

1. Read the introduction to the article and comments below.
Which problems are mentioned? What suggestions and recommendations do you think people will make?

What can we do to make our cities greener?

As more and more people move to the city, the problems of air pollution, traffic jams and lack of green spaces are increasing. These problems will continue to get worse unless we find solutions. What can we do to make our cities greener?

Comments

1. We should **encourage people to join** car-sharing schemes. He should **refuse to allow** companies to build houses on parkland.
2. My parents have **warned me not to ride** my bike on busy main roads, it's too dangerous. The mayor must promise to provide more cycle lanes.
3. How about **persuading more employers to offer** loans to their employees to buy bicycles?
4. I **recommend providing** free parking facilities near metro and train stations.
5. I'd **advise the mayor to install** more charging points for electric cars.
6. I **suggest reducing** fares for public transport. People are always complaining that it's too expensive.
7. We should **consider raising** the price of parking in the city centre.
8. People need to **start thinking** about the environment more and **avoid using** their cars unless they really need to.

2. Read the grammar box and complete the information with the reporting verbs in bold in Exercise 1.

Verb patterns

When we use two verbs together, the second verb is usually either the *-ing* form or the infinitive form with *to*.

Verbs + *-ing* form

consider, recommend, start, avoid, ¹_____

*I **recommend providing** free parking ...*

Verbs + infinitive with *to*

promise, ²_____

*The mayor must **promise to provide** more cycle lanes.*

Some verbs always need an object before the infinitive with *to*.

encourage, persuade, warn, ³_____

*We need to **persuade them to offer** loans.*

To make an *-ing* form or infinitive negative, put *not* in front of it.

*My parents have **warned me not to** ride my bike on busy main roads.*

A few verbs take both the infinitive and the gerund.

*They **started arguing** when they heard our suggestions.*

*They **started to argue** when they heard our suggestions.*

When you learn new verbs, try to memorise whether they take a gerund or an infinitive, or both.