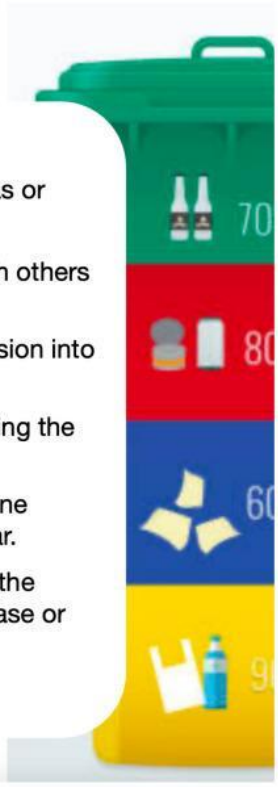
## Vocabulary

1. Many institutions choose **acronyms** to shorten their names – a word composed of the first letters of other words.
2. The company prides itself on its **innovative** approach to problem-solving.
3. Scientists from around the world **collaborate** to address global climate change issues.
4. The politician's speech was intentionally **ambiguous**, leaving room for multiple interpretations.
5. The school plans to **implement** new strategies to improve student engagement.
6. She was **skeptical** of the claim, as there was little evidence to support it.

a. Introducing new ideas or methods.
b. To work together with others on a project or goal.
c. To put a plan or decision into effect.
d. Doubtful or questioning the truth of something.
e. Open to more than one interpretation; unclear.
f. A word formed from the initial letters of a phrase or series of words



**Read the article on page 5 and match the following titles to the paragraphs. You won't use two of them.**

1. Dealing with the difficulties
2. The woman behind it all
3. Setting up the website
4. Realizing there is a problem
5. Finding investment
6. Matching excess to need

LIVEWORKSHEETS

# A MEANS to an end

**Answering the problem of hunger**

**A.** As a teen, Maria Rose Belding quickly learned first-hand about the problem of food waste while working for a church charity. They took in food donations and distributed them to local people in need. One day, they received hundreds of boxes of macaroni and cheese. However, due to the lack of ability to use it and no real infrastructure to communicate with other charities, the entire stock had to be thrown out after its use-by date had expired. _____[1] 'There were people sitting in the parking lot, waiting to come get food. And they could see me throwing away food in front of them.'

**B.** Fuelled by the frustration of this experience, Belding set up a website: MEANS Database - MEANS being an acronym standing for Matching Excess and Need for Stability. It allows food businesses, such as restaurants and caterers, to communicate directly with food charities and non-profit organizations that can distribute unwanted food to those in need. This results in a mutually beneficial arrangement whereby the businesses do not need to pay charges for waste disposal, and the hungry are fed. _____[2] Then, when those in the food industry have surplus supplies, they can go to the site and say what they have, where they are, and when the food needs to be taken away. All of the charities within a certain radius are notified, and they can claim the food.

**C.** The donations that MEANS Database has been able to find a home for are quite incredible. A five-star restaurant in Seattle once donated 50 pounds of squab, which is very similar to a baby pigeon. _____[3] They've managed to redistribute 11,000 pounds of green beans, 42,000 pounds of milk, and 250 pounds of swedes. Belding says, 'We'll find a home for it 95% of the time. The average amount of time it takes for food to be claimed is half an hour. _____[4] ' Since it was set up, MEANS Database has grown to cover 48 states in America, as well as the District of Columbia. It works with around 3,000 partners to feed those in need.

**D.** _____[5] Now in her mid-twenties, she is the Chair of the Board for MEANS and has authored numerous published articles on food security and poverty. She was recognized and honored by the Obama White House in 2014 and 2016 with President's Volunteer Service awards. In 2018, she was named Glamour College Woman of the Year and Hero of the Year by CNN, the youngest woman ever to receive that recognition. Throughout her college years at American University in Washington DC, she ran the business in-between attending classes for her Bachelor of Science degree. _____[6] However, as she herself put it, 'What makes it worth it is knowing that we're building something that matters a lot more than we do.'

