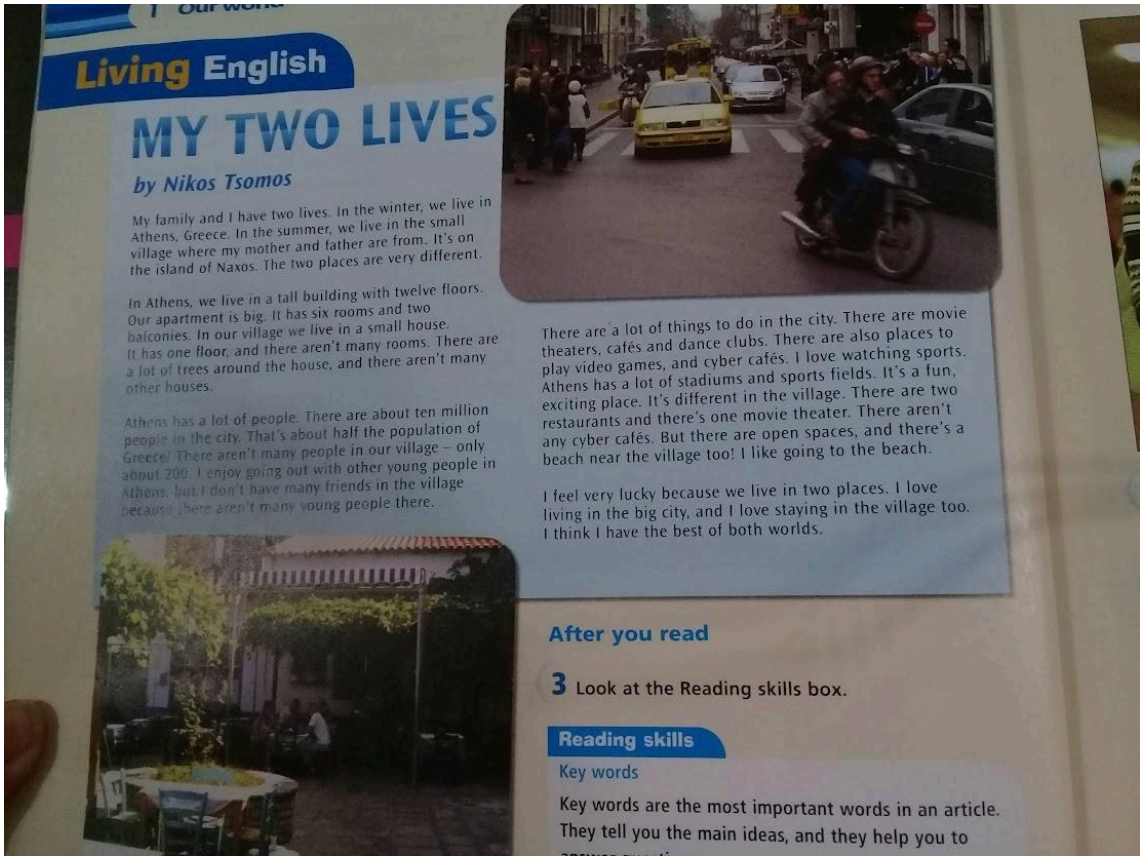


Living English

MY TWO LIVES

by Nikos Tsomos

My family and I have two lives. In the winter, we live in Athens, Greece. In the summer, we live in the small village where my mother and father are from. It's on the island of Naxos. The two places are very different.

In Athens, we live in a tall building with twelve floors. Our apartment is big. It has six rooms and two balconies. In our village we live in a small house. It has one floor, and there aren't many rooms. There are a lot of trees around the house, and there aren't many other houses.

Athens has a lot of people. There are about ten million people in the city. That's about half the population of Greece! There aren't many people in our village – only about 200. I enjoy going out with other young people in Athens, but I don't have many friends in the village because there aren't many young people there.

There are a lot of things to do in the city. There are movie theaters, cafés and dance clubs. There are also places to play video games, and cyber cafés. I love watching sports. Athens has a lot of stadiums and sports fields. It's a fun, exciting place. It's different in the village. There are two restaurants and there's one movie theater. There aren't any cyber cafés. But there are open spaces, and there's a beach near the village too! I like going to the beach.

I feel very lucky because we live in two places. I love living in the big city, and I love staying in the village too. I think I have the best of both worlds.

After you read

3 Look at the Reading skills box.

Reading skills

Key words

Key words are the most important words in an article. They tell you the main ideas, and they help you to

Reading Comprehension - "My two lives".

Before you read

Look at the two pictures and the title of the article. Do you think Nikos lives:

1. in a village?
2. in a city?
3. in a village AND a city?

While you read

Answer the questions.

1. Write two things Nikos likes about the city.
2. Write two things Nikos likes about the village.

After you read

Vocabulary.

A. Read the article quickly. Find words for the following ideas.

1. population and social life: *people, population, going out, young people, friends*
2. where people live: *tall building, …*
3. entertainment:

B. Read again and fill in the blanks.

1. Nikos's family lives in the village in *the summer.*
2. Nikos's apartment in Athens is _____.
3. The population of Nikos's village is about _____.

4. In the village, Nikos doesn't have many _____.
5. Nikos loves _____ sports.
6. There aren't any _____ in the village.
7. There is a _____ near the village.

C. Match the nouns with the words below.
pollution - noise - houses - entertainment - traffic - tall buildings - open spaces - litter

1. offices or apartments: *tall buildings*
2. dirty air and water:
3. movies and live music:
4. trash in the street:
5. a lot of cars:
6. parks:
7. sounds of cars and planes:
8. places for people to live:

WRITING

A. Fill in the chart with information about the place where **you** live.

Name of place	
I like	
I don't like	

B. Now write a text about where you live. Start…

I live in….
It is a...place.
I like....
I don't like...because...