

# Unit 3: The city and the countryside

Grade 8

## Objectives

In this unit you will:

- learn about African countries.
- tell the location of these countries.
- compare life in the city with life in the countryside.
- learn the vocabulary related to the city and the countryside.

## A Listening and speaking

### LESSON ONE

#### Activity 1

Study the map of Africa below with a partner.



**Exercise 1:** Answer these questions about the map.

1. Name five countries in West Africa.
2. Which countries share borders with Ethiopia?
3. List the oceans surrounding Africa.
4. Name one island state on the map.

## Listening practice

**Exercise 2:** Your teacher will read a short passage about life in the city and life in the countryside. Listen carefully as the passage is being read. After the second reading, discuss with a partner to find answers to the following questions.

1. What is the name of your nearest town?
2. Which things attract people to the city?
3. Why do some people prefer to live in the city?
4. Where is traffic jam and human congestion usually found?
5. Point out some of the good things found in the countryside.
6. Mention the disadvantages of living in the city.

### Activity 2

Work in pairs. Take turns to describe where you live to your partner.

## LESSON TWO

### Dialogue

#### Activity 1

Work with a partner and read the dialogue below. Take turns to rehearse and act it.

Town Boy : There are many **wonderful** things in **the city**.

Village Boy : I haven't had **a chance** to visit the city.

Town Boy : Oh! I have lived there before. I can tell you a lot about the life there.

Village Boy : I am **anxious** to know.

Town Boy : There are tall buildings, nice cars, **many** people, schools, hospitals, tarmac roads, shops and hotels.

Village Boy : Wow! How do people get food?

Town Boy : They buy it from markets, restaurants, supermarkets and hotels.

**Exercise 1:** Answer these questions. Work with your partner.

1. What exciting things are found in the city?
2. Where do people in the city get food from?
3. What is the difference between a restaurant and a hotel?
4. What are the disadvantages when too many people live in an area?

**Exercise 2:** In pairs, answer these questions.

1. What exciting things are found in the countryside?
2. Where do people in the countryside get their food from?
3. What is the difference between a cottage and a flat?
4. What are the advantages of living in the countryside?

**Exercise 3:** Work with a partner. Write a dialogue about life in the countryside.

### Activity 2

Write your own dialogue. Think of the place where you live and the things that are found there. Compare your dialogue with that of another partner.

## LESSON THREE

### Grammar practice

#### Comparatives

When we compare **two things** we add **-er** to some **adjectives**. Example: small - smaller. When the adjective is short, we sometimes double the last letter before adding **-er**. Example: big - bigger. When the adjective ends in **y**, we have to turn the **y** to **i** before adding **-er**. Example: tiny - tinier.

Read the following sentences and tell your partner what they mean.

1. Entebbe Airport is smaller than Bole International Airport.
2. Ismail's shoes are bigger than Adil's.
3. My old pencil is tinier than my new one.

**Exercise 1:** Complete the table of adjectives below.

Positive degree	Comparative degree
Example: pretty	prettier
new	_____
tall	_____
heavy	_____
dark	_____
tasty	_____
silly	_____

When comparing longer adjectives, we write **more** in front of the word.  
Example: **difficult - more difficult.**

**Exercise 2:** Complete the table of long adjectives below.

Positive degree	Comparative degree
Example: difficult	more difficult
important	_____
beautiful	_____
peaceful	_____

### Activity

Think of more adjectives and add them to the lists in the tables in Exercises 1 and 2.

### Irregular adjectives

Some adjectives change to completely different forms. They are known as irregular adjectives.

Positive degree	Comparative degree
bad	worse
good	better
little	less
much	more
well	better
ill	worse

**Exercise 3:** Complete each sentence using the correct form of the adjective given in the brackets.

1. Anna's *gabi* is \_\_\_\_\_ than Haimi's. (pretty)
2. This is an \_\_\_\_\_ task. It will be completed \_\_\_\_\_ than expected. (easy) (early)
3. The test we did today was \_\_\_\_\_ than the previous ones. (much) (difficult)
4. Is it much \_\_\_\_\_ in the Sahara than it is in the Kalahari? (hot)
5. A hippopotamus is \_\_\_\_\_ than a rhinoceros. (fat)
6. Lagos is \_\_\_\_\_ densely populated than Nairobi. (much)
7. When I left the hospital I was feeling \_\_\_\_\_ than before. (ill)

## LESSON FOUR

### Comparatives

#### Activity 1

Work with a partner. Compare the city and the countryside. Your teacher will help you identify the appropriate adjectives.

#### Beautiful

Pupil : The city is more beautiful than the countryside.

Teacher : Noisy.

Pupil : The city is noisier than the countryside.

