



READING ACTIVITY N° 1

Full name : _____ Level: Upper-intermediate

Competencia: Lee diversos tipos de textos en inglés como lengua extranjera.

Capacidad: Obtiene información del texto escrito.

Desempeño Precisado: Identifica información explícita, y complementaria integrando datos para resolver diversos ejercicios de comprensión lectora.

WILL CARS SOON BE A THING OF THE PAST?

Imagine a world without cars - a world with no traffic jams, no pollution and no worries about parking. This is the dream of Ollie Mikosza, the inventor of PRT, the Personal Rapid Transit system. PRT is a cross between a taxi, a bus and a cable car. It can take you door to door from your home to any building in a city without any of the inconveniences of driving or waiting for public transport. But will it work?

According to Mikosza, PRT will revolutionise the way we travel in cities. PTR is a system of individual vehicles which travel on metal structures above roads, buildings and even over water. (1) _____. They are controlled by a computer so you simply choose your destination and the computer calculates the fastest and the most direct route to get you there, avoiding any possible collisions with other vehicles on the way. (2) _____.

PTR has all the benefits of a car and none of the inconveniences of public transport. The podcars are designed to carry only two or three passengers so you don't have to share with strangers. (3) _____. There are no schedules or timetables because the vehicles wait at stations for passengers to arrive, instead of the other way around, and they operate 24 hours a day.

It may sound futuristic, but versions of the PRT are already in operation in some places in the world. The oldest and most expensive system is in Morgantown in the USA. (4) _____. Around 15,000 students use it every day to travel between university buildings and the city centre. Other cities have considered introducing the PRT system, including Auckland in New Zealand and Amritsar in India. Greenville County Economic Development in the US is meeting later in the year to decide whether or not to go ahead with plans to build a system there. It will cost about \$50 million, but the CED believes that it will succeed in reducing traffic problems where other systems have failed.

(5) _____. The podcars are powered by electricity so there is no pollution from exhaust fumes and the vehicles are virtually silent so there is no pollution either. Does this mean that we will all use podcars in cities in the future? Surprisingly, in spite of the many advantages, it seems that PRT isn't going to be the norm anytime soon. One of the main drawbacks of the system, critics say, is that the metal structures used to carry the podcars are unattractive. (6) _____.

However, Mikosza isn't going to give up on his dream. He plans to build tunnels for vehicles to travel through in areas of beauty or with particular historic interest, although these tunnels will make the system more expensive to build.

Interestingly, he also points out that more than a century passed between the invention of the first car and their widespread use. So perhaps we will see PRT in operation at some time in the future, if not in the next few years.

I. Read the article quickly. Answer the questions.

a) What is PRT?

b) Is it more similar to public or private transport?

c) Will it soon be in operation in cities around the world?

II. Read the article again. Complete the gaps with sentences A - G. There is one extra sentence you don't need.

A This will have obvious benefits for the environment.

B The podcars, as they are called, are self-driving.

C Passengers can relax, read, watch TV or simply enjoy the views as they travel.

D They say that they will spoil the appearance of the cities.

E Light vehicles are essential to keep cost to a minimum.

F It came into use as far back as 1970 and connects three university campuses.

G They're even considered safe for young children to use on their own.

III. Match the underlined words in the article with these definitions.

1. Stop hoping that something will happen or change. _____

2. Combination or mixture. _____

3. Start or continue. _____

4. Happening or existing in many places. _____

IV. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in 3.

1. The government has decided to _____ with plans to build a new motorway.

2. Snowboarding is a _____ between surfing and skiing.

3. Predictions indicate that flying cars will become _____ within 20 years.

4. He _____ the ideas of travelling for a year because he didn't have enough money.

