

Cycle scheme

Language

Transport vocabulary, question words

Level

Elementary; (equivalent to CEF level A2)

Comment

This lesson is about a new cycle scheme that has just started in London, based on a similar service in Paris. Students can compare the service with one in their own country and think of a name for the London scheme.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Ask students to tell you how they came to the class today. Did they walk or did they use some form of transport? Was it public or private transport? Give students copies of the worksheet and ask them to do exercise 1 in pairs. Check answers. Students may not know *tube*, which is the popular name for the London underground train.
- 2 In exercise 2, students list the forms of transport they use most often. Ask them to make a list starting with the form of transport they use most often. Invite some students to read out their results and find out if the students all tend to use the same forms of transport. How many students regularly use a bicycle?
- 3 Explain that they're going to read a news story about a cycle scheme that started at the end of July. Ask students to read the news story quickly and find three different ways to say *bicycle* in English (*bicycle*, *cycle*, *bike*). You also want them to make a list of the other places mentioned in the story that have similar schemes (Blackpool, Cardiff, Reading, Paris, Barcelona).
- 4 Working individually or in pairs, students complete the questions in exercise 3 and then write the answers to those questions in exercise 4. Check the completed questions and answers.
- 5 Clarify that only registered users can use the service at the moment but it will soon be open to everyone. Tell students to imagine they are going to use one of the London cycles. First, they have to understand the instructions at the docking station. Students work in pairs to complete exercise 5 in which they order the instructions. Check answers.
- 6 Divide the class into small groups and ask them to read through the questions in exercise 6 together. The students should first discuss the answers in their groups and then share their answers with the rest of the class.
- 7 Ask students to tell you the names of the Paris and Barcelona systems. Do they like the names? Write the name of the London service on the board: Barclays Cycle Hire. What do they think of the name? Do they know the name 'Barclays'? (It's a bank.) Explain that some people think it would be good to give the service a different name. In groups, students should think of an alternative name for the London service.
- 8 Students present their names to the rest of the class, explaining why they chose it. Which name is most popular?

Answer key

1

- 1 bicycle
- 2 bus
- 3 car
- 4 skateboard
- 5 taxi
- 6 train
- 7 tram
- 8 tube

2 Students' own answers.

3

- 1 How many
- 2 How old
- 3 How much
- 4 How long
- 5 How
- 6 How popular

4

- 1 There are around 5,000 available.
- 2 You must be at least 18 years old.
- 3 The weekly charge is £5.
- 4 You can ride for 30 minutes free.
- 5 A map shows you where the nearest cycles are.
- 6 It's a huge success with locals and visitors.

5 The correct order is c, b, f, a, e, d

6 Students' own answers.

Related websites

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/cycling/14808.aspx (Transport for London's website)

www.visitlondon.com/travel (Visit London's travel section)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-10810869> (includes video)