

ESL Brains

Revitalized neighbourhoods or ghost towns?

1. Look at the word in the box and think about what it means to you. Consider whether its meaning has changed in your lifetime.

community

2. Discuss the questions.

- Is 'community' the same as 'neighbourhood'? If not, what's the difference?
- How would you describe the atmosphere of your city or neighbourhood? Is it hectic, peaceful, vibrant, welcoming, tight-knit? Has it changed over time?
- What are three things people in your neighbourhood often complain about?

3. You're going to watch a video about a protest. Read the information in the box and decide what the protest was about.

In September 2015, a group of protestors attacked an east London store for selling a bowl of cereal for around \$5–7. The fight, however, represented a **much bigger problem**.

4. Watch the first part of the [video](https://youtu.be/fsf2fq-jvY8) [<https://youtu.be/fsf2fq-jvY8>] (to 01:00) and check your idea.

5. Watch the second part of the [video](https://youtu.be/fsf2fq-jvY8) (from 01:01) and say what is mentioned about the points below.

- A. foreign investment
- B. ghost towns
- C. loss of community

6. Discuss the questions.

- Had you heard the term 'gentrification' before the video? What was the context?
- Can you talk about somewhere that is affected by this problem? Give details about what's happening, and about how this might look in the future.
- To what extent are newcomers and residents responsible for the consequences of gentrification?



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- How does someone know if their neighbourhood has been gentrified?
- Look at some common signs of gentrification. Have you noticed any of these where you live?
 - changes to houses, e.g. more security cameras
 - increase in private transport, e.g. Uber/Lyft
 - upmarket cultural establishments, e.g. speciality shops
 - trendy décor in bars and restaurants, e.g. exposed brick

7. Look at some opinions about gentrification and choose the correct word or phrase.

- A. By increasing rents and losing loyal tenants, we risk losing the **motivation/essence** of a community.
- B. **Displacing/Protecting** existing residents to welcome wealthy investors will only create a bunch of ghost towns.
- C. Urban renewal isn't all bad because it **ignores/revitalizes** urban areas.
- D. Urban **sprawl/creation** is one of the most worrying aspects of gentrification.
- E. Higher consumer prices are necessary to generate income for investment in **uneconomical/up-and-coming** neighbourhoods.
- F. Established **working-class communities/urban professionals** are the biggest target of gentrification.
- G. Another problem of gentrification is that it leads to a cultural **divide/diversity**.

8. Choose any four statements in ex. 7 and explain whether you agree or disagree.

9. Look at some solutions to tackle the problems of gentrification. Consider how useful they could be, thinking of specific examples and potential challenges.

introducing property fees and taxes

launching community-led development strategies

providing support for tenants

restricting investment in Airbnb and holiday homes

providing support for local businesses

investing in transport networks

10. Finish the statements about tourism with your own ideas.

- Some tourists avoid the popular, revitalized areas because...
- Tourists rarely notice the cultural divide of a city due to...
- In old cities, a lot of historical and cultural activities are often displaced by...
- Urban sprawl can really affect a touristic experience because...
- The best way to experience the true essence of a new place is to...
- It's becoming more difficult to find authentic established communities when travelling because...