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## **City living makes it harder to concentrate**

**21st February, 2013**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

A new report says living in a city makes it harder for people to concentrate. The research found that people who live in rural areas can focus better than people in urban areas. The study is from Goldsmiths College, which is part of the University of London. Head researcher Dr Karina Linnell and her team studied how two groups of people did the same "thinking tasks". The team went to a remote part of Namibia, southwest Africa, to study the Himba tribe. Himba people live a very basic life in the desert, doing traditional farming. The team also studied members of the same tribe who had moved to the nearest town. Dr Linnell said the tribe who lived in the desert did much better on the tests than those in the town.

Dr Linnell's research may change the way companies operate. In the future, workers may relocate from cities to live and work in the countryside. Linnell said there are too many things around us in the city that stop us from thinking about one thing for a long time. This means we do not work at our best. She asked: "What if, for example, companies realised certain tasks would be better carried out by employees based outside of the urban environment where their concentration ability is better?" The past century has seen billions of people move from the countryside to big cities. If Dr Linnell's research is true, this century might see many of those people return to the great outdoors.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21506132>  
<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-02-urban-environment-ability-tasks.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. THINKING:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about thinking. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*report / rural areas / urban areas / thinking tasks / remote / very basic life / tribe / operate / relocate / in the city / employees / concentration / billions / this century*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. CONCENTRATE:** How can you concentrate better when doing these things? Complete the table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

|                      | How are you now? | How could you be better? |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Studying English     |                  |                          |
| Driving              |                  |                          |
| Computer games       |                  |                          |
| Playing sport        |                  |                          |
| Reading instructions |                  |                          |
| Doing your job       |                  |                          |

**4. MIND POWER:** Students A **strongly** believe everyone can greatly increase their powers of concentration; Students B **strongly** believe people are too lazy to do this. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. CAN'T CONCENTRATE:** Which of these stop you from concentrating? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- other people
- food
- thinking about someone
- bored
- traffic sounds
- sleepy
- stressed
- music / TV

**6. CITY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'city'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. A new report says it's difficult for people to study cities.          | T / F |
| b. People who live in the countryside can focus better than city people. | T / F |
| c. The research team studied a tribe in South Africa.                    | T / F |
| d. The team studied two different tribes from the town and country.      | T / F |
| e. The research might change how companies work in the future.           | T / F |
| f. The researcher said many things around us help us think better.       | T / F |
| g. Billions have relocated to urban areas in the past 100 years.         | T / F |
| h. Many people originally from the countryside might return.             | T / F |

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

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. harder      | a. out of the way |
| 2. focus       | b. last           |
| 3. remote      | c. relocated      |
| 4. basic       | d. done           |
| 5. moved       | e. work           |
| 6. operate     | f. concentrate    |
| 7. realised    | g. go back        |
| 8. carried out | h. more difficult |
| 9. past        | i. understood     |
| 10. return     | j. simple         |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. living in a city makes it harder | a. remote part of Namibia    |
| 2. two groups of people did         | b. at our best               |
| 3. The team went to a               | c. who lived in the desert   |
| 4. Himba people live a              | d. the urban environment     |
| 5. the tribe                        | e. the same "thinking tasks" |
| 6. workers may relocate             | f. outdoors                  |
| 7. we do not work                   | g. for people to concentrate |
| 8. employees based outside of       | h. from cities               |
| 9. The past                         | i. very basic life           |
| 10. return to the great             | j. century                   |

# GAP FILL

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

A new report says living in a city makes it (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for people to concentrate. The research found that people who live in rural areas can (2) \_\_\_\_\_ better than people in urban areas. The study is from Goldsmiths College, which is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the University of London. Head researcher Dr Karina Linnell and her team studied how two groups of people did the same "thinking (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ". The team went to a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ part of Namibia, southwest Africa, to study the Himba tribe. Himba people live a very (6) \_\_\_\_\_ life in the desert, doing (7) \_\_\_\_\_ farming. The team also studied members of the same tribe who had moved to the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ town. Dr Linnell said the tribe who lived in the desert did much better on the tests than those in the town.

