*?
- 2 Add suffixes to the words in the box to make nouns.

abundant cold connect convenient develop
expect modern neighbor pollute silent

b **V p.163 Vocabulary Bank** Word building

6 PRONUNCIATION & SPEAKING word stress with prefixes and suffixes

Word stress on words with prefixes and suffixes

Multi-syllable words always have a main stressed syllable. This usually remains the main stress even when we add a prefix or suffix – the exception is *-ation*. However, there is usually secondary stress on prefixes, e.g., *un-* in *unemployment*.

a Underline the main stressed syllable in these words.

a|cco|m|mo|da|tion an|ti|so|cial bil|ling|ual en|ter|tain|ment
go|vern|ment home|less lone|li|ness mul|ti|cul|tu|ral
neigh|bor|hood o|ver|crow|ded po|ver|ty un|der|de|vel|oped
un|em|ploy|ment van|da|li|sm

b **9.18** Listen and check. Practice saying the words.

c Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

Which city (or region) in your country or abroad do you think...?


- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is very multicultural • offers great entertainment • has low levels of poverty and unemployment • has a bilingual or trilingual population • is very eco-friendly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is very overcrowded • has very serious pollution problems • has a lot of homeless people • has some very dangerous neighborhoods • suffers from vandalism and antisocial behavior |
|---|---|

7 WRITING

W p.121 Writing A report Write a report for a website about good places for eating out or entertainment in your city.

7 A REPORT

- a Read the report on restaurants. With a partner, think of suitable headings for paragraphs 1, 3, and 4.
- b You have been asked to write a report on either **good places for eating out** or **entertainment in your town** for an English language magazine. With a partner, **plan** the content
- 1 Decide which report you are going to write.
 - 2 Decide what headings you can use to divide up your report.
 - 3 Decide what information to include under each heading.
- c **Write** 140–190 words, organized in three or four paragraphs with a heading. Use a neutral / formal style, and use expressions from **Useful language** for generalizing.

 **Useful language: talking in general**
Most / The majority of (movie theaters in my town...)
(Movie theaters) are usually / tend to be (pretty expensive)
In general... / Generally speaking...
almost always... / nearly always...

- d **Check** your report for mistakes (grammar, punctuation, and spelling).

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Eating out in New York City

This report describes various options for students who want to eat out while staying in New York City.

1

Fast food – The majority of fast-food restaurants are cheap and the service is fast, but they are often noisy and crowded, and of course the food is the same all over the world.

World food – New York City has restaurants offering food from many parts of the world, for example India and Thailand. These are often relatively inexpensive and have good-quality food and a nice atmosphere.

² Value for money

Gastropubs – These are pubs that serve high-quality food but tend to be slightly cheaper than the majority of mid-range restaurants. Generally speaking, the food is well-cooked and some have very imaginative menus.

Diners – You can usually get a good sandwich, hamburger, or bowl of soup in a diner without spending too much. Some diners are open 24 hours, so if you're hungry late at night, a diner might be your best option.

3

There are many options if you want to try somewhere special, but be aware that this almost always means spending a lot of money. French restaurants, for example, are often expensive, and also restaurants run by celebrity chefs.

4

- Don't make your meal cost more by ordering expensive drinks.
- If you have a special restaurant in mind, don't forget to book in advance because the best restaurants are usually full, especially on the weekend.
- All New York City restaurants get inspection grades based on cleanliness and food safety standards. The grades are displayed near the front door of restaurants. Check before you go inside.
- Even if you have a limited budget, take advantage of the different restaurants that New York City has to offer.




uncountable and plural nouns

uncountable nouns

- 1 The **weather** is fantastic there, and there's very little **traffic**, so you can walk everywhere. The **scenery** is beautiful here, but it's spoiled by all the **trash** people leave.  9.12
- 2 Could you give me **some advice** about where to stay? One useful **piece of advice** is to get a metro card.
- 3 The new opera house is made mainly of **glass**. Can I have a **glass** of tap water, please?

- 1 The following nouns are always uncountable: *behavior, health, politics* (and other words ending in *-ics*, e.g., *gymnastics, economics*), *progress, trash, scenery, traffic, weather, work*.
- Uncountable nouns don't have a plural form, and they use a singular verb. **NOT** *The sceneries are beautiful here.*
- Don't use *a / an* with uncountable nouns. **NOT** *There's a terrible traffic this evening.*
- 2 These nouns are also uncountable: *advice, bread, equipment, furniture, homework, information, luck, luggage, news, research, toast*. With these, you can use *a piece of* to talk about an individual item.
- 3 Some nouns can be either countable (C) or uncountable (U), but the meaning changes, e.g., *a glass* (C) = the thing you drink out of; *glass* (U) = the material used to make windows. Other examples: *business, iron, light, paper, space, time*.

plural and collective nouns

- 1 One of the best museums is on **the outskirts** of the city. My **clothes** are filthy. I'll put on **some clean pants** / I'll put on **a pair of clean pants**.  9.13
- 2 The hotel **staff** is very efficient. The **cabin crew** is coming around with the snack cart in just a few minutes.

