



Task 1

Read the text about the story of the Bicycle

As people try to use less energy, and find alternatives to cars, more and more people are buying, and riding, bicycles. But where did the bicycle come from? Who invented this "velocipede"?

You may be surprised to learn that the humble bicycle was invented several years later than the railway locomotive! But the two-wheeler has come a long way since the day it was invented by a Scottish blacksmith, Kirkpatrick MacMillan, back (it is said) in 1839.

MacMillan developed his bike from an older wheeled vehicle, called a "hobby horse". This was a wooden horse with two wheels. The rider sat on the horse, and pushed the vehicle along with his feet. It was not a very fast or safe vehicle, since it had no steering and no brakes.

MacMillan, nicknamed Mad Pate, modified the hobby horse, by adding a system of articulated bars. The rider could push the bars back and forwards with his feet, and make the back wheel go round. He could also steer the bike, as the front wheel could be turned.

To demonstrate his invention, he cycled 60 miles to Glasgow! It must have been a terrible journey, on the roads of the day! Pate's bike did not have rubber tyres or springs.

Mad Pate was not recognised in his time, but other people became interested in bicycles. Twenty-five years later, a Frenchman called Pierre Lallemant designed and patented the first bicycle with rotary pedals; and in 1876, H.J. Lawson added another basic feature, "chain-drive".

Other features, such as rubber tyres and gears, have appeared since then; but the basic bicycle has not changed.

Since then the bicycle has had a magnificent fortune. Today, it is probably the most common form of transport in the world, especially in the Third World; and non-polluting and easy to ride, it has a big future as the town vehicle of tomorrow. Thanks Pate!

Task 2

Read the article and say whether these statements are true or false:

1. The railway locomotive was invented before the bicycle.
2. The first bicycle was built in Scotland.
3. The bicycle was developed from a wooden horse.
4. The first bicycle was very difficult to steer.
5. Pate preferred not to have rubber tyres for his bike.
6. The pedals on Pate's bike went round and round.
7. A Frenchman designed the first bike with rotary pedals.
8. Bicycles are very useful in the Third World.
9. The bicycle has little future in Europe.

Task 3

Read the following story:

The Death Car

It was a cold night in September. The rain was drumming on the car roof as George and Marie Winston drove through the empty country roads towards the house of their friends, the Harrisons, where they were going to attend a party to celebrate the engagement of the Harrisons' daughter, Lisa. As they drove, they listened to the local radio station, which was playing classical music.

They were about five miles from their destination when the music on the radio was interrupted by a news announcement:

"The Cheshire police have issued a serious warning after a man escaped from Colford Mental Hospital earlier this evening. The man, John Downey, is a murderer who killed six people before he was captured two years ago. He is described as large, very strong and extremely dangerous. People in the Cheshire area are warned to keep their doors and windows locked, and to call the police immediately if they see anyone acting strangely."

Marie shivered. "A crazy killer. And he's out there somewhere. That's scary."

"Don't worry about it," said her husband. "We're nearly there now. Anyway, we have more important things to worry about. This car is losing power for some reason -- it must be that old problem with the carburetor. If it gets any worse, we'll have to stay at the Harrisons' tonight and get it fixed before we travel back tomorrow."

As he spoke, the car began to slow down. George pressed the accelerator, but the engine only coughed. Finally they rolled to a halt, as the engine died completely. Just as they stopped, George pulled the car off the road, and it came to rest under a large tree.

"Blast!" said George angrily. "Now we'll have to walk in the rain."

"But that'll take us an hour at least," said Marie. "And I have my high-heeled shoes and my nice clothes on. They'll be ruined!"

"Well, you'll have to wait while I run to the nearest house and call the Harrisons. Someone can come out and pick us up," said George.

"But George! Have you forgotten what the radio said? There's a homicidal maniac out there! You can't leave me here alone!"

"You'll have to hide in the back of the car. Lock all the doors and lie on the floor in the back, under this blanket. No one will see you. When I come back, I'll knock three times on the door. Then you can get up

and open it. Don't open it unless you hear three knocks." George opened the door and slipped out into the rain. He quickly disappeared into the blackness.

Marie quickly locked the doors and settled down under the blanket in the back for a long wait. She was frightened and worried, but she was a strong-minded woman. She had not been waiting long, however, when she heard a strange scratching noise. It seemed to be coming from the roof of the car.

Marie was terrified. She listened, holding her breath. Then she heard three slow knocks, one after the other, also on the roof of the car. Was it her husband? Should she open the door? Then she heard another knock, and another. This was not her husband. It was somebody — or something — else. She was shaking with fear, but she forced herself to lie still. The knocking continued — bump, bump, bump, bump.

Many hours later, as the sun rose, she was still lying there. She had not slept for a moment. The knocking had never stopped, all night long. She did not know what to do. Where was George? Why had he not come for her?

Suddenly, she heard the sound of three or four vehicles, racing quickly down the road. All of them pulled up around her, their tires screeching on the road. At last! Someone had come! Marie sat up quickly and looked out of the window.

