

## Discussion Vocabulary

<sup>1</sup> **the suburbs** = an area with many homes, between the city and the countryside

<sup>2</sup> **neighborhood** = the area where you live

<sup>3</sup> **condominium** = an apartment that you buy, not rent

<sup>4</sup> **mansion** = a very expensive, gorgeous and large house

<sup>5</sup> **ideal** = perfect, exactly right

<sup>6</sup> **downsides** = bad points, negative points

<sup>7</sup> **neighbors** = the people who live near you



**Discussion Questions** *Think about what you'll say in English. Write some notes for your ideas.*

## Notes

1. Do you live in the city, **the suburbs**<sup>1</sup> or the countryside?  
Can you tell me about your **neighborhood**<sup>2</sup>?
2. Where would you like to live just after you graduate from university?  
Would you like to rent your own apartment or live with your parents?  
Why?
3. When you were a small child, what did you do for fun?  
Did you often play in parks?
4. If you were to buy a home, would you choose a house or a **condominium**<sup>3</sup>? Any reasons why?
5. If you were really rich, would you like to live in a **mansion**<sup>4</sup> someday?  
Can you describe your **ideal**<sup>5</sup> home?
6. Do you think it's inconvenient to live in the countryside?  
Why do you think so?
7. What are some of the **downsides**<sup>6</sup> to living in a big city?
8. Is it important to know your **neighbors**<sup>7</sup> well?  
Do you talk to your neighbors often?
9. Have you ever been to a farm? Do you think living on a farm is easier or more difficult than other lifestyles?
10. Do you think it's healthier to live in the city or the countryside?  
Why do you think so?

## What's Wrong? *Correct these sentences.*

- X** My room is too narrow. I really need more space.  
 *My room is too*
- X** I have ever been to Hokkaido. It was beautiful.  
 *I have*
- X** I live on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of a mansion. It has a great view of the city.  
 *I live on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of a*



## Discussion Question Responses

- Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words. Check your answers with a classmate.
- Practice reading the discussion questions and the example responses below with a classmate.
- Use the discussion questions as conversation starters. Take brief notes of your partner's answers. Try to give long answers, make comments, have reactions, and ask follow-up questions.

|     |         |         |         |          |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| big | cleaner | outside | subways | video    |
| car | garage  | own     | talk    | wouldn't |

Partner's Name  
 (                      )  
 Notes

- I live in the suburbs, just (                      ) of the city. It's quiet and a little boring.
- I will definitely get my (                      ) apartment.
- I didn't play in the park much. I guess I played a lot of (                      ) games inside.
- I'd like to buy a **two-story house**<sup>8</sup> with a (                      ) **yard**<sup>9</sup>.
- Yes, I would. My mansion would have a big swimming pool and a big (                      ) for my **Ferrari, Lamborghini and Maserati**<sup>10</sup>.
- Yeah, pretty inconvenient. You would need to have a (                      ) to go anywhere.
- It can be very **crowded**<sup>11</sup>, especially on the trains and (                      ).
- I don't think so. I don't really (                      ) to my neighbors so much.
- I think that living on a farm is probably harder. I (                      ) want to do it.
- The air must be (                      ) in the countryside, so I guess it is healthier.

<sup>8</sup> **two-story house** = a house with a 1<sup>st</sup> floor and a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

<sup>9</sup> **yard** = a space around a home with a lot of grass

<sup>10</sup> **Ferrari, Lamborghini and Maserati** = famous luxury cars

<sup>11</sup> **crowded** = filled with many people



*A couple is trying to decide where to buy a home. The husband wants to **remain**<sup>12</sup> in the city, while the wife would like to move to the countryside.*

**Susan:** I'm looking at houses online right now, **sweetie**<sup>13</sup>. They're so nice and **spacious**<sup>14</sup> compared to our **tiny\* apartment\***!

**Mike:** I'm sure they're bigger, but do you really want to live next to cows and chickens? With a **moo**<sup>15</sup>, moo, here and a moo, moo there! (ha ha)

**S:** (ha ha) Very funny, **Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O**<sup>16</sup>! I didn't say I wanted to live on a *farm*, **necessarily**<sup>17</sup>, but just outside of the city. We're going to have children someday, right? We'll need the room.

**M:** Why don't you just check out bigger apartments in the city? I'm sure we could find something here that we like and has more space.

**S:** Upgrading to a bigger apartment in the city would be very expensive. I know buying a house is a lot of money too, but we would be getting so much more space.

**M:** We could have a lot of space in an apartment, too.

**S:** But if we lived in a house in the countryside... imagine the view. We could look out our window and see trees and flowers and maybe even some cute little animals. We don't even have a yard here.

**M:** We could find an apartment near a park. And living out **in the sticks**<sup>18</sup>, we would be too far from any neighbors.

**S:** Well, living here we're right *next to* our neighbors! I can hear their television at night. It's so **annoying**<sup>19</sup>.

**M:** Well, if we move to the countryside, we'll have to drive to the city. **The commute**<sup>20</sup> would be really long. We're so used to taking the subway or being within walking distance of everything.

**S:** OK then, how about the suburbs?

### Pronunciation Practice

**tiny\***      **apartment\***

## Main Text Vocabulary

<sup>12</sup> **remain** = stay, not move

<sup>13</sup> **sweetie** = a term used for someone your love

<sup>14</sup> **spacious** = wide, a lot of space

<sup>15</sup> **moo** = the sound a cow makes

<sup>16</sup> **Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O** = a line from a famous children's song, "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

<sup>17</sup> **necessarily** = for certain, without any other choices

<sup>18</sup> **in the sticks** = a casual way to say, "in the countryside"

<sup>19</sup> **annoying** = slightly irritating, something that you don't like very much

<sup>20</sup> **the commute** = how you travel to work or school

## Main Text Questions

### 1. Who prefers to live in the city?

- a. Mike
- b. Susan
- c. the couple
- d. the cows and chickens



### 2. Why will the couple need more space in the future?

- a. Because they plan on upgrading.
- b. Because they will need space for the farm animals.
- c. Because they have children already.
- d. Because they plan on having kids someday.

### 3. According to Susan, what is something that they don't have where they are living now?

- a. a park
- b. a yard
- c. neighbors
- d. sticks

### 4. According to Mike, what would be troublesome if they moved to the countryside?

- a. getting a driver's license
- b. getting to work would take a long time
- c. taking the subway
- d. singing Old MacDonald

## Further Discussion

### Group Members:

Work with a group. Talk about the following questions. Take notes for yourself and the other members.

#1 Where do you think Susan and Mike should live? Why do you think so?

Notes:

#2 Living in a big city can be stressful. What are some causes of stress and how can we deal with them?

Notes:

#3 If you were to have a family someday, what would be the ideal **environment**<sup>21</sup> to live in?

Notes:

<sup>21</sup> **environment** = situation, place

## Writing

Choose one of the questions below. Write 50 to 100 words. Write on pages 126 to 131.

1. What are the best things about living in a big city?
2. Do you think it would be boring to live in the countryside?
3. Would you rather live in the city, the suburbs, or the countryside? Explain why.