*tasks*  
*traditional*  
*focus*  
*nearest*  
*part*  
*harder*  
*remote*  
*basic*

Dr Linnell's research may change the way companies (9) \_\_\_\_\_. In the future, workers may (10) \_\_\_\_\_ from cities to live and work in the countryside. Linnell said there are too many things around us in the city that (11) \_\_\_\_\_ us from thinking about one thing for a long time. This means we do not work at our (12) \_\_\_\_\_. She asked: "What if, for example, companies realised (13) \_\_\_\_\_ tasks would be better carried out by employees (14) \_\_\_\_\_ outside of the urban environment where their concentration ability is better?" The past century has seen (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of people move from the countryside to big cities. If Dr Linnell's research is true, this (16) \_\_\_\_\_ might see many of those people return to the great outdoors.

*certain*  
*century*  
*relocate*  
*based*  
*stop*  
*operate*  
*billions*  
*best*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

- 1) A new report says living in a city makes it harder \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. four people to concentrate
  - b. for people two concentrate
  - c. for people to concentrate
  - d. for people too concentrate
- 2) people who live in rural areas can focus better than \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. people in urban airs
  - b. people in urban areas
  - c. people in urban arrears
  - d. people in urban eerie ears
- 3) her team studied how two groups of people did \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the same "thinking tasks"
  - b. this same "thinking tasks"
  - c. that same "thinking tasks"
  - d. these same "thinking tasks"
- 4) The team also studied members of the same tribe who had moved \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to the nearer town
  - b. to the nearby town
  - c. to the near rest town
  - d. to the nearest town
- 5) the tribe who lived in the desert did much better on the tests \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. than whose in the town
  - b. than them in the town
  - c. than though sin in the town
  - d. than those in the town
- 6) Dr Linnell's research may change the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. way companies operated
  - b. way companies operate
  - c. way companies operates
  - d. way companies operator
- 7) In the future, workers may relocate from cities to live and work \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in the countryside
  - b. in the countryside
  - c. in the countryside
  - d. in the countryside
- 8) there are too many things around us in the city that \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. stop us from thin king
  - b. stoppers from thinking
  - c. stops us from thinking
  - d. stop us from thinking
- 9) certain tasks would be better carried out by employees based outside of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the urban environmental
  - b. the urban environment
  - c. the urban environments
  - d. the urban environmentalism
- 10) this century might see many of those people return to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the grey tout doors
  - b. the great indoors
  - c. the great out of doors
  - d. the great outdoors

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

A new report says living in a city (1) \_\_\_\_\_ people to concentrate. The research found that people who live in rural areas can focus better than (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The study is from Goldsmiths College, which is part of the University of London. Head researcher Dr Karina Linnell and her team studied how (3) \_\_\_\_\_ did the same "thinking tasks". The team went (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Namibia, southwest Africa, to study the Himba tribe. Himba people live a very basic life in the desert, (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The team also studied members of the same tribe who had moved to the nearest town. Dr Linnell said (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in the desert did much better on the tests than those in the town.

Dr Linnell's research (7) \_\_\_\_\_ companies operate. In the future, workers may relocate from cities (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the countryside. Linnell said there are too many things around us in the city that stop us from thinking (9) \_\_\_\_\_ long time. This means we do not work at our best. She asked: "What if, for example, companies realised certain tasks would be (10) \_\_\_\_\_ employees based outside of the urban environment where (11) \_\_\_\_\_ is better?" The past century has seen billions of people move from the countryside to big cities. If Dr Linnell's research is true, this century might see many of those people (12) \_\_\_\_\_ outdoors.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

