6.5 Reading

Plastic is cheap and useful, and it's an important part of modern life. But we throw it away and it pollutes our cities, towns, countryside, rivers, seas and oceans. We have to produce less plastic and stop using plastic bags. We need to recycle plastic, and we need to think of ways to clean up our environment and save the planet.

One young engineer, Tateh Lehbib Braica, has found an amazing way to recycle rubbish that people throw away. Tateh's family lives in the Algerian desert, in a house with a metal roof. The metal made the house too hot, and when there were storms, the wind blew the roof off. So Tateh decided to build a home – with plastic bottles! People thought he was crazy, but the house was so good that Tateh got £43,000 from an organisation to build twenty-five more houses!

Each house needs about 6,000 plastic bottles, and four people can build one in a week. The workers fill the bottles with sand. Then they use them as bricks to make the walls. The walls are very strong, and they keep the house cool. This is important in the desert, where the temperature is often higher than 50°C.

If you want to learn about other ways to recycle plastic, you will find lots of information on the Internet.





1 Read the article and choose the best title.

a Keeping your house warm
b Pollution – a serious problem in the desert
c A serious problem – and an interesting solution

2 Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 What do we have to stop using?
We have to stop using plastic bags.
2 What is Tateh Lehbib Braica's job?
_____
3 What kind of rubbish does he recycle?
_____
4 What is he going to do with £43,000?
_____
5 What do the workers put inside the plastic bottles?
_____
6 Why are Tateh's houses good for people who live in the desert?
_____

3 Guess the meaning of the words highlighted in the text. Then look them up in a dictionary.

4 Complete the sentences with the words highlighted in the text.

1 The wind was very strong and it *blew* my hat off my head.
2 Italy and Spain _____ lots of fruit.
3 We have to fix the _____ of our house or the rain will come inside.
4 You need thousands of _____ to make a house.
5 If you go for a walk on the beach, you will get _____ in your shoes.
6 I've joined an _____ that is helping to save animals in danger.

5 In your notebook, copy and complete the conditional sentences. Use *will* and your own ideas.

1 If we throw plastic bottles away, *they will pollute our environment.*
2 If we clean up our environment, _____.
3 If you build a house with a metal roof, _____.
4 If you want a house like Tateh's, _____.
5 If four people build the house, _____.
6 If you build a house with plastic bottles, _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS