

GRAMMAR

1 Write the comparative or superlative form.

Example: The people in Thailand are some of the friendliest (friendly) in the world.

- 1 The subway in Tokyo is _____ (modern) one I've ever been on.
- 2 What's _____ (quick) way to get around Seoul?
- 3 Are trains here _____ (expensive) as in Canada?
- 4 I think my old car was _____ (economical) than my new one.
- 5 You look much _____ (good) with short hair!
- 6 Unfortunately, my new office is just _____ (tiny) as my last one.
- 7 That was probably _____ (bad) coffee I've ever drunk!
- 8 Mary speaks _____ (slowly) than Isabella, so she's easier to understand.

2 Complete the email with **a**, **an**, **the**, or – (no article).

Dear Paula,

We're having a wonderful time here in Mexico City. We arrived yesterday afternoon so we had time to find ¹_____ nice little hotel and relax after ²_____ trip.

³_____ hotel is in ⁴_____ downtown area, but it's not too noisy.

We woke up early this morning because ⁵_____ sun was shining in through the window. We had ⁶_____ quick breakfast (great coffee!) and then went out to explore ⁷_____ city.

Later, we're meeting Katie's friend Santiago, who's ⁸_____ economics student. He's going to take us to ⁹_____ best taqueria in Mexico City (at least he says it is!). I think ¹⁰_____ Mexican cities are all wonderful, but I can't believe what ¹¹_____ fabulous city Mexico City is!

We'll be back home ¹²_____ next Friday. See you soon!

Love,

Julia

VOCABULARY

3 Complete the compound nouns in the sentences.

Example: Watch out for the radar camera when you drive out of town.

- 1 I never drive during _____ hour because the traffic is so bad.
- 2 Can you believe that drivers didn't wear seat _____ in the past?
- 3 Excuse me, is there a gas _____ near here?
- 4 I don't like riding my bike in towns with no biking _____.
- 5 The _____ transportation is excellent here. You don't need a car at all.
- 6 The lines at this taxi _____ are always long on Saturday nights.
- 7 It's annoying when bike riders go through a red traffic _____.
- 8 The speed _____ in many US towns is now as low as 20 mph.

4 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

Example: Are you listening to me?

- 1 Is there anything that you're really afraid _____?
- 2 I'm tired _____ my job. I need a change.
- 3 Try not to laugh _____ Bill when he speaks Portuguese – his accent is terrible!
- 4 It can take long time to get downtown – it depends _____ the traffic.
- 5 This restaurant reminds me _____ the one we went to in San Francisco.
- 6 He used to be married _____ my youngest sister.
- 7 Ellie is arriving _____ Taipei on Saturday evening.

5 Complete the phrasal verbs in the sentences.

Example: Slow **down**! You're going way too fast!

- 1 We need to **h**_____ out to the airport at 6:00 if the flight is at 9:00.
- 2 We're going to **r**_____ out of gas soon. There's very little left.
- 3 Watch **o**_____ for radar cameras on this road – you don't want to get caught.
- 4 My GPS wasn't working and I **e**_____ up in the wrong part of town.
- 5 If you want a ride home, I could **p**_____ you up outside the supermarket.

READING

1 Read the opinions about bike riding in cities and check (✓) A, B, or C.

Pieter – Utrecht, The Netherlands

I bike to work every day because it is faster than driving. By bike, I can be at work in 16 minutes. By car, I have to use a longer route that takes around 37 minutes. I know that bike culture in the Netherlands is very different from, say, the USA. Here, everyone learns to ride a bike at a very young age. There's an old Dutch expression: "You're not made of sugar." It means: "The rain won't hurt you, so go outside and continue doing things!" In Utrecht, we don't see bikes as fashion items or a way to save the planet—they're just a way to get from A to B. Most people don't wear helmets, and that's fine. Personally, though, I think things can still be improved. For example, the company where I work doesn't provide any bike parking with a roof, which can be annoying. And the parking lots downtown are too expensive.

