

Module 5

Reading

You are going to read an article about a popular magazine. For questions 1-5, choose from the people A-D which you think fits best according to the text.

Small Change for a Big Difference

Help, in the form of a magazine, is available for homeless people who seek a better existence than the uncertain lives they lead on the streets. The Big Issue is one of the first magazines of its kind and its main concern is to provide income and better chances to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It is sold exclusively by homeless people, who get to keep 80 pence out of the 1.50 pounds that they sell the magazine for.

This prized magazine, which offers entertainment as well as the latest news developments, was started by John Bird and Gordon Roddick in 1991. Worried about the enormous number of people living on the streets of London, the two businessmen decided to do something about it. The idea for the magazine arose when Roddick went to New York and came across a newspaper that was sold by homeless people there.

Originally, the magazine came out monthly, and was distributed around London. Yet, such was its success, that two years after its first publication, The Big Issue started coming out once a week. Not only that, but shortly later it became available in other areas of England, as well as Scotland and Wales. Today, along with the five local editions that go out to most parts of the UK, the magazine also enjoys international status.

The quality of the magazine is very high, as its pages are filled with informative and entertaining articles written by expert reporters. There is also a section where homeless people have their stories and articles published. Not only this, but respected celebrities such as David Beckham and Sir Paul McCartney have at times contributed their thoughts and ideas to the pages of The Big Issue.

The increasing number of homeless people who were willing to participate in the sale of the magazine gave rise to another great idea. In 1995 The Big Issue Foundation was set up. This is a charity organization, but it is not one that sees the homeless as beggars in need of a few pounds. In the organisation's own words, they are there to help homeless people "off the streets and into a life, that is, training, education, accommodation and transformation.

1. The Big Issue mostly aims at
 - A raising money for the homeless.
 - B making the streets safer for the homeless.
 - C improving the living situation of the homeless.
 - D providing homes for the homeless.

Spotlight 11 Module 5

2. The idea for The Big Issue occurred
 - A when the two men went to the States.
 - B after talking to some homeless people.
 - C from a similar foreign publication.
 - D after watching a news story.

3. The Big Issue magazine
 - A was hugely successful as soon as it came out.
 - B began as a weekly publication.
 - C originally came out in Scotland and Wales once a week.
 - D became more popular a while later.

4. At present, The Big Issue is available
 - A in several countries around the world.
 - B everywhere in the United Kingdom.
 - C in most African...
 - D only in different areas around London.

5. All articles in The Big Issue are
 - A respected by famous people.
 - B about homeless people.
 - C written by professionals.
 - D educational and enjoyable.

6. The Big Issue Foundation
 - A was set up by homeless people.
 - B gives money to beggars.
 - C wants to increase the sales of the magazine.
 - D offers classes for the homeless.

Vocabulary

Fill in: stray industrial hawker residential filthy beggar

1. All the warehouses are in the _____ area near the port.
2. Tracy found a(n) _____ cat at the park, and took it home with her.
3. The street _____ said that the jackets he was selling were made of real leather.
4. Your clothes are _____! Have you been repairing your bike again?
5. This is a(n) _____ area; you won't find any office space to rent there.
6. Luke feels very sad when he sees a _____ living on the streets.

Grammar

Choose the correct item.

1. You shouldn't/don't have to park your motorbike on the pavement; you'll get a fine if you do so.
2. It mustn't/can't be Peter. He is too tall.
3. You mustn't/needn't smoke in public places.
4. I should/might go shopping tomorrow if I have enough time.
5. You needn't/shouldn't have bought me a present.

Fill in the correct preposition.

1. Ria is doing _____ her living room at the moment. She wants to make it bright and modern.
2. Neil needs to have the porch fixed. It's _____ very bad condition.
3. This football match has really done me _____. I feel like I could sleep for days.
4. The computer has shut down again. I'll ask John to take a look _____ it.
5. People who live in shanty towns often have to do _____ basic utilities.