

TALK ABOUT INTERESTING PLACES AND THEIR TOWN

You will learn how to talk about your city and the problems of living in cities.

Describing cities

When describing cities, you may want to talk about the following:

- Location / Size
- History
- Industry
- Interesting places
- Weather

Here are some useful phrases to talk about some these different aspects.

Industry

If asked about the products that are produced in your city, or what kind of work people do there, you can talk about different kinds of industries, as below...

Primary industries (dealing with raw materials)

- Agriculture
- Mining
- Farming
- Fishing
- Oil and Gas

The manufacturing industry

The service industry

- Tourism
- Hospitality
- Recreation
- Food and beverage

The finance industry

The IT industry

The entertainment industry

*My hometown **relies** mainly **on** tourism / the service industry*

*It's **famous** for tourism/ the service industry*

*Its main source of revenue **comes** from tourism/ the service industry*

*The economy **depends** mainly **on** tourism/ the service industry*



Collocations to describe cities

Here are some collocations to describe the city where I live (Santander, in Spain).

- Bustling center
- Urban living
- Reliable public transport
- Long opening hours (shops and restaurants)

- Upmarket shops
- Pricey /overpriced restaurants (expensive)
- Lively bars
- Fashionable clubs
- High-rise flats

Adjectives to describe cities

For good points of cities, you could use the following adjectives:

- picturesque
- historic
- spacious
- elegant
- magnificent
- lively

The comfortable suburbs (the suburb is just outside the city center)

For the negative points of cities, you could use the following adjectives:

- **deserted** (no one on the street at night) city
- **packed** (very crowded)
- **filthy** (very dirty)
- **run-down** (in a very bad condition)
- **sprawling city**
- **a shanty town** (houses made of discarded materials. For example: tin cardboard, plastic)
- **bustling** (with lots of movement) can be positive or negative.



Cities and their problems

- Urban wasteland (in bad condition)
- No-go areas (with the high crime)
- Run-down buildings (falling apart)
- Deprived areas (without necessary things, e.g. enough money, good living conditions)
- Bumper-to-bumper traffic all day long
- The volume of traffic (amount)
- Exhaust fumes
- The incessant roar of trucks and buses (very loud noise)

Describe the city where you live

Here is a description of the city where I presently live: Santander, in Spain.

It has rather dreary weather = *dull weather*

Mild climate = *not hot or cold*

Overcast (adj) = *cloudy*

As for the weather, it's often overcast in my city.

The city **looks over** the bay

Holidaymakers = *people on holiday*

People like to **nibble snacks in the bars** = *to eat in small bites (usually snacks)*

Local people love **going for a stroll** in the afternoon = *go for a short walk*

Big attraction = *popular attraction*

There is a lot of **heavy rain**

It often **throws it down** = *it often rains heavily*

Referencia:

Redaction from Keith Speaking Academy. (2025) IELTS Speaking Lesson: Cities and Towns. Keith Speaking Academy. Recovered from: <https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-speaking-lesson-topic-cities/>