

- cardboard city (= full of people living in cardboard boxes because they have nowhere else to live)
- see the freedom of the city at ↑[freedom](#)

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French [cite](#), from Latin [civitas](#), from [civis](#) 'citizen'. Originally denoting a town, and often used as a Latin equivalent to Old English burh 'borough', the term was later applied to foreign and ancient cities and to the more important English boroughs. The connection between city and cathedral grew up under the Norman kings, as the episcopal sees (many had been established in villages) were removed to the chief borough of the diocese.

Culture:

the City

The business and financial centre of London is called **the City** or **the City of London**. It covers an area in east central London north of the River Thames, between Blackfriars Bridge and ↑[Tower Bridge](#). It is only about one square mile/2.5 square kilometres in size and is often referred to as **the Square Mile**.

Many financial institutions have their head offices in the City, including the ↑[Bank of England](#) in Threadneedle Street, the ↑[London Stock Exchange](#) in Old Broad Street and ↑[Lloyd's of London](#) in Lime Street. Many banks, insurance companies and **stockbrokers** (= companies that buy and sell shares for others) have been in the City many years. When journalists talk about 'the City' they are usually not referring to the place but to the people involved in business and **commerce**, as in: **The City had been expecting poor results from the company.** (

Compare ↑[Wall Street](#)

In the City old and new buildings stand next to each other. The most famous older buildings include ↑[St Paul's Cathedral](#), the ↑[Guildhall](#) and the ↑[Mansion House](#), where the ↑[Lord Mayor](#) of London lives. Tower 42, which is 600 feet/183 metres high, and the ↑[Swiss Re Tower](#), nicknamed 'the Gherkin', are two of the City's more recent **landmarks**. The ↑[Barbican Centre](#) includes an art **gallery**, a theatre and a concert hall, as well as flats/apartments.

Few people live in the City and at night the population is about 7 000. During the day it rises to about half a million, as business people **commute** to the City by car, bus and train. In the past the traditional image of the **City gent** was of a **businessman** in a dark suit and **bowler hat**, carrying a **briefcase** and a newspaper or an umbrella. The expression **She's something in the City** means 'She has an important job with a bank or firm of **stockbrokers**', and suggests wealth and high social status.

Thesaurus:

city noun C

- It is one of the world's most beautiful cities.

town • • **metropolis** • • **borough** • |**formal municipality** • • **conurbation** •

in a city/town/metropolis/borough/municipality/conurbation

a **major** city/town/metropolis/conurbation

a city/town/borough **council**

City or town? A **city** is usually bigger and more important than a **town**.

Collocations:

Town and country

Town

live in a city/a town/an urban environment|(informal) a concrete jungle/the suburbs/shanty towns/slums

live (*especially NAmE*) downtown/in the downtown area/(BrE) in the city centre

enjoy/like the hectic pace of life/the hustle and bustle of city life

cope with the stress/pressure of urban life

get caught up in the rat race

prefer/seek the anonymity of life in a big city

be drawn by/resist the lure of the big city

head for the bright lights (of the big city/New York)

enjoy/love the vibrant/lively nightlife

have/be close to all the amenities

be surrounded by towering skyscrapers/a soulless urban sprawl

use/travel by/rely on (BrE) public transport/(NAmE) public transportation

put up with/get stuck in/sit in massive/huge/heavy/constant traffic jams

tackle/ease/reduce/relieve/alleviate the heavy/severe traffic congestion

be affected/choked/damaged by pollution

Country

live in a village/the countryside/an isolated area/a rural backwater/(informal) the sticks

enjoy/like the relaxed/slower pace of life

enjoy/love/explore the great outdoors

look for/find/get/enjoy a little peace and quiet

need/want to get back/closer to nature

be surrounded by open/unspoilt/picturesque countryside

escape/quit/get out of/leave the rat race

seek/achieve a better/healthy work-life balance

downshift to a less stressful life

seek/start a new life in the country

(BrE, informal) **up sticks** (NAmE, informal) **pull up stakes** and move to/head for...

create/build/foster a strong sense of community
depend on/be employed in/work in agriculture
live off/farm/work the land
tackle/address the problem of rural unemployment

Example Bank:

- Bonn is Oxford's twin city.
- Her native city is Tokyo.
- Parking is difficult in the city centre.
- Rome is one of the great cities of the world.
- The building runs the length of a city block.
- The city grew rapidly in the 19th century.
- There's a park just outside the city.
- We live in a big city.
- the host city for the Olympic Games
- the lost city of Atlantis
- the old walled city of Cartagena
- the sister cities of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hiroshima, Japan
- Ely is a cathedral city in East Cambridgeshire.
- It is one of the world's most beautiful cities.
- Mexico City has a population of more than 20 million people.
- The city of Boston is one of America's most historic cities.

city

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

city **S1 W1** /'sɪti/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ **noun** (plural **cities**) [countable]

[Date: 1100-1200; Language: Old French; Origin: cité, from Latin civitas 'citizenship, state, city of Rome', from civis; ⇒ ↑civic]

1. a large important town:

ˈ The nearest big city was St. Louis. ⇒ ↑inner city

2.

a) **British English** a large town that has been given an official title by a king or queen:

ˈ the city of Oxford

b) **American English** a town of any size that has definite borders and powers that were officially given by the state government:

ˈ The city of Cleveland celebrated its 200th birthday with fireworks and an outdoor concert.

3. [usually singular] the people who live in a city:

ˈ The city has been living in fear since last week's earthquake.

4. **the city** **American English** the government of a city:

ˈ The city is working to improve public transportation. ⇒ ↑City, the

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COLLOCATIONS

■ adjectives

- a **big/large/major city** They have stores in Houston, Dallas, and other big cities.
- a **great city** (=very important and interesting) Cairo is one of the world's great cities.
- a **capital city** (=where the government of a country or state is) Cuba's capital city is Havana.
- **somebody's home/native city** (=where they were born or grew up) He said that he never wanted to leave his home city.
- a **cosmopolitan city** (=full of people from different parts of the world) San Francisco is a very cosmopolitan city.
- a **industrial city** Sheffield is an industrial city in the north of England.
- a **provincial city** (=in a part of the country that is not near the capital) There have been protests in the capital and in provincial cities.
- a **ancient city** the ancient city of Jerusalem
- a **historic city** (=very old and with an interesting history) Budapest is a beautiful and historic city.
- a **cathedral city** (=with a cathedral) He went to university in the cathedral city of Durham.
- a **university city** (=with a university) Uppsala is a university city.
- a **walled city** (=surrounded by a wall) the old walled city of Alghero
- a **twin city** **British English** (=one that has a special relationship with a similar town in another country) Strasbourg is Leicester's twin city in France.

■ nouns

- **the city centre** **British English**, **the city center** **American English** The hotel is in the city centre.
- **the city limits** **American English** (=the furthest parts of the city) rural areas south of the city limits
- a **city dweller** (=someone who lives in a city) In the summer, city dwellers escape to the sea.
- **city life** the advantages of city life
- a **city street** Traffic was moving slowly along the city streets.

■ phrases

- **in the heart of a city** The cathedral is right in the heart of the city.
- **the outskirts of a city** (=the edge) There were several bombings on the outskirts of the city.

■ verbs

- **found a city** (=start developing a new city) He founded the city of Baghdad in the 8th century.

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THESAURUS

■ place with houses, shops, and offices

- **city** a large area with houses, shops, offices etc that is often the centre of government for an area. A **city** is bigger than a **town**: The nearest big city is San Francisco.
- **town** a large area with houses, shops, offices etc. A **town** is smaller than a **city**: La Coruña is a pretty seaside town.
- **capital** (also **capital city**) the city where the government of a country or state is: We travelled to Budapest, the capital of Hungary.
- **metropolis** a big busy city that is full of people and activity: After 1850 Paris grew quickly into a busy metropolis.
- **urban** *adjective* [only before noun] relating to towns and cities: Air pollution is particularly bad in urban areas. | urban development
- **outside part of city**
 - **the outskirts** the area around the edge of a city or just outside it: Disneyland is on the outskirts of Paris.
 - **suburb** an area around the edges of a city, where many people live: He lives in a suburb of London. | **the suburbs**: More and more people are moving to the suburbs.

city

Freakuency Pack

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RANGE: **1k CITY** 154496

city 127545

cities 26951

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

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