Rosa – Madrid, Spain

Madrid is the worst city in Spain for bike riders. Part of the problem is the hills, but also there is no bike culture. There aren't many bike lanes and drivers aren't used to seeing bikes. It can be scary! Did you know it's only mandatory to wear a helmet in two countries in the whole world? Anyway, in the spring, I try to bike to work once or twice a week. But in the summer it is too hot, and I'm too worried about the traffic to bike in the winter when the evenings are darker. Most of the time, I drive to work. I tried the subway, but the tickets were expensive, and I have free parking at work, so I would like Madrid to be a better biking city. Perhaps we can close some roads during rush hour so that only bicyclists can use them.

Artem – Copenhagen, Denmark

I'm a city planner here in bike-friendly Copenhagen. Since 2016, more bikes have been entering the downtown area each day than cars. In my profession, we want to keep traffic moving. In the twentieth century, the focus was on cars: "How many cars can we get into the downtown area?" Now, we concentrate more on the number of people, which means we think more about bikes and public transportation. For example, in Copenhagen, 62% of people commute to work or school by bike and only 9% use a car. But even here, 54% of the physical space for transportation is given to the car. In my opinion, the "look" of cities in the future will be very different. For most people, how fast they can reach their destination is the most important thing. That's why it's a mistake to promote the "green" benefits of bicycling. But for town planners, the environment is very important.

Example: Pieter's commute to work takes _____ if he cycles.

A 37 minutes B less than half the time C half an hour

1 Pieter says _____ have different ideas about bikes.

A older people B people in the USA C younger people

2 Pieter uses a Dutch expression about _____.

A the weather B children C roads

3 Pieter thinks some people see bikes as _____.
A dangerous B an accessory C for fit people only

4 Pieter thinks the company where he works should have _____ for employees.
A less car parking B free bikes C better bike parking
A faster B more expensive C safer

6 Rosa worries about biking _____.
A during rush hour B in the dark C up hills

7 Rosa would like to change _____ to encourage more bike riders in Madrid.
A the subway system B the law C the roads

8 According to Artem, there are _____ entering Copenhagen each day.
A more people than before B fewer cars than bikes
C more commuters

9 Today, city planners focus on the number of _____ moving around the city.
A cars B vehicles C people

10 For most people, _____ doesn't affect their decision to ride a bike.
A the environment B speed C cost

2 Write *P* for Pieter, *R* for Rosa, and *A* for Artem.

Example: My city doesn't have a great bike culture. *R*

1 Most children in my country learn how to ride a bike. _____

2 I am interested in the way bike riding benefits the planet. _____

3 In my city, bike riding is the most common way to commute to work. _____

4 Personally, I don't think helmets should be required by law. _____

5 For my commute to work, public transportation is not the cheapest option. _____

LISTENING

1 Listen to an interview and complete the sentences. Write a number, one word, or two words only.

- 1 The Draw-A-Scientist Test is considered reliable by academic _____ around the world.
- 2 In the first study, less than _____ % of children drew a female scientist.
- 3 Teenagers' drawings show a _____ percentage of female scientists than younger children's drawings.
- 4 Compared with the earliest drawings, what the children draw today is very _____.
- 5 Georgia is certain that _____ influences the details of the stereotype.

2 Listen to five conversations. Check (✓) A, B, or C.

- 1 What is the city trying to improve?
A The air. B The parking. C The bike lanes.
- 2 Why won't Nico buy an electric motorcycle yet?
A The speed. B The sound. C The cost.
- 3 What interested Jessica the most about Melbourne?
A A trip on a streetcar. B A visit to a theatre. C The food in the supermarket.
- 4 How does Maggie feel about her new commute to work?
A More stressed than before. B The same as before.
C Less stressed than before.
- 5 What don't the children agree about?
A The subway. B The old buses. C The café.