

EXERCISE 1: Read the paragraph and write T (True) or F (False).

For many people who live in cities, parks are an important part of the landscape. They provide a place for people to relax and play sports, as well as a refuge from the often harsh environment of a city. What people often overlook is that parks also provide considerable environmental benefits.

One benefit of parks is that plants absorb carbon dioxide - a key pollutant and emit oxygen, which humans need to breathe. According to one study, an acre of trees can absorb the same amount of carbon dioxide that a typical car emits in 11,000 miles of driving. Parks also make cities cooler. Scientists have long noted what is called the Urban Heat Island Effect: building materials such as metal, concrete, and asphalt absorb much more of the sun's heat and release it much more quickly than organic surfaces like trees and grass. Because city landscapes contain so many of these building materials, cities are usually warmer than surrounding rural areas. Parks and other green spaces help to mitigate the Urban Heat Island Effect.

Unfortunately, many cities cannot easily create more parks because most land is already being used for buildings, roads, parking lots, and other essential parts of the urban environment. However, cities could benefit from many of the positive effects of parks by encouraging citizens to create another type of green space: rooftop gardens. While most people would not think of starting a garden on their roof, human beings have been planting gardens on rooftops for thousands of years. Some rooftop gardens are very complex and require complicated engineering, but others are simple container gardens that anyone can create with the investment of a few hundred dollars and a few hours of work.

(*mitigate: to make something less harmful, serious, etc.)

- _____ 1. Plants absorb oxygen and emit carbon dioxide.
- _____ 2. Green spaces cannot reduce the heat in cities.
- _____ 3. Building parks in many cities can be difficult because most land is for urban purposes, such as buildings and roads.
- _____ 4. Making rooftop gardens is an example of green spaces in cities.
- _____ 5. Making a rooftop garden is a new idea which has just appeared recently.

EXERCISE 2

outdoor

park

concrete

land

There are so many (1) _____ buildings and roads around me, so I really want to find a place full of trees and fresh air in my free time. There is a public (2) _____ near my house. My mother and I often go to the park to go jogging or play sports. A lot of people also go there to do exercise, and children like to play (3) _____ sport activities there, such as football and badminton. I hope they can use more (4) _____ to build more green areas in my town.