READING

City problems – TEENAGERS' SOLUTIONS

2.8

1 **Look at the photos. What do you think these teenagers invented? Read the article quickly and check your answers. Ignore any spaces.**

These two teenagers noticed two everyday problems in cities. And they decided to do something about them.

While Ben Gulak was visiting Beijing, China, he was shocked at the air pollution in the city. He soon realised one of the main causes: transport. In Ben's home town in Canada, the traffic is quite light, but Beijing has a lot of traffic. Some people drive cars, but a lot of people ride scooters. They're cheaper and they don't need much petrol. They're also lighter and easier to drive through traffic jams. There is one problem: petrol scooters can produce ten times more air pollution than cars.

Back in Canada, Ben started thinking about the problem. He wanted to design a new type of transport – something as small as a scooter, but cleaner. He called his invention the Uno – a motorbike which looks like … half a motorbike! It doesn't use any petrol – just electricity.

Ben won a prize for his invention and now he's completed three different versions of the bike. Will we one day see it on our roads?

When Ann Makosinski was young, she only had a few toys to play with. Instead, she loved inventing new things from rubbish around the house. They didn't work, of course, but Ann soon [1] _____ an interest in science and electronics.

The idea for her first successful invention came from a friend in the Philippines. Ann, who is half Filipino, half Canadian, [2] _____ that her friend was doing badly at school. The [3] _____ was that she couldn't study at night because there wasn't any electricity. Ann was amazed to discover that many people, over a billion in fact, don't have [4] _____ to electricity. And then she remembered a fact from her science class: the heat in a person means each of us is like a walking 100W light bulb. So Ann designed a torch that uses just the heat from a human hand. It wasn't as powerful as a normal torch and only [5] _____ a little light. But Ann's invention won an international science competition with a prize of $25,000 to [6] _____ her education in the future.

2 **Now read the part about Ann Makosinski again and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, choose A, B, C or D.**

1	**A** developed	**B** grew	**C** made	**D** increased
2	**A** informed	**B** heard	**C** told	**D** called
3	**A** trouble	**B** event	**C** complaint	**D** rule
4	**A** opportunity	**B** way	**C** chance	**D** access
5	**A** did	**B** brought	**C** produced	**D** achieved
6	**A** own	**B** carry	**C** keep	**D** support

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 **Read the article again and complete the sentences with one or two words in each space.**

1 Ben was on holiday in _____ but he is actually from _____.
2 Cars use _____ than scooters.
3 Scooters create more _____ than cars.
4 The Uno is cleaner than a normal scooter because it uses _____.
5 When she was a child, Ann used rubbish _____ new things.
6 Ann's friend wasn't doing well at school because it was impossible _____ at night.
7 Ann's torch works by changing _____ into electricity.
8 Ann won $25,000 for her _____ of the torch.

4 **Match the highlighted words in the article to the meanings.**

1 largest
2 something you know is true
3 plan something before making it
4 surprised and upset
5 very strong
6 in place of something else

TALKING POINTS

What problem or situation would you like to solve where you live?
How could you improve the problem or situation?

READING

1 **Read about these green cities. Write the topics mentioned in the correct column of the table. Sometimes more than one column is correct.**

animal life | bicycles | parks | pollution | public transport | recycling | rubbish

Barcelona	Bogotá	Singapore	Adelaide

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Talking about green cities around the world

More than half the world's population now lives in cities. The populations of cities are getting bigger and pollution is getting worse. So which cities are trying to solve this? We asked you which cities you think are the greenest.

I chose Barcelona because I **(1)** _____ it's a great example of a green city. There are lots of buses here and people often ride their bike to school or walk. There is also a metro system and cable cars. I think that the pollution from cars is a really big **(2)** _____, so Barcelona is a green city because it encourages people to take other forms of **(3)** _____ instead of their cars. Also, there are lots of parks in the **(4)** _____ of the city because it strongly believes in keeping the city green and healthy. The parks have lots of grass and trees and the air **(5)** _____ is very good. People **(6)** _____ to them to relax, to have lunch or to play sport.

Calen

Singapore is a green city in Asia. I think something like 30% of the city is covered by trees and green spaces. The trees help to reduce the hot temperatures and noise from traffic, giving people who live in Singapore a better quality of life. Even the airport is green because there are gardens and a butterfly farm. That's so smart! In the past, there was a lot of pollution but now Singapore wants to be famous for being green. I found a website about green things in Singapore and things you can do. You can pick up the rubbish in your area with your friends. I think it's great and people learn that it's not good to leave rubbish on the street.

Winston

Bogotá in Colombia is an interesting city because in 2016 it had a week where no cars were allowed into the city. There were buses but not many taxis. The city has also had 'Cycle Sunday' for over 30 years. The roads become bicycle paths. I think that's really cool because then you really think about the environment. The idea is that there is less pollution and everyone has to get into town in a 'green' way – walking, cycling, or bus. The idea was so successful that the mayor decided to create 300 km of bicycle lanes, which increased bicycle use by five times in the city. There's a good reason for it being called 'the greenest city in Latin America'!

Poppy

I didn't think Australia had a lot of pollution, but it does. Adelaide in South Australia is a green city. There are 29 parks and there's a big hotel there which recycles its energy and water. Also, there are a lot of cycle paths and you can hire a bike for free. That's really good. There is a bus that doesn't use petrol: it is solar powered – you know, it uses energy from the sun! That's awesome!

Kelly

2 Read the paragraph about Barcelona again. For each question, choose the correct answer.

1	**A** imagine	**B** guess	**C** think	**D** wonder
2	**A** complication	**B** problem	**C** operation	**D** situation
3	**A** transport	**B** vehicle	**C** travel	**D** movement
4	**A** middle	**B** inside	**C** zone	**D** area
5	**A** standard	**B** condition	**C** quality	**D** level
6	**A** visit	**B** arrive	**C** go	**D** move

3 Which writer

1 was surprised by some information? .....
2 likes that one kind of transport does not cost any money? .....
3 thinks an idea is intelligent? .....
4 likes an idea because it makes people think about the environment? .....
5 thinks people need to learn to be tidy? .....
6 thinks it's a good idea to reuse things? .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS