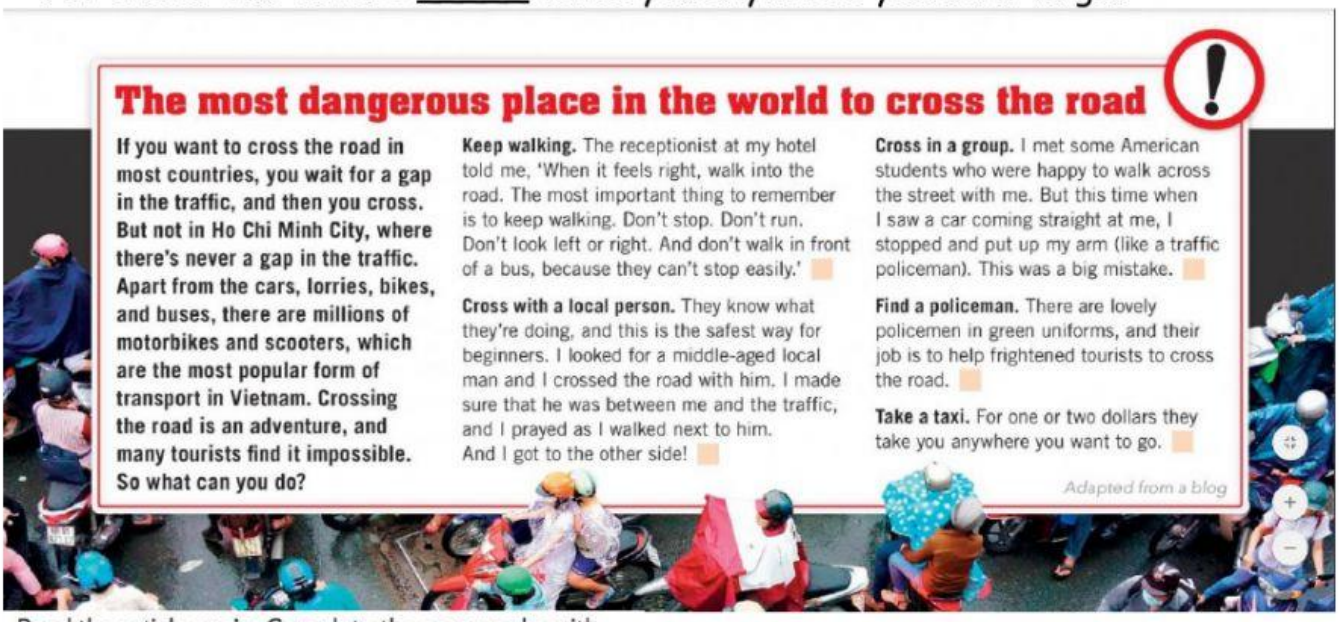
Reading

1. Match the phrases:

To cross			local man
A gap			walking
The most popular form			the street
Keep			frightened tourists
Cross with			the road
To get to			you want
To walk across			a local person
A middle-aged			in the traffic
To help			of transport
Anywhere			the other side

2. Choose the right option:

- If you want to _____ the road in most countries, you wait for a _____ in the traffic, and then you _____ .
- Crossing the road is an _____, and many tourists find it _____ .
- When it feels _____, walk into the road.
- The _____ important thing to remember is to keep walking.
- To cross the road with the local person is the _____ way for beginners.
- The policemen's job is to _____ .
- For one or two dollars _____ takes you anywhere you want to go.



The most dangerous place in the world to cross the road

If you want to cross the road in most countries, you wait for a gap in the traffic, and then you cross. But not in Ho Chi Minh City, where there's never a gap in the traffic. Apart from the cars, lorries, bikes, and buses, there are millions of motorbikes and scooters, which are the most popular form of transport in Vietnam. Crossing the road is an adventure, and many tourists find it impossible. So what can you do?

Keep walking. The receptionist at my hotel told me, 'When it feels right, walk into the road. The most important thing to remember is to keep walking. Don't stop. Don't run. Don't look left or right. And don't walk in front of a bus, because they can't stop easily.'

Cross with a local person. They know what they're doing, and this is the safest way for beginners. I looked for a middle-aged local man and I crossed the road with him. I made sure that he was between me and the traffic, and I prayed as I walked next to him. And I got to the other side!

Cross in a group. I met some American students who were happy to walk across the street with me. But this time when I saw a car coming straight at me, I stopped and put up my arm (like a traffic policeman). This was a big mistake.

Find a policeman. There are lovely policemen in green uniforms, and their job is to help frightened tourists to cross the road.

Take a taxi. For one or two dollars they take you anywhere you want to go.

Adapted from a blog

Read the article again. Complete the paragraphs with sentences A–E.

A All you need to do is smile and wave to them.
B The only thing that saved me was a student who shouted, 'Don't stop, keep walking!'.
C So if you really can't cross the road, you can get a taxi to take you to the other side.
D When I heard this I thought, 'Maybe it's better to just stay in my hotel and read!'.
E The second time I chose a woman selling vegetables with baskets full of sweet potatoes, and again I survived.

3. Say True or False:

- To cross the road in Ho Chi Minh City is a piece of cake. True False
- Apart from the cars, lorries, bikes, buses, you name it; there are millions of motorbikes and scooters. True False
- Bikes are the most popular form of transport in Sri Lanka. True False
- Crossing the road in Vietnam is an adventure. True False
- The main rule of crossing the road in Vietnam: Stop! Look left and right! Run! True False
- The safest way for beginners is to cross the road with locals. True False
- You can't cross the road in group. True False
- There are lovely policemen in brown uniforms and their job is to help frightened tourists to cross the street. True False
- For one hundred dollars a taxi takes you anywhere you want to go. True False

4. Answer the questions:

- How do people cross the road in different countries?
- What types of transport can you find in Vietnam?
- Is it easy to cross the road in Vietnam?
- What is the main rule of crossing the road in Vietnam?
- Why is crossing the road with a local person the safest way for beginners?
- What is the other way of crossing the road?
- Who can help you to cross the road?
- Is it cheap to travel by taxi in Vietnam?