

Air pollution after Coronavirus



New Internationalist Easier English

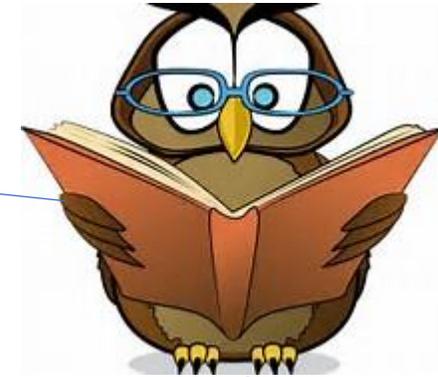
Self-study: Intermediate

Air pollution after Coronavirus

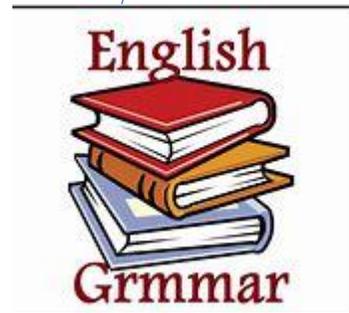
This lesson



Vocabulary



Reading



Questions



Match:

- 1) pressure
- 2) stove
- 3) particles
- 4) speed limit
- 5) restriction
- 6) congestion charge
- 7) low emission zone
- 8) speeding ticket
- 9) exploit
- 10) non-fatal

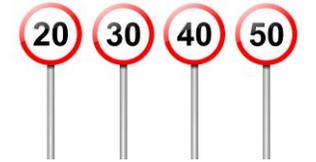


Check the answers
next page.

- a) 
b) very small pieces in the air



- c) stress
d) limit or control

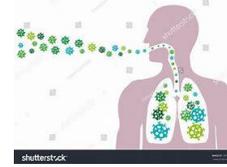


- e) the fastest you are allowed to drive
f) an accident that doesn't kill you
g) money you pay if you drive where there are a lot of cars, eg in a city centre
h) you get this if you drive too fast and you must pay
i) where you cannot drive if your car pollutes too much
j) use someone in a bad way



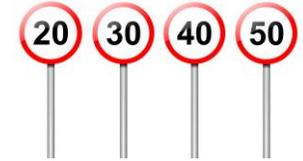


Match:



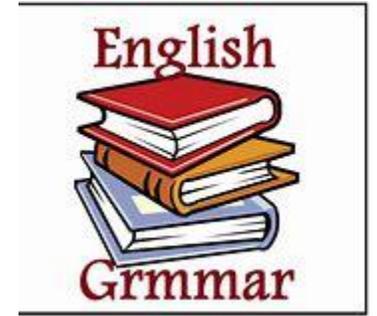
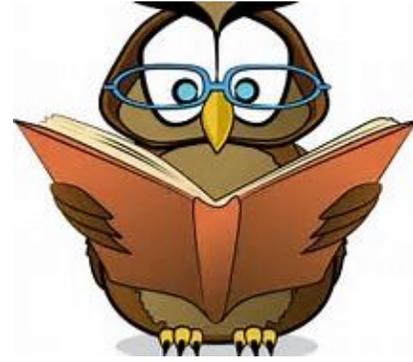
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- b) very small piece in the air
- c) stress
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- j) use someone in a bad way



What is the text about?

To find out, put the words in the correct order:



kills Air millions of pollution each people year.

After we to normal want to return Coronavirus.

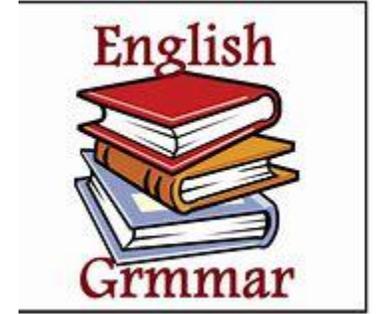
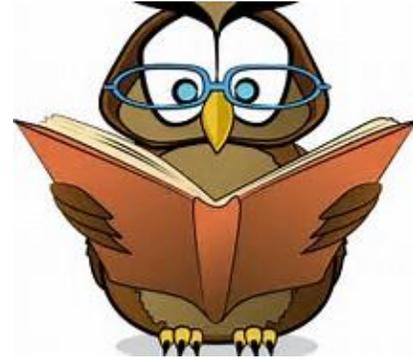
But quality than before have we could worse air, if we changes make big do not.

Check the answers next page.



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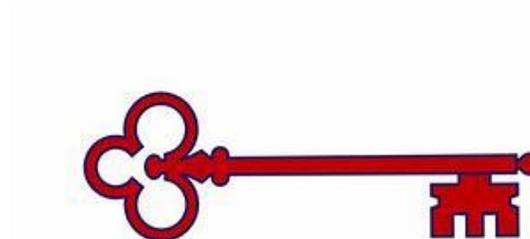
To find out, put the words in the correct order:



Air pollution kills millions of people each year.

