

GRAMMAR

1 Write the comparative or superlative form.

Example: The people in Ireland are some of the friendliest (friendly) in the world.

- 1 The subway in Athens is _____ (modern) one I've ever been on.
- 2 What's _____ (quick) way to get around Moscow?
- 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 Isabella, 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

GRAMMAR

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of **can**, **could**, or **be able to**.

Example: We were so hungry we couldn't wait for dinner, so we ordered pizza.

- 1 I _____ swim when I was five. My dad taught me.
- 2 We're very sorry but we _____ come to the wedding. We'll be on holiday.
- 3 Would you like _____ play a musical instrument?
- 4 He opened his present before his birthday because he _____ wait!

- 5 After living here for four months, I _____ understand a lot of Greek now.
- 6 _____ you lend me a pen, please? I've forgotten mine.
- 7 I've never _____ sing well, but my brother has a beautiful voice.
- 8 I _____ read this menu without my glasses. Can you read it to me, please?
- 9 We're free tonight, so we'll _____ come and help you if you like.
- 10 My sister _____ ride a horse since she was four!

LISTENING

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

- 1 What is the city trying to improve?
A The air. B The parking. C The cycle lanes.
- 2 Why won't Nico buy an electric motorbike yet?
A The speed. B The sound. C The cost.
- 3 What interested Jess the most about Melbourne?
A A journey on a tram. B A visit to a theatre. C The food in the market.
- 4 How does Maggie feel about her new journey to work?
A More stressed than before. B The same as before.
C Less stressed than before.
- 5 What don't the children agree about?
A The Tube. B The old buses. C The café.

READING

1 Read the opinions about cycling in cities .

Pieter – Utrecht, The Netherlands

I cycle to work every day because it is faster than driving. By bike, I can be at work in 16 minutes. By car, I have to use a longer route that takes around 37 minutes. I know that the bike culture in the Netherlands is very different to, say, the USA. Here, everyone learns to cycle from a very young age. There's an old Dutch expression: 'You're not made of sugar.' It means 'the rain won't hurt you, so go outside and get on with things!' In Utrecht we don't see bikes as fashion items, or a way to save the planet, they're just a way to get from A to B. Most people don't wear helmets, and that's fine. Personally, though, I think things can still be improved. For example, the company where I work doesn't provide any cycle parking with a roof, which can be annoying. And the car parks in the city centre are too cheap.

Rosa – Madrid, Spain

Madrid is the worst city in Spain for cyclists. Part of the problem is the hills, but also there is no cycling culture. There aren't many cycle lanes and drivers aren't used to seeing bikes. It can be scary! Did you know it's only compulsory to wear a cycle helmet in two countries in the whole world? Anyway, in the spring, I try to cycle to work once or twice a week. But in the summer it is too hot, and I'm too worried about the traffic to cycle in the winter when

the evenings are darker. Most of the time I drive to work. I tried the metro, but the tickets were quite expensive and I have free parking at work, so I would like Madrid to be a better cycling city. Perhaps we can close some roads during the rush hour so that only cyclists can use them.

Artem – Copenhagen, Denmark

I'm a town planner here in bike-friendly Copenhagen. Since 2016 more bikes have been entering the city centre each day than cars. In my profession, we want to keep traffic moving. In the twentieth-century, the focus was on cars: 'How many cars can we get into the city centre?' Now, we concentrate more on the number of people, which means we think more about bikes and public transport. For example, in Copenhagen 62% of people commute to work or school by bike and only 9% use a car. But even here, 54% of the physical space for transport is given to the car. In my opinion, the 'look' of cities in the future will be very different. For most people, how fast they can reach their destination is the most important thing. That's why it's a mistake to promote the 'green' benefits of cycling. But for town planners, the environment is hugely important.

Write *P* for Pieter, *R* for Rosa, *A* for Artem.

Example: My city doesn't have a great bike culture. *R*

- 1 Most children in my country learn how to cycle. _____
- 2 I am interested in the way cycling benefits the planet. _____
- 3 In my city, cycling is the most common way to commute to work. _____
- 4 Personally, I don't think helmets should be required by law. _____
- 5 For my journey to work, public transport is not the cheapest option. _____

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