
Litter

WORKSHEET A

Steve: I can't believe how dirty it is downtown.

Mark: What do you mean?

Steve: All this litter on the ground. Cans, plastic bottles, empty potato chip bags, candy-bar and fast-food wrappers everywhere you look. Stepping in gum all the time. It's disgusting.

Mark: Chill out. It's not the end of the world.

Steve: But what does it say about people's attitudes? Don't you think it shows a lack of respect?

Mark: How?

Steve: Littering means spoiling a public space for other people. There should be big fines for it.

Mark: Come on, get off your high horse. There aren't enough trash cans, that's the problem.

Steve: What?

Mark: The city doesn't provide enough trash cans, so people throw stuff on the ground instead of having to walk around with it. You can't blame them.

Steve: You must be joking. There are trash cans everywhere, but people are too lazy to use them.

Mark: Are you saying you've never littered?

Steve: Almost never. At least, not deliberately.

Mark: And also, companies put too many wrappers around stuff. If there was less packaging, there'd be less litter.

Steve: Well, that's true, yes.

Mark: And what about the street cleaners? If there was no litter, they'd be out of work. There'd be more unemployment.

Steve: Don't be stupid. If there was less litter, the street cleaners would just have an easier job. As it is, they have to clean up this mountain of garbage – I bet you wouldn't want to be in their shoes, would you?

Mark: No, I wouldn't.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the gaps.

1. ___ someone's _____ (phrase) to be in the situation that someone else is in
2. _____ (adverb) the opposite of accidentally
3. _____ (noun) the center of a town or city, especially the business or shopping areas
4. _____ (verb – informal) to relax and stop being angry or nervous, or to spend time relaxing
5. _____ (noun) a piece of paper or plastic that has been put around something that you buy
6. _____ (noun) an amount of money that you have to pay because you have broken the law
7. _____ (verb) to say or think that someone or something is responsible for an accident, problem, or bad situation
8. _____ (verb) to affect something in a way that makes it worse, less attractive, or less enjoyable
9. _____ (verb) to put something somewhere in a quick and careless way
10. _____ (noun) the boxes, bottles, bags, plastic, paper, etc. used for wrapping products so that they can be sold

Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't determine (D).

1. The city Steve and Mark are in is large.
2. Steve thinks littering affects other people.
3. Steve disagrees with everything Mark says.
4. Mark thinks companies and the city could do more to prevent litter.
5. Mark does not think people litter deliberately.
6. Mark says street cleaners would be unemployed if there was no litter on the streets.
7. Steve thinks street cleaners are paid too little.
8. Mark has just stepped in gum.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

The text below, copied from Worksheet A, contains some mistakes. Twenty of the bold words are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

Steve: I can't believe how dirty it is (1) **downtown** .

Mark: What do you mean?

Steve: All (2) **these** litter on the ground. (3) **Cones**, plastic bottles, empty (4) **tomato** chip bags, candy-bar and fast-food (5) **rappers** everywhere you look. Stepping (6) **in** gum all the time. It's (7) **disgust**.

Mark: Chill (8) **up**. It's not the (9) **finish** of the world.

Steve: But what does it say about people's (10) **attitudes**? Don't you think it shows a (11) **luck** of respect?

Mark: How?

Steve: Littering means spoiling a (12) **public** space for other people. There should be big fines for it.

Mark: Come on, get off your (13) **tall** (14) **cow**. There aren't enough trash cans, that's the problem.

Steve: What?

Mark: The city doesn't (15) **prove** enough bins, so people throw stuff on the ground instead of having to walk around (16) **in** it. You can't blame them.

Steve: You must be (17) **joke**. There are trash cans everywhere, but people are too lazy to use them.

Mark: Are you saying you've never littered?

Steve: Almost never. At least, not (18) **deliberate**.

Mark: And also, companies put too much wrapping around stuff. If there was less packaging, (19) **there's** be (20) **fewer** litter.

Steve: Well, I agree with that.

Mark: And what about the street cleaners? If there was no litter, they'd be (21) **out of the work**. There'd be more (22) **disemploy**.

Steve: Don't be stupid. If there was less litter, the street cleaners would just have an (23) **easier** job. As it is, they have to clean (24) **down** this mountain of garbage – I (25) **best** you wouldn't want to be in their shoes, would you?

Mark: No, I wouldn't.