*Sources: CNN Health by Kathleen Toner, esme.com, MEANS Database and BBC News by Ian Rose*

**Read the following sentences from the article on page 5 and write the number in the correct gap. You won't use two of them.**

1. Food charities, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens can sign up with MEANS Database and state their needs.
2. Our record time is two minutes and 37 seconds.
3. Of all of her achievements, this is the one that makes her the most proud.
4. She admits that her GPA would likely be better if she hadn't been running the website at the same time.
5. 'I remember crying and being so angry,' said Belding of the incident.
6. It was a particularly difficult time for everyone involved.
7. Belding was 14 when she first had the inspiration for the site.
8. That was taken and mixed with pork and beans and was apparently very popular with all who enjoyed it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

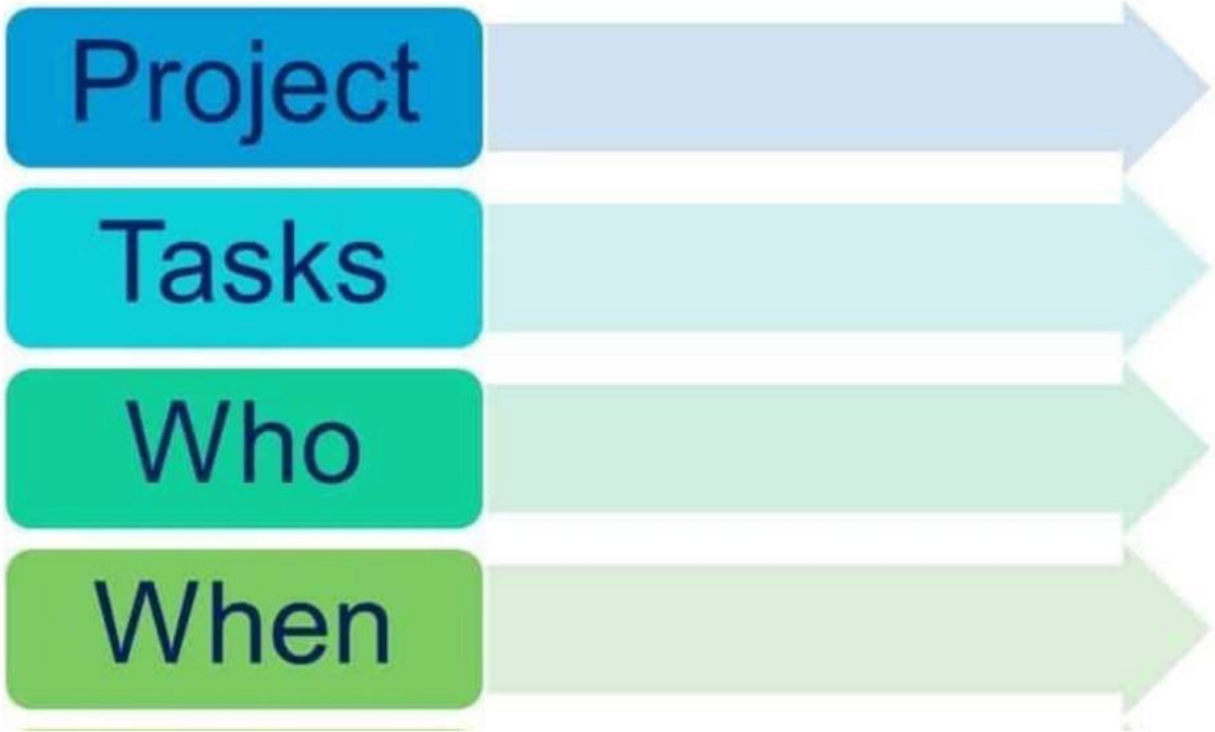
1. "In your opinion, should governments worldwide take stronger action to address the issue of food waste? Why or why not? What specific measures do you think would be the most effective?"

2. "Do you believe a business like this could succeed in our country? Why or why not? If it seems unlikely, what innovative ideas or strategies could we develop to make such a concept work in our context? Write down potential solutions or a basic plan to adapt the idea locally." Get ready to presen your ideas to other groups.

*a. "What procblem related to c food waste do you want to adress?"*

*b. "Are the proposed actions realistic and achievable within our country's context?"*

*c. "Are there any areas where the plan could be improved or made more effective?"*




LIVEWORKSHEETS

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