

GRAMMAR

1 Write the comparative or superlative form.

- 1 The subway in Athens is _____ (modern) one I've ever been on.
- 2 What's _____ (quick) way to get around London?
- 3 Are trains here _____ (expensive) as in Britain?
- 4 I think my old car was _____ (economical) than my new one.
- 5 You look much _____ (good) with short hair!
- 6 Unfortunately my new office is just _____ (tiny) as my last one.
- 7 That was probably _____ (bad) coffee I've ever drunk!
- 8 Mary speaks _____ (slowly) than Anna, so she's easier to understand.

2 Complete the email with *a, an, the*, or – (no article).

Dear Paula,

We're having a wonderful time here in Rome. We arrived yesterday afternoon so we had time to find ¹ _____ nice little hotel and relax after ² _____ journey. ³ _____ hotel is in ⁴ _____ city centre, but it's not too noisy.

We woke up early this morning because ⁵ _____ sun was shining in through the window. We had ⁶ _____ quick breakfast (great coffee!) and then went out to explore ⁷ _____ city.

Later, we're meeting Kathy's friend Pietro, who's ⁸ _____ economics student at university here. He's going to take us to ⁹ _____ best pizzeria in Rome (at least he says it is!). I think ¹⁰ _____ Italian cities are all wonderful, but I can't believe what ¹¹ _____ fabulous city Rome is!

We'll be back home ¹² _____ next Friday. See you soon!

Love,

Julie

VOCABULARY

3 Complete the compound nouns in the sentences.

Example: Watch out for the speed camera when you drive out of town.

- 1 I never drive during the _____ hour because the traffic is so bad.
- 2 Can you believe that drivers didn't wear seat _____ in the past?
- 3 Excuse me, is there a petrol _____ near here?
- 4 I don't like riding my bike in towns with no cycle _____.
- 5 The _____ transport is excellent here. You don't need a car at all.
- 6 The queues at this taxi _____ are always long on Saturday nights.
- 7 It's annoying when cyclists go through a red traffic _____.
- 8 The speed _____ in many British towns is now as low as 20 mph.

4 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

- 1 Is there anything that you're really afraid _____?
- 2 I'm fed up _____ my job. I need a change.
- 3 Try not to laugh _____ Bill when he speaks French – his accent is terrible!
- 4 It can take ages to get to the city centre – it depends _____ the traffic.
- 5 This restaurant reminds me _____ the one we went to in Paris.
- 6 He used to be married _____ my youngest sister.
- 7 Jenna is arriving _____ Cambridge on Saturday evening.

5 Complete the phrasal verbs in the sentences.

- 1 We need to s_____ off for the airport at 6.00 if the flight is at 9.00.
- 2 We're going to r_____ out of petrol soon. There's very little left.
- 3 Slow d_____! You're going way too fast!
- 4 My satnav wasn't working and I e_____ up in the wrong part of town.
- 5 If you want a lift home, I could p_____ you up outside the supermarket.

READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

A radical transport system

As one of the world's fastest growing economies, there has been a huge increase in China's urban population. With so many more people also able to afford cars, China's cities now have some of the biggest traffic congestion problems and produce more pollution than any other country in the world.

But one Chinese engineer, Youzhou Song, has designed an exciting solution: the *straddling bus* (a bus which goes across and above part of the road, like a moving bridge). This bus, which looks like a train, holds passengers on the top level while cars can continue to drive beneath. The bus, travelling at about 40 kilometres an hour, will not move as fast as a car, but it will never have the problems of traffic jams. It is as wide as two lanes of the road, but it won't slow down the traffic. It can carry 1,200 passengers, and replace up to 40 conventional buses, saving 860 tons of fuel and 2,640 tons of carbon emissions per year. As it also runs on a combination of electricity and solar power, it offers a much greener, cleaner, quieter and more economical form of transport. It is also three times faster and ten times cheaper to build than the same length of underground railway. Designed with a huge window in the top of the bus, it is also a lighter and more cheerful way to travel!

Youzhou Song has thought of everything. The bus will follow fixed routes and passengers will board the bus from stations above the ground. These stations will also recharge the bus with electricity. If you're worried about the bus crashing into other vehicles, don't be. A system of lights and alarms will stop this from happening. Youzhou Song has even designed escape doors which open at the side in an emergency, just like on an aeroplane.

If tests on the new technology go well, Song's company is talking about building over 180 kilometres of bus route. Los Angeles is also interested in this idea for solving traffic problems and, who knows? We may all be looking forward to a new era of elevated bus travel!

- 1 In recent years, the traffic in China has got ☐.
A faster B better C worse
- 2 An engineer has designed ☐ to resolve traffic congestion.
A a train B a bus C a bridge
- 3 The new vehicle will travel more slowly than ☐.
A a car B a normal bus C all other traffic
- 4 ☐ will be used to run the new system.
A Only electricity B 860 tons of fuel C Electricity and solar power
- 5 The other forms of transport are not as ☐ as the new system.
A noisy B quiet C expensive
- 6 The bus will get electricity from ☐.
A the stations B the ground C the route
- 7 A safety system will stop accidents with ☐.
A pedestrians B traffic lights C cars
- 8 There are plans to build ☐ kilometres of bus route.
A more than 180 B 40 C almost 180

2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

Example: Many more people live in cities in China than in the past. T

- 1 Traffic has got worse in China because more people have cars. ☐
- 2 The new bus will carry 40 people. ☐
- 3 Cars and the new bus will use different levels. ☐
- 4 It is three times faster to build than the underground railway. ☐
- 5 The new bus will not pollute the city as much as the old buses. ☐
- 6 There will be an escape system similar to an aeroplane's. ☐
- 7 China is the only country interested in this new bus system. ☐

LISTENING

1 Listen to an interview and complete the sentences. You may need to change the form of some of the words you hear.

- 1 The media presents young people as being too _____ on their parents.
- 2 Megan thinks young people aren't treated as _____.
- 3 She says that there isn't as much _____ now for younger people.
- 4 She thinks volunteering is much _____ common now.
- 5 She says young people have always spent money on _____ and going out.

2 Listen to five conversations. Tick (✓) A, B, or C.

1 Which is the quickest way to get to Bristol?

A The coach. ☐ B A coach, then a train. ☐ C Two trains. ☐

2 How will Zoe get to Mike's house from the station?

A By taxi. ☐ B By car. ☐ C By bus. ☐

3 What was the most worrying thing about Carol's journey?

A It took a long time. ☐ B The traffic was terrible. ☐ C She needed petrol. ☐

4 Which form of transport do most people think is the safest?

A Flying. ☐ B Trains. ☐ C Buses. ☐

5 What surprised Tess the most about Copenhagen?

A The cycle lanes are sometimes busier than the roads. ☐

B The restaurants are extremely good. ☐ C The people are relaxed. ☐