Unit 3 Getting from A to B

Reading 1

Labelling a diagram

1 You are going to read a passage about an airliner. Answer the question below.

Read the title and subtitle and look at the picture. What do you think the passage will be about?

a an airliner that is not the same as other airliners
b reasons why a new airliner has been so successful
c the problems that a new type of airliner has been having

2 Read the passage carefully. Complete labels (1–7) on the diagram. Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

The Boeing 787

The Boeing 787 'Dreamliner' has been described as the airliner of the future. We look at the technology that makes it different

Until now, airliner fuselages have been made of aluminium sheets. Large aircraft can have 1,500 of these sheets with between 40,000 and 50,000 metal fasteners. The 787 is the first airliner to be built with a one-piece fuselage made from a special material called 'composite'. Not only does this make the airliner quicker and easier to build, but it also makes it a lot lighter. The advantage of this weight reduction is that the 787 uses 20 percent less fuel than other airliners of a similar size, which makes it much more environmentally friendly. The reduced weight also means that the Boeing 787 can fly further than many other airliners of a similar size, carrying 210 passengers or more up to 15,200 kilometres before refuelling.

Sometimes an airliner needs to change from one type of engine to another. This is a difficult and time-consuming process. The 787 has a revolutionary engine attachment on the wing which means that the engines can be changed in a much shorter time. The case containing the engine is also different from those on other airliners. It has been designed to cut down the noise from the engine, making it less noisy for passengers in the cabin as well as for people on the ground.

In addition to a quieter cabin, passengers will also benefit from windows which are 65 percent larger than those on other airliners, giving them a much better view of the world passing by below them. The windows also have a unique facility which allows passengers or cabin crew to control the amount of light that enters them. This is thanks to a liquid in the window which reacts to an electric current. When a passenger or cabin crew member presses a button, the current causes a chemical reaction in the window which darkens the liquid.

1 Composite fuselage material is much ..... than traditional aluminium sheets.

2 Composite fuselage material reduces the amount of ..... that the airliner needs.

3 Airliner can accommodate at least ..... .

4 Engineers can fit a new engine in a ..... than it takes on other airliners.

5 A special engine case reduces ..... .

6 The size of the windows has increased by ..... .

7 Window glass can be made darker by passing an ..... through them.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading 2

Matching headings

3 You are going to read a passage about city streets. Before you begin, look at the two pictures and answer the question.

What do you think the passage will be about?

a the difference between towns and cities now, and towns and cities in the past

b how towns and cities are planned and built

c removing cars and other vehicles from streets in towns and cities

4 Read the passage quickly and underline words 1–8. Then match them with their definitions, a–h.

1 pedestrians	a trying something in order to discover what it is like
2 exhaust fumes	b the work that is done to keep something in good condition
3 experimenting	c people who own or manage shops
4 resistance	d when people disagree with a change, idea, etc., and refuse to accept it
5 shopkeepers	e the outer area of a city, town or village
6 construction	f the work of building houses, offices, bridges, etc.
7 maintenance	g people who are walking and not in a vehicle
8 outskirts	h strong, unpleasant and often dangerous gases from vehicles

Pedestrians only

How traffic-free shopping streets developed

A The concept of traffic-free shopping areas goes back a long time. During the Middle Ages, traffic-free shopping areas known as souks were built in Middle Eastern countries to allow people to shop in comfort and, more importantly, safety. As far back as 2,000 years ago, road traffic was banned from central Rome during the day to allow for the free movement of pedestrians, and was only allowed in at night when shops and markets had closed for the day. In most other cities, however, pedestrians were forced to share the streets with horses, coaches and, later, with cars and other motorised vehicles.

B The modern, traffic-free shopping street was born in Europe in the 1960s, when both city populations and car ownership increased rapidly. Dirty exhaust fumes from cars and the risks involved in crossing the road were beginning to make shopping an unpleasant and dangerous experience. Many believed the time was right for experimenting with car-free streets, and shopping areas seemed the best place to start.

C At first, there was resistance from shopkeepers. They believed that such a move would be bad for business. They argued that people would avoid streets if they were unable to get to them in their cars. When the first streets in Europe were closed to traffic, there were even noisy demonstrations, as many shopkeepers predicted they would lose customers.

D However, research carried out afterwards in several European cities revealed some unexpected statistics. In Munich, Cologne and Hamburg, visitors to shopping areas increased by 50 percent. On Copenhagen's main shopping street, shopkeepers reported sales increases of 25–40 percent. Shopkeepers in Minneapolis, USA, were so impressed when they learnt this that they even offered to pay for the construction and maintenance costs of their own traffic-free streets.

E With the arrival of the traffic-free shopping street, many shops, especially those selling things like clothes, food and smaller luxury items, prospered. Unfortunately, it wasn't good news for everyone, as shops selling furniture and larger electrical appliances actually saw their sales drop. Many of these were forced to move elsewhere, away from the city centre. Today they are a common feature on the outskirts of towns and cities, often situated in out-of-town retail zones with their own car parks and other local facilities.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 Now match the headings i–vii below with paragraphs A–E in the passage on page 19. There are two headings that you do not need.

List of Headings

i	Facing local opposition
ii	Some reasons for success
iii	Winners and losers
iv	A need for change
v	An experiment that went wrong
vi	An idea from ancient history
vii	North America learns from Europe

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

make and *cause*

1 Complete this newspaper article with the correct form of *make* or *cause*.

Chaos on streets as traffic computer crashes ... again

A power cut **1** ...caused... the city's traffic control computer system to stop working again yesterday morning. This **2** ..... enormous traffic jams throughout the city centre, as traffic lights stopped working. As well as **3** ..... thousands of people late for work, the chaos on the streets also **4** ..... a lot of accidents. Emergency vehicles were unable to reach accidents in time, since the traffic jams **5** ..... it impossible for them to cross the city quickly. A driver we interviewed said, "The new computer system was supposed to **6** ..... things easier for us, but since they started using it, it's just **7** ..... so many problems. It never works properly. This kind of thing **8** ..... me so angry."

Key vocabulary

2 Complete the passage using the words from the box.

aim alternative competition convenience
destination pedestrians revolutionary unwilling

London Underground's escalators

When London Underground railway's escalators were first installed in 1911, they were completely **1** ...revolutionary... . People had never seen anything like them before. Young people thought they were great fun, but many older passengers were **2** ..... to use them because they thought they were dangerous. They were frightened the escalators would stop suddenly, and throw them all the way to the bottom. As a result, wherever possible, they used **3** ..... forms of transport such as the bus or taxis.

Worried about losing their passengers to the **4** ..... , London Underground managers employed a man with an artificial leg to ride up and down on the escalators all day. Their **5** ..... was to prove that the escalators were safe. It worked, and the escalators became such a success that **6** ..... started coming into stations from the street just to ride them. Today, the escalators are more than just a **7** ..... . More than three million people rely on London Underground trains to get them to and from their **8** ..... every day, and the system would collapse without a fast and efficient way of getting them to and from the platforms.

LIVEWORKSHEETS