

Unit 8 Describing places – My favourite part of town p86

1 What's your favourite town or city? Why do you like it? Which parts of it do you particularly like? Work with a partner and tell them about it.

2 Do the words in the box describe something positive, negative or neutral?

Do they refer to a person, a place or food?
Or more than one?

picturesque	intellectual	brand-new
snoring	a down-and-out	a haven
twisting	boutiques	mouth-watering
aromas	a magnet	flock (v)

3 Read the description of Greenwich Village in New York City. Which aspects of life in the Village do the photos show? What is wrong with this text?

4 Work with your partner and decide where you could divide the text into paragraphs. What is the purpose of each paragraph? Think of a heading for each one and compare them with others in the class.

5 The description is part fact and part opinion. Find examples of both.

6 Underline examples of relative clauses and participles.


7 Write a description of your favourite part of town (about 250 words). Use the paragraph plan to help you.

Paragraph 1: General/Personal impressions

Paragraph 2: Its history

Paragraph 3: Its character

Paragraph 4: Conclusion and/or final anecdote

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I'm a Greenwich Villager and proud of it!

I live in Greenwich Village, New York, which is in the 'downtown' (southern) part of Manhattan and includes Washington Square Park, New York University, and a maze of picturesque little streets. It's my favourite part of town. So why do I like it so much? It's an artistic and intellectual neighbourhood with people playing chess in the park, artists selling paintings on the sidewalk, and students discussing life in coffee shops. Life in 'the Village' is never dull. There's a surprise around every corner – maybe a brand-new restaurant that wasn't there last week, a snoring down-and-out sleeping in the doorway, or a celebrity being pursued by paparazzi and fans. A sense of history pervades Greenwich Village. It was first inhabited by Native Americans, then Dutch settlers, and then the British, who in 1713 named it 'Greenwich' after a town in England. The Village really was a small, rural village until the 1800s, when people escaping outbreaks of disease began moving there. Ever since, the Village has been a haven for artists, writers, poets, and musicians. Many famous people have lived in Greenwich Village, including the writer Jack Kerouac, the singer Bob Dylan, and the actress Uma Thurman. The popular sitcom *Friends* was set here, and busloads of tourists looking for places mentioned in the show come here every weekend. The heart of the Village is an area of pretty, twisting streets west of Sixth Avenue, where there are endless theatres, used bookstores, coffee shops, trendy boutiques, and of course, restaurants. A large part of the Village experience has to do with food. The Village is packed with food shops and restaurants from every region of the world. Mouth-watering aromas are everywhere from first thing in the morning until late at night. The Village is a genuine 24/7 part of the town. Washington Square Park is like a magnet for young people. They flock from every corner of the world to sit on the benches or beside the fountain, talking, playing musical instruments, and celebrating the freedom of friendship and youth. My mother, who grew up in New York City, used to say that Times Square is for tourists, but the Village is the real New York.