



SMART JUNIORS 2

The Tug of Two Worlds: City or Countryside?

Lesson 26

Read for Main Idea



PREPARE TO READ

Academic Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Choose the correct definition of the highlighted words.

1. Living in a **rural** area allows one to appreciate the beauty of nature.



adj. in, of, or like the countryside

2. The teacher **emphasizes** this language point to us as it might appear in the test.



adj. including many different types of people or things

3. Different people from different countries bring **diverse** cultures to this city.



v. to show that something is very important or worth giving attention

Academic Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Choose the correct definition of the highlighted words.

4. There's flood everywhere so we have to **abandon** our car.



v. to leave a place, thing, or person, usually forever

5. We all need some **stability** in our lives.



adj. given to or relating to a single, separate person or thing

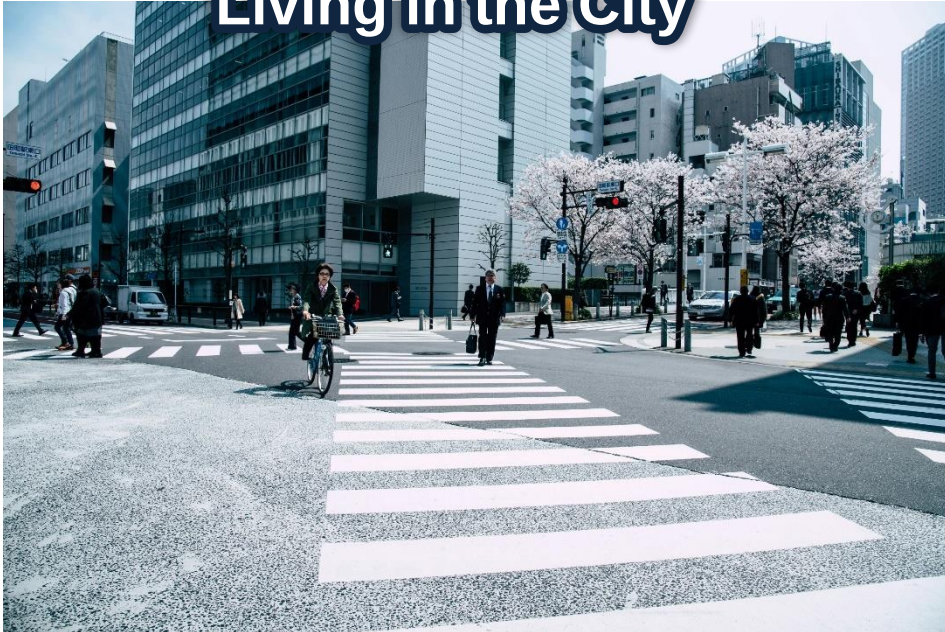
6. It's hard to find the best solution because people have their **individual** needs.



n. a situation in which something is not likely to move or change

Think Before Reading Give one benefit and downside for each. Which one do you prefer more?

Living in the City



Benefit: _____

Downside: _____

Living in the Countryside



Benefit: _____

Downside: _____

The Tug of Two Worlds: City or Countryside

The question of whether people should leave the countryside for city life has brought a contentious debate, with valid arguments on both sides.

Supporters of leaving the countryside emphasize the advantages of city life. They think urban environments offer a wider range of job opportunities and higher salaries. Additionally, cities provide top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences. However, critics of leaving the countryside highlight the benefits of rural living. Rural areas often offer cleaner air, fresh foods, and lower crime rates, which are good for overall well-being. Moreover, living in the countryside brings more opportunities for individuals to connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of landscapes and outdoor activities.

Despite the allure of city life, I firmly believe that people should not abandon the countryside. While urban environments may have more job opportunities and higher salaries, they often come with increased competition and high living expenses. In contrast, rural areas provide a slower pace of life and a lower cost of living, which can contribute to overall well-being and financial stability. On the other hand, although cities may offer top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences, smaller towns can provide a better environment for personal growth and relationship building. People in rural areas often have stronger connections to their neighbors and local organizations, enabling them to build supportive networks.

In conclusion, the decision to leave the countryside for city life depends on individual preferences and priorities. It is important to consider what truly contributes to overall well-being and happiness. Whether one chooses the bustling streets of the city or the serene landscapes of the countryside, both environments have their unique merits that should be acknowledged and respected.

Predict From the Title

Look at **the title** of the essay and answer the questions.

1. What is the essay's title?
2. Try to think of a new title without changing its meaning.

I can also write the title as:

- Listen and read the essay.

The Tug of Two Worlds: City or Countryside?

- ▶ The question of whether people should leave the countryside for city life has brought a contentious debate, with valid arguments on both sides.
 - ▶ Supporters of leaving the countryside **emphasize** the advantages of city life. They think urban environments offer a wider range of job opportunities and higher salaries. Additionally, cities provide top-tier educational institutions and **diverse** cultural experiences. However, critics of leaving the countryside highlight the benefits of **rural** living. Rural areas often offer cleaner air, fresh foods, and lower crime rates, which are good for overall well-being. Moreover, living in the countryside brings more opportunities for individuals to connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of landscapes and outdoor activities.



READ FOR MAIN IDEA

▶ Despite the allure of city life, I firmly believe that people should not **abandon** the countryside. While urban environments may have more job opportunities and higher salaries, they often come with increased competition and high living expenses. In contrast, rural areas provide a slower pace of life and a lower cost of living, which can contribute to overall well-being and financial **stability**.



