

# Luxembourg the world's safest city (Wed 16 Mar, 2005)

## WARM-UPS

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about safety / your city / quality of living / Luxembourg / Baghdad / crime / economic stability ...Change topic / partner frequently to increase conversation.

**SAFE CITY BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the words 'safe city'. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

**LIVING OVERSEAS:** In pairs/groups, talk about living overseas. Where would you most / least like to live? On which continent would you most / least like to live? Choose 10 countries at random and assess each country on its attractiveness as a home for one year.

**MY COUNTRY:** Talk about the cities in your country. Which are the safest / most dangerous? Which have the best quality of living? What makes these cities safe/dangerous of good/bad to live in?

**MERCER'S CATEGORIES:** Mercer Human Resource Consulting used the following categories to assess each city in its quality of living table. Rank your hometown on a scale of 1 (perfect) to 10 (total failure) based on these categories. Explain your ranking to your partner / group. If two students are from the same city, rank together.

- a. Consumer goods
- b. Economic environment
- c. Housing
- d. Medical and health considerations
- e. Natural environment
- f. Political and social environment
- g. Public services and transport
- h. Recreation
- i. Schools and education
- j. Socio-cultural environment

## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'safe' and 'city'.

**TRUE FALSE:** Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Luxembourg gained top rank as the world's safest city for the first time. T / F
- b. A survey of the world's cities includes a total of 652 capitals. T / F
- c. Beirut in Lebanon is the world's least safe city. T / F
- d. The top cities are in politically stable countries with good international relations and sustainable economic growth. T / F
- e. Prague in the Czech Republic placed better than London, Paris and Athens. T / F
- f. Madrid is the most dangerous city in Europe. T / F
- g. US cities are safer than Canadian cities. T / F
- h. Central and South American cities were low in the rankings, due to unemployment, crime and political instability. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| (a) retained  | equal       |
| (b) conducted | illegality  |
| (c) joint     | community   |
| (d) obviously | danger      |
| (e) stable    | sound       |
| (f) civil     | did         |
| (g) petty     | carried out |
| (h) threat    | small       |
| (i) crime     | hung on to  |
| (j) fared     | of course   |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article:

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) retained its rank    | conducted by ...           |
| (b) survey               | relations                  |
| (c) came joint           | rates                      |
| (d) quality              | as the world's safest city |
| (e) good international   | instability                |
| (f) sustainable economic | poorly in the rankings     |
| (g) high levels of petty | second                     |
| (h) high crime           | of living                  |
| (i) fared                | crime                      |
| (j) political            | growth                     |

## GAP FILL

### Luxembourg the world's safest city

**BNE:** Luxembourg \_\_\_\_\_ its rank as the world's safest city in the annual 215-city survey \_\_\_\_\_ by the human resources consulting company Mercer. Helsinki in Finland, and the Swiss cities Bern, Geneva and Zurich came joint second in the safety list. Geneva and Zurich finished top of the quality of living league table. The world's least safe city, \_\_\_\_\_, is Baghdad. Its low placing is obviously due to the ongoing violence and street fighting that has followed the American-lead invasion of the city. Other cities at the bottom of the safety league include Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Bangui (Central African Republic) and Lagos (Nigeria). These countries \_\_\_\_\_ politically unstable and have low economic growth. Mercer senior researcher Slagin Parakatil said, "The top-ranking cities for personal safety and security are in politically stable countries with good international relations and sustainable economic growth. ... Most of the low-scoring cities are in countries with \_\_\_\_\_ unrest, little law enforcement and high levels of crime."

*remain    unsurprisingly    retained    civil    conducted*

Other world city rankings \_\_\_\_\_ London, Rome and Athens at positions 69, 74 and 83 respectively, due to high levels of petty crime. Madrid is joint 69th because of the terrorism \_\_\_\_\_. In Eastern Europe Ljubljana in Slovenia (41), Slovakia's Bratislava (58) and Prague (58) in the Czech Republic are highest, due to their \_\_\_\_\_ with the European Union. Tirana (Albania) comes lowest in Europe. Russian cities are also low, because of high \_\_\_\_\_ rates and economic instability. Canadian cities are the safest in North America, with Calgary, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver being in joint 18th position. The American cities Honolulu, Houston, Lexington, San Francisco and Winston Salem rank joint 45th. Cities in Central and South America fared \_\_\_\_\_ in the rankings, due to unemployment, crime and political instability. In Asia, Singapore and Tokyo are ranked as the top two cities. Sydney, Australia, and Auckland in New Zealand were top Australasian cities, in joint eighth position.

*links    crime    threat    poorly    include*

## DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. How safe is your city?
- d. What are the three best and worst things about your city?
- e. Would you like to live in Luxembourg?
- f. Would you like to visit or live in Baghdad?
- g. On which continent would you like to live for one year?
- h. Which city would you love to spend a year in?
- i. What is the most important factor you would look at if you moved overseas?
- j. What kind of crime exists in your city?
- k. Is there any violence in your city?
- l. Is it safe to walk alone at midnight where you live?
- m. Does your city have good law enforcement?
- n. Are the people in your city rich?
- o. Would you prefer to live in London or Luxembourg?
- p. Would you prefer to live in Ljubljana (Slovenia) or Lagos (Nigeria)?
- q. Would you prefer to live in Singapore or Tokyo?
- r. Does “safest city” mean “most boring city”?
- s. Did you like this discussion?
- t. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or search engine to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on this survey. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. MY VILLAGE / TOWN / CITY:** Make a poster for where you live highlighting the attraction of coming to live there for a year.
- 4. MY SURVEY:** Create a questionnaire for your own survey of cities. Choose a theme different from “safest city”. E.g. most fun city, best city for photography etc.

## TEXT

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