After Coronavirus we want to return to normal.

But we could have worse air quality than before, if we do not make big changes.



What do you think?! Look at the photo.

- 1) Are they students? Yes/no?
- 2) Are they protesting against dirty air? Yes/no?
- 3) Are they inside? Yes/no?
- 4) Are they in Skopje, North Macedonia or in London, UK?



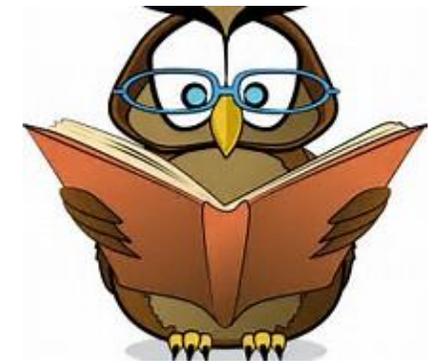
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What do you think?! Look at the photo. Check the answers.

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Students protest against high levels of air pollution outside the government building in Skopje, North Macedonia December 20, 2019.

Read these questions and find the answers in the text on the next page.

- 1) The author can hear birds singing now. True/false?
- 2) She can't hear the railway. True/false?
- 3) The air is cleaner in a lot of cities now. True/false?
- 4) Wood-burning stoves are making the air more polluted in the UK. True/false?
- 5) Air pollution is worst in October in Western Europe. True/false?
- 6) There was a call from doctors to reduce speed limits on roads in 2019. True/false?
- 7) A report said that 35,000 people die from road accidents every year. True/false?



Now with the UK's Coronavirus restrictions, I hear sounds I never used to. Birdsong, the train half a mile away. The noise from the main road around the corner is so much less and the air is fresher.

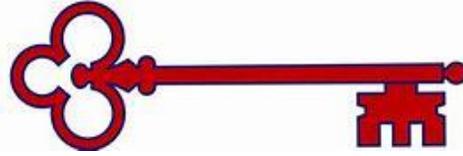
Air pollution is damaging to almost every part of the human body. But since the Coronavirus began, the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution in many of the world's cities has reduced by 50 per cent and roads are now much quieter.

But in Brighton, on England's south coast, I notice that on most nights wood smoke comes in through the window – even with the summer weather we have. A 2018 study in the UK found that wood-burning stoves added 24 to 31 per cent to pollution in some of the UK's big cities. Right now we don't need to breathe that smoke, but it is difficult to avoid if it's the only heating. Particle pollution in the UK increased during April 2020. Gary Fuller is an air pollution expert. He says that an increase in April at this time of year is usual with the start to farming. This 'makes spring the most polluted time of year in western Europe.'

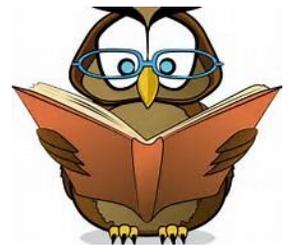
Check the answers next page.



Check the answers.

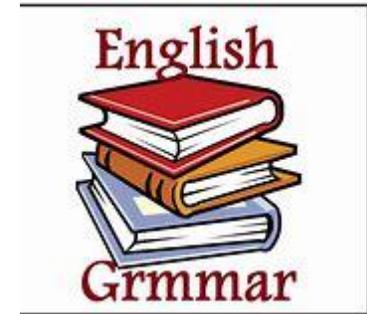


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Make questions from these words. For example,

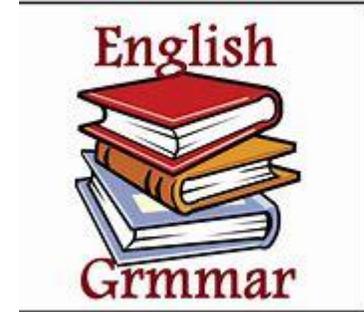
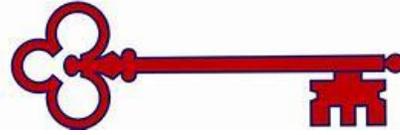
- 1) speed/there/limit/is/Isle of Man/on the/a? -> Is there a speed limit on the Isle of Man?
- 2) cars/fast/USA/in the/too/driving/are/and the UK?
- 3) planning/clean air/are/in/they/in/zones/Leeds?
- 4) cars/all/pay/would/to/have/clean air zones/enter/to?
- 5) charge/London/is/in/a/congestion/there/now?
- 6) helpful/what/workers/is/for/key?
- 7) pollution/air/ make Coronavirus/worse/does?
- 8) air pollution/die/many/because of/how/people/every year?



Check the questions next page.



Check the questions.



