

Big City Small World S3 E5 – Environmental Issues



Introduction

This support pack accompanies:

Big City Small World – Series 3 Episode 5

To listen to the recording, go to:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/big-city-small-world/series-3-episode-5-environmental-issues>

This support pack contains the following materials:

1. Before you listen: Vocabulary match up
2. Audio script
3. Comprehension Task
4. Comprehension Task 2: Match the Speakers
5. Vocabulary Task: Wordsearch
6. Grammar: Question Forms

Before you listen

We suggest you do the vocabulary activity below before you listen. Then listen to the episode and do the first task to check your understanding. Finally, practise some vocabulary and grammar.

Match the words and phrases in the boxes to their definitions.

a) to take over (phrasal v.)	b) to get around (phrasal v.)	c) lazy (adj.)
d) pitch (n.)	e) traffic (n.)	f) the tube (n.)

Definitions:

1. Move from place to place.
2. To take control of something.
3. The London underground/subway system.
4. Cars and other vehicles on the road.
5. Not wanting to do any work.
6. The field where football is played.

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Transcript

Harry: Hey there!

Olivia: Hi, Harry, come and have a seat!

Harry: OK – I'll just get a coffee. Hang on ...
Where's Tony?

Magda: He's off sick.

Olivia: And you'll notice that there's a new chef
in here!

Harry: Carlos! What's he doing working here?

Magda: He's taken over while Tony's away.

Harry: Well, good on him – he's always wanted
his own restaurant! I guess this café will have to
do for now.

Olivia: Yeah. It's good experience for him!

Harry: Carlos! Hey, Carlos! Could I have a
coffee, mate?

Harry: Carlos? Hello!? ... Well, I hope he's a
good chef, because he's a terrible waiter!

Olivia: Oh, go on. Give him a break!

Magda: Yeah – it's really busy in here right now.
Be patient!

Harry: Busy? Yeah – tell me about it!
Everywhere is today – I couldn't find anywhere
to park my car. I had to leave it miles away.

Olivia: Park your car? I thought you took your
bike everywhere!

Harry: Well, I used to, but sometimes it's just
easier to drive, isn't it?

Magda: Lazy!

Harry: I'm not lazy! I do lots of sport – play
football every week.

Olivia: Do you drive to the football pitch?

Harry: Erm, yeah ... Usually ...

Olivia: You should use your bike more often. It's
better for you, and for the environment!

Johnny: Hello, all! Hey, is that Carlos behind the
counter?

All: Yes, it is.

Johnny: What's he doing there?

Olivia: Long story!

Johnny: Blimey ... Have you seen the traffic out
there?

Olivia: Not you as well?!

Johnny: Me what?

Olivia: Driving!

Johnny: Of course I drive. How else would I get
around?

Magda: I always use public transport. It's very
good here in London, even if it's quite expensive.

Olivia: Not as expensive as a car.

Harry: That's true.

Olivia: You should all cycle more!

Johnny: I'm not cycling. It's tiring, and
dangerous!

Harry: And the weather here is terrible – cycling
in the rain isn't any fun!

Magda: That's true. That's why I get the tube or
the bus.

Olivia: Well, I think you should all think about
your health and the future of the planet!

Harry: Yeah, yeah, yeah ... whatever ...

Olivia: It's important! Cars make so much
pollution!

Magda: Yeah – Olivia's right!

Johnny: Scientists are finding ways to stop
pollution – that's their job.

Olivia: Maybe, but we should all help to help the
planet!

Harry: I don't know about the planet. I just think
right now we should try to help Carlos!

Comprehension Task 1

Decide whether these statements are true or false.

1. Tony isn't at work because he is ill.
2. Harry has cycled in to the café.
3. Harry plays football every day.
4. Johnny drives everywhere.
5. Magda thinks the public transport in London is good.
6. Johnny thinks cycling is safe in London.
7. Olivia is concerned about the planet.
8. Carlos is not very busy.

Comprehension Task 2

What are they thinking? Listen again, and see if you can match the thoughts with the characters who are thinking them.

Magda

Harry

Johnny

Carlos

Magda

Harry

Johnny

Olivia

1. _____: "Phew! I'm really busy!"
2. _____: "Public transport in London is a bit expensive but very good!"
3. _____: "I think saving the planet is really important – I wish people would try harder!"
4. _____: "I could use my bike to go to football ... but driving to the pitch is much easier."
5. _____: "I don't want to cycle – it's dangerous!"
6. _____: "I wish London had more parking spaces."
7. _____: "I like taking the bus or tube because the weather in London is so bad."
8. _____: "It's not my job to stop pollution – I'll leave it to scientists."

Vocabulary Task

What vehicles do these definitions describe?

1. A vehicle with two wheels and no engine: _____
2. A car with a driver whom you pay to take you somewhere: _____
3. A two wheeled vehicle with an engine: _____
4. A large passenger vehicle with many seats which travels in the city: _____
5. A large passenger vehicle with many seats which travels long distances on the road: _____
6. A vehicle which has wings for air travel: _____
7. A train system which works in the city, often underground: _____
8. A vehicle which travels on rails, often between cities: _____

Grammar Task

Choose the best verb form.

*You may need the base verb, used on its own or with **will** or **should**.*

You may need **verb-ing**, used as a noun or to complete a verb form like the present continuous.

You may need **to + verb**, used after some verbs.

- I'll just _____ a coffee.
a) get b) getting c) to get
- What's he doing _____ here?
a) work b) working c) to work
- I guess this café will have _____ for now.
a) do b) doing c) to do
- I couldn't find anywhere _____ my car.
a) park b) parking c) to park
- You should all _____ more!
a) cycle b) cycling c) to cycle
- I always _____ public transport.
a) use b) using c) to use
- _____ in the rain isn't any fun!
a) cycle b) cycling c) to cycle
- Scientists are _____ ways to stop pollution.
a) find b) finding c) to find

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Answers

Pre-listening:

1. b; 2. a; 3. f; 4. e; 5. e; 6. d

Comprehension Task 1:

1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F

Comprehension Task 2:

1. Carlos; 2. Magda; 3. Olivia; 4. Harry; 5. Johnny; 6. Harry; 7. Magda; 8. Johnny

Vocabulary:

1. Bike (bicycle); 2. Taxi (cab); 3. Motorcycle (or scooter); 4. Bus; 5. Coach; 6. Aeroplane (plane); 7. Subway; 8. Train

Grammar:

1. a; 2. b; 3. c; 4. c; 5. a; 6. a; 7. b; 8. b