On the other hand, although cities may offer top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences, smaller towns can provide a better environment for personal growth and relationship building. People in rural areas often have stronger connections to their neighbors and local organizations, enabling them to build supportive networks.



READ FOR MAIN IDEA

- ▶ In conclusion, the decision to leave the countryside for city life depends on **individual** preferences and priorities. It is important to consider what truly contributes to overall well-being and happiness. Whether one chooses the bustling streets of the city or the serene landscapes of the countryside, both environments have their unique merits that should be acknowledged and respected.



The Tug of Two Worlds: City or Countryside

The question of whether people should leave the countryside for city life has brought a contentious debate, with valid arguments on both sides.

Supporters of leaving the countryside emphasize the advantages of city life. They think urban environments offer a wider range of job opportunities and higher salaries. Additionally, cities provide top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences. However, critics of leaving the countryside highlight the benefits of rural living. Rural areas often offer cleaner air, fresh foods, and lower crime rates, which are good for overall well-being. Moreover, the countryside offers more opportunities for individuals to connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of landscapes and outdoor activities.

Despite the allure of city life, I firmly believe that people should not abandon the countryside. While urban environments may have more job opportunities and higher salaries, they often come with increased competition and high living expenses. In contrast, rural areas provide a slower pace of life and a lower cost of living, which can contribute to overall well-being and financial stability. On the other hand, although cities may offer top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences, smaller towns can provide a better environment for personal growth and relationship building. People in rural areas often have stronger connections to their neighbors and local organizations, enabling them to build supportive networks.

In conclusion, the decision to leave the countryside for city life depends on individual preferences and priorities. It is important to consider what truly contributes to overall well-being and happiness. Whether one chooses the bustling streets of the city or the serene landscapes of the countryside, both environments have their unique merits that should be acknowledged and respected.

The Main Idea

What is the essay mainly about?

- A** It discusses whether people should live in the city or the countryside.
- B** It talks about the differences between the city and the countryside.
- C** It explores the possibility of moving from the countryside to the city.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and find.

1. Which sentence contains the main idea?
2. Which sentences support the main idea?

Skimming Strategy

A **topic sentence** and **two supporting details** organize an effective paragraph.



The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 2

Supporters of leaving the countryside emphasize the advantages of city life. They think urban environments offer a wider range of job opportunities and higher salaries. Additionally, cities provide top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and underline.

1. What's the main idea of this paragraph?
2. What are the supporting details?

Skimming Strategy

Always pay attention to the **adversatives** like “**however**” which lead to an opposite point of view.



The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 2

However, critics of leaving the countryside highlight the benefits of rural living. Rural areas often offer cleaner air, fresh foods, and lower crime rates, which are good for overall well-being. Secondly, living in the countryside brings more opportunities for individuals to connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of landscapes and outdoor activities.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and answer.

1. What is the author's point of view on this problem?
2. In this part, what's the author's purpose?
 - A** To make a point of view and give supporting details
 - B** To show the author's position and respond to the counter-arguments

The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 3

Despite the allure of city life, I firmly believe that people should not abandon the countryside. While urban environments may have more job opportunities and higher salaries, they often come with increased competition and high living expenses. In contrast, rural areas provide a slower pace of life and a lower cost of living, which can contribute to overall well-being and financial stability.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and answer.

In this part, what's the author's purpose?

- A** He responds to another counter-argument and gives his point of view.
- B** He talks about life in rural areas.

Skimming Strategy

Sentences starting with **"While..."** or **"Although..."** typically introduce contrasting ideas.



The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 3

On the other hand, although cities may offer top-tier educational institutions and diverse cultural experiences, smaller towns can provide a better environment for personal growth and relationship building. People in rural areas often have stronger connections to their neighbors and local organizations, enabling them to build supportive networks.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and underline.

1. Which sentence tells the main idea of the paragraph?
2. What specific word(s) helped you identify this sentence?

Skimming Strategy

"**In conclusion**," signals the end of a paragraph where the main points are summarized without adding anything new or changing the main idea.



The Tug of Two Worlds | Paragraph 4

In conclusion, the decision to leave the countryside for city life depends on individual preferences and priorities. It is important to consider what truly contributes to overall well-being and happiness. Whether one chooses the bustling streets of the city or the serene landscapes of the countryside, both environments have their unique merits that should be acknowledged and respected.



Academic Vocabulary

rural

emphasize

diverse

abandon

stability

individual

Read for Main Idea

SKIMMING STRATEGY

1. A topic sentence and two supporting details organize an effective paragraph.
2. Always pay attention to the **adversatives** like **“however”** which lead to an opposite point of view.
3. Sentences starting with **“While...”** or **“Although...”** typically introduce contrasting ideas.
4. **“In conclusion,”** signals the end of a paragraph where the main points are summarized without adding anything new or changing the main idea.



The background features a cityscape at night, with a prominent green overlay that tapers from the left. Several colorful circles in shades of orange, red, and light green are scattered across the scene. The text 'WHAT'S NEXT...' is written in a large, white, bubbly font with a green drop shadow, positioned in the upper left quadrant.

WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we're going to read
the essay in detail. See you next time!