

# Big Cities and Small Towns

People walk through a colorful street in Hong Kong after a rainstorm.



1. Is your hometown a big city or a small town? Is it a good place to live? Why or why not?
2. Do you want to live in a big city or a small town? Which is better for you? Why?



## Prereading

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1. Look at the photograph. What are the people doing?
  - a. They are cleaning a new house.
  - b. They are moving into a new house.
  - c. They are leaving a new house.
2. Why is this family doing this? Write one reason here. Discuss some reasons with your classmates.

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3. Work with a partner. Read the title of this chapter. Where is the best place to live? Why do you think so? Complete the chart.

	The Best Place to Live	Reasons
You		
Your Partner		

## Reading

Read each paragraph carefully. Then answer the questions.

### The Best Place to Live

Do you like your hometown? Are you happy there? Most Americans like their hometowns. In fact, 80 percent of Americans say that they like their hometowns very much. They are happy there. A large number of Americans—almost 40 percent—live in the same place all their lives. They never move to a different place. However, some other Americans are ready for a change.

1. \_\_\_\_ True \_\_\_\_ False Most Americans are happy in their hometowns.
2. **In fact** means
  - a. fortunately.
  - b. really.
  - c. mostly.
3. \_\_\_\_ True \_\_\_\_ False Most Americans live in the same place all their lives.
4. **Some other Americans are ready for a change** means
  - a. they want a new job.
  - b. they want a new place to live.
  - c. they want to change their clothes.

Forty-six percent of all Americans say they want to live in a different location. They like their hometowns, but they want to move to a new place. For example, some people live in a city, but they want to live in a small town. Some city dwellers want to move to a rural area, or countryside. They don't like cities. Other people want to live in the suburbs. Suburbs are places near cities. However, many people who live in small towns and rural areas are not happy either. They prefer to live in a different kind of place.

5. **Forty-six percent of all Americans** means
  - a. many Americans.
  - b. all Americans.
  - c. a few Americans.
  
6. A **location** is
  - a. a town.
  - b. a city.
  - c. a place.
  
7. **City dwellers** are people who
  - a. live in a city.
  - b. work in a city.
  - c. live at home.
  
8. Other people want to live in the **suburbs**, which are areas near cities.  
The **suburbs** are
  - a. in cities.
  - b. close to cities.
  - c. far from cities.
  
9. **However, many people who live in small towns and rural areas are not happy either.**  
Who isn't happy?
  - a. Some people who live in small towns
  - b. Some people who live in rural areas
  - c. Both a and b
  
10. A **rural area** is in
  - a. a city.
  - b. the countryside.
  - c. a town.

11. They **prefer** to live in a different kind of place.  
**Prefer** means
- like something more.
  - like something a lot.
  - like something the same.
12. What do you think the next paragraph will discuss?
- Everyone agrees on the best place to live.
  - Some people do not agree on the best place to live.

Of course, not everyone agrees on the best place to live. Different people choose to live in different places. For instance, young people prefer to live in cities. They choose big cities like New York, Boston, and Los Angeles. Martin Beck agrees with this. He lives in Boston. "I love to live in the city," says Martin. "There are great museums, restaurants, and movie theaters. There are a lot of jobs here, too."

13. **Of course** means
- differently.
  - happily.
  - naturally.
14. \_\_\_\_ True \_\_\_\_ False All Americans agree on the best place to live.
15. \_\_\_\_ True \_\_\_\_ False Martin Beck is a young person.
16. Where does Martin live?
- In a small town
  - In a big city
  - In a museum
17. Does Martin like where he lives?
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know.

On the other hand, many older Americans prefer to live in smaller towns. For example, Janet and Mario Miller and their family live in a small town in Idaho. Janet says, "I love our town! We know all of our neighbors. The schools here are small and the streets are always quiet." Yet the majority of Americans—young and old—agree on one idea: They prefer warm weather to cold weather.

Some people dream about moving to a different place, but most people are happy with their hometowns. Where do you want to live?

- 18. On the other hand** shows
- a new idea.
  - an opposite idea.
  - something you are holding.
- 19.** Who prefers to live in smaller towns?
- All older Americans
  - All Americans
  - Some older Americans
- 20.** \_\_\_\_ True \_\_\_\_ False Janet and Mario Miller are older Americans.
- 21.** Where does the Miller family live?
- In a big city
  - In a warm place
  - In a small town
- 22.** Janet says, "I love our town! We know all of our **neighbors**."
- Neighbors** are people who
- work with you.
  - live near you.
  - go to school with you.
- 23.** Yet the **majority** of Americans—young and old—agree on one idea: They prefer warm weather to cold weather.
- Majority** means
- some.
  - all.
  - most.
- 24.** Which sentence is correct?
- Most Americans like warm weather better than cold weather.
  - Most Americans like cold weather better than warm weather.
- 25. Some people dream about moving to a different place, but most people are happy with their hometowns.**
- This sentence means
- most people do not want to move to a different place.
  - most people want to move to a different place.
  - most people will be happy in a different place.



