



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Make A Decision

Form groups of three. Read the problem below.

A community group wants to support parents of young children in the community. It begins offering a free music session once a week in which children and their parents can sing and dance and then have coffee together. However, they find that the parents are often late for the session. They do not control the behavior of their children and the musical instruments, donated by the community group, are stolen or damaged by the children. The community group has to decide whether or not to continue the session. What could they do to improve things? Do you think they should make parents pay for the session? If you do, should it be a large amount or a small amount?

Reading Activities

A: Looking For The Main Idea

Look through the article and decide as quickly as possible which of the statements below summarizes the main idea of the article:

1. London has introduced a scheme to encourage people to use bikes and taxis.
2. Cities introducing bike schemes have difficulties with theft.
3. It is hoped a rental bike scheme will decrease traffic problems in London.

Hire scheme aims to get Londoners on bikes

Thu Jul 29, LONDON (Reuters) - A fleet of 6,000 bicycles for hire will hit the streets of central London on Friday when the city's mayor Boris Johnson launches a scheme intended to fuel a cycling revolution in the congested capital.

The initiative, which follows similar projects in cities including Paris and Montreal, aims to ease overcrowding on London's commuter network, with 400 bicycle "docking stations" from Notting Hill in the west to the Tower of London in the east.

"The new system could transform the way Londoners as well as tourists navigate the city," said a spokesman for Transport for London (TfL), the capital's main travel authority.

Nicknamed "Boris's Bikes" after cycle-mad Mayor Boris Johnson, the system is free for the first half hour, although the rate rises steeply if the cycles are used for longer periods, with a maximum daily charge of 50 pounds (\$78).

London has tried to learn lessons from Paris and Montreal, making changes to prevent vandalism and theft, problems which plagued the French and Canadian systems to begin with, the spokesman said.

Initially, many of Paris's hire bikes or "Vélib's" were thrown in the River Seine or discovered for sale in markets in Africa, he said.

At a hefty 23 kg (51 lb), the London bike's weight will

discourage thieves as well as cutting out the wobbles for less confident cyclists, he added.

STURDY AND SAFE

A Reuters journalist who tested out one of the blue and silver bikes in the busy traffic around Trafalgar Square found it sturdy and safe but felt its design sacrificed speed for stability.

Cycling has become fashionable in Britain in recent years, helped by the British Olympic cycling team which won eight gold medals at the 2008 Games.

An estimated 500,000 bike journeys are made each day in the capital. Mayor Johnson cycled around the velodrome this week to mark the two-year countdown to the London Olympics.

The cycle hire scheme is just one in a series of moves by Johnson to make the winding, traffic-choked streets of the capital more bike-friendly. Motorists have to pay a daily congestion charge if they drive into the city center.

Two new bright blue "cycle superhighways" were unveiled this week, providing cyclists with extra road space and better visibility at traffic lights. Cyclists often have to jostle for space alongside London's red buses and black taxis and shouting matches between riders and drivers are common.

"If these plans work out and there are more bikes on the road and fewer cars, London will be a better place," London cab driver Peter Makin told Reuters.

British services giant Serco secured a 140 million-pound (\$220 million) six-year contract with TfL to set up the bike hire scheme, 25 million of which was recouped with sponsorship from British banking giant Barclays.



B: Complete the Table

Use today's article to complete this table of information.

Number of bikes:	
Nickname for scheme:	
When scheme was started:	
Number of stations:	
Charges:	_____ for first 30 minutes, with maximum daily charge of _____ pounds
Cost of scheme over six years:	_____ million pounds

C: Reading For Specific Information

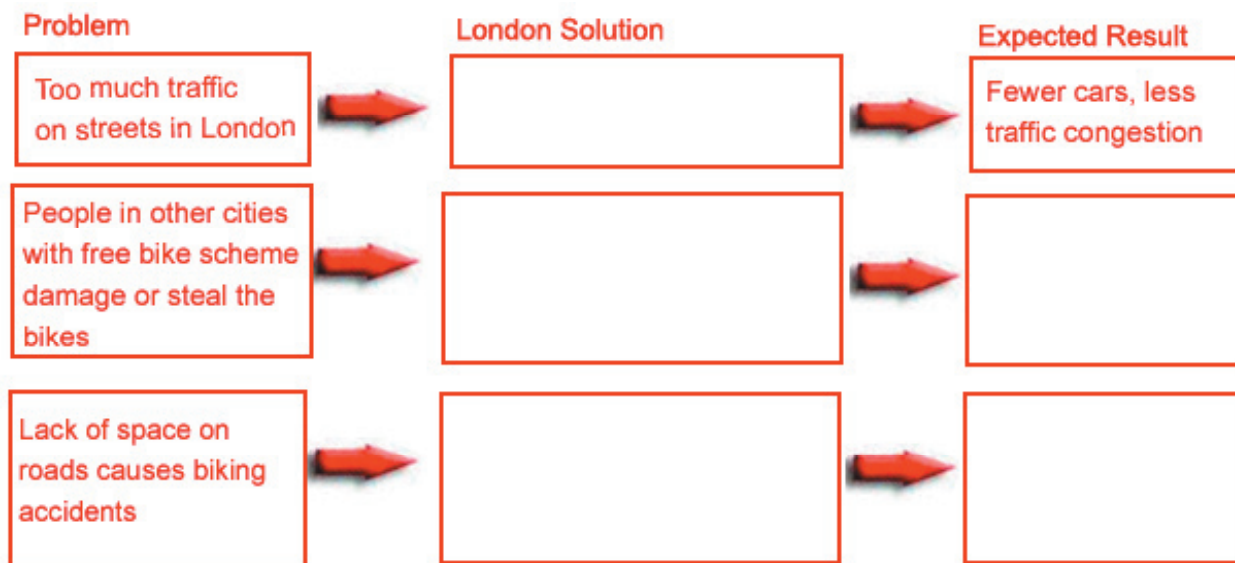
Fill the gaps in these descriptions of different people or businesses in today's article.