1. What is harder for people to do if they live in a city?

---

2. Who focuses better than people in urban areas?

---

3. How many groups of people did the research team study?

---

4. What kind of area did the team go to in Namibia?

---

5. Where did some members of the Himba tribe move to?

---

6. What might companies change in the future?

---

7. How many things are around us to stop us focusing on one thing?

---

8. Who might do tasks better outside of cities?

---

9. How many people moved to cities in the last century?

---

10. When might people return to the countryside?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

1. Where can people focus better than cities?
  - a) the countryside
  - b) rural
  - c) Goldsmiths College
  - d) areas
2. Who is Karina Linnell?
  - a) a member of the Himba tribe
  - b) a Namibian
  - c) a researcher
  - d) someone who loves rural areas
3. What did two groups of people do?
  - a) go to Namibia
  - b) identical thinking exercises
  - c) live in rural and urban areas
  - d) research
4. What kind of life do the Himba people live?
  - a) a comfortable one
  - b) an exciting one
  - c) a dangerous one
  - d) a simple one
5. Which tribe member did best on the tests?
  - a) the ones who lived in the desert
  - b) the ones who studied members of the same tribe
  - c) the ones who moved
  - d) they did the same
6. What might the research change?
  - a) cities
  - b) where the Himba people live
  - c) research
  - d) how companies work
7. How many things in the city make it difficult to think?
  - a) 236 things
  - b) too many things
  - c) just a few things
  - d) everything
8. Where could workers do their tasks better?
  - a) at home
  - b) in urban areas
  - c) in their companies
  - d) outside cities
9. How many people moved to cities last century?
  - a) hundreds of thousands
  - b) millions
  - c) billions
  - d) trillions
10. Where might people return to this century?
  - a) the past century
  - b) the countryside
  - c) cities
  - d) Namibia

# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

## **Role A – City lover**

You think living in the city is much better than living in the countryside. Tell the other three reasons why. Tell the people who live in rural areas to move to the city. Tell them the city makes them think about more things.

## **Role B – Countryside lover**

You think living in the countryside is much better than living in the city. Tell the other three reasons why. Tell the people who live in the city to move to the countryside. Tell them the countryside makes them think better.

## **Role C – Thinking expert**

You think it's not important where you live. Everyone can concentrate at the same level in the city or countryside. Tell the other three reasons why. The most important thing is being alone in a room that is quiet.

## **Role D – Student**

You are studying English but are having big problems concentrating. You cannot study in the countryside or city. Tell the other three reasons why. Ask the others for advice on how and where to study.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'city' and 'countryside'.

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| <b>city</b> | <b>countryside</b> |
|-------------|--------------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• new</li><li>• focus</li><li>• groups</li><li>• basic</li><li>• nearest</li><li>• lived</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• operate</li><li>• future</li><li>• stop</li><li>• best</li><li>• based</li><li>• century</li></ul> |
|--|--|

# THINKING SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

Write five GOOD questions about thinking in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## THINKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'concentrate'?
- c) Are you good at focusing on one thing for a long time?
- d) What can people do to increase their concentration?
- e) Is your room a good place to concentrate?
- f) How good are libraries to think and get lots of work done?
- g) Do you think rural areas are better for people who want to concentrate?
- h) How are cities better than the countryside?
- i) Are you good at thinking tasks?
- j) Why do you think the people who lived in the desert did better on the tests?

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## THINKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Do you think this research will change the way companies operate?
- c) Would you prefer to work in the city or countryside?
- d) What are the pros and cons of working in the countryside?
- e) What things in the city can stop us concentrating?
- f) How does your mobile phone or computer stop you concentrating?
- g) Should people meditate to help them concentrate?
- h) Would you like to take a "how to concentrate better" course?
- i) Is it a good idea for millions of people to move back to rural areas?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Dr Karina Linnell?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

A new report says living in a city makes it harder (1) \_\_\_\_\_ people to concentrate. The research found that people who live in rural areas can focus better than people in urban areas. The study is from Goldsmiths College, which is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the University of London. Head researcher Dr Karina Linnell and her team studied how two groups of people (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the same "thinking tasks". The team went to a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ part of Namibia, southwest Africa, to study the Himba tribe. Himba people live a very (5) \_\_\_\_\_ life in the desert, doing traditional farming. The team also studied members of the same tribe who had moved to the nearest town. Dr Linnell said the tribe who lived in the desert did much (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on the tests than those in the town.

Dr Linnell's research may change the way companies (7) \_\_\_\_\_. In the future, workers may (8) \_\_\_\_\_ from cities to live and work in the countryside. Linnell said there are too many things around us in the city that stop us (9) \_\_\_\_\_ thinking about one thing for a long time. This means we do not work at our best. She asked: "What if, for example, companies realised (10) \_\_\_\_\_ tasks would be better carried out by employees based outside of the urban environment where their concentration ability is better?" The past century has seen (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of people move from the countryside to big cities. If Dr Linnell's research is true, this century might see many of those people return to the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ outdoors.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |              |                  |               |              |
|-----|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) from     | (b) for          | (c) of        | (d) by       |
| 2.  | (a) party    | (b) part         | (c) partner   | (d) parts    |
| 3.  | (a) had      | (b) said         | (c) was       | (d) did      |
| 4.  | (a) promote  | (b) remote       | (c) demote    | (d) commote  |
| 5.  | (a) basin    | (b) basically    | (c) basics    | (d) basic    |
| 6.  | (a) goodly   | (b) best         | (c) better    | (d) well     |
| 7.  | (a) operate  | (b) operative    | (c) operation | (d) operates |
| 8.  | (a) relation | (b) relative     | (c) relocate  | (d) rely     |
| 9.  | (a) as       | (b) in           | (c) at        | (d) from     |
| 10. | (a) certain  | (b) sure         | (c) definite  | (d) assure   |
| 11. | (a) billions | (b) billionaires | (c) billion   | (d) bullion  |
| 12. | (a) great    | (b) well         | (c) good      | (d) total    |

# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. harder for people to oanrtecctne
2. live in raulr areas
3. people in anrbu areas
4. a mteero part of Namibia
5. liairntdtoa farming
6. the tribe who lived in the rseetd

## Paragraph 2

7. change the way companies roeaetp
8. workers may eecaoltr from cities
9. iectnar tasks
10. onlbiisl of people
11. this crtuyen
12. trruen to the great outdoors



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) moved to the nearest town. Dr Linnell said the tribe who lived in the desert did much better on the tests than those in the town.
- ( ) many things around us in the city that stop us from thinking about one thing for a long
- ( ) found that people who live in rural areas can focus better than people in urban areas. The study is
- ( ) remote part of Namibia, southwest Africa, to study the Himba tribe. Himba people live a very
- ( ) big cities. If Dr Linnell's research is true, this century might see many of those people return to the great outdoors.
- ( **1** ) A new report says living in a city makes it harder for people to concentrate. The research
- ( ) tasks would be better carried out by employees based outside of the urban environment where their concentration
- ( ) Dr Karina Linnell and her team studied how two groups of people did the same "thinking tasks". The team went to a
- ( ) from Goldsmiths College, which is part of the University of London. Head researcher
- ( ) ability is better?" The past century has seen billions of people move from the countryside to
- ( ) basic life in the desert, doing traditional farming. The team also studied members of the same tribe who had
- ( ) relocate from cities to live and work in the countryside. Linnell said there are too
- ( ) time. This means we do not work at our best. She asked: "What if, for example, companies realised certain
- ( ) Dr Linnell's research may change the way companies operate. In the future, workers may

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

1. makes for concentrate city harder to A it people.

---

2. focus people in can live areas better who rural.

---

3. groups did thinking Two people same of the tasks.

---

4. very basic life in the desert Himba people live a.

---

5. the much tribe in did The lived desert better who.

---

6. may Research operate companies way the change.

---

7. live in Relocate to work countryside cities and the from.

---

8. city the in us around things many Too us stop that.

---

9. about long one time thing for Thinking a.

---

10. might of return century many people This see those.

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# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

A new report says living in a city *make / makes* it harder for people to concentrate. The research *found / finding* that people who live in rural areas can focus better than people in urban areas. The study is from Goldsmiths College, which is *partner / part* of the University of London. Head *researcher / researches* Dr Karina Linnell and her team *study / studied* how two groups of people did the same "thinking tasks". The team went to a *remotely / remote* part of Namibia, southwest Africa, to study the Himba *tribal / tribe*. Himba people live a very *basic / basically* life in the desert, doing traditional farming. The team also studied members of the same tribe who *had / did* moved to the nearest town. Dr Linnell said the tribe who lived in the desert did *much / more* better on the tests than those in the town.