The three vehicles were all police cars, and two still had their lights flashing. Several policemen leaped out. One of them rushed towards the car as Marie opened the door. He took her by the hand.

"Get out of the car and walk with me to the police vehicle, Miss. You're safe now. Look straight ahead. Keep looking at the police car. Don't look back. Just don't look back."

Something in the way he spoke filled Marie with cold horror. She could not help herself. About ten yards from the police car, she stopped, turned and looked back at the empty vehicle.

George was hanging from the tree above the car, a rope tied around his neck. As the wind blew his body back and forth, his feet were bumping gently on the roof of the car — bump, bump, bump, bump.

Task 4

Choose the correct variant:

1. Where were the Winstons going when this incident happened?

- a. home
- b. to Colford Mental Hospital
- c. to a party
- d. to the police station

2. What was the reason for the news announcement on the radio?

- a. Six people, including John Downey, had been murdered.
- b. A dangerous prisoner had escaped.
- c. The police were warning of accidents on the roads in the bad weather.
- d. Some people had been seen acting strangely in the Cheshire area.

3. What did George think was causing the trouble with the car?

- a. the carburetor
- b. the rain drumming on the roof
- c. the accelerator

d. he had no idea

4. Why did he pull the car off the road?

a. to have a rest

b. to go for a walk

c. to walk to the nearest house

d. it broke down

5. Why did Marie stay in the car when George left?

a. She was afraid to go out in the dark.

b. So no one would steal the car.

c. Her clothes weren't suitable for the rain.

d. She wanted to get some sleep.

6. Where did George set off to walk to?

a. the Mental Hospital

b. the nearest house

c. the Harrisons' house

d. the police station

7. What made Marie so frightened as she waited in the car?

a. There was a strange sound coming from the roof.

b. She could see a man acting strangely outside the car.

c. Some police cars came racing down the road.

d. She was afraid of the rain and the dark.

8. Why did the policeman tell her not to look back when he brought her out of the car?

a. He didn't want her to see the body of her husband.

b. The killer was waiting behind her.

c. He wanted her to forget everything that had happened during the night.

d. He didn't want her to see the damage done to the car.

9. Marie says, "There's a homicidal maniac out there!" What does "homicidal maniac" mean?

a. terrible storm

b. busy road

c. crazy killer

d. policeman

10. In "Several policemen leapt out," "leapt" means

- a. threw
- b. jumped
- c. shouted
- d. drove

Task 5

Read the following text:

Travel is something which people do every day. It is very difficult to avoid the need to travel. It may be a trip to school, university or to work. Travelling can often take a long time, especially when great distances need to be covered. People often enjoy travelling abroad for holidays. But for some people travelling is not fun at all. Some people suffer from travel sickness. This means that they will become very unwell each time they travel.

Travelling can be either affordable or costly. It often depends on how far you want to travel and the choice of transport. Using a bicycle will not cost anything as you power it by using your legs. However, the use of a bicycle can be hard work and can take a lot of time to travel long distances. Cars and motorcycles are faster modes of transport, but are more expensive to use as gasoline is needed for them to work. It can usually be assumed that the longer you wish to travel, the more expensive and time consuming it will be.

The use of a plane is necessary for people wanting to travel very long distances. A pilot will fly a plane from an airport for many thousands of miles to take people to places far away. Although traffic is rarely a problem for airplanes, it can take a lot of preparation to travel by plane. People often need to arrive at the airport three hours prior to departure.

A train is another mode of transport which is ideal for travelling long distances within the same country, or between countries which are connected by land. A train driver will stop at train stations on route to allow passengers wishing to proceed to the scheduled destination to board the train.

A number of destinations can be travelled to by using the sea. People often depart from a harbour in a ferry which is driven by a captain. If the journey is a long distance, people may choose to sleep on the ferry while they wait to arrive at their destination. Some people choose to go on a cruise for their holiday, which would involve stopping at many different city ports for a short amount of time. People who need to travel short distances may choose not to use any transport at all. People often rely on their legs to take them to places nearby. This is often encouraged as certain modes of transport have been said to produce harmful emissions and damage the environment.

Task 6

Choose the correct variant:

- 1) Which mode of transport does not cost money?
 - A) Train
 - B) Car
 - C) Walking
 - D) Bus
- 2) Why do some people not enjoy travelling?
 - A) They find it a waste of time
 - B) It is not comfortable
 - C) It is expensive
 - D) They become unwell
- 3) Name the mode of transport which is controlled by a pilot and stops at an airport.
 - A) Train
 - B) Airplane

- C) Car
 - D) Bus
- 4) Name the mode of transport which is controlled by a captain and stops at a port.
- A) Train
 - B) Car
 - C) Ship
 - D) Airplane
- 5) Which mode of transport is ideal for travelling between countries connected by land?
- A) Bicycle
 - B) Train
 - C) Airplane
 - D) Car

Task 7

Do the following quiz:

<https://bogglesworldesl.com/quizgames/transportationquiz.php>