

Read the introduction to Changing Places.

Changing places

Joanna is an artist from San Francisco who moved to London in 1988. We asked her to compare life in San Francisco and London. Here's what she told us.

Do you think these sentences are true or false?

- 1) San Francisco is more violent than London.
- 2) People have a higher standard of living in San Francisco.
- 3) Public transport is better in London.
- 4) English drivers are more aggressive than American drivers
- 5) San Francisco is smaller than London.
- 6) Food in the United States is better than in England.

Now read what Joanna told us and see if you were right.

A) The cities

San Francisco is a lovely city in a beautiful bay. It's got lots of great buildings and places. It's smaller and much more modern than London, but it's less interesting. London has a lot more theatres and museums. The Americans are usually more interested in money than culture! The architecture in London is incredible and very stimulating, and the parks and markets are wonderful. London isn't as dangerous as San Francisco, and it's less violent. I feel much safer living here - nobody carries a gun, not even the police!

B) The cost of living

People have a higher standard of living in the States because generally, it's much less expensive than England. For example, petrol is less than half the price and things like food, clothes, and cameras are much cheaper. It's a shopper's paradise and I always spend a fortune when I go back! It's a bit more expensive to rent a flat in London and my bills are much bigger than they were in San Francisco. So, although my salary in London is about the same as it was in the States, I have to work harder to get the same quality of life as I had before.

C) Public transport

In San Francisco you can walk everywhere because it's a small city. There's less traffic than in London, and public transport is great. There are cable-cars to go up all the hills and electric buses which make the city much cleaner. Public transport in London is terrible and really expensive. It takes me an hour to get to work and the journey is usually stressful. London's dirtier too and much more polluted. The traffic is awful, because there are

too many cars and the streets are narrow. But English drivers aren't as aggressive as American drivers!

D) The food

Food in the States is generally much better. It's fresher, cheaper, and there's much more choice. Restaurants aren't as expensive as in London and the service is much better. In some restaurants they put a clock on the table when you arrive, and if they haven't served your meal in five minutes, they'll give you the food free! I'm usually disappointed when I eat out in London, although the Indian restaurants are excellent.

Make two sentences for each pair. Use the space below.

- 1) Moscow / Paris (big)
- 2) Casablanca / Warsaw (hot)
- 3) Tokyo / Helsinki (noisy)
- 4) Chicago / San Francisco (violent)
- 5) the traffic in Bangkok / in Venice (bad)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____