

ECO FRIENDLY CITIES



B2 upper intermediate
English practice
handbook for students
of Riga State technical
school

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Part 1

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CONTENT

The handbook – PART 1 has three units. Each unit is divided into two - three sections which give students balanced coverage of vocabulary, reading and listening skills practice.

Warm-up activities and extra speaking tasks help students:

- to discuss the questions which are related to the article they read
- to encourage them to think creatively and brainstorm possible ideas,
- to talk effectively, using useful phrases related to eco-friendly lifestyle.
- to learn collocations which can be used to talk about environmentally friendly cities
- to express their opinions about the topic
- to discuss key points from the video

Reading activities help students:

- to read articles and analyse the texts
- to discover useful phrases and new vocabulary
- to summarise the articles putting into practice the new phrases and collocations

Listening and use of language activities help students:

- to learn to get a general idea of the text
- to challenge listening comprehension skills
- to improve their understanding of the language use
- to learn to follow the instructions that appear on the screen
- to learn some key words from the video
- to work on some collocations and fixed phrases

PART A



ECO-FRIENDLY CITIES

LEVEL: B2/UPPER –INTERMEDIATE

‘ A CITY IS NOT A CONCRETE JUNGLE, IT IS A HUMAN ZOO’

DESMOND MORRIS

UNIT A

SMOG – FREE Mexico City

WARM – UP

Imagine living in the metropolis of Mexico City, home to 22 million people. Discuss the questions.

1

How different would your life be?

2

What kind of problems would you encounter?

3

What kind of things could the city authorities do to tackle traffic pollution?

Compare the streets in Mexico City on Monday and Sunday. What difference do you notice? Why do you think that is?

Monday



Sunday



USE OF LANGUAGE

3. Watch the video and match 1–8 with a–h to make phrases and collocations used in the commentary. Then watch the video again and check your answers.

1. close	a. of a city
2. cycling	b. down
3. the heart	c. enthusiast
4. one-off	d. levels
5. smog	e. of life
6. tackle	f. measures
7. take	g. a problem
8. walks	h. event

4. Complete the newspaper article about what Mexico City is doing about pollution. Use the phrases and collocations from Exercise 3.

In an attempt to 1..... its traffic problems and reduce 2..... levels, the Mexican authorities have 3..... measures to 4..... down several main streets in the 5..... of Mexico City on Sundays so that cyclists can have the streets to themselves. Mexico City now has a bike mayor, the campaigner and 6 enthusiast Areli Carreón. This is not a 7 event. Every Sunday, 50,000 people enjoy the car-free centre. Areli Carreón says that one of the things she likes best is that it doesn't matter who you are, people from all 8 of life come together and enjoy car-free Sundays.

5. Watch the video and make a list of all the non-polluting means of transport you can use in a city.



EXTRA SPEAKING TASKS

6. Discuss the questions.

1. What does Anita Rani mean by 'progressive civic planning'?
2. What are the pros and cons of banning cars from main streets for one day a week?
3. What do you think of the idea of a 'traffic-free Sunday'?

7. Imagine your local city authorities want to have a 'traffic-free Sunday'. First, they want to conduct a survey to measure public opinion. Complete the task.

- Write a questionnaire with at least six questions.
- Interview other students in the class and record their responses.
- Write a summary of the results and make a recommendation.



UNIT B

MAKING LONDON HEALTHIER

READING

1. Complete the article about London. Write one word in each gap.

As the capital of the nation where the Industrial Revolution began, London has suffered badly from the effects of pollution. Recent efforts to make the city cleaner, however, are turning it into one of the world's least polluted major cities.

A. A RIVER FILLED WITH LIFE

For years, the river Thames was a health hazard because of pollution, and in 1957 it 1 ----- declared biologically dead. Half a century later, the Thames has won international prizes for rivers that have 2 ----- restored. There are now hundreds of different types of animal and bird feeding on its bank, over 125 different species of fish swimming beneath its surface, and even seals and dolphins have swum up the river from the coast to visit the centre of the city.

B. THE GREAT SMOG

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, Londoners had become used 3 ----- suffering from cough and chest infections caused by smog, which is a combination of smoke and fog. However, when the smog of December 1952 caused four thousand deaths in one week, the government finally realised that something had to 4 ----- done. A series of 'clean-air' laws were passed to avoid a repeat of the tragedy, and 5 ----- then the quality of London's air has improved greatly, although there is still plenty of work to do.

