

Finding Out: Words in Context

Step 1: Look at the words in bold below. Can you guess what they mean? Write a short definition in English. (Don't use your dictionary yet. You will be able to check their meanings in the next section: Definitions.)

Most people who **migrate** from the countryside to cities do so for economic reasons.
After the birds **migrated** south, the weather began to get really cold.

What do you think 'migrate' means? _____

With restaurants from over twenty countries, the mall food has become very **cosmopolitan**.
People from all over the world live in New York. It is considered one of the most **cosmopolitan** cities in the world.

What do you think 'cosmopolitan' means? _____

Lack of education is still the main cause of **poverty** in the region.
More and more people are living in **poverty** in this country because there are not enough jobs.

What do you think 'poverty' means? _____

The **cost of living** in the countryside is significantly less than in the cities.
The **cost of living** is low and most of the population enjoy a high standard of living.

What do you think 'cost of living' means? _____

The hotel is well known for its friendly, welcoming **atmosphere**.
The **atmosphere** in the university was amazing. Everyone was so excited.

What do you think 'atmosphere' means? _____

I usually **commute** to work by bicycle, except when the weather is really bad.
Eric has to **commute** about 50 miles every day.

What do you think 'commute' means? _____

The government is trying to protect the country's vital **infrastructure** from terrorist attacks.
Infrastructure like new bridges and subways are necessary to make the roads safe for pedestrians.

What do you think 'infrastructure' means? _____

The city has tried to update its tourist **amenities** by building new hotels and information centres.
The hotel offers a range of amenities for guests.

What do you think 'amenities' means? _____

The old man died following the **road rage** attack.
There was a **road rage** attack on a male motorist.

What do you think 'road rage' means? _____

This part of the city was a **no-go area** for the police.
The area around the President's residence is a **no-go area** after six p.m.

What do you think 'no-go areas' means? _____

Property **crimes** in this country are on the rise, but violent **crimes** seem to be decreasing.
He commits computer **crimes** such as hacking.

What do you think 'crime' means? _____

Several years ago I began developing **stress-related illnesses** such as high blood pressure and stomach ulcers.
Last year, more than 13 million working days were lost to **stress-related illnesses**.

What do you think 'stress-related illnesses' means? _____

The house was **run down**, and it took a lot of money to fix it up.
The block of flats is in a really **run down** area.

What do you think 'run-down' means? _____

The city centre could become **vibrant** again if more people returned to live there.
It's a **vibrant** neighbourhood, with colourful nightlife and walking streets that are closed off to traffic in the evenings.

What do you think 'vibrant' means? _____

There is a lot of **litter** on the streets around the high school.
If you see **litter** in the park, pick it up and put it in a bin.

What do you think 'litter' means? _____



Finding Out: Definitions

Step 1: Match the words with their definitions. (If you can't understand the definitions, you can use a bilingual dictionary.)

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 migrate | 1 the mood or feeling that exists in a place and affects the people who are there |
| 2 cosmopolitan | 2 something that makes it comfortable or enjoyable to live or work somewhere |
| 3 poverty | 3 lively and exciting |
| 4 cost of living | 4 to go to another place or country in order to find work |
| 5 atmosphere | 5 illnesses caused by stress |
| 6 commute | 6 a situation in which someone does not have enough money to pay for their basic needs |
| 7 infrastructure | 7 used about a place where people from many different countries and cultures live |
| 8 amenities | 8 violent behaviour by a driver towards another driver |
| 9 road rage | 9 the amount of money you need in order to pay for basic things such as food, clothes, shelter, heating, and transport |
| 10 no-go areas | 10 the set of systems within a place that affect how well it operates, for example the telephone and transport systems in a country |
| 11 a crime | 11 in bad condition because no one has spent money on repairs |
| 12 stress-related illnesses | 12 an illegal activity or action |
| 13 run-down | 13 to travel regularly to and from work |
| 14 vibrant | 14 things that people have dropped on the ground in a public place, making it untidy |
| 15 litter | 15 an area in a town that is not considered to be safe because there are high levels of crime |

Answers: 1-4, 2-7, 3-6, 4-9, 5-1, 6-13, 7-10, 8-2, 9-8, 10-15, 11-12, 12-5, 13-11, 14-3, 15-14