READING

City problems TEENAGERS' SOLUTIONS

1 **Look at the photos. What do you think these teenagers invented? Read the article quickly and check your answers. Ignore any spaces.**

These two teenagers noticed two everyday problems in cities. And they decided to do something about them.

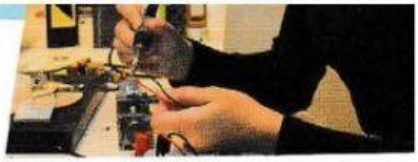
While Ben Gulak was visiting Beijing, China, he was shocked at the air pollution in the city. He soon realised one of the main causes: transport. In Ben's home town in Canada, the traffic is quite light, but Beijing has a lot of traffic. Some people drive cars, but a lot of people ride scooters. They're cheaper and they don't need much petrol. They're also lighter and easier to drive through traffic jams. There is one problem: petrol scooters can produce ten times more air pollution than cars.

Back in Canada, Ben started thinking about the problem. He wanted to design a new type of transport – something as small as a scooter, but cleaner. He called his invention the Uno – a motorbike which looks like … half a motorbike! It doesn't use any petrol – just electricity.

Ben won a prize for his invention and now he's completed three different versions of the bike. Will we one day see it on our roads?

When Ann Makosinski was young, she only had a few toys to play with. Instead, she loved inventing new things from rubbish around the house. They didn't work, of course, but Ann soon [1] _____ an interest in science and electronics.

The idea for her first successful invention came from a friend in the Philippines. Ann, who is half Filipino, half Canadian, [2] _____ that her friend was doing badly at school. The [3] _____ was that she couldn't study at night because there wasn't any electricity. Ann was amazed to discover that many people, over a billion in fact, don't have [4] _____ to electricity. And then she remembered a fact from her science class: the heat in a person means each of us is like a walking 100W light bulb. So Ann designed a torch that uses just the heat from a human hand. It wasn't as powerful as a normal torch and only [5] _____ a little light. But Ann's invention won an international science competition with a prize of $25,000 to [6] _____ her education in the future.



2 **Now read the part about Ann Makosinski again and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, choose A, B, C or D.**

1	**A** developed	**B** grew	**C** made	**D** increased
2	**A** informed	**B** heard	**C** told	**D** called
3	**A** trouble	**B** event	**C** complaint	**D** rule
4	**A** opportunity	**B** way	**C** chance	**D** access
5	**A** did	**B** brought	**C** produced	**D** achieved
6	**A** own	**B** carry	**C** keep	**D** support

3 **Read the article again and complete the sentences with one or two words in each space.**

1 Ben was on holiday in _____ but he is actually from _____.
2 Cars use _____ than scooters.
3 Scooters create more _____ than cars.
4 The Uno is cleaner than a normal scooter because it uses _____.
5 When she was a child, Ann used rubbish _____ new things.
6 Ann's friend wasn't doing well at school because it was impossible _____ at night.
7 Ann's torch works by changing _____ into electricity.
8 Ann won $25,000 for her _____ of the torch.

4 **Match the highlighted words in the article to the meanings.**

1 largest
2 something you know is true
3 plan something before making it
4 surprised and upset
5 very strong
6 in place of something else

TALKING POINTS

What problem or situation would you like to solve where you live?
How could you improve the problem or situation?

LIVEWORKSHEETS