Dr Linnell's research may *chance / change* the way companies operate. In the future, workers may relocate from cities to *lively / live* and work in the countryside. Linnell said there are too *much / many* things around us in the city that stop us *for / from* thinking about one thing for a *long / longest* time. This means we do not work at *your / our* best. She asked: "What *if / when*, for example, companies realised certain tasks would be better *carved / carried* out by employees based outside of the urban environment where their *concentration / concentrate* ability is better?" The past century has seen billions of people move from the countryside to big cities. If Dr Linnell's research is true, this century might *see / look* many of those people return to the great outdoors.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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\_ n \_ w \_ r \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ s \_ y \_ s \_ l \_ v \_ n \_ g \_ n \_ c \_ t \_ y \_ m \_ k \_ s \_ t \_ h \_ r \_ d \_ r \_ f \_ r  
p \_ \_ p \_ l \_ t \_ c \_ n \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ t \_ . Th \_ r \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ h \_ f \_ \_ n \_ d \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ p \_ \_ p \_ l \_  
wh \_ l \_ v \_ \_ n \_ r \_ r \_ l \_ r \_ \_ s \_ c \_ n \_ f \_ c \_ s \_ b \_ t \_ t \_ r \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ p \_ \_ p \_ l \_  
\_ n \_ r \_ b \_ n \_ r \_ \_ s . Th \_ s \_ t \_ d \_ y \_ s \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ G \_ l \_ d \_ s \_ m \_ t \_ h \_ s \_ C \_ l \_ l \_ g \_ ,  
wh \_ c \_ h \_ \_ s \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ \_ f \_ t \_ h \_ \_ n \_ v \_ r \_ s \_ t \_ y \_ \_ f \_ L \_ n \_ d \_ n . H \_ \_ d  
r \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ h \_ r \_ D \_ r \_ K \_ r \_ n \_ L \_ n \_ n \_ l \_ l \_ \_ n \_ d \_ h \_ r \_ t \_ \_ m \_ s \_ t \_ d \_ \_ d  
h \_ w \_ t \_ w \_ \_ g \_ r \_ \_ p \_ s \_ \_ f \_ p \_ \_ p \_ l \_ d \_ d \_ t \_ h \_ s \_ m \_ " t \_ h \_ n \_ k \_ n \_ g  
t \_ s \_ k \_ s " . Th \_ t \_ \_ m \_ w \_ n \_ t \_ t \_ \_ r \_ m \_ t \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ f \_ N \_ m \_ b \_ \_ ,  
s \_ \_ t \_ h \_ w \_ s \_ t \_ \_ f \_ r \_ c \_ , t \_ s \_ t \_ d \_ y \_ t \_ h \_ H \_ m \_ b \_ t \_ r \_ b \_ . H \_ m \_ b \_  
p \_ \_ p \_ l \_ l \_ v \_ \_ v \_ r \_ y \_ b \_ s \_ c \_ l \_ f \_ \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ d \_ s \_ r \_ t , d \_ \_ n \_ g  
t \_ r \_ d \_ t \_ \_ n \_ l \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ n \_ g . Th \_ t \_ \_ m \_ l \_ s \_ s \_ t \_ d \_ \_ d \_ m \_ m \_ b \_ r \_ s  
\_ f \_ t \_ h \_ s \_ m \_ t \_ r \_ b \_ wh \_ h \_ d \_ m \_ v \_ d \_ t \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ \_ r \_ s \_ t \_ t \_ w \_ n .  
D \_ r \_ L \_ n \_ n \_ l \_ l \_ s \_ \_ d \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ r \_ b \_ wh \_ l \_ v \_ d \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ d \_ s \_ r \_ t \_ d \_ d  
m \_ c \_ h \_ b \_ t \_ t \_ r \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ s \_ \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ t \_ w \_ n .

D \_ r \_ L \_ n \_ n \_ l \_ l \_ 's \_ r \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ h \_ m \_ y \_ c \_ h \_ n \_ g \_ t \_ h \_ w \_ y \_ c \_ m \_ p \_ n \_ \_ s  
\_ p \_ r \_ t \_ . \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ f \_ t \_ r \_ , w \_ r \_ k \_ r \_ s \_ m \_ y \_ r \_ l \_ c \_ t \_ f \_ r \_ m  
c \_ t \_ \_ s \_ t \_ l \_ v \_ \_ n \_ d \_ w \_ r \_ k \_ \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ c \_ \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ y \_ s \_ d \_ . L \_ n \_ n \_ l \_ l  
s \_ \_ d \_ t \_ h \_ r \_ \_ r \_ t \_ \_ m \_ n \_ y \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ g \_ s \_ r \_ \_ n \_ d \_ s \_ \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ c \_ t \_ y  
t \_ h \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ p \_ \_ s \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ k \_ n \_ g \_ b \_ \_ t \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ n \_ g \_ f \_ r \_ l \_ n \_ g  
t \_ m \_ . Th \_ s \_ m \_ \_ n \_ s \_ w \_ d \_ n \_ t \_ w \_ r \_ k \_ \_ t \_ \_ r \_ b \_ s \_ t . Sh \_  
\_ s \_ k \_ d : " W \_ h \_ t \_ \_ f , f \_ r \_ \_ x \_ m \_ p \_ l \_ , c \_ m \_ p \_ n \_ \_ s \_ r \_ l \_ s \_ d  
c \_ r \_ t \_ \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ k \_ s \_ w \_ \_ l \_ d \_ b \_ \_ b \_ t \_ t \_ r \_ c \_ r \_ r \_ d \_ \_ t \_ b \_ y  
\_ m \_ p \_ l \_ y \_ \_ s \_ b \_ s \_ d \_ \_ t \_ s \_ d \_ \_ f \_ t \_ h \_ \_ r \_ b \_ n \_ n \_ v \_ r \_ n \_ m \_ n \_ t  
w \_ h \_ r \_ t \_ h \_ \_ r \_ c \_ n \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ t \_ \_ n \_ b \_ l \_ t \_ y \_ \_ s \_ b \_ t \_ t \_ r \_ ? " Th \_  
p \_ s \_ t \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ y \_ h \_ s \_ s \_ \_ n \_ b \_ l \_ l \_ \_ n \_ s \_ \_ f \_ p \_ \_ p \_ l \_ m \_ v \_ f \_ r \_ m  
t \_ h \_ c \_ \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ y \_ s \_ d \_ t \_ b \_ g \_ c \_ t \_ \_ s . \_ f \_ D \_ r \_ L \_ n \_ n \_ l \_ l \_ 's \_ r \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ h  
\_ s \_ t \_ r \_ \_ , t \_ h \_ s \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ y \_ m \_ g \_ h \_ t \_ s \_ \_ m \_ n \_ y \_ \_ f \_ t \_ h \_ s \_ p \_ \_ p \_ l \_  
r \_ t \_ r \_ n \_ t \_ t \_ h \_ g \_ r \_ \_ t \_ \_ t \_ d \_ \_ r \_ s .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

