

Exercise 5

Read the news article about a city in Bangladesh which successfully reduced air pollution.

Write a summary about what caused the high levels of pollution, AND how the city managed to improve living conditions.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Rajshahi – a city successfully reducing air pollution

Until recently, the long hot summers in Rajshahi used to be made a lot worse for the locals, because they had to keep their windows shut – not because of the wind or monsoon rains, but because of the poor air quality.

Dust from the roads all around the city was one of the main contributors. That, and the smoke and chemicals produced by the brick-making industry, made Rajshahi one of the world's most polluted cities. However, Rajshahi has managed to improve things so dramatically that the city has made the headlines. According to United Nations data, the Bangladeshi city did more than any other city in the world to get rid of these air particles that cause pollution and are so bad for human health.

Most of the inhabitants are too poor to own cars, which normally cause air pollution in many other cities. Instead, it was the effort made to clean up the city's brick kilns, where the bricks are baked, that was partly to thank for the achievement. Levels of the larger air particles went from 195 micrograms per cubic metre in 2014 to 63.9 in 2016, a reduction of about two-thirds. Levels of the smaller air particles were nearly halved from 70 to 37 micrograms per cubic metre, the second highest reduction of any city in the world.

Many of the city's inhabitants remember having to close windows and doors to stop a thin layer of dirt appearing on every surface in their house. Even today, with air quality dramatically improved, there is still so much dust in the air that city officials are unable to go ahead with the idea of introducing solar panels. They fear that dust will settle on the panels and prevent them from generating power within weeks. Nevertheless, air quality has been transformed. One reason for this is that there is a 'zero-soil' programme in the city, which means that no part of the ground should be bare earth. Instead, to reduce the amount of dust kicked up by people and vehicles, the city has been made greener by planting grass, flowers and trees wherever possible.

City officials began looking at transport in 2004, when they imported many battery-powered rickshaws from China. These three-wheeled vehicles are the main form of public transport, and their batteries keep the air clean. There was also a ban on large lorries from the city centre, which added to the improvement of air quality, keeping the air free of petrol and diesel fumes.

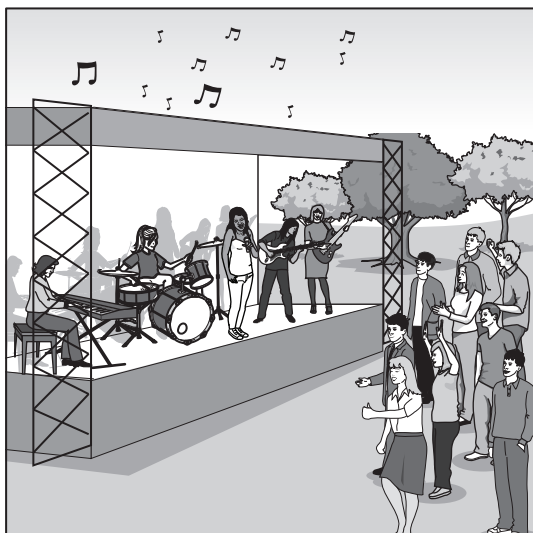
One city official became convinced that the city needed more pavements, after looking into urban planning in other countries. Previously, the sides of most city roads were dusty and broken, making them dangerous and unappealing to walk along. So far, 15 kilometres of pavements have been added, and there are plans for more. Apart from encouraging a healthier lifestyle, the pavements help to control the dust in the air. There are also plans to introduce cycle lanes in the future, although the high temperatures in the summer mean that this mode of transport may not be the most popular.

People are now proud of their city, and have started looking after it more. One resident, who spent over ten years working in Europe, reported how much it had changed. "I was worried I'd find it hard to live here after so much time abroad. But I came back to find the city has been transformed."

Many factors contributed to the elevated levels of pollution in Rajshahi, such as dust from roads all around the city and smoke and chemicals generated by the brick-making industry. In addition to air particles, petrol and diesel fumes from big trucks exacerbated the problem.

