

- 1 How much of a problem is litter in your area? Have any measures been taken to dissuade people from littering? How effective are they?
- 2 Read the information and choose the best alternatives.

### Solving the litter problem

From food <sup>1</sup>*remains/debris* and packets strewn across sidewalks, to <sup>2</sup>*flotsam/remains* washing up on beaches, litter is an unsightly problem in many places around the world.

But, how can people be encouraged to play their part in keeping the environment <sup>3</sup>*pristine/disinfected*? Here are a few ideas.

#### Neighbourhood beautification

<sup>4</sup>*Scrubbing/Sprucing* up a neighbourhood with regular rubbish collections, along with street art, trees, flower beds and the like, can be helpful. Piles of <sup>5</sup>*debris/flotsam* attract more rubbish dumping, whereas people are much less likely to drop litter on an <sup>6</sup>*immaculate/hygienic* street.



#### Vote with your rubbish

One creative idea is to provide dual transparent bins, where people can express their opinions by placing their <sup>7</sup>*refuse/muck* in the bin that reflects their point of view. Granted, it might sound bizarre, but some studies indicate that this can lead to a reduction in littering.



#### The bottomless bin

Another idea is to add a sound effect to a bin, so that when someone throws in rubbish, the noise implies that it is falling a very long way down into a hole. This is fun enough to have kids (and kids at heart!) picking up a few extra pieces of rubbish just to hear the sound effect again, helping to keep streets <sup>8</sup>*spruced/spotless*.



#### Bin care

It's obviously helpful if public rubbish bins are kept <sup>9</sup>*hygienic/refused*. Being emptied regularly, along with being <sup>10</sup>*mucked/scrubbed* and <sup>11</sup>*disinfected/debris* makes all the difference. After all, no one wants to touch a bin with <sup>12</sup>*muck/flotsam* on it!

- 3 Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

- What do you think of the ideas in the texts? Would they work in your area? Why/Why not?
- What other ideas can you think of to dissuade people from littering?