C. PAYING TO DRIVE

At the beginning of the new millennium, because of the number of vehicles traffic in London was moving at the same speed that it 6 ----- moved at a hundred years before, when people travelled in horse-drawn carriages: just 16km/h. To improve journey times and the quality of London's year, a daily charge of 5 pounds was introduced in 2003 for all vehicles being driven in the city. Not 7 ----- did the number of cars on the roads immediately drop by 15% but also the number of people cycling increased by 49%, so people benefitted 8 ----- cleaner air and more exercises, in the last decade, the number of vehicles in central London has fallen by a further 30% and plans to reduce the number of parking spaces for cars will probably cause it to drop again.



2. Match questions 1-6 with paragraphs A-C.

Which paragraph talks about ...

- a. future plans? ---
- b. something coming back to life? ---
- c. people dying? ---
- d. an attempt to stop something from happening again? ---
- e. charging people so that everyone's lives would be improved? ---
- f. something that has received awards? ---

LISTENING

3. Listen to a radio programme about London's sewers and answer the questions.

- 1. What dangers did the reporter expect to meet in the sewers?*
- 2. What causes the biggest problems for the maintenance teams?*



4. Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1. How many kilometres of sewers are there?*
- 2. What caused the pollution in the River Thames?*
- 3. What made the politicians feel nauseous?*
- 4. What does 90% of the liquid in the sewers consist of?*
- 5. What are less common in the sewers than many people expect?*
- 6. Where does a lot of the fat come from?*

EXTRA SPEAKING TASKS

5. In pairs, discuss which three projects you would choose to make your home town cleaner, healthier and more attractive. Give reasons for your choices.

- *Create more parks, green spaces, etc. In the city*
- *Build more leisure facilities such as sports centres, swimming pools, theatres, etc.*
- *Provide more youth activities such as after-school clubs.*
- *Promote transport initiatives such as bicycle lanes, bicycles for rent, etc.*
- *Restore old buildings, etc. In the city.*
- *Build more health centres and hospitals.*



UNIT C

BIKE – FRIENDLY CITY



SPEAKING

1. Monologue / Task instructions:

- Read the text.
- Define briefly the main issue raised in the text
- Provide arguments and examples to support your opinion
- Come to a conclusion
- Answer two additional questions

Copenhagen is often considered the most bike-friendly city in the world and it is not an accident. It is possible to encourage people to use bikes instead of cars if the political will is there. The Netherlands and Denmark, for example, have spent decades very deliberately re-shaping their road environments away from car culture towards mass cycling. Thanks to these measures taken by the city, nearly half of all Copenhageners commute to work by bike, including those who live in the suburbs. Unfortunately, as a result, tourists are often overwhelmed by the number of bicycles flying by.

a. Do you agree that cycling is the best way to stay active and reduce pollution?

b. How can cities encourage people to use bikes instead of cars?



2. Listen to a podcast about Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark, and write the missing information in the gaps. An example (0) has been given.

COPENHAGEN Example: Denmark's capital is said to be one of the (0) happiest cities in the world.

- Danes consider (1) _____ to be of utmost importance.
- Danish employees are rarely required to work (2) _____.
- The stress-free attitude to life is noticeable in Copenhagen's (3) _____.
- Almost (4) _____ per cent of Copenhagen residents choose to cycle to work.
- Copenhagen has an extensive network of cycling paths equipped with (5) _____.
- People in Copenhagen choose to cycle or use public transport because of (6) _____.
- The city development plan suggests that Copenhagen is going to be a (7) _____ city.
- Copenhagen is trying to reduce its carbon emissions by utilizing (8) _____.
- Residents of Copenhagen are said to eat the largest amount of (9) _____ food in Europe.
- Copenhagen is home to one of the world's best (10) _____.

LITERATURE AND RESOURCES:

1. Choices /Upper Intermediate / Pearson Education Limited 2013/Michael Harris. Anna Sikorzinska
2. FOCUS 4 Second Edition. Student Book by Kay / Jones Published by Pearson, 2020
3. Solutions. Third Edition. Oxford University Press 2017/ Paul Kelly.
4. www.bicycling.com
5. Video: Mexico Smog Free City
6. Audioscripts: Making London healthier; Copenhagen