

e-lesson

Week starting: 11th September 2006

Car Crisis

With the European Union's annual 'Car Free Day' approaching on 22nd September, this week's lesson focuses on car use as an environmental issue. Are we creating a serious environmental problem by using cars as much as we do?

Level

Upper intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about the environmental issues surrounding car use. Ask them if they think they (or their families) could/should use their cars less for the sake of the environment.
 2. Divide the students into pairs and give them 5-10 minutes to read through the texts on Worksheet A. Encourage them to look up new vocabulary, and tell them they are going to have to fill the gaps with appropriate words. You could perhaps encourage them to guess what those words might be.
 3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the students another 5-10 minutes to fill the gaps using the correct words from the box. Make it clear that (a) there is only one possible word to fill each gap, and (b) there are sixteen words in the box but only twelve gaps in the text, meaning that four of the words should not be used.
 4. Check answers in open class.
 5. The second exercise on Worksheet B features a text which contains precisely ten mistakes. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to work together in order to find and correct the mistakes. Allow another 5-10 minutes for this task, and encourage students to spend the first couple of minutes reading through the text, and looking up any new vocabulary, before they start concentrating on finding the mistakes. Tell the students that some of the mistakes are grammatical while others are due to the wrong choice of word, and that in a couple of cases there is more than one way of correcting them. Also point out that none of the corrections require students to write more than one word.
3. Check answers in open class by referring to Worksheet C, which contains the corrected text with all the changes highlighted, then give every student a copy of Worksheet C.

Answers

Part A (gap-fill)

environmental
depend
person
contribution
manufactured
relationship
quality
surrounded
healthier
pick
supermarket
weightlifter

(Words that should not be used: convenient, polluters, air, warming)

Part B (10 mistakes/corrections): see Worksheet C

Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org/>

The homepage of the website of European Mobility Week 2006, containing articles on various initiatives aimed at limiting car use.

<http://www.22september.org/info/en/camp.html>

Article on 'In town without my car!' day, which takes place on September 22 as part of European Mobility Week.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/netnotes/article/0,6729,371822,00.html>

From the year 2000, a short article in the *Guardian* about European Car Free Day.

<http://www.abd.org.uk/index.htm>

From the website of the Association of British Drivers, links to various articles arguing that increasing car use doesn't constitute an environmental problem.