

Adjectives that Describe Places - Intermediate Vocabulary



A list of useful words for describing cities, towns and countries.

ancient - a place that has a long history. Words with similar meanings: historic

Example sentence: Athens is an **ancient** city, which was established thousands of years ago.

beautiful - very pleasing on the eye. Words with similar meanings: attractive, lovely.

Example sentence: Paris is very **beautiful** in the spring.

boring - dull and not very interesting. Words with similar meanings: uninteresting.

Example sentence: Widnes is a **boring** place to live.

bustling - a crowded, busy place. Words and phrases with similar meanings: lively, fast-paced, hectic.

Example sentence: New York is a busy, **bustling** city. One of its nicknames is "The City That Never Sleeps".

charming - nice, very pleasing. Words and phrases with similar meanings: delightful, quaint.

Example sentence: Oxford is a **charming** English city, which is steeped in history.

contemporary - modern, very up to date.

Example sentence: Manchester is a northern city with a very **contemporary**, modern feel.

compact - not very big, contained within a small area. Words with similar meanings: small

Example sentence: Durham is a fairly **compact** city. You don't need transport to get around.

cosmopolitan - somewhere with a rich and varied mix of cultures and languages.

Example sentence: Liverpool is a **cosmopolitan** and culturally diverse city.

crowded - very full of people. Words and phrases with similar meanings: busy, bustling.

Example sentence: London can get really **crowded** during the summer months.

exciting - fun, thrilling, with lots of enjoyable things to do. Words with similar meanings: lively

Example sentence: The seaside town of Blackpool offers plenty of **exciting** activities for kids!

expensive - costing a lot of money. Words with similar meanings: pricey, costly.

Example sentence: Tokyo is a very **expensive** place to live.

famous - very well known, celebrated, notable.

Example sentence: Paris is one of the world's most **famous** romantic destinations.

fantastic - wonderful.

Words with similar meanings: amazing, awesome, fabulous, great, marvellous.

Example sentence: Barcelona is a **fantastic** city! It's a must to visit if you go to northern Spain.

fascinating - very interesting. Words with similar meanings: captivating, intriguing.

Example sentence: Tunis is a **fascinating** place to visit, with a wonderfully rich culture and history.

huge - very big. Words with similar meanings: big, enormous, giant, large, sprawling, vast.

Example sentence: Istanbul is a **huge** city, with over thirteen million inhabitants.

lively - somewhere with lots of things going on. Words with similar meanings: vibrant

Example sentence: Newcastle is a **lively** city, with lots of things to do and see.

inexpensive - not costing very much. Words with similar meanings: cheap.

Example sentence: Egypt, Mexico and Thailand are **inexpensive** travel destinations.

popular - liked by a lot of people.

Example sentence: York is a historic British town which is very **popular** with tourists.

picturesque - charming or interesting in a unique or unusual way.

Words with similar meanings: quaint, charming.

Example sentence: Looe and Polperro are **picturesque** English seaside towns.

polluted - dirty, contaminated.

Example sentence: Bilbao's formerly **polluted** river has been cleaned up and transformed.

touristy - visited by lots of tourists.

Words and expressions with similar meanings: 'tourist trap', touristic (*rarely used by native speakers*).

Example sentence: Chester can be a bit **touristy** and crowded during summer.