

## B1 TEENS

# Design Your Dream City

Comparing places using comparatives, superlatives and as...as

B1 Intermediate | Grammar | Reading | 40 min

## ★ Lesson Objectives

- ✓ Read about how different cities approach urban design
- ✓ Learn vocabulary for cities, infrastructure and quality of life
- ✓ Use comparatives, superlatives and as...as structures
- ✓ Compare cities and ideas using a range of structures
- ✓ Discuss what makes a city great and present your own design
- ✓ Write a description of your ideal city using comparisons

## 1 Before You Read

- ▶ What do you like most about the city or town where you live?
- ▶ If you could change one thing about your city, what would it be?
- ▶ What makes some cities more liveable than others?

## 2 Reading: Building Better Cities

### Building Better Cities

Every year, millions of people move from small towns to big cities in search of better jobs, better education and a more exciting lifestyle. But not all cities are created equal. Some are cleaner, safer and more enjoyable to live in than others. So what makes one city better than another, and what can we learn from the world's most innovative urban designs?

Copenhagen, Denmark, is often ranked as one of the most liveable cities in the world. It has more bicycles than cars, and its cycling infrastructure is far better than most other European capitals. The city is also greener than many cities of its size -- over 40% of residents cycle to work every day, which makes the air cleaner and the streets quieter. "Copenhagen is not as large as London or Paris, but it's more people-friendly," says urban planner Mia Andersen. "The best cities are the ones that are designed for people,

not for cars."

Singapore takes a different approach. It is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, but it is also one of the cleanest. The government has invested heavily in vertical gardens, rooftop farms and green corridors that connect parks across the city. Singapore is much hotter than Copenhagen, so shade and greenery are more important there. "Our buildings are taller and more compact than in European cities," explains architect Dr. Wei Lin, "but we make sure there is as much green space as possible."

Medellin, Colombia, was once considered one of the most dangerous cities in the world. In the 1990s, it was far more violent than it is today. But over the past two decades, the city has transformed itself through innovative urban planning. The government built cable cars connecting the poorest hillside neighbourhoods to the city centre, making public transport more accessible than ever before. Today, Medellin is safer, more connected and more equal than it was thirty years ago. It is not as wealthy as many European cities, but its approach to social inclusion is more advanced than most.

What do these three cities have in common? They all prove that the best cities are not necessarily the biggest or the richest. The most liveable cities are the ones that invest in people -- in clean air, public spaces, safe transport and equal opportunities. A great city doesn't need to be the most modern or the most expensive. It just needs to be the most human.

### 3 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
<b>liveable</b>	pleasant to live in	"Most liveable city."
<b>infrastructure</b>	basic city systems	"Cycling infrastructure."
<b>urban</b>	relating to a city	"Urban planning."
<b>densely populated</b>	many people, small area	"Singapore is densely populated."
<b>compact</b>	space efficient	"Tall and compact buildings."
<b>corridor</b>	connecting route	"Green corridors."
<b>innovative</b>	new creative ideas	"Innovative urban planning."
<b>transform</b>	to change completely	"City transformed itself."
<b>accessible</b>	easy to reach/use	"More accessible transport."
<b>social inclusion</b>	everyone participates equally	"Social inclusion approach."
<b>public transport</b>	buses, trains for everyone	"Cheaper than driving."
<b>resident</b>	person who lives there	"40% of residents cycle."
<b>greenery</b>	plants, trees, vegetation	"Shade and greenery."

Word	Definition	Example
<b>rooftop</b>	top surface of building	"Rooftop farms."
<b>neighbourhood</b>	district within a city	"Poorest neighbourhoods."
<b>investment</b>	spending to improve	"Investment in public spaces."

Collocations: urban planning • public transport • quality of life • green space • densely populated • social inclusion • cycling infrastructure • invest in people

## 4 Grammar: Comparatives, Superlatives and as...as

**Comparative + than:** "Infrastructure is far better than most capitals."

**not as + adj + as:** "Copenhagen is not as large as London."

**Superlative:** "One of the most liveable cities."

**as...as:** "As much green space as possible."

Structure	Use	Example
-er than / more...than	Comparing two	Bikes are cheaper than cars.
the -est / the most	One above all	Tokyo is the biggest.
as...as	Equal	Berlin is as interesting as Munich.
not as...as	One is less	Not as big as yours.
much/far + comp.	Big difference	Much bigger than Osaka.
slightly/a bit	Small difference	Slightly warmer today.

