

Urban Social Issues ESL Speaking Lesson

CEFR: C1

WIDA: Bridging-Reaching

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Urban versus rural living



Do you live in an urban or a rural area?

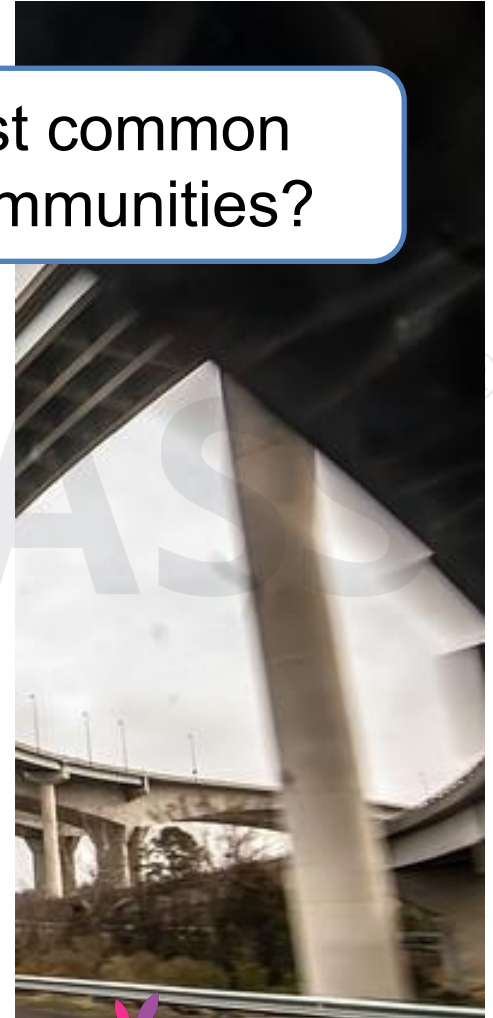
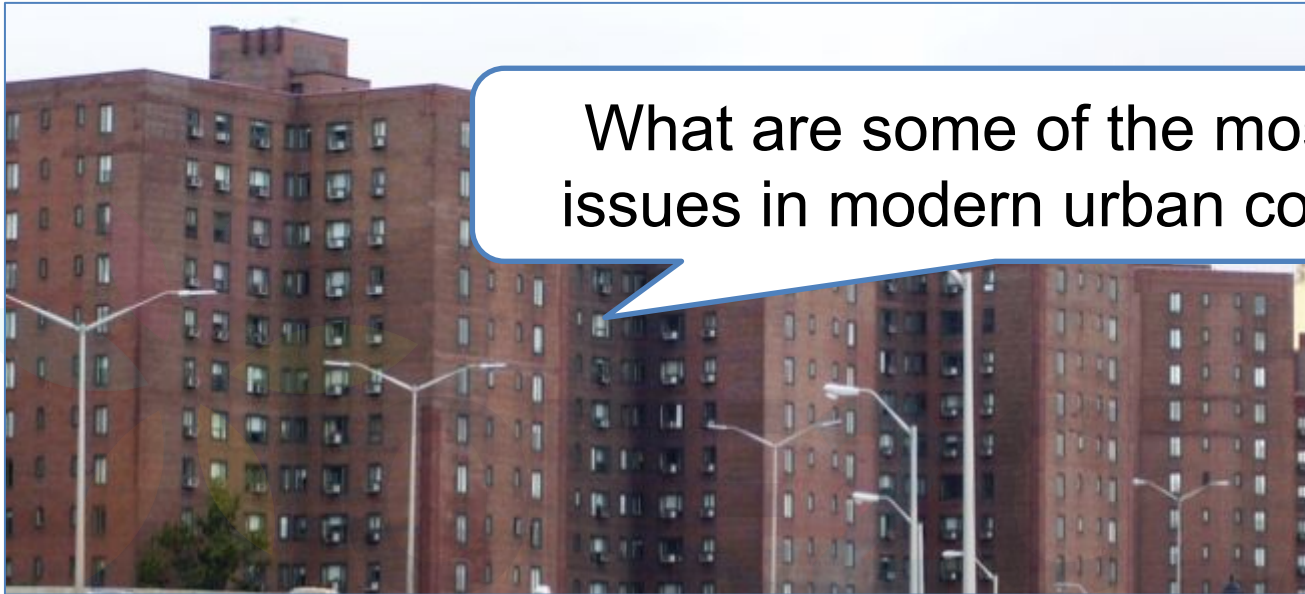


What are the advantages of living in an urban area and what are the advantages of living in a rural area?



Challenges of urban living

What are some of the most common issues in modern urban communities?





Social issues

over population

ghetto



poverty

infrastructure

drug dependency



addiction

alcohol

unemployment

health issues



uneducated



youth

the elderly





What about in your country?

What are the biggest problems in the larger cities in your country?



How are these problems being dealt with?



