Town and City

Places in town, asking the way, describing where you live, and the words of planners and writers, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 22

take the second left · bustling and historic · urban sprawl

Places in town *A1–A2*

bank	post office
library	museum
church	hospital
police station	station
supermarket	café
cinema	park
town hall	school

a library lends books · a bookshop sells them

In the street *A1–A2*

bus stop	square
high street	bridge
roundabout	traffic lights
car park	crossing
pavement	corner
road	street
turn left	turn right

go straight on · take the second left · opposite the bank (no "of")

Describing places *B1–B2*

Adjectives: bustling, lively, crowded, quiet, sleepy, historic, picturesque, run-down, polluted, noisy

Areas: the city centre, the suburbs, the outskirts, a residential area, an industrial estate, a retail park

Getting around: a pedestrian zone, a cycle lane, public transport, a traffic jam, the rush hour

Problems: noise, litter, pollution, homelessness, empty shops

Idioms: paint the town red, go to town, the talk of the town, a one-horse town, Rome wasn't built in a day

*Salamanca is a **historic**, **lively** city; the supermarket is on the **outskirts**, next to the **industrial estate**.*

British suburbs are usually comfortable, not poor

Planning and evidence *C1–C2*

Growth: urban sprawl, a conurbation, a commuter town, a ghost town, a high-rise

Land: the green belt, the grey belt, brownfield and greenfield sites, planning permission

Change: regeneration, redevelopment, gentrification

Services: infrastructure, amenities, public services, the local authority

Phrases: the man on the Clapham omnibus, town and gown, all roads lead to Rome, a concrete jungle

*The **brownfield site** was **redeveloped**, but the new homes still need **infrastructure** and **amenities**.*

urban ≠ city: many urban people live in towns

Asking the way

- *Excuse me, is there a bank near here?*
- *How do I get to the station?*
- *Turn left at the roundabout.*
- *It's between the library and the café.*

Common mistakes

- ~~opposite of the church~~ → **opposite** the church
- ~~the parking~~ → the **car park**
- ~~the traffic light is red~~ → the **traffic lights are** red
- ~~I buy books in the library~~ → in the **bookshop**

Words with a past

- **town**: Old English *tūn*, an enclosure
- **city**: Latin *civitas*, from *civis*, citizen
- **street**: Latin *strata*, a paved road
- **pedestrian**: first meant dull, "on foot"

My new words

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