### ⚠ Common Mistakes

~~More bigger~~ → **Bigger** (don't combine more + -er)

~~The most cleanest~~ → **The cleanest** (don't combine most + -est)

~~As tall than me~~ → **As tall as me** (as...as, not as...than)

## 5 Match the Halves

#	Beginning	Ending
1	Tokyo is much larger	than most European cities.
2	Copenhagen has the best	cycling infrastructure.
3	Singapore is not as cold	as Northern Europe.
4	Medellin is safer now	than 30 years ago.
5	Public transport is more	environmentally friendly than cars.
6	My city is slightly	smaller than the capital.
7	This is the most innovative	project I've ever seen.
8	Living in the countryside is	not as expensive as a city.
9	Park air is far	cleaner than busy roads.
10	A good city should be as	accessible as possible.

## 6 Comprehension Quiz

**1. Why is Copenhagen liveable?**

Answer: Great cycling, clean air

**2. How does Singapore deal with space?**

Answer: Vertical gardens, rooftop farms

**3. How did Medellin connect poor areas?**

Answer: Cable cars

**4. Best cities invest in...**

Answer: People, clean air, equal opportunities

**5. 'Tokyo is much \_\_\_ than Osaka.'**

Answer: bigger

**6. 'This is \_\_\_ city I've visited.'**

Answer: the most beautiful

**7. 'Berlin is \_\_\_ interesting \_\_\_ Munich.' (equal)**

Answer: as / as

**8. Which is WRONG?**

Answer: She is more taller than her brother.

## 7 Fill in the Blanks

**Word Bank:** bigger • the most • more expensive • not as...as • better • the cleanest • as • further

1. Tokyo is much \_\_\_\_\_ than Seoul.

2. This is \_\_\_\_\_ innovative project in the country.

3. City life is \_\_\_\_\_ than countryside.

4. My town is \_\_\_\_\_ crowded \_\_\_\_\_ the capital.

5. Copenhagen has \_\_\_\_\_ cycling infrastructure.

6. Singapore is one of \_\_\_\_\_ cities in the world.

7. A city should be as accessible \_\_\_\_\_ possible.

8. The airport is \_\_\_\_\_ from the centre than the station.

Answers: 1. bigger • 2. the most • 3. more expensive • 4. not as, as • 5. better • 6. the cleanest • 7. as • 8. further

## 8 Speaking & Writing

### ◆ Discussion Questions

Which city would you most like to visit?

Is your city more like Copenhagen, Singapore or Medellin?

More important: modern or green?

Design your dream city in 60 seconds.

Big city or small town? Give 3 comparisons.

### ◆ Example Dialogue

A: What would your dream city look like?

B: Smaller than London but bigger than my village. Best public transport.

A: Mine would be as green as possible -- more parks and cleaner air.

B: Would it be more expensive?

A: Not necessarily. The most liveable cities aren't always the most expensive.

B: True. Most important thing: designed for people, not cars.

### ✍ Writing Task

Write 80-120 words. Use 3 comparatives, 2 superlatives and 1 as...as:

Option A: Describe your dream city. Compare it to where you live.

Option B: Compare two real cities you know.

## 9 City Planner Challenge -- The Game

Interactive game available online. 10 urban planning decisions. Score 80%+ to win!

#	Decision	Best Choice
1	Better transport needed	Buses, trams and bike lanes
2	Air pollution worse	Trees and green corridors
3	No parks in neighbourhood	Park with sports facilities
4	Population growing	Tall apartments, green rooftops
5	Daily traffic jams	Cheaper, frequent public transport
6	Safer school routes	Bike lanes, wider pavements
7	Too hot in summer	Trees and shade architecture
8	Gap rich/poor areas	Transport and shared spaces
9	Tourists say boring	Museums, galleries, street art
10	One final project	City-wide cycling network

## 10 Review Checklist

- ✓ I can understand texts comparing different cities
- ✓ I can use vocabulary for cities and quality of life
- ✓ I can form comparatives and superlatives correctly
- ✓ I can use as...as and not as...as
- ✓ I can use modifiers like much, far, slightly
- ✓ I can write about my ideal city using comparisons

## Congratulations!

You have completed this lesson: Design Your Dream City