Nevertheless, Rajshahi officials succeeded in improving the living conditions of its citizens by taking many measures, for example, cleaning brick kilns and implementing the “zero-soil” program. They also outlawed large lorries from the city centre and brought battery-powered rickshaws from China. Finally, they constructed 15 kilometres of foodpath to control the dust in the air.

Exercise 6



When you were on holiday recently, you went to a music festival with your family.

Write an email to your friend about the music festival.

In your email, you should:

- describe where the festival took place
- explain what you enjoyed most about the festival
- say what you would like to do for your next holiday.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your email, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Dear Jay,

I'm glad you convinced Aunt Sara to get you the new iPhone you wanted! How is it going so far? Anyway, buckle up because you are in for some gripping news!

As you already know, my family and I went to the US for our holiday, and it was an amazing experience, especially the music festival we attended on our last day—it was one-of-a-kind! It was called Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival and was held in Empire Polo Club in Indio. We had to travel almost 100km from our hotel to get there, but you know what? It was worth it!

What I loved most was the incredible lineup of artists, ranging from world-renowned bands to local talents. Each performance was unique, and the diversity of music styles was absolutely refreshing. Yet, it wasn't just the music that won us over; it was also the strong sense of community and the infectious energy of the crowd. Seeing people of all races gathered in one place bonding together over music was strangely relaxing. I wish you were there!

Now, I'm already thinking about my next holiday. I'm considering a beach vacation, where I can rejuvenate and soak up some sun while trying out water activities like scuba diving or kayaking. I've heard great things about the Maldives, so it's currently at the top of my list. I hope you can join us this time.

Write back soon!

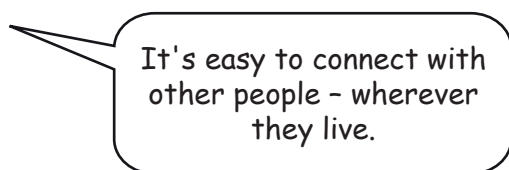
Best regards,

[your name]

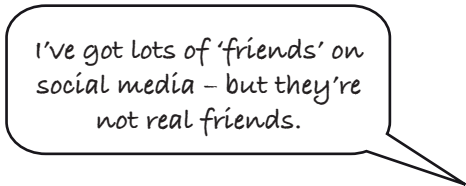
Exercise 7

In your English class, you have had a discussion about the way that using technology can affect your social life.

Here are two comments from students in your class:

A speech bubble with a tail pointing to the left, containing the text: "It's easy to connect with other people - wherever they live."

It's easy to connect with other people - wherever they live.

A speech bubble with a tail pointing to the right, containing the text: "I've got lots of 'friends' on social media - but they're not real friends."

I've got lots of 'friends' on social media - but they're not real friends.

Write an article for your school magazine, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your article, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Technology has started a novel epoch of communication, one that is drastically different from our ancestors and where connection with anyone in the world is just a few clicks away. But how has this affected our social life? And is this change for the better or the worse?

One of the significant benefits of technology is that it allows us to connect instantly with our friends and loved ones who live far away. This undoubtedly enriches our lives and helps us to maintain existing relationships that might have faded away otherwise. Moreover, we can form global connections with people from entirely different backgrounds and cultures and learn from their experiences and perspectives, which can broaden our horizons, foster empathy, and assist us in comprehending the world better.

On the other hand, social interactions on social media are not as fulfilling and authentic as real-life ones, sometimes even superficial and devoid of genuine emotions. Have you ever wondered whether your online “friends” are genuine friends or just digital acquaintances? Unsurprisingly, it is more often the latter than the former. Additionally, our excessive use of technology has limited our participation in social events and face-to-face communication with individuals in our immediate surroundings, such as family members living in the same house.

In a nutshell, technology is a mixed blessing; therefore, I wholeheartedly believe that we must balance our online and in-person interactions and use technology mindfully to enhance our relationships and social interactions.