



Future cities

Level 2

Have you ever thought about cities in the future? Practise your reading in English with this text.

Reading practice



Preparation

Match the words with the definitions.



a smart building	all the cars, buses and other vehicles using a road
a cycle lane	damage to the air or water
pollution	a building which uses technology to control things like heating
traffic	to pay to use something for a short time
to hire	going in a straight up or down direction
separated from	a part of a road that only people on bikes can use
a layer	not in the same place as something else
vertical	a level of something, with other levels above and below it



Reading text

Read the text about future cities.



Future cities

What do you imagine cities will be like in the future? Will we have smart buildings and flying cars? Or robots that will pick up our rubbish? What about schools? Will we still travel to school or will we study online from home? Perhaps all the buildings and roads will be underground and we'll just have parks and cycle lanes above.



Maybe ... or maybe not, but what we do know is that in the future, cities are going to have more and more people living in them. More than half the world's people already live in cities, and by 2050, cities will become home to about 6.5 billion people. That's a lot of people and very little space! More people means that we're going to have more pollution, traffic and noise. It also means that we'll need more homes, schools, hospitals, jobs and transport. We'll need more resources, like water and energy, and more ways to grow food too. Oh, and more parks to play in!



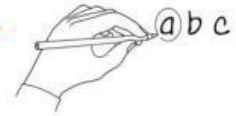
Many cities are already planning for the future. For example, Bristol is a cycling city in England. You can hire a bike (instead of taking a car or bus) and ride in cycle lanes which are separated from the traffic. In Singapore, people are looking 'up' to grow food! To save space, they grow vegetables in lots of layers in special tall buildings, called 'vertical farms'. And in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, there are 'floating houses' built on water instead of on land!



What do you think city life will be like in the future?



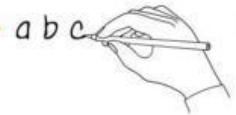
1. True or false?



Circle true or false for these sentences.

- | | | |
|--|-------------|-------|
| a. Most people live in cities today. | <u>true</u> | false |
| b. Cities are going to have more people in the future. | true | false |
| c. Cities will need fewer buildings in the future. | true | false |
| d. Resources will be less important in the future. | true | false |
| e. Some cities are trying new things to plan for the future. | true | false |
| f. In Bristol, you always ride your bike on the same road as the cars. | true | false |
| g. Singapore's vertical farms grow food in parks. | true | false |
| h. You can live in a house on the water in Amsterdam. | true | false |

2. Fill it in!



Complete the sentences.

half	future	water	growing	energy	lanes
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- We might learn at home instead of at school in the future.
- Cities are now home to more than _____ the world's people.
- We'll need more water and _____ in the future.
- In some places you can ride your bike in cycle _____.
- We need to find more space for _____ food.
- We can build homes on _____ when there's not enough land.



Write and draw!

What do you think cities will be like in the future where you live? Draw a picture and write about it!