

<https://englishlanguagebits.com/living-in-toronto/>

Pre-listening Discussion

Where would you like to live - in a quiet or a busy neighbourhood? Why?

What could be good (or not so good) about quiet neighbourhoods?

How about busy ones?

You can add your ideas to the chart:

	Good	Not so good
Quiet neighbourhood		far from public transit
Busy neighbourhood	close to public transit	noisy

Pre-listening Vocab Bits

Write the words next to their meanings.

diverse - landlord - store - affordable - nature - residential - mid-rise

owner of a place that is rented to somebody else -

plants, animals, weather, and so on -

full of homes, not offices or factories -

very different from each other -

a building with not too many stories (not very low, not very high) -

a place where they sell different things -

not expensive, cheap enough for people to buy -

As You Listen...

Try to find answers to these questions.

How far from downtown does Matt live?

How big is the building?

How many apartment buildings are there on this street?

What does a *diverse* neighbourhood mean?

What does Matt especially like about this area?

What doesn't he like?

What examples of slow repairs does Matt talk about?

Why does he continue living in the same building, if he doesn't like it that much?

Transcript - 1

Fill in the missing words in the text. Check your answers by reading with a partner (Partner 1, P1 with P2) or by listening to the recording again.

call - affordable - sounds - nature - about - mid-rise

(P1) Yuliya: So, Matt, would you like, would you mind telling me where you live?

(P2) Matt: Sure. So I live in a _____ apartment building. It's a little outside downtown, like, it's not really downtown, but it's close.

(P1) It's about a seven-story building and it's on a street that's all **residential** buildings. There's apartment buildings for two or three blocks, probably there's like five thousand people that live on my street. It's a pretty dense area.

(P2) Yuliya: And what do you like _____ it ?

(P1) Matt: It's a nice neighbourhood in some ways. It's a very **diverse** place. There's immigrants from lots of parts of the world, there's a lot of different cultures.

(P2) In particular, one thing I really like about the neighbourhood is that it's close to the lake, so I can spend time... There's a lot of parks nearby, there's a lot of _____ nearby, so that's really pleasant. There's also a lot of interesting shopping in my neighbourhood.

(P1) Even though it's outside of the downtown, there's a lot of interesting restaurants, interesting **stores**, so there's always something to do, there's lots of things going on.

(P2) Yuliya: Great, _____ like a really nice place to live. Is there anything you don't like about it?

(P1) Matt: Ah, one thing I really don't like about my neighbourhood is actually the building that I live in.

(P2) I've been living here for about 10 years, mostly because it's pretty _____, but the building has a lot of problems. Our elevator frequently breaks.

(P1) When people need repairs, it can take a lot of effort to get the landlord to come and look at it, and then often when they come to look at it, they don't do a great job.

(P2) So you need to _____ them to come back again.

(P1) So it's not ideal but it is one of the more affordable neighborhoods in the city, so that's why, that's why I'm staying here. I don't really want to go and move somewhere else where I'll be paying a lot more.

For discussing or writing practice

After listening: What about you?

How busy or quiet is your street?

Would you like to move to a different neighbourhood? Why?

How high are most residential buildings in your area?
How high is the building where you live now?

Is there an elevator?
How often does it break?
How soon do they fix it?

Who usually fixes problems in an apartment - the landlord or the tenants?

What was the last problem you had in your apartment?
Who fixed it?
Were you happy with how they fixed it?
How expensive was it to fix?

What can you or your family members fix around the house?

After-listening Vocab Bits

Find the best sentence for each of these words:

diverse - landlord - store - affordable - nature - mid-rise

Large Canadian cities are more and more _____ now than they were 50 years ago. Immigrants are coming to Canada from all over the world.

Our _____ is very nice. He takes very good care of the building and does not increase rent every year.

People should care more about _____ if they want the Earth to be good for living in a hundred years.

Some parts of the city do not have high-rise buildings, only _____.

Many large cities do not have enough _____ housing. They are very, very expensive.

Some residential buildings have a _____ on the ground floor.