a new report says living in a city makes it harder for people to concentrate the research found that people who live in rural areas can focus better than people in urban areas the study is from goldsmiths college which is part of the university of london head researcher dr karina linnell and her team studied how two groups of people did the same "thinking tasks" the team went to a remote part of namibia southwest africa to study the himba tribe himba people live a very basic life in the desert doing traditional farming the team also studied members of the same tribe who had moved to the nearest town dr linnell said the tribe who lived in the desert did much better on the tests than those in the town

dr linnell's research may change the way companies operate in the future workers may relocate from cities to live and work in the countryside linnell said there are too many things around us in the city that stop us from thinking about one thing for a long time this means we do not work at our best she asked "what if for example companies realised certain tasks would be better carried out by employees based outside of the urban environment where their concentration ability is better" the past century has seen billions of people move from the countryside to big cities if dr linnell's research is true this century might see many of those people return to the great outdoors

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city\\_living.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1302/130221-city_living.html)

A new report says living in a city makes it harder for people to concentrate. The research found that people who live in rural areas can focus better than people in urban areas. The study is from Goldsmiths College, which is part of the University of London. Head researcher Dr Karina Linnell and her team studied how two groups of people did the same "thinking tasks". The team went to a remote part of Namibia, southwest Africa, to study the Himba tribe. Himba people live a very basic life in the desert, doing traditional farming. The team also studied members of the same tribe who had moved to the nearest town. Dr Linnell said the tribe who lived in the desert did much better on the tests than those in the town. Dr Linnell's research may change the way companies operate. In the future, workers may relocate from cities to live and work in the countryside. Linnell said there are too many things around us in the city that stop us from thinking about one thing for a long time. This means we do not work at our best. She asked: "What if, for example, companies realised certain tasks would be better carried out by employees based outside of the urban environment where their concentration ability is better?" The past century has seen billion of people move from the countryside to big cities. If Dr Linnell's research is true, this century might see many of those people return to the great outdoors.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about concentration. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. THINKING:** Make a poster about thinking. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. RURAL/URBAN:** Write a magazine article about this study. Include imaginary interviews with city people and countryside people.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to a concentration expert. Ask him/her three questions about thinking. Give him/her three of your tips on how to focus better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c F    d F    e T    f F    g T    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. harder      | a. more difficult |
| 2. focus       | b. concentrate    |
| 3. remote      | c. out of the way |
| 4. basic       | d. simple         |
| 5. moved       | e. relocated      |
| 6. operate     | f. work           |
| 7. realised    | g. understood     |
| 8. carried out | h. done           |
| 9. past        | i. last           |
| 10. return     | j. go back        |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Concentrate
2. People in rural areas
3. Two
4. A remote part
5. The nearest town
6. The way they operate
7. Too many things
8. Company employees
9. Billions
10. This century

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a    2. c    3. b    4. d    5. a    6. d    7. b    8. d    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)