Poverty

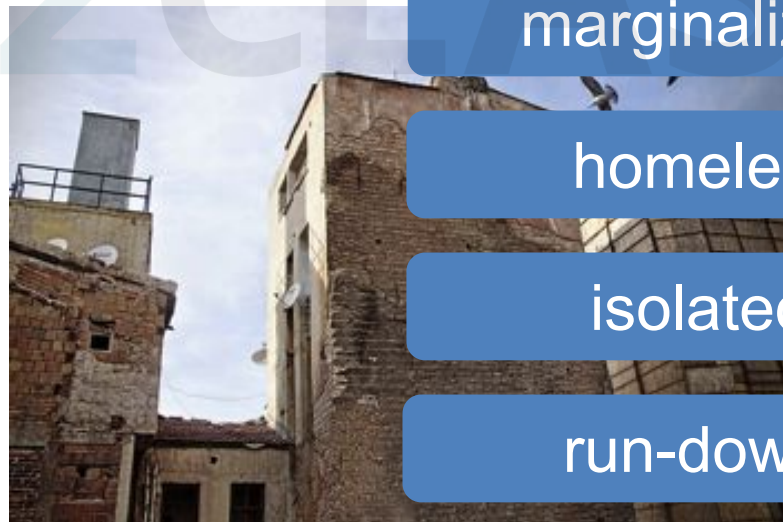
Is poverty becoming the most important social issue in modern urban areas?



How are the poor treated in your country?



Words for urban issues...



obsolete

crumbling

lack access to
something

investment in
something

marginalized

homeless

isolated

run-down



What are some of the possible ways for the authorities to deal with these social issues?



social welfare

public programs

government
departments

benefits /
payments

long-term projects

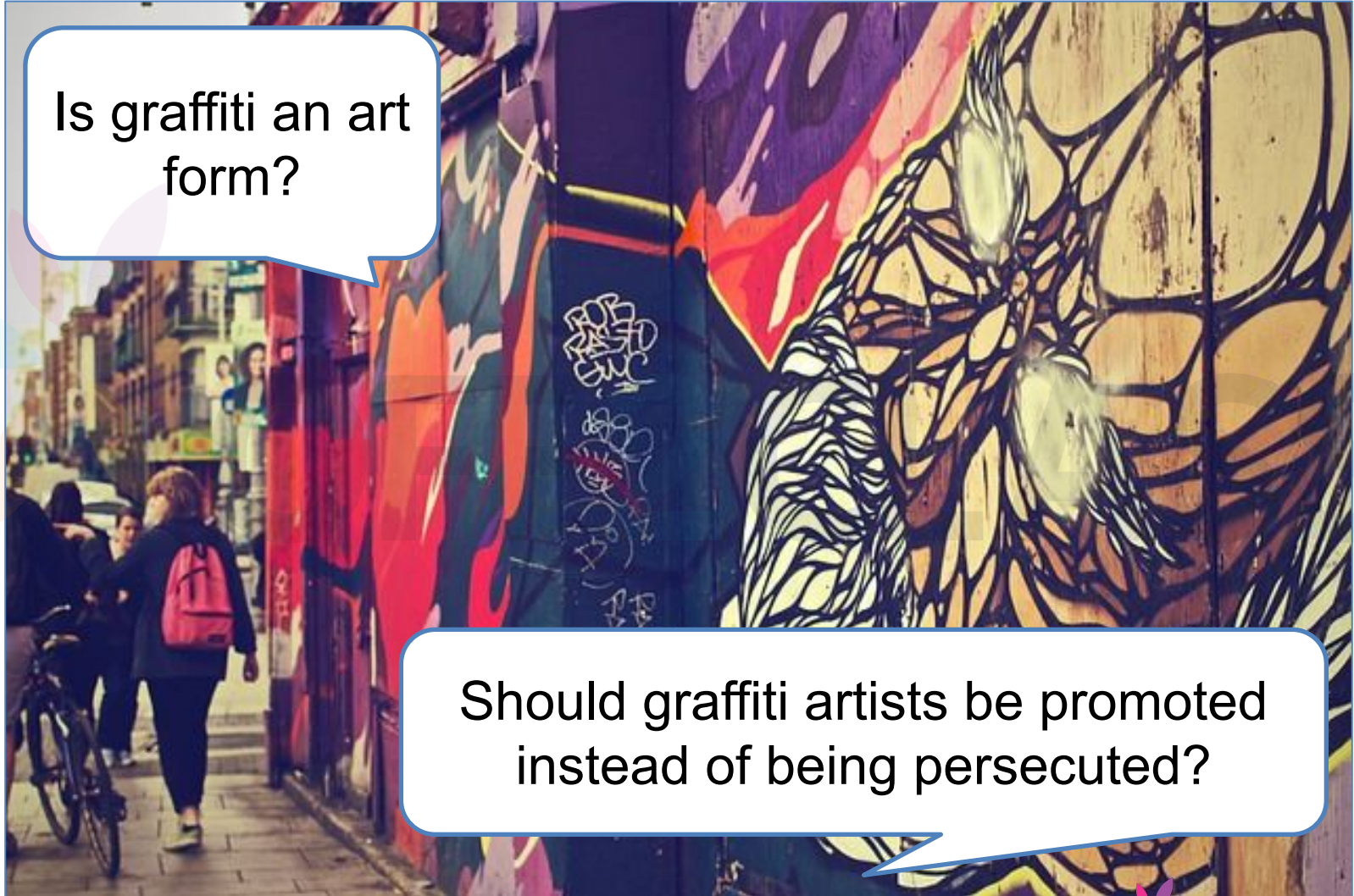




Graffiti

Is graffiti an art form?

Should graffiti artists be promoted instead of being persecuted?



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Infrastructure

How important is it for a city to have good infrastructure?



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Pollution

What are the biggest contributing factors to urban pollution?

Is pollution one of the major issues in urban areas?



Discuss this quote

‘Ultimately we need to recognize that while humans continue to build urban landscapes, we share these spaces with others species.’

David Suzuki



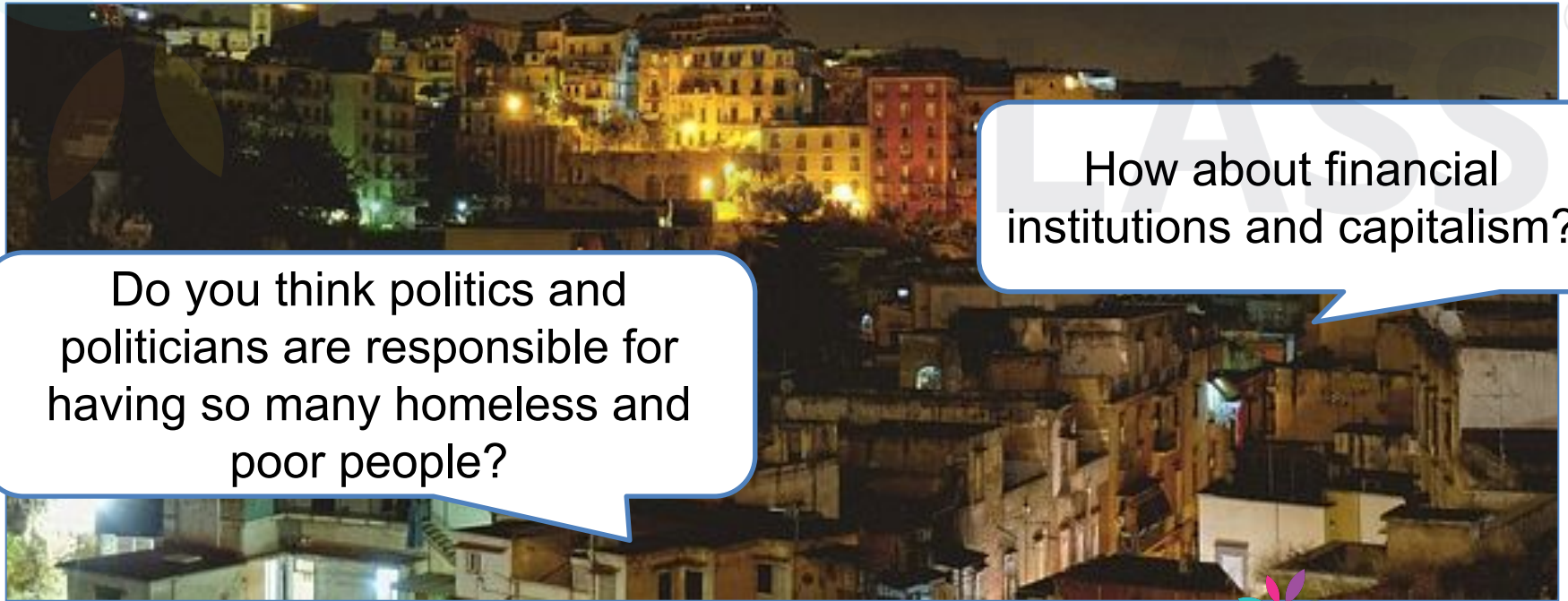
What impacts does urban lifestyle have on the other species, such as birds, animals, fish, plants, etc.?



Discuss this quote

'I saw America's economy last night, people raiding dumpsters at a higher rate than normal in my home town. Digging through garbage shouldn't be a career. Thanks Democrats. Thanks Republicans.'

Carroll Bryant



Do you think politics and politicians are responsible for having so many homeless and poor people?

How about financial institutions and capitalism?





More to talk about!

Are gangs and gang related violence a big issue in your country?

What can be done to keep the youth away from the gangs and the streets?

Are drug dependency and other addictions related only to the poor and the urban areas?



More to talk about!

What are some possible solutions for the overpopulation problem in urban areas?

What are the biggest challenges that health systems have to face in large cities?