You are going to read a text about the changes in the English language. For questions 1–5, complete the text with the words from the box below. There are two words which you do not need to use. An example (0) has been done for you.

CHANGES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

How many words in the English language never make it into dictionaries? This is the question that

researchers and members of the public can now answer using a new online (0*) tool* developed by Google with the help of scientists at Harvard University. The large database is being created as the

(1) _____ to a new era of research in the humanities, linguistics and social sciences that has been called 'culturomics'.

The database includes more than 5m books – both fiction and non-fiction – published between 1800 and 2000. If written as a single line of (2) _____, this would stretch to the moon and back 10 times.

In their initial analysis of the database, the team found that around 8,500 new words (3) _____ the English language every year and the lexicon grew by 70% between 1950 and 2000. But most of these words do not appear in dictionaries. It is estimated that 52% of the English vocabulary (4) _____ of undocumented words in standard references.

The researchers were also able to trace how words had changed in English, for example, a trend that started in the US towards more regular forms of verbs from irregular forms like 'burnt', 'smelt' and

'spilt'. The irregular forms still are used in British English. But the -t irregulars may (5) _____ in England: each year, a population the size of Cambridge adopts 'burned' instead of 'burnt'.

Adapted from The Guardian

consists enter dictionary disappear important key text tool

LIVEWORKSHEETS

You are going to read a text about the e-bikes. Seven sentences have been removed from the text. For questions 6-12 choose from the sentences A–I the one which best fits each gap. There is one sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example (0).

CAN E-BIKES DISPLACE CARS?

The 21st century equivalent of the cavalry has come charging in to rescue cities in China and South Asia in their battles against air pollution and global warming. (0) A This is the electric bicycle, or "e-bike", a technology that blends the simplicity and mobility of a traditional bicycle with the speed of a motorized bicycle or scooter, but without the internal combustion engine.

Transportation experts say e-bikes could become one of the primary drivers of cleaner air and reduced global greenhouse emissions across much of the urbanized world.

"The bicycle is an enormously efficient vehicle," said Ed Benjamin, managing director of eCycleElectric. "(6) _____ E-bikes cost very little in terms of materials and the energy needed to build them compared to other vehicles. They don't require gasoline and can be parked almost anywhere."

"The problem," Benjamin added, "is we could say a bicycle is only good for healthy, strong people who are willing to get out in the weather. (7) _____" Still, e-bikes – defined as two-wheeled vehicles equipped with a traditional bicycle drivetrain but enhanced with an electric motor capable of propelling a bike as fast as 20 mph – have solved the mobility problem for hundreds of millions around the world. (8) _____

In addition to being light and relatively inexpensive, e-bikes are also more climate-friendly than other modes of transportation, including gasoline- or diesel-powered cars and buses, and even electric passenger vehicles. In fact, carbon dioxide emissions for a Chinese e-bike are about one-tenth of what is emitted by a conventional electric car.

(9) _____ They represent a tiny fraction of total U.S. bicycle sales. In the United States last year, official tallies show e-bike sales of 80,000 units, according to data compiled by Electric Bikes Worldwide Reports. That compares to 30 million e-bikes sold last year in China, 400,000 in Europe and 350,000 in Japan.

Throughout much of Europe, where the modern bicycle was invented in Germany around 1818,

LIVEWORKSHEETS

"the population is generally getting older and less mobile, but these are people who have ridden bicycles their entire lives. (10) _____" said Benjamin.

In the United States, where e-bikes have captured a tiny niche within the larger bicycle industry, the challenge is convincing bicycle purists about e-bikes and converting users from strictly recreational

riders into commuters for work or personal business.

Larry Pizzi, president of the largest e-bike distributor in the United States, said the e-bike industry saw a sizable boost in 2008. (11) _____ That trend repeated itself in 2011 as gas prices soared again, and could happen again if pump prices go up. "I think there is a growing interest, particularly among urban dwellers, that is directly linked to the cost of gasoline," Pizzi said. At the same time urbanites are seeking more convenient ways to navigate city streets and sidewalks. (12) _____

Adapted from "Scientific American"

A And it's also beginning to help out on the traffic-choked streets in London, New York, São Paulo and Los Angeles.

B Yet despite their many positive attributes, e-bikes have been slow to win favor with consumers outside Asia.

C Its rolling resistance is minimal.

D They never used them for neighborhood transportation.

E However, there are large populations around the world that don't fall into that category.

F Thus for them the idea of being able to continue going longer distance at faster speeds, but still doing it on a bike, has broad appeal.

G In China alone, more than 100 million e-bikes have been sold over the past decade.

H At that time gasoline prices in the United States soared to nearly $4 per gallon.

I Thus e-bikes would help them do it without the hassle and cost of parking a vehicle.

LIVEWORKSHEETS