Name	Occupation	Why mentioned in the article
Boris Johnson	_____	_____
TFL	_____	_____
_____	Taxi Cab driver	_____
_____	Bank	_____



D: Interpreting Information

The diagram below summarizes problems, solutions and expected results outlined in the article. Complete the gaps in the diagram.



E: Language

Read these rules for using the definite article 'the' and zero articles (when you don't use the). Then complete the gaps in these sentences on the next page with **the**. If you think a gap doesn't need 'the', write " - " in the gap.

Definite Articles.

- . with country names that have Republic, States in them etc: the Republic of Ireland,
- . when the name includes "of" or "Kingdom": the University of Canberra
- . with rivers, oceans, lakes and seas: the Murray River, the Tasman Sea

Zero Articles.

- . with continents and countries: Australia, South Africa, India
- . with states, cities and towns: Ohio, New York, Dublin, Shanghai, Rochester
- . with names: Uncle Michael, Mr Darcy, President Obama, Ms. Winter, Dr. Smith

1. In cities like _____ London or _____ Paris, the scheme is being trialled.
2. 6,000 bikes are now available for hire on the streets of _____ city of _____ London.
3. Many of the bikes in _____ Paris were initially thrown in _____ Seine or subsequently found for sale in _____ Africa.
4. Cyclists often have to jostle for space next to _____ London's taxi cabs and buses.
5. _____ Mayor of _____ London rode a bike to promote the start of the program.
6. _____ Peter Makin, a London cab driver, thinks the scheme is a good idea.

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Discussion

You have decided to put the London idea into action in the area you live. How will you stop people stealing the bikes or wrecking them? How will you market the idea?

B: An Interview

Work in pairs.

Student A: You are the Mayor of London. You are going to be interviewed by an international newspaper about the scheme. Before you meet with the reporter, think about what you want to say.

Student B: You are a reporter for an international newspaper. You are going to interview the Mayor of London about the scheme. Before you meet with the reporter, think about what you want to find out.

C: A Short Essay

"People don't value anything that they can get for free. Free food, a free class, a bike. People don't value these things unless they have to pay for them. If you want someone to value something, they have to pay for it in some way."

With a partner, discuss what this statement means. Then write a short essay saying whether you agree or disagree with this statement.



TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Reading Activities

A: Looking For The Main Idea - Answers

The best answer is 3.

B: Complete the Table - Answers.

Number of bikes:	6,000
Nickname for scheme:	Boris's Bikes
When scheme was started:	July 2010
Number of stations:	400
Charges:	free for first 30 minutes, with maximum daily charge of 50 pounds
Cost of scheme over six years:	140 million pounds

C: Reading For Specific Information - Sample Answers

Boris Johnson	Mayor of London	Loves biking and has set up cycle hire scheme in London as response to traffic congestion
TFL	London's travel authority	Has set up cycle hire scheme
Peter Makin	Taxi Cab driver	Believes the new scheme is positive for London
Barclays	Bank	Gave some sponsorship to the scheme

D: Interpreting Information - Sample Answers

Too much traffic on streets in London --> Set up 400 bike stations with free bikes for people to use --> Fewer cars, less traffic congestion

People in other cities with free bike scheme damage or steal the bikes --> Make bikes heavier --> Bikes are harder to steal

Lack of space on roads causes biking accidents --> Set up blue cycle highways providing cyclists with more space --> Fewer bicycle accidents

E: Language - Answers

1. In cities like London or Paris, the scheme is being trialled.
2. 6,000 bikes are now available for hire on the streets of the city of London.
3. Many of the bikes in Paris were initially thrown in the Seine or subsequently found for sale in Africa.
4. Cyclists often have to jostle for space next to London's taxi cabs and buses.
5. The Mayor of London rode a bike to promote the start of the program.
6. Peter Makin, a London cab driver, thinks the scheme is a good idea.

