

# Week 8: Urban Geography and City Planning

## Vocabulary Development: Urban Geography Terminology

terms essential to understanding city structures and planning.

Term	Definition 1	Source	Definition 2	Source
<b>Infrastructure</b>	The basic facilities and services needed for the functioning of a city (e.g., roads, water, electricity).	Oxford Learner's Dictionary (2023)	The systems and physical structures that support the operation of society and the economy.	Cambridge Dictionary (2022)
<b>Zoning</b>	A system where land in a city is divided into areas for specific uses (residential, commercial, etc.).	Merriam-Webster Dictionary	Legal rules that control how land in certain parts of a city can be used.	National Geographic Education
<b>Transportation</b>	The movement of people and goods from place to place.	Longman Dictionary (2022)	Roads, railways, subways, and services like buses that allow people to travel.	Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary
<b>Green Spaces</b>	Areas of vegetation in urban settings used for recreation or environmental protection.	WHO Urban Health Report (2020)	Public or semi-public parks, gardens, and forests found in cities.	Cambridge Dictionary
<b>Land Use Planning</b>	The process of deciding the best use for land to balance development and sustainability.	UN-Habitat	A method used by governments to manage growth and development in an area.	FAO Glossary

### **Vocabulary in Context Example:**

“Urban planners must consider infrastructure and green spaces when designing modern cities. Through careful zoning and land use planning, they aim to create efficient and healthy environments for urban residents.”

## **2. Reading Comprehension**

**Text Title:** *Smart Cities and Urban Planning in the 21st Century*

“Urban areas today face complex challenges such as population growth, climate change, and limited space. Smart city planning involves not only creating efficient infrastructure and public transport, but also ensuring access to green spaces and using zoning to prevent overcrowding. Effective urban planning makes cities more sustainable and livable by balancing development with environmental protection.”

### **Tasks:**

- **Identify Vocabulary in Context:**

Underline the following terms in the text: infrastructure, zoning, sustainable, green spaces.

- **Answer These Questions:**

1. What are some modern challenges faced by cities?
2. What is the role of green spaces in city planning?
3. How does zoning help manage urban growth?

## **3. Grammar Focus: Prepositions of Movement and Spatial Relations**

Understanding how to describe the position and movement of places is essential in urban geography.

### **Prepositions of Place:**

- *Next to* — “The school is next to the hospital.”
- *Between* — “The post office is between the bank and the library.”
- *In front of* — “The statue is in front of the city hall.”
- *Behind* — “The parking lot is behind the shopping center.”

### **Prepositions of Movement:**

- *Across* — “Walk across the street to reach the metro station.”
- *Along* — “Cycle along the river to reach the park.”
- *Through* — “Drive through the tunnel to reach the industrial zone.”

### **Activity:**

Use a city map and ask students to describe a route from one place to another using prepositions of movement.

### **Example:**

“To go from the train station to the museum, walk across the bridge, turn left, and go along the river. The museum is next to the central library.”

### **4. Oral Activity: Describing a City Map**

Students are provided with a simplified map of a city (real or fictional). Each student selects a route and describes it using vocabulary and prepositions learned in class.

### **Example Prompt:**

“Describe how to go from the city center to the hospital, mentioning important landmarks and directions.”

### **5. Writing Task**

**Task:** Write a short paragraph (6–8 sentences) describing a part of your city or town, mentioning types of land use, transport, and green spaces.

### **Example Starter:**

“In my city, the downtown area is mostly commercial, with many shops and restaurants. There is a large park located behind the municipal library...”

### **References & Resources**

- Oxford English for Careers: *Geography*, Oxford University Press
- Cambridge Dictionary: [www.dictionary.cambridge.org](http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org)
- National Geographic Learning – *Urban Geography and Planning*
- UN-Habitat: Urban Planning Resources

- British Council – Teaching English Urban Topics
- WHO Report: *Urban Green Spaces and Public Health*