

## Revitalized neighbourhoods or ghost towns?

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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?



# ESL Brains

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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

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### 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...