Teacher : Dirty.

Pupil : The city is dirtier than the countryside.

**Exercise 1:** Work with a partner and form similar sentences. Choose the best adjectives.

- |                 |             |                  |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1. safe         | 5. polluted | 8. peaceful      |
| 2. lively       | 6. quiet    | 9. narrow roads  |
| 3. crowded      | 7. noisy    | 10. much traffic |
| 4. many thieves |             |                  |

**Exercise 2:** Rewrite the sentences below by forming the right comparatives from the adjectives in the brackets.

**Example :** City stadiums are (beautiful) than the football pitches in the countryside.  
City stadiums are more beautiful than the football pitches in the countryside.

- Addis Ababa is (big) than Kampala.
- Lagos is (populated) than Dar-es-Salaam.
- Goods in the city are (expensive) than in the village.
- The city has (many) vehicles than towns.
- City schools have (good) facilities than those in the countryside.
- Adama roads are (wide) than Gondar's. This means that Gondar roads are (narrow) than Adama roads.
- Axum is (quiet) than Jimma.

### Activity 2

**Learn the poem.**

*Good, better, best*

*Never, never rest*

*Until your good is better*

*And your better is best!*

### Grammar highlight

We use the comparative adjectives when comparing two nouns.

**Example:** *Bole International Airport is bigger than Entebbe International Airport in Uganda.*

**LESSON FIVE****Using: ... as ... as ...**

**Read these sentences and with your partner share their meaning.**

1. Tomas is as tall as his brother.
2. Her dress is as beautiful as her aunt's.

We use **...as...as....** with adjectives when we are describing nouns. Read these statements.

1. Tamirate is not as tough as his teacher.
2. Jimma is not as congested as Addis Ababa.

The first pair of statements is in the positive while the second pair is in the negative.

**Activity**

Form 10 sentences of your own using **... as ... as ... / ... not as ... as**.

The food in the city is expensive. The food in Jinka is not so expensive.

**The food in Jinka is not as expensive as the food in Addis Ababa.**

**Exercise:** Join the following sentences using **... as ... as / ... not as ... as ...** Do the work in your exercise book.

1. A night in the countryside is very quiet. A night in the city is not very quiet.
2. My coffee is hot. Yours is not hot.
3. Ethiopians are usually tall. Somalis are equally tall.
4. This year has been bad for me. Last year was also bad.
5. He has a large farm. She has an equally large farm.
6. Mr. Yohannes is a proud man. Mrs. Yohannes is also very proud.
7. This exercise is easy. It is like ABC.

**LESSON SIX****Using: so ... as ...****Activity 1**

In small groups, discuss these places based on the words in brackets and write about the places.

**Example:** The country side and the city (buildings).

The countryside does not have so many buildings as the city.

1. Bahar Dar and Gondar (hot).
2. Gambela and Dembidolo (quiet).
3. Axum and Adwa (big).
4. Bako and Maji (lively).
5. Chenchu and Jinka (cold).

**Exercise:** Complete these sentences using ... **so ... as** ... together with the adjectives from the box below.

long difficult quite large exciting

1. I didn't know that life in the countryside was not \_\_\_\_\_ in the city.
2. The hotel is not \_\_\_\_\_ the theatre.
3. The road is not \_\_\_\_\_ the railway.
4. The exam was not \_\_\_\_\_ we expected.
5. The film was not \_\_\_\_\_ I had heard about it.

**Activity 2**

In groups of four, identify things that are found in your own city/village or town. In your exercise book, draw a table and note these differences. Compare them using the expression ... **so ... as** ....



**LESSON SEVEN****Using: ... used to ...****Activity 1**

Read the sentences. Discuss their meaning with a partner.

1. Addis Ababa is more populated now. It used to have less people thirty years ago.
2. The country has more cars and buses now. There used to be very few of them in the past.

**Exercise :** Write about what people in your community used to do in the past and what they do now. What changes have taken place? Write at least 5 sentences.

**Activity 2**

When I was little ...

Ask your parents or guardians to tell/remind you about the things you used to do when you were little. Make a list of these things and form sentences.

**Example:** *When I was little, I used to cry a lot.*

**Grammar highlight****... used to ...**

**Used to** expresses things that were done frequently in the past, but are no longer done now. It expresses a past habit.

**Example:** *He used to play football.*

**LESSON EIGHT****Language of agreeing and disagreeing****Using: You are quite right. / I am afraid I disagree.****Activity 1**

Read and act the dialogue. Work with a partner.

A : I read in the newspapers the other day that the city's population is bigger than that of the countryside.

B : You are quite right. What might be the cause?

A : Maybe because the people in the countryside come to the city to look for jobs.

B : I am afraid I disagree with you.

**Exercise 1:** Assume you are Getachew. Use the expressions: **You are right** or **I am afraid I disagree** in the dialogue below to answer Turjum.

Turjum : The capital city of Ethiopia is Addis Ababa.

Getachew : .....

Turjum : Dire Dawa City administration has much more taller buildings than Addis Ababa though it is not the capital city.

Getachew : .....

Turjum : By next year, Jimma will have more industries than Addis Ababa.

Getachew : .....

Turjum : The storeyed buildings in the city are stronger than the ones in rural areas.

Getachew : .....

Turjum : If a strong wind came, it would not blow away the houses in rural areas.

Getachew : .....

**Exercise 2:** Read these sentences. Say whether you agree or disagree. Give your reasons.

1. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.
2. Alcohol should be legal.
3. High school students should not wear uniforms.
4. Summer is the best season of the year.

**Activity 2**

Think of other situations you consider important in your community. Describe them to a partner who will either agree or disagree with you.

**B Reading****LESSON NINE****Comprehension****Activity 1**

Group discussion.

1. Have you ever been to both the countryside and the city?
2. What are the differences between the two places?
3. Which one do you prefer and why?

**Read the two passages.****My city home**

I was born and brought up in the **capital** city. The roads are good and are connected to almost every part of the country. There is a large population and there are many vehicles. The hospitals and schools are easily accessible. The **sky scrapers** are an **amazing** sight from a distance.

The city is where most of the country's administrative offices are found. However, some things worry me about my city. There is air **pollution** caused by the carbon monoxide from the cars and the smoke from factories. The big number of people **migrating** from rural areas is another concern. When such people cannot find jobs in the city, they sometimes turn into criminals.

### My country home

I live in a small village with about a hundred other residents. Because we are few **residents**, we are still able to live as one family. The government supports development programmes to construct roads and to **plant** trees.

A road connecting our village with the nearby town was recently constructed. We have planted many trees in the village. This, I think, is a good thing. We have a health centre and a primary school in our community.

In the past, our village didn't have water supply and electricity. Now there is a 24-hour electric power supply and a water tank is being constructed. The future of our village seems to be very bright. Our role is to participate in all **development** programmes.

### Exercise 1: Answer the questions based on the passages above.

1. Make a list of all the good attributes of a city.
2. Why is there a big population in the city?
3. Point out the problems faced by people who live in the city.
4. What makes the countryside a good place to live?
5. Where does life seem more challenging, in the city or the village? Why?

### Exercise 2: Complete the table below using the information from the passages and your place.

	The city	The village	My place
Roads			
Population			
Hospitals			
Schools			
The future			

**Activity 2**

In groups of three, study the table below and discuss the adjectives for each noun. Express your opinion about the adjectives.

	Adjective	The city home	The country home
buildings	beautiful	✓	
location	strategic	✓	
roads	wide		✓
markets	modernised	✓	
education	developed	✓	
hospitals	well facilitated	✓	
climate	favourable		✓
economic activities	diversified	✓	

**Exercise 3:** Write sentences that compare the city and the village as in the given example.

**Example:** The buildings in the city are more beautiful than those in the village.

## Writing

### LESSON TEN

#### Composition

**Activity**

Work with a partner. Use a wide range of adjectives to talk about the differences and similarities of your city, town or village.

**Exercise:** Write a composition of about 100 words comparing your home village or town with a nearby village or town.

Paragraph 1: How big is it? What does it have?

Paragraph 2: What are the good things?

Paragraph 3: What changes would you like to see in your town or village?

**LESSON ELEVEN****Poem and debate**

**Exercise 1:** Read and answer the questions about the poem.

**Home sweet home**

*Whether it be a little hut  
All walls smeared with mud and clay  
Thatched with grass and straw and poles  
With hard beaten earthen floor  
Still it be my home sweet home.*

*Whether it be a bungalow  
All built up with red burnt bricks  
Roofed with beams and iron sheets  
With levelled floor all covered in tiles  
Still it be my home sweet home.*

*(Dempsey Mutaryebwa)*

1. How many kinds of houses are described in the poem?
2. Which house is made with mud and clay?
3. How different is the roofing of each house?
4. Point out one similarity of both houses.
5. What is a home?

**Activity 1**

Discuss with your partner the things that interest you most about your home. Share with him or her the different activities that take place in a rural and an urban home.

**Exercise 2:** Write the things you like and dislike about village life.

**Exercise 3:** Write two stanzas for the poem describing (a) a flat and (b) a hut.

**Activity 2**

Debate on the motion: **Town life is better than village life.** What would be your points in favour of the motion? What would be your argument against the motion?