Autumn in the Brighton neighborhood of Boston



Read the complete passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

CD 1  
TR 8

## The Best Place to Live

1 Do you like your hometown? Are you happy there? Most Americans like their  
2 hometowns. In fact, 80 percent of Americans say that they like their hometowns very  
3 much. They are happy there. A large number of Americans—almost 40 percent—live  
4 in the same place all their lives. They never move to a different place. However, some  
5 other Americans are ready for a change.

6 Forty-six percent of all Americans say they want to live in a different location. They  
7 like their hometowns, but they want to move to a new place. For example, some people  
8 live in a city, but they want to live in a small town. Some city dwellers want to move  
9 to a rural area, or countryside. They don't like cities. Other people want to live in the  
10 suburbs. Suburbs are places near cities. However, many people who live in small towns  
11 and rural areas are not happy either. They prefer to live in a different kind of place.

12 Of course, not everyone agrees on the best place to live. Different people choose to  
13 live in different places. For instance, young people prefer to live in cities. They choose  
14 big cities like New York, Boston, and Los Angeles. Martin Beck agrees with this. He  
15 lives in Boston. "I love to live in the city," says Martin. "There are great museums,  
16 restaurants, and movie theaters. There are a lot of jobs here, too."



17 On the other hand, many older Americans prefer to live in smaller towns. For  
18 example, Janet and Mario Miller and their family live in a small town in Idaho. Janet  
19 says, "I love our town! We know all of our neighbors. The schools here are small and  
20 the streets are always quiet." Yet the majority of Americans—young and old—agree  
21 on one idea: They prefer warm weather to cold weather.

22 Some people dream about moving to a different place, but most people are happy  
23 with their hometowns. Where do you want to live?

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## Scanning for Information

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Read the questions. Then go back to the complete passage and scan quickly for the answers. Circle the letter of the correct answer or write your answer in the space provided.

1. Complete each sentence with the correct number.

- a. \_\_\_\_ percent of Americans want to live in a different place.
- b. \_\_\_\_ percent of Americans never move to a different place.
- c. \_\_\_\_ percent of Americans like their hometowns a lot.

2. a. Where do some young people prefer to live?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What are some reasons for this?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

3. a. Where do some older people prefer to live?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What are some reasons for this?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. A large number of Americans live in the same place all their lives.
- b. Many older Americans prefer to live in the city.
- c. Most Americans are happy where they live, but some are ready for a change.

# Vocabulary Skill

## Recognizing Word Forms

In English, some adjectives (*adj.*) become nouns (*n.*) by adding the suffix *-ness*, for example, kind (*adj.*), kindness (*n.*).

Read the sentences below. Decide if the correct word is an adjective or a noun. Circle your answer. Do the examples below as a class before you begin.

### EXAMPLES:

- a. Bob is a shy / shyness person. He is quiet and does not talk to his classmates very often.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
- b. Bob doesn't have many friends because of his shy / shyness.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
  
1. Some people live in very small / smallness apartments in New York City.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
2. Only 3,000 people live in my hometown. I know everyone there because of the small / smallness of the town.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
3. Many families enjoy the quiet / quietness of life in a rural area.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
4. There are very few cars, trucks, or people. The countryside is really a very quiet / quietness place to live.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
5. Most Americans do not enjoy the cold / coldness of the winter.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
6. They often stay indoors on very cold / coldness days. They prefer the summer!  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
7. Many Americans are ready / readiness to move to a new place.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
8. Many Americans' ready / readiness to move to a new place is not unusual.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
9. Many families with young children like to live in small towns and are very happy / happiness.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)
10. The children's happy / happiness is important.  
(*adj.*)    (*n.*)

# Vocabulary in Context

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Read the following sentences. Choose the correct word or phrase for each sentence. Fill in the blanks.

change (*n.*)

hometown (*n.*)

on the other hand

prefer (*v.*)

1. Steven loves his \_\_\_\_\_. He never wants to move to another city.
2. Leigh sometimes feels lonely because she lives away from her parents. \_\_\_\_\_, she loves her job and apartment in her new city.
3. Tara will go to a new school next year. It will be a big \_\_\_\_\_ for her.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ the winter because I don't like hot weather.

agrees (*v.*)

dweller (*n.*)

location (*n.*)

majority (*n.*)

neighbors (*n.*)

5. Kim loves living in New York City. She will always be a city \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Marta thinks Italian food is delicious, and Jack \_\_\_\_\_ with her.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Americans drinks coffee with their breakfast.
8. My \_\_\_\_\_ always help me when I have a problem in my home.
9. My home is in a great \_\_\_\_\_. There are many stores and restaurants here.

