

Compare and Contrast
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City vs. Rural

What kind of place do you live in? Is it a big bustling city, or a small quiet town? I have lived in both a large suburb and the rural country, and I can definitely say that my life was changed by moving. My senses 'norms' were completely changed. I noticed new things, and formed new opinions about others. All in all, I wouldn't classify either place to live as better or worse, just different. Both the cities and the country have a different smell, sound, and amount of diverse cultures.

The first thing I really noticed that was different from living in the cities was the smell. Before I even opened my eyes I knew I was on my farm because I could sense the fresh air. Breathing in the cities seemed thicker and less fulfilling. After moving to the country I realized what 'clean' air really was. It is crisp, refreshing, and welcoming. The polluted city air lacks character and personality. City air is dull, and rural air is sparkling and pure.

Another thing that I noticed that was different between living in the city and living in the country is the sound. The cities sound often seems to be of chaos, with many cars and people rushing about. It is not uncommon to hear a police or ambulance siren, where in the country it happens a lot less often. The other thing about city sound is that it is constant. There is always a hum of activity within a city. In the country it seems to be the opposite. There are still sounds, but they are more of nature. In the country is it very easy to be aware of the sound of wind as it dances through the fields. I also wake up to the song of birds now much more often than I did when I lived in the cities. It is a reassuring sound that shows how much more in nature my farm

is than my old home. Both the city and the country have their own unique sounds, but the city's is much more dramatic than the country's.

The biggest difference, and difficulty, I faced when I moved to a rural town from the city was the lack of diversity of culture. I quickly noticed that the percentage of different ethnic groups was almost non-existent. Almost every person in my town is a form of Christian. This was a shock to me because the school I had attended previously had over thirty-one different ethnic backgrounds throughout the students. To be different was normal. I also learned extremely fast that the acceptance of different religions and cultures was very low. It seems that people in the country tend to be a lot more narrow minded about others than people who are from the city.

There are many other differences between the city and the country but there are also some similarities. People are people, not matter where and how they live. The city and country are only defined by the amount of space between people and how much land they own. The country is like an expanded city and a city is like a compacted country town.

One similarity is the technology available. The country is often thought of as very far behind in the technology sense. But in reality, the people living in the country now have the same access to many different types of technology. Anyone on the internet can be from anywhere. We all now have to ability to appear the same on the internet. We also strive to make our lives easier through developing new ways to do our jobs. People in the city may focus on improving how a software system works while farmers focus on finding ways to improve their tractors. Either way, people from both places use the advance of technology everyday.

Another thing that is the same about living in the country and living in the city is schooling. Children are expected to go to school wherever they live. Sure it may take a lot longer for some kids to get to school, but they go all the same. The core subjects are also the same

despite where the children live. Beyond grade school, people go on to higher education. That also does not depend on where they live. Although commute and subjects may differ some, kids everywhere go to school.

As stated before, people are people. Although we all live in different places, come from different cultures, and different religions, we still do many things alike. Mothers and fathers from everywhere provide for children. Though they may be different, we still work jobs to make money. People worship their gods no matter where they call home. People are not defined by their homes. A place is just a place, and a home is just somewhere we base our lives. Cities and rural towns are homes, no matter how different they may be to you and me.

I have found that living in the city has its upsides and downsides, just like living in the country. I have liked both my homes, both for different reasons. I found good people at both, and wrote a chapter of my life in both. I may end up where I do because of my job, or by the person I marry, but I have decided that that is okay because my heart does not belong to either the city or the country. My heart lies where I am happy, at the place I call 'home'.

