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The future of transportation

1 Solar-powered bicycle



This bicycle has solar panels on the wheels. The solar panels collect sunlight and turn it into electricity. The electricity is then stored in a battery. The battery powers the front wheel. There is no need to use the pedals at all (unless you want to, of course).

Earlier bikes like this one had a motor that could be used when going uphill, but the motor wasn't as powerful as today's models, and you had to connect the battery to an electricity supply frequently. Modern technology means that, aside from using free energy from the sun, batteries and motors are lighter and deliver more power. There is also a battery charger (for cloudy days!). The bikes have a top speed of about 30 kilometers per hour.



Rocket belt

Some people still think that rocket belts are science fiction, but working models have existed since the 1950s, and one appeared in the James Bond movie *Thunderball* back in 1965. You don't actually wear it like a belt, because it is so big and heavy (more than 50 kilograms), so the name can be confusing. You put the rocket on your back like a normal backpack, but you also have controls in front of you. The pilot has to wear a helmet and special protective clothing. This is because the temperature from the jet engine can be more than 700°C. Today's rocket belts can only fly for about 30 seconds, but in the future the technology should improve, and we may well use them for everyday life.

3 The environmentally friendly car

The car is a great invention, but we need to make some changes to it. Oil is running out, and since we use oil to make gasoline, we need to find a replacement fuel. Cars that use solar power are a perfect



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solution because they do not burn fuel, so they create no pollution. They take the energy from the sun and store it as electricity in batteries. Another good thing about this car is that it can be made from environmentally friendly materials, so that when it eventually breaks down, the parts can be recycled. Cambridge University Press 978-0-521-17169-4 - American More! Extra Practice Book 4 Rob Nicholas, Herbert Puchta and Jeff Stranks Excerpt More information

ulture 1

Unit 1-2

- 1 Read the ideas about transportation in the future. Then match the words to the definitions.
 - 1 solar (passage 1)
 - 2 pedals (passage 1)
 - 3 charger (passage 1)

 - 5 helmet (passage 2)
 - 6 fuel (passage 3)
 - 7 breaks down (passage 3)
 - 8 recycle (passage 3)
- a) stops working
- b) something you burn to get energy
- c) an idea or a thing that is not real now
- 4 science fiction (passage 2) d) something you wear to protect your head
 - e) something that gives power to batteries
 - f) related to the sun
 - g) use again
 - h) what you push when riding a bike

2 Now answer these questions.

- 1 Why does the solar-powered bicycle have a battery?
- 2 Name one problem that you can think of with solar-powered bicycles.
- 3 Are rocket belts just science fiction? Why or why not?
- 4 Why does a rocket-belt pilot have to wear protective clothing?
- 5 Why do we need to make changes to the cars we drive today?
- 6 What is the environmentally friendly car made of?

28 3 Listen and complete the sentences.

| | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|----------------------|--|--|
| | Trains ¹ freely and they are fast and cause less ² | Building tunnels is ³ and we need more ⁴ |
| Light rail trains | Trains are usually frequent and tickets are often ⁵ than other forms of transportation. | It's difficult to build 6 railways. People may have to knock down houses and stores to build them. |
| Trolleys or trams | They remind people of ⁷ | Trolleys don't carry as many ⁸ as trains, and they are in competition with ⁹ on the roads. |
| Buses | Buses can carry ¹⁰ people than cars. | Cars ¹¹ in bus lanes and slow them down. |

4 Work with a partner. Discuss these questions.

- Do you use trains, buses, or trolleys? What do you think of them?
- Soccer players can run 10 kilometers in a 90-minute game. How far do you think you walk in a week?
- Which forms of transportation do you think we will use in the future?

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1 Answer these questions in pairs.

- 1 How many means of transportation can you name?
- 2 How many kinds of fuel can you name?
- 3 How many parts of a car can you name?
- 4 What kinds of public transportation are there where you live?
- 2 Find 10 transportation words and complete the sentences below.

```
A
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D
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C
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V
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- 1 I wasn't nervous riding a high-speed train until we went through a
- 2 Sorry I'm late! There was a lot of downtown.
- 3 You should always buy a before you get on the train, or you might have to pay a fine.
- 4 There was an accident and the train came off the
- 5 What time does your plane?? I might be able to pick you up at the airport.
- 6 Some of these buses cause a lot of because they are so old.
- 7 Do you think the knows what he is doing? This flight is very bumpy.
- 8 I love traveling on the open road. You just sit in the and enjoy the view.
- 9 We definitely need more bus in this city.
- 10 Oh no! I think we've run out of ! I forgot to fill up the car.

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Extra Practice 1

Unit 1–2

3 Complete the dialogues with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

| Tom | Hey Lisa. We only have two hours. 1 | | |
|------|---|--|--|
| | (you / finish) packing yet? | | |
| Lisa | Yes I have, but I ² (not / book) a taxi to take us to | | |
| | the airport. | | |
| Tom | Don't worry. The metro goes straight to the airport. It | | |
| | ³ (leave) at 2:30. | | |
| Lisa | ⁴ (you / find) your passport yet? | | |
| Tom | No. 1 ⁵ (look) for it now. | | |
| | Well, you better find it. We ⁶ (not / have) much | | |
| | time. | | |
| Tom | I ⁷ (know) that! Stop trying to make me panic! | | |
| Lisa | I [®] (not / try) to make you panic, but we really | | |
| | don't have much time. | | |
| Tom | Um, Lisa. I ⁹ (not / know) where it is. I think | | |
| | l ¹⁰ (lose) it! | | |
| Lisa | Oh Tom! | | |

4 Circle the correct past tense.

The last time 1^{1} had traveled / traveled by train was about a year ago. I was going to visit my uncle, who lives about six hours away. When I arrived at the station, I had to pick up my ticket. I 2 was booking / had booked the ticket a week before because it 3 was / had been cheaper. As soon as 1⁴ had picked up / was picking up my ticket, 1 found my train car and started looking for my seat number. I ⁵ didn't really look / wasn't really looking forward to the journey because I ⁶ didn't know / wasn't knowing what I was going to do for six hours and thought I would be bored. While 1⁷ had looked / was looking out of the window, somebody sat down next to me and we ⁸ started / had started a conversation. We ended up talking for more than an hour. Then I ⁹ decided / was deciding to get something in the dining car and I started to talk to someone there. No sooner ¹⁰ had I finished / did I finish talking to him than somebody else started talking to me! After that, I ¹¹ had met / met so many interesting people that the time passed really quickly. Before I¹² knew / was knowing it, I had arrived at my destination. I ¹³ wasn't / wasn't being bored for a second and I ¹⁴ hadn't even opened / wasn't even opening the magazines I had taken with me for that long, boring journey!

5 Work with a partner. Take turns describing a journey using the following forms of transportation. Say what happened from beginning to end.

bus

| • | train | • |
|---|-------|---|
|---|-------|---|

• car • bicycle

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