- 1 *arms* (= guns, etc.), *belongings, clothes, manners, outskirts, scissors*, and *pants / shorts* are plural nouns with no singular. They need a plural verb, and they can't be used with *a / an*.
- If the word refers to something with two parts, e.g., *scissors, shorts, pants*, etc., it can be used with *a pair of* or *some*.
- 2 *crew, family, government, staff, team*, etc. are collective singular nouns and refer to a group of people. They need a singular verb.
- *police* is always used with a plural verb.

- a Circle the correct form. Check (✓) if both are correct.

The traffic is / are awful during rush hour.

- 1 Gymnastics is / are my favorite sport.
- 2 I bought a pair of / some new jeans.
- 3 Harvey's clothes look / looks really expensive.
- 4 The flight crew work / works hard to make passengers comfortable.
- 5 I found out some / a piece of interesting information at the meeting.
- 6 Could I have a paper / a piece of paper to write down the new words?
- 7 I think I'll have a / some time after lunch to help you with that report.
- 8 I have a / some good news for you about your job application.
- 9 We've made a lot of progress / progresses this semester.
- 10 Hello, Reception? Do you have an / some iron I could use?

- b Right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

In our language lab, the equipment is all new. ✓

The news are good. X *The news is*

- 1 We had a beautiful weather when we were on vacation.
- 2 They have some comfortable furnitures in their house.
- 3 My brother gave me a useful piece of advice.
- 4 Do you have a scissors? I need to wrap this present.
- 5 My team has won every game this season.
- 6 I need to buy a new pants for my interview tomorrow.
- 7 Your glasses are really dirty. Can you see anything?
- 8 The homeworks were very difficult last night.
- 9 There isn't any space in my suitcase. Can I put this jacket in yours?
- 10 The police is sure that they know who was responsible for the vandalism.

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1 PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES THAT ADD MEANING

a Match the **bold** prefixes in sentences 1–11 to their meanings A–K.

- 1 **G** Mumbai is a very **over**crowded city.
- 2 **T** Tokyo was one of the first **mega**cities.
- 3 **T** This part of the city is very poor and **under**developed.
- 4 **M** London is a very **multi**cultural city, with many different races and religions.
- 5 **T** The quickest way to get around New York is on the **sub**way.
- 6 **B** Many people in Montreal are **bilingual** – they speak English and French.
- 7 **A** If you want to avoid the traffic jams in Bangkok, take the **mono**rail.
- 8 **A** The **auto**pilot was turned on after the plane had taken off.
- 9 **A** Vandalism, especially breaking public property, is very **anti**social behavior.
- 10 **M** I **mis**understood the directions and now I'm completely lost.
- 11 **P** He's earning a **post**graduate degree in aeronautical engineering.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| A against | G too much |
| B many | H two |
| C big | I after |
| D not enough | J under |
| E one | K wrongly |
| F by (it)self | |

b **9.14** Listen and check.

c Match the **bold** suffixes to their meaning.

- 1 **T** There are a lot of **homeless** people in this city. / The situation is **hopeless**.
- 2 **C** Be **careful** how you drive! / The instructions were very **useful**.
- 3 **P** The police usually wear **bulletproof** vests. / My watch is **waterproof**.
- 4 **A** Their new laptops are completely **unbreakable**. / I don't think the tap water here is **drinkable**.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| A with | C resistant to |
| B can be done | D without |

d **9.15** Listen and check.

ACTIVATION Cover sentences 1–11 in a. Look at meanings A–K and say the prefixes.

2 NOUNS FORMED WITH SUFFIXES

Common noun suffixes

For nouns made from verbs:

- ion / -(a)tion** pollute – pollution; expect – expectation
-ment develop – development

For nouns made from adjectives:

- ness** cold – coldness
-ence / -ance convenient – convenience; abundant – abundance

For abstract nouns made from nouns or adjectives:

- hood** neighbor – neighborhood
-ism modern – modernism

a Complete the chart with nouns from the words in the box.

absent brother child distant employ entertain excite
 friendly govern ignorant improve intend lonely race
 reduce ugly vandal violent weak

-ion / -(a)tion	-ment	-ness	-ence / -ance	-ism	-hood

b **9.16** Listen and check.

ACTIVATION Cover the chart and look at the words in the box. Say them with the correct suffix.

3 NOUNS THAT ARE DIFFERENT WORDS

Noun formation with spelling or word change

Some nouns made from verbs or adjectives are completely different words, e.g., choose – choice, poor – poverty.

a Write the verb or adjective for the following nouns.

	Noun
1 _____ (verb)	loss /lɒs/
2 _____ (verb)	death /deθ/
3 _____ (verb)	success /sək'ses/
4 _____ (verb)	thought /θɔt/
5 _____ (verb)	belief /br'li:f/
6 _____ (adj.)	heat /hit/
7 _____ (adj.)	strength /streŋkθ/
8 _____ (adj.)	hunger /'hʌŋgər/
9 _____ (adj.)	height /haɪt/
10 _____ (adj.)	width /wɪðθ/

b **9.17** Listen and check.

ACTIVATION Cover the **noun** column. Look at the verbs and adjectives and say the nouns.