

The roots *-polis-* (and its related form *-polit-*) and *-urb-* derive from two ancient words for “city.” *Polis* was the ancient Greek word for city-state, that is, a self-governing city such as Athens or Sparta. *Urbs* was the Latin word for city. Both *polis* and *urbs* have been sources for many newer words in English, ten of which you will learn in this lesson.

WORD LIST

- cosmopolitan
- geopolitics
- impolitic
- megalopolis
- metropolitan
- policy
- politico
- suburban
- urban
- urbane

DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each vocabulary word, write the word on the line to the right.

1. **cosmopolitan** (kōz'mə-pōl'ī-tŋ) *adjective* Sophisticated in an international way. (From the Greek words *kosmos*, meaning “universe,” and *polis*, meaning “city”)
1. _____

Example With students from seventeen different countries, the school has a *cosmopolitan* atmosphere.

2. **geopolitics** (je'ō-pōl'ī-tīks) *noun* The study of the relationship between geography and politics. (From the Greek words *gē*, meaning “earth,” and *polis*)
2. _____

Related Word geopolitical *adjective*

Example Someone doing work in *geopolitics* might study the relationship between oil production and per-capita income in the nations of the world.

3. **impolitic** (im-pōl'ī-tīk) *adjective* Unwise; not exhibiting good judgment. (From the Latin *in-*, meaning “not,” and the Greek word *polis*)
3. _____

Example It is *impolitic* to insult those from whom you expect favors.

4. **megalopolis** (meg'ə-lōp'ə-līs) *noun* A unified urban region comprising several large cities and their surrounding areas. (From the Greek *megalo-*, meaning “large,” and *polis*)
4. _____

Example The “San-San” *megalopolis* extends from San Diego to San Francisco, California.

5. **metropolitan** (mēt' rə-pōl'y-tən) *adjective* Pertaining to a major city: A *metropolitan area usually includes a large city and its suburbs.* *noun* A high-ranking bishop. (From the Greek words *mētēr*, meaning "mother," and *polis*) 5. _____
- Related Word** *metropolis noun*
- Example** The Los Angeles *metropolitan* area is the center of film and television production in the United States.
6. **policy** (pōl'y-sē) *noun* A general plan, principle, or course of action followed by an organization or an individual. (From the Greek word *polis*) 6. _____
- Example** This store has a *policy* of allowing returns for cash.
7. **politico** (pə-lit'y-kō) *noun* An informal or journalistic term for a politician. (From the Italian word *politico*, meaning "political") 7. _____
- Example** In the capital many of the *politicos* meet for lunch at the Longworth Grill.
8. **suburban** (sə-būr'bən) *adjective* Characteristic of the suburbs, the mainly residential areas surrounding large cities. (From the Latin words *sub*, meaning "secondary," and *urbs*, meaning "city") 8. _____
- Related Words** *suburb noun; suburbanite noun*
- Example** Thousands of workers drove from their *suburban* homes to their offices in the city.
9. **urban** (ûr'bən) *adjective* Like a city; characteristic of cities. (From the Latin word *urbs*) 9. _____
- Example** *Urban* transport in Boston consists of trains, trolleys, buses, subways, and taxis.
10. **urbane** (ûr-bān') *adjective* Elegantly polite and sophisticated. (From the Latin word *urbs*, referring to the supposedly refined, sophisticated manners of people from a city.) 10. _____
- Related Word** *urbanity noun*
- Example** The *urbane* couples danced the mambo until dawn.