

Inside Reading Level Intro
Unit 5 “The Growth of Cities” Pre-Reading Activities

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading 2 in Unit 5 tells why populations in cities are getting bigger, and it discusses the problems caused by the growing number of people living in cities.

When exact numbers are not needed, certain words or phrases can be used to estimate. Read the example below.

Most people in my town work in the technology industry.

The writer is trying to show that many people where she lives work in the same industry. For her purposes, it’s not necessary to communicate that there are exactly 26,432 people who work in the tech industry. She just wants people to have an idea of how many.

When you are reading, look for words that are used to estimate or give an idea of a number or size, such as the following from Reading 2:

most	increasing	about	nearly	limited
reduce	very little	over	growing	large

Now read the following sentences from Reading 2 and underline the words that give an idea about a number. Circle the words that tell what is being estimated.

Example: To reduce traffic and pollution, some cities have passed laws that restrict the use of automobiles in certain areas.

1. Today, nearly 30 cities in the world have populations of over 10 million people.
2. Port cities have grown because international trade has been increasing.
3. However, there is usually very little empty space within the area of a large city.
4. As cities grow, they face several problems when large numbers of people live in a limited area.
5. Tokyo, the world’s largest city, has a population of about 37 million people.

Place the words from the box above into the correct category.

A Small Amount	A Big Amount	An Estimated Number
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____ (almost or not quite)
_____ (to make smaller)	_____ (getting bigger)	
_____ (more than two but not many)	_____	

Inside Reading Level Intro
Unit 5 “The Growth of Cities” Pre-Reading Activities
Answer Key

When you are reading, look for words that are used to estimate or give an idea of a number or size, such as the following from Reading 2:

most	increasing	about	nearly	limited
reduce	very little	over	growing	large

Now read the following sentences from Reading 2 and underline the words that give an idea about a number. Circle the words that tell what is being estimated.

1. Today, nearly 30 cities in the world have populations of over 10 million people.
2. Port cities have grown because international trade has been increasing.
3. However, there is usually very little empty space within the area of a large city.
4. As cities grow, they face several problems when large numbers of people live in a limited area.
5. Tokyo, the world’s largest city, has a population of about 37 million people.

Place the words from the box above into the correct category.

A Small Amount	A Big Amount	An Estimated Number
very little	most	about
limited	over	nearly (almost or not quite)
reduce (to make smaller)	increasing (getting bigger)	
several (more than two but not many)	large	