## Reading Skill

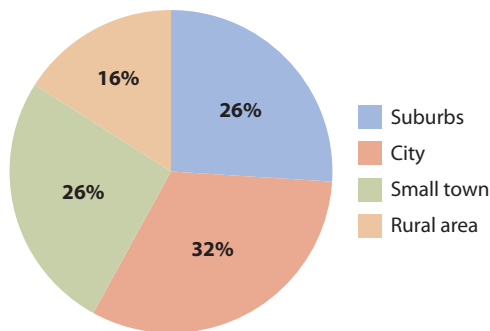
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### Reading a Pie Chart

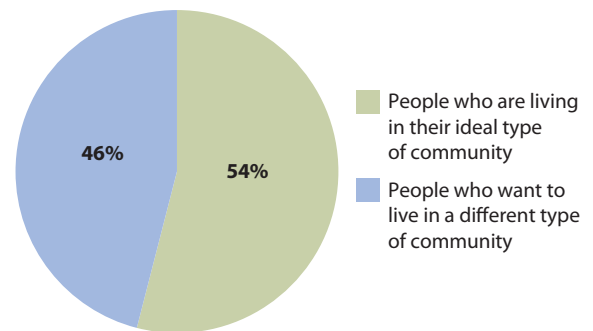
Pie charts contain important information about a topic. They show percentages or parts of a whole.

Look at the pie charts below and answer the questions.

Where do Americans live now?



Where do Americans prefer to live?



Source: www.pewsocialtrends.org

1. Where does the largest percentage of Americans live? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where does the smallest percentage of Americans live? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What percentage of Americans live near a city?
  - a. 26%
  - b. 52%
  - c. 57%
4. Are the majority of Americans happy where they live?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

## Topics for Discussion and Writing

1. Work with a partner. What are some reasons that people choose different places to live? Make a list with your partner. Discuss some of your reasons with your class.
2. What is most important to you when you choose a place to live? Why is this important? Explain your answer.
3. Do you think it is difficult or easy to move to a new place? Why? Write your answer and discuss it with your classmates.
4. Write in your journal. Do you like your city? Why or why not? Give reasons for your answer.

# Critical Thinking

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1. Ask your classmates the following questions and write their answers in the chart.

Survey of the Best Place to Live			
Name of student			
Where do you live?			
Are you happy there?			
Why or why not?			
Do you want to live in another place?			
Why or why not?			
Where do you want to live?			

2. Compare your chart with your classmates' charts. Then discuss these questions with your class.
- Are most of your classmates happy where they live? Why or why not?
  - Where do most students want to live? Why?
  - What is more important to happiness, where you live or who you live with? Why? Give reasons for your answers.

## Cloze Quiz

Read the following passage. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the list. Use each word only once.

change

happy

hometowns

move

place

Do you like your hometown? Are you \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(1)</sup> there? Most Americans like their hometowns. In fact, 80 percent of Americans say that they like their \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(2)</sup> very much. They are happy there. A large number of Americans—almost 40 percent—live in the same \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(3)</sup> all their lives. They never \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(4)</sup> to a different place. However, some other Americans are ready for a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(5)</sup>.

countryside

dwellers

location

prefer

town

Forty-six percent of all Americans say they want to live in a different \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(6)</sup>. They like their hometowns, but they would like to move to a new place. For example, some people live in a city, but they want to live in a small \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(7)</sup>. Some city \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(8)</sup> want to move to a rural area, or \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(9)</sup>. They don't like cities. However, many people who live in small towns and rural areas are not happy either. They \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(10)</sup> to live in a different kind of place.

# Crossword Puzzle

Review the words in the box below. Then read the clues on the next page. Write the words in the correct spaces in the puzzle.

agree	hand	naturally	prefer
change	hometown	neighbors	rural
dweller	location	percent	suburbs
fact	majority	place	

The crossword puzzle grid consists of the following numbered starting points:

- 1:** 4-letter horizontal word at the top.
- 2:** 4-letter horizontal word, overlapping with 1.
- 3:** 3-letter horizontal word, overlapping with 1.
- 4:** 4-letter vertical word on the far right.
- 5:** 4-letter horizontal word.
- 6:** 4-letter horizontal word, overlapping with 5.
- 7:** 3-letter vertical word.
- 8:** 4-letter vertical word.
- 9:** 4-letter horizontal word, overlapping with 7.
- 10:** 4-letter horizontal word.
- 11:** 4-letter vertical word.
- 12:** 4-letter vertical word.
- 13:** 4-letter vertical word.
- 14:** 8-letter horizontal word, overlapping with 10, 11, 12, and 13.
- 15:** 6-letter horizontal word at the bottom.

# Crossword Puzzle Clues

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## ACROSS CLUES

1. The people next door are very nice \_\_\_\_\_.
5. A city with many museums is a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ to live!
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ with you. I like big cities, too.
10. Shanghai, China, has a lot of people. In \_\_\_\_\_, it has the highest population of any city in the world.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ means of course.
15. About 54 \_\_\_\_\_ of Americans like where they live.

## DOWN CLUES

2. Cities have many advantages. On the other \_\_\_\_\_, they are often very crowded.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ are very close to the city. We like living there.
4. Where do you \_\_\_\_\_ to live? In a big city or a small town?
6. The park is a good \_\_\_\_\_ for a party. My backyard is too small.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ of people I know like living in small towns.
8. Barbara is a city \_\_\_\_\_. She loves living in a big city.
11. John really likes his \_\_\_\_\_. He does not want to move.
12. Kate prefers to live in a \_\_\_\_\_ area. She likes the countryside.
13. I want to \_\_\_\_\_ where I live. I don't like living here.