- 1) *Is there a speed limit on the Isle of Man?*
- 2) *Are cars in the USA and the UK driving too fast?*
- 3) *Are they planning clean air zones in Leeds?*
- 4) *Would all cars have to pay to enter clean air zones?*
- 5) *Is there a congestion charge in London now?*
- 6) *What is helpful for key workers?*
- 7) *Does air pollution make the Coronavirus worse?*
- 8) *How many people die because of air pollution every year?/
Every year how many people die because of air pollution?/
How many people die every year because of air pollution?*

Now find the answers to the questions on the text next page.

On the Isle of Man, they started a 40 mph speed limit in March. The Isle of Man has now started to relax some of its Covid-19 restrictions, but they still have the speed limit. In other places it's very different, as drivers drive faster because of empty roads.

In cities like London and Manchester there are more cars breaking speed limits, and it's not just a UK problem. For example, in New York City there are 51-per-cent fewer cars on the road, but there are about the same number of speeding tickets.

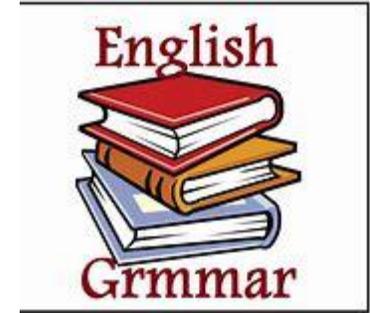
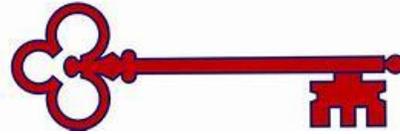
In many UK cities, including Birmingham and Leeds, they delayed the start of clean-air zones until at least 2021 because of the Coronavirus. The clean air zones would make the most polluted vehicles pay to stop them driving in city centres. In London, they have stopped the congestion charge, low-emission zone, and ultra-low-emission zones. Local authorities say this is because they want to make travel easier for key workers.

Air-pollution campaigners will want to make sure that these delays do not continue. There is now more and more evidence that the impacts of the Coronavirus are worse because of air pollution. In a normal year, dirty air is linked to seven million early deaths around the world. Some scientists also found the Coronavirus on particles of air pollution.

Check the answers next page.



Check the answers.



- 1) *Is there a speed limit on the Isle of Man?* Yes
- 2) *Are cars in the USA and the UK driving too fast?* Yes
- 3) *Are they planning clean air zones in Leeds?* Yes
- 4) *Would all cars have to pay to enter clean air zones?* No
- 5) *Is there a congestion charge in London now?* No
- 6) *What is helpful for key workers?* Stopping the congestion charge, low-emission zone, and ultra-low-emission zones
- 7) *Does air pollution make the Coronavirus worse?* Yes
- 8) *How many people die because of air pollution every year?/
Every year how many people die because of air pollution?/
How many people die every year because of air pollution?* Seven million

Put the words in the correct gaps.

*traffic poverty pollution food 85 exploit cyclists
free*

More and more cities across the world are now making streets car (1) _____ to give more space for walkers and cyclists as people need to stay at a distance.

The city of Milan, in northern Italy, is giving some streets to (2) _____ and pedestrians and it plans for them to stay that way after the Coronavirus. (3) _____ in the city is 30-75 per cent less. The local government hopes to stop car use going back to what it was before, when people return to work.

Less traffic on the roads may reduce (4) _____ and make our cities quieter, but it is important to remember that all is not well. There is pain and suffering from illness and death from the Coronavirus. But also (5) _____ and inequality is increasing quickly and will kill many more people. People now without (6) _____, shelter, and safety will suffer even more.

Often people with the least money live in the most polluted areas. One study in London found that (7) _____ per cent of the schools most affected by air pollution have pupils that come from poor areas. And they are in areas with fewer cars than most people.

Any changes that come out of the Coronavirus must give power and resources to everyone. A return to 'normal' would be terrible. But a 'new normal' that continues to (8) _____ people and natural resources would also be terrible.

Check answers next page.



Put the words in the correct gaps. Check answers
traffic poverty pollution food 85 exploit cyclists
free exploit

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Less traffic on the roads may reduce (4) pollution and make our cities quieter, but it is important to remember that all is not well. There is pain and suffering from illness and death from the Coronavirus. But also (5) poverty and inequality is increasing quickly and will kill many more people. People now without (6) food, shelter, and safety will suffer even more.

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Any changes that come out of the Coronavirus must give power and resources to everyone. A return to 'normal' would be terrible. But a 'new normal' that continues to (8) exploit people and natural resources would also be terrible.



Read the LONGER article. How much can you understand?

<https://newint.org/features/2020/04/27/covid-19-cannot-be-excuse-more-toxic-air>

