## Completing tables

**1** Before you look at the passage below, decide which of the following words are associated with advantage and which with disadvantage.

downside ▪ benefit ▪ drawback ▪ stumbling block ▪ problem ▪ upside ▪ plus ▪ handicap

# The future of energy sources

**A** The future for petroleum use at the moment looks rather uncertain, despite enjoying the major benefit of a very advanced infrastructure already in place. The downsides from the environmental point of view are patently obvious: harm to public health through carbon dioxide emissions in exhaust fumes.

**B** The picture for natural gas is similarly mixed. While its main strength lies in it's being a relatively clean fuel involving little processing and being easily transportable via pipelines, natural gas requires compression or low temperatures if it is to be used for cars or other vehicles.

**C** Yet there is another problem with natural gas. It may produce less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels, but the major stumbling block to its use is that the methane released lives for a long time in the atmosphere. In addition, as it is a non-renewable energy source like petroleum, in coming years natural gas will not be in use. But in the short term at least, the situation looks rosy.

**D** Ethanol, despite the drawback of a dearth of commercial outlets, heralds a new dawn for the energy market. But, before we consider ethanol in depth, let us look at hydrogen. It is perhaps the most attractive of all renewable fuels. Its greatest appeal is that it is readily available everywhere in the form of water ($H^2$0). Solar energy is used to split the water into hydrogen and oxygen and then recombine it, with water being the waste by-product. Perhaps its main drawback is making the hydrogen production units small enough to fit cars. But once this happens, the future of hydrogen is bright indeed.

**2. Complete the table with no more than TWO words**

| Type of fuel | Main advantage | Main disadvantage | Future |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Petroleum** | Very advanced infrastructure | **1** _____ | Uncertain |
| **Natural Gas** | Relatively clean | Produces **2** _____ | **3** _____ |
| **Ethanol** | | Lack of **4** _____ | Signals a **5** _____ |
| **Hydrogen** | **6** _____ | Hydrogen production units for cars not small enough | **7** _____ |

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