

Listening: The Best City in America

Vocabulary:

1. I want to live in a city that's **affordable**, so I can rent an apartment, buy groceries, and still save money each month.

- a. very expensive
- b. not too expensive
- c. costs nothing at all

2. The town used to be small, but now there's **sprawl**--shopping malls and housing developments are spreading in all directions.

- a. a crowded downtown area
- b. a messy expansion over a wide area
- c. a quiet farming community



3. It was so hot and noisy in the city that we decided to take a trip to the mountains to **escape** the crowds and relax.

- a. avoid or get away from something unpleasant
- b. pay a lot for something fun
- c. wait for something to happen

4. The hotel offers **recreational** activities like tennis, swimming, and yoga classes.

- a. school-related programs
- b. jobs that pay well
- c. fun things to do

5. Air **pollution** is a serious problem in large cities because of all the traffic and industrial smoke.

- a. clean air and water
- b. harmful things that make air or water dirty
- c. people moving from place to place

6. Owning your own business can be a **double-edged sword**; you get freedom, but also a lot of stress and responsibility.

- a. something that has both good and bad results
- b. something sharp and dangerous
- c. something that protects you

7. During the long train ride, I stared out the window and started to **drift off**, thinking about my weekend plans.

- a. lose focus or become distracted
- b. leave the train
- c. write everything down

8. Our school needs to **expand** because there aren't enough classrooms for all the new students.

- a. stay the same
- b. grow larger or spread out
- c. get smaller

Listening:

The audio can be found at: [ESLFrog.com/best-city/](https://www.eslfrog.com/best-city/)

1. What is one reason Charlottesville was chosen as the best place to live?
 - a) It is exactly like New York City and Seattle
 - b) It has the cheapest houses in the US
 - c) It has a beautiful natural environment
 - d) The weather is the same all year long
2. What does college student Kenny Flint say about nature in Charlottesville?
 - a) It is hard to find
 - b) It is more real than in New York
 - c) It looks just like Central Park
 - d) It is too far from where he lives
3. What sometimes distracts Kenny during class?
 - a) Noise from the streets
 - b) Text messages
 - c) Nature outside the window
 - d) People talking
4. What happened in Ann Arbor after it was named best city?
 - a) Many people left because it was too quiet
 - b) The city closed its parks
 - c) It became more polluted and crowded
 - d) The weather became too cold to live there
5. What happened to house prices in Ann Arbor?
 - a) They stayed the same
 - b) They became lower
 - c) They went up
 - d) They were free for students
6. What is Fiona Maxwell's job?
 - a) A news reporter
 - b) A college professor
 - c) A student
 - d) A city planner
7. What does Fiona think about Charlottesville's ability to handle more people?
 - a) It's impossible
 - b) There is no space
 - c) It can expand carefully
 - d) Everyone must move out
8. What concern does Fiona mention about Charlottesville growing?
 - a) Not enough public schools
 - b) Prices may get too high for some people
 - c) The weather may change
 - d) It will become too quiet
9. Why does he call this news report a "double-edged sword"?
 - a) It's an affordable city, but now people might leave because it's too quiet
 - b) It's a great city to live in, but news reports like this could cause more people to come
 - c) The weather is warm in the summer, but cold in the winter
 - d) The city has a history of violence involving swords
10. What is the main topic of the news report?
 - a) Charlottesville being named the best place to live
 - b) New York City is too crowded and polluted
 - c) A comparison between Charlottesville and Atlanta
 - d) The history of Charlottesville