

Photo number 1



Photo number 2



Downtown

- 1 Look at photo 1 on the next page and say where the things are. Complete the text with words from the box.

in the middle • on the left (2x) • in the foreground • in the background • on the right

This photo shows a street in a small town in America. There is a small shop _____ with big windows, and _____, there is a store named "Adams". The street is _____ of the photo and the sidewalk is _____. On the street, _____, there are two people riding bikes. On the street, _____, there are more people walking.

b) Now look at photo 2. Write where the things are on a separate piece of paper.

- 2 Compare the photos in exercise 1. What's the same? What's different? Write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

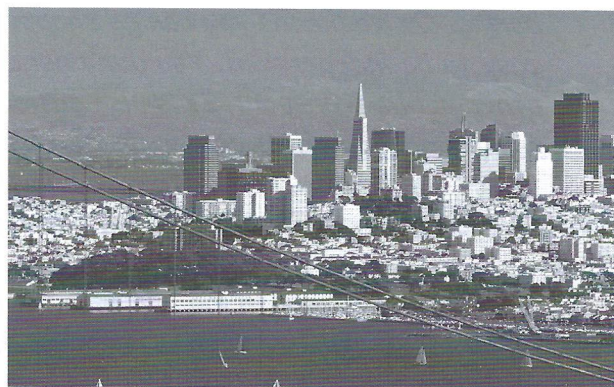
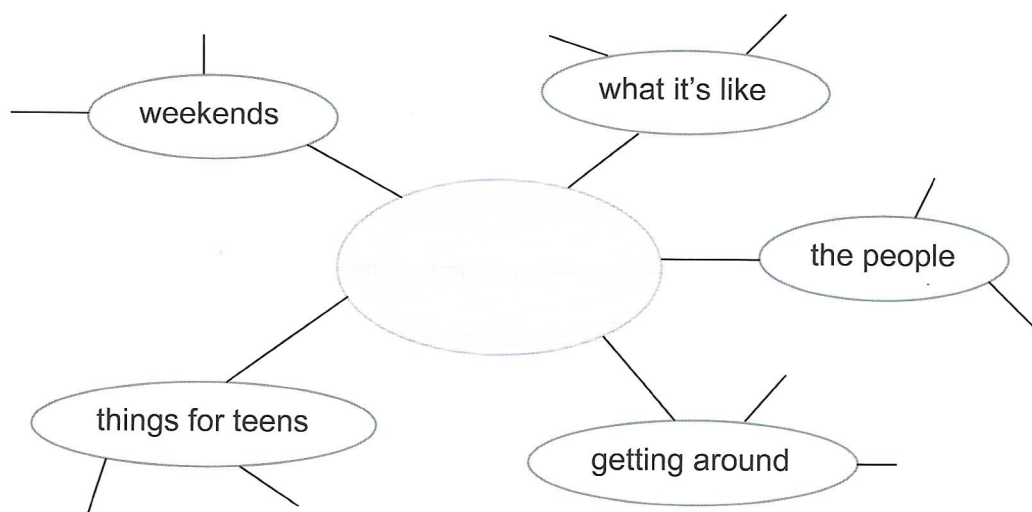
In the first photo, there aren't any ..., but in the second photo, there are lots of them. / In both photos I can see ... / Only photo 2 has ... / Both photos show ...

- 3 Write about the photos on a separate piece of paper. Think about the places in the photos. What are the advantages or the disadvantages of each place? At the end, write where you would rather live, and why.

 Advantages/disadvantages of living in a small town  	 Advantages/disadvantages of living in a big city  
 quiet, no traffic, not many people	 loud, lots of people and traffic
 have to drive everywhere (costs money, gas, time)	 public transportation (independence)
 less crime, safe neighbourhoods	 more crime, less safe
 boring: not a lot to do, no concerts or cool stores	 more to do: shopping, places to go, bands come and play concerts
 people know everything about you	 more exciting, more to do

Big city or small town?

- 1 Look at the pictures and think about big cities and small towns. Where do you want to live? Write "big city" or "small town" in the middle of the mind map. Fill it with ideas from the box or add your own.



- 2 Now use your ideas from the mind map and write a text about where you want to live. Write your text in the simple present. Write one paragraph about the advantages and one paragraph about the disadvantages of your choice. At the end, sum up your opinion. Start your text like this:

In this text I want to explain why I think life in a ... is better ...

Make your text interesting by using **adjectives** and **linking words**.

Adjectives describe things or people: Big cities are exciting.

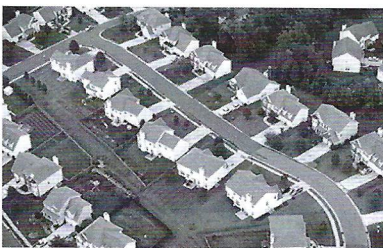
Linking words: but, because, and, so ...

Hi class!

Remember me? It's Kathrin, but now everybody calls me Kate. As you know, last year my parents and I moved to the US. My dad works for a German car company and they asked him to run a plant here in North Carolina. My parents were very excited about moving here, but I wasn't. I was really sad because I didn't want to leave my friends. And I didn't want to move to a big city.



Neighborhood



Now we live in Charlotte. It's not as big as New York City or Washington D.C., but it's a lot bigger than our small town in Germany. We live in a nice neighborhood with big houses and big yards. In Germany everything was smaller. We have very friendly neighbors. I've made some friends here, but I don't feel as close to them as I do to my German friends. I've known them since kindergarten. Plus, here parents work so much that they can't drive their kids to a friend's house in the afternoon, so I only see my friends at school or on the weekend. The houses in our area all look really similar. They're only painted in different colors. Last week my dad drove up to the wrong house and thought he was at home!

School

School is really different here. I take the bus to school and it takes about 45 minutes to get there. I have to get up early because the bus leaves here around 7 in the morning. When I get to school, I have about 30 minutes to relax. Then school starts. Rules here are really strict. You can't be late for class or forget your homework. If you do, you have to stay after school for an hour. That's called detention.



The class eats lunch together in the cafeteria. The food isn't great but it's ok. After lunch we have two or three more hours before we get back on the bus and go home. Then I have to do my homework, study for tests or prepare for school projects. School is really stressful.

Big-city life

1 Kate wrote a letter to her English class, telling them about her new life in the US.

 Read the headings and look at the pictures. Then find a partner and answer these questions:

- What does she compare in her letter?
- How would you feel if you had to move to another country?

2 Read the letter. Complete the following sentences about Kate's life on a separate piece of paper.

Kate's dad works for a ...

Kate likes playing volleyball ... At theme parks Kate ...





The houses in their area ...


Kate's dad loves to eat ...

If you forget your homework ...

There are no sidewalks, so Kate's mom ...

3 a) Look at the table and fill in information about Kate's life in the US.
b) Fill in the table with information about your life.

	Kate's life in the US:	My life in Germany:
Neighborhood 		
School 		
Sports 		
Weekends 		
Transportation 		

 c) Now talk with a partner and compare your life and Kate's life. What's similar? What's different?