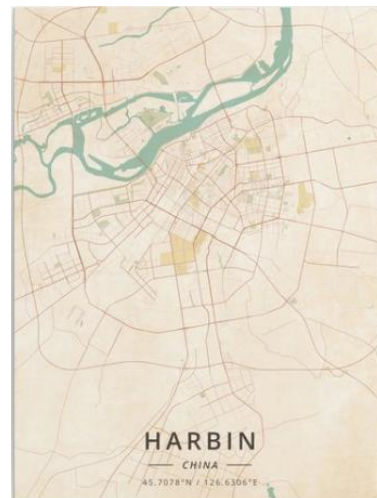


Hometown

Let's talk about your hometown. What kind of place is it?

I am from a large city called Harbin; it is the capital city of Heilongjiang province in North Eastern China... It's a very busy, vibrant city, with a population of about 10 million people. Like all large cities, it can be chaotic and stressful at times, but there is a lot to see and do.



What's the most interesting part of your city?

Well, my city is very cold in winter, reaching depths of -40c. There is a famous ice festival featuring enormous sculptures made of ice. Tourists from around the world go there to witness it.

Would you say your city is a good place to live?

Yes, I would say it is a decent place to live. There are a lot of job opportunities and the cost of living is fairly reasonable.

What are the disadvantages of living in your hometown?

Hmm, let me see... The main problem is that the pollution is very bad winter; it's really bad for your health. In many places it is also very overcrowded. And, how could I forget, the traffic congestion is absolutely awful!

Vibrant: full of energy or constant activity.

Chaotic: completely disordered or disorganized.

Cost of living: the level of prices relating to a range of everyday items.

Overcrowded: too many people in an area.

Traffic congestion: too many vehicles on the road.

Practice Questions

General

- Where do you live?
- Where do you come from?
- Have you always lived there?
- How long have you been living there?

The place

- Do you live in the city or the countryside?
- What kind of a place is it?
- Is it a large city or a small town?
- Has it changed much in the past few years?

Feelings about hometown

- Do you like living there?
- Is there anything you dislike about living there?
- Would you recommend it as somewhere to live?

Places and people

- What's your favourite place in your hometown?
- What do people do in your hometown?
- Is it easy to travel around in your hometown?