

Extra *it**I can use it as a preparatory object.*

1 **SPEAKING** Look at the photo and describe it.
Is it like this where you live?

2 Read the text about urban living. Summarise how the writer feels about the problem of overpopulation.

The Big Squeeze

If, like me, you **hate it** that people tend to jostle their way down a crowded street or squeeze their way into packed trams in the height of summer, I've got bad news – it's only going to get worse!

Experts consider it inevitable that the Earth's population will continue to grow – with figures predicting an increase from 7.3 billion to 8.4 billion by the year 2030. With more and more people set to live in cities

5 and so-called megacities, we surely **owe it** to society as a whole to maintain urban living standards.

Although it is the emerging economies like China, India and Africa that will face the major population booms, the continued decrease in rural business here in the West **leaves it** to us city dwellers to make room for the flocks of people continuing to migrate to the city.

10 So, if you happen to spot me looking all grumpy on the Tube one day, you'll **find it** in your best interest to give me a **very** wide berth*. What I'm basically saying is: I **love it** when I don't have to share my personal space with anyone and I'd really **appreciate it** if you all just kept out of my way.

*to give sb/sth a wide berth – to avoid sb/sth

3 Read the **LANGUAGE FOCUS**. In your notebook, write example sentences with the verbs which were not used in the text in Exercise 2 and the extra *it*.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Extra *it*

You use *it* as a preparatory object before a real object (an infinitive or clause) after certain verbs:

- hate/like/love + *it* + when/that clause
- would appreciate + *it* + if clause
- leave/owe + *it* + to sb + to + infinitive
- consider/find/think + *it* + adjective/noun/prepositional phrase + that clause/to + infinitive

4 In your notebook, match the sentence halves. Use the **LANGUAGE FOCUS** to help you. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 I find | 5 I don't like |
| 2 My parents would appreciate | 6 Most non-city dwellers find |
| 3 We owe | 7 I absolutely love |
| 4 I consider | 8 We should leave |

+ *it* +

- a funny that drivers complain about traffic jams.
- b to our parents to ensure we live by society's rules.
- c when I can just sit in a park and have some quiet time to myself.
- d important that we continue to think about the problems of overpopulation.
- e to the experts to decide how we live.
- f if we told them more about the thoughts of the younger generation.
- g that you often have to stand on public transport.
- h an inconvenience to commute to work or school.

1 a: I find it funny that drivers complain about traffic jams.

5 **SPEAKING** Which of the sentences in Exercise 4 do you agree with? Give reasons for your answers.

6 **USE OF ENGLISH** In your notebook, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use the word in capitals, but do not change it.

- I really don't like people staring at me. **HATE**
I hate it when people stare at me.
- Could you give me a bit more room? I'd be very grateful. **APPRECIATE**
I appreciate it if you give me more room.
- It's her responsibility now. She can develop the new housing scheme. **LEAVE**
I'll leave it to her to develop the scheme.
- We think you should plan for more public parks. It's important. **CONSIDER**
We consider it important that you plan for more public parks.
- People say hello in the streets here. It's nice. **LIKE**
I like it when people say hello in the streets.
- You need to get out of the city for a few days. You deserve it. **OWE**
You owe it to yourself to get out of the city for a few days.
- In my opinion, swearing in public is rude. **THINK**
I think it is rude to swear in public.

7 **SPEAKING** In your notebook, complete the sentences so that they are true for you. Then compare your ideas.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 I hate it that ? . | 4 I owe it to ? . |
| 2 I love it when ? . | 5 I think it awful that ? . |
| 3 I would appreciate it if ? . | 6 I find it ? . |