5C Vocabulary Near-synonyms

1 How much of a problem is litter in your area? Have any measures been taken to dissuade people from littering? How effective are they?

2 Read the information and choose the best alternatives.

Solving the litter problem

From food [1]*remains/debris* and packets strewn across sidewalks, to [2]*flotsam/remains* washing up on beaches, litter is an unsightly problem in many places around the world.

But, how can people be encouraged to play their part in keeping the environment [3]*pristine/disinfected*? Here are a few ideas.

Neighbourhood beautification

[4]*Scrubbing/Sprucing* up a neighbourhood with regular rubbish collections, along with street art, trees, flower beds and the like, can be helpful. Piles of [5]*debris/flotsam* attract more rubbish dumping, whereas people are much less likely to drop litter on an [6]*immaculate/hygienic* street.

Vote with your rubbish

One creative idea is to provide dual transparent bins, where people can express their opinions by placing their [7]*refuse/muck* in the bin that reflects their point of view. Granted, it might sound bizarre, but some studies indicate that this can lead to a reduction in littering.

The bottomless bin

Another idea is to add a sound effect to a bin,so that when someone throws in rubbish, the noise implies that it is falling a very long way down into a hole. This is fun enough to have kids (and kids at heart!) picking up a few extra pieces of rubbish just to hear the sound effect again, helping to keep streets [8]*spruced/spotless*.

Bin care

It's obviously helpful if public rubbish bins are kept [9]*hygienic/refused*. Being emptied regularly, along with being [10]*mucked/scrubbed* and [11]*disinfected/debris* makes all the difference. After all, no one wants to touch a bin with [12]*muck/flotsam* on it!

3 Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

- What do you think of the ideas in the texts? Would they work in your area? Why/Why not?
- What other ideas can you think of to dissuade people from littering?

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