

COMMUNICATION

Thinking of a solution

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_3083X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can recognise and recall a range of vocabulary and phrases related to solutions.
- I can give reasons and results using a range of expressions.



Warm-up

1. **Look at** the image below. **Describe** what you see.
2. **Discuss:** what is the yellow device used for?





Before you read the text on the next slide...

1. **Match** the vocabulary with the definition.
2. **Discuss**: can you guess what the text will be about?

1 **lottery**

a offence of driving faster than the legal limit

2 **to punish**

b a system of giving prizes to people whose numbers are chosen by chance

3 **speeding**

c to do what you are told to do

4 **to obey**

d to make someone suffer because they have broken the law

5 **campaigners**

e people who actively work for social or political change



Reading

Read the article below for gist. You **do not need** to understand every word.

Swedish speed camera pays drivers to slow down

In January 2010, Kevin Richardson won Volkswagen's *The Fun Theory*, a competition to find a way of making obeying speed limits 'fun'.

Richardson's idea was simple yet innovative: as well as punishing drivers for driving too fast, his speed camera would also notice those *at* or *under* the speed limit. The latter were then entered into a lottery, with the winner receiving the money that the speeding

motorists had paid in fines.

In September that year, the Swedish National Society for Road Safety trialled the camera over three days on over 25,000 cars. Not only did the idea work, the camera was so effective that the average driving speed fell from 32 to 25km/hr. So, drivers *were* slowing down *and* because of the camera.

Sadly, Richardson's unique idea didn't go much further. In a 2021 interview, he con-

firmed that the experiment had ended due to the high cost of moving the camera to different locations. New locations were always needed, he explained, since the novelty of the camera soon wore off.

As a result, no more speed camera lotteries are in operation today and campaigners remain on the lookout for solutions to this modern-day yet age-old problem!



Reading comprehension

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences about the text.

1 The aim of Volkswagen's competition was to...

- a. find a new car design. b. help enforce speed limits. c. prevent car accidents.

2 Drivers entered into the speed camera lottery were driving _____ the speed limit.

- a. at or below b. exactly at c. over

3 The winner of the lottery received the money from drivers fined for _____.

- a. sleeping b. drunk-driving c. speeding

4 Researchers found that the camera _____ average driving speeds.

- a. increased b. reduced c. had no effect on

5 The speed camera lottery ended because the camera was too _____.

- a. heavy to move around b. unreliable when in use c. expensive to transport



New locations were always needed since the **novelty** of the camera soon wore off.

A **novelty** is something new, different and interesting.

When a **novelty** wears off, it becomes boring or uninteresting. So, a new solution is needed.



Phrases related to solutions

The speed camera lottery was an **innovative** idea.

The National Society for Road Safety **trialled** the camera over three days.

The camera was so **effective** that the average speed fell from 32 to 25km/hr.

Sadly, Richardson's unique idea didn't go much **further**.

Campaigners remain **on the lookout** for new solutions.

a tested

b on the search

c successful

d new and different

e a greater distance



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences using the words in the red box.

- 1 Product developers should always be on the _____ for new ideas to experiment with.
- 2 Posting an announcement on social media is an _____ way of introducing clients to a new product.
- 3 The new drug is currently being _____ in several hospitals.
- 4 This solution needs to go _____ in order to reduce our costs.
- 5 Big companies are always looking for _____ ideas that are so unique that they can't be copied easily.

trialled
effective
further
lookout
innovative

Linking words: giving reasons

1. **Read** the table below.
2. **Discuss** how the linking words are used in the example sentences.

Giving reasons					
Because	}	+ <i>clause</i>	Because of	}	+ <i>noun</i>
As			Due to		
Since			Owing to		

Note: *due to* and *owing to* are slightly more formal and used more often in writing.

- The drivers slowed down **because** *they had seen the speed camera*.
- The drivers slowed down **since/as** *they had seen the speed camera*.
- The drivers slowed down **because of** *the speed camera*.
- The drivers slowed down **due to/owing to** *the speed camera*.



Fill in the gaps

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

1 We chose to go inside _____ the bad weather.

a. because

b. because of

2 Amanda couldn't go to work _____ she was ill.

a. as

b. due to

3 _____ flights are cheaper in the winter, we decided to travel in December.

a. since

b. owing to



Form sentences using linking words

Form sentences using *because (of)*, *as*, *since*, *due to* or *owing to*.

1 Your flight to JFK gets cancelled.

Reason: Bad weather.



My flight got cancelled **as** there was stormy weather over JFK.

2 You miss an important work meeting.

Reason: Terrible traffic



3 You don't buy flour for the cake.

Reason: Not on your shopping list



4 You're extremely happy.

Reason: A recent work promotion



5 You order a vegetarian meal

Reason: You don't eat meat



6 You buy a new pair of shoes

Reason: Old ones have a hole in them



Linking words: giving results

Read the example sentences. **Answer** the question in the blue box.

The drivers saw the speed camera. **As a result**, they slowed down.

The drivers saw the speed camera. **Therefore**, they slowed down.

The drivers saw the speed camera, **so** they slowed down.

- We use **as a result**, **therefore** and **so** to give results.
- How is the third sentence with **so** different from the other two sentences?



Choose the correct linking word

Complete the text about the Concorde.

The Concorde was a British-French aircraft built in the 1960s. The aircraft was widely regarded as a feat of modern engineering _____ (**owing to/since**) it could travel at speeds of up to 2,180 km/hr and fly from London to New York in around 3 hours.

_____ (**due to/since**) its incredible speeds, tickets on the jet were extremely expensive and a round-trip flight from New York City to London cost \$7,574 (the equivalent to \$12,460 in 2020). _____ (**As a result/Because**), many Concorde flights were half-full and operated at a financial loss for the airlines.

Not only that, _____ (**because of/as**) Concorde could only operate on routes over the ocean, _____ (**as/owing to**) noise restrictions on flying over land, it was never regarded as a long-term solution for ultra-fast air travel. This led to its retirement from service in 2013 and the end of supersonic flight.





Free discussion

1. **Look at** the inventions pictured below.
2. **Discuss** in breakout rooms or together as a class:
 - (a) Which invention do you consider the **most innovative**? Why?
 - (b) Which two inventions have been **most useful for you** in your life? Why?



Internet



Telephone



Train



Car



Printing press

In my opinion, the invention of the printing press was the most innovative...

*since/as
because (of)*

*due / owing to
as a result,*



End of the lesson

Idiom

no rhyme or reason

Meaning: to happen in a way that cannot be easily explained or understood.

Example: the project was extremely popular, so there's no rhyme or reason to why it failed.



Additional practice



Correct or incorrect?

Decide if the linking words used in these sentences are correct. **Change** the incorrect ones.
There can be more than one correct answer.

Linking words: **due to, owing to, since, because (of)**

		✓	X
1	I didn't cycle to work this morning because the rain.		
2	I couldn't find a parking space due to the marathon that's on in town today.		
3	Due to my wife had a day off work, we went to the beach.		
4	I decided to make a cake because it was my son's birthday.		
5	They stopped laughing owing to the librarian told them to be quiet.		



Giving reasons and results

Match a sentence beginning (1-5) with the correct ending (a-e).

1 Maria often works late.

2 Our landlord decided to increase our rent.

3 Pete has gone home early...

4 I go to bed at 9 pm...

5 We were tired...

a since I have to be up at 5 am every day.

b as he wasn't feeling well.

c As a result, she doesn't often have time to cook dinner in the evening.

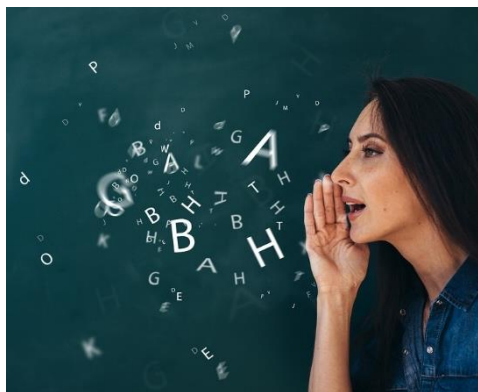
d so we decided to have a rest in a café for a bit.

e Therefore, we had to move house.



Finding innovative solutions

1. **Tell** your partner about a problem you have with learning English.
2. **They give** two innovative solutions to help you.
3. **Swap** roles.



I have a real problem with remembering to use different tenses when I'm speaking.

I think an effective solution is...



- innovative
- to trial
- effective
- on the lookout



Solutions

Which of these quotations do you **most agree** with? Why? Tell your classmates.

There is a solution to every problem.



Sometimes, you need to move on from problems and not try to solve them.



Answer key

P. 4: 1. b, 2. d, 3. a, 4. c, 5. e

P. 6: 1. b, 2. a, 3. c, 4. b, 5. c

P. 8: innovative: d, trialled: a, effective: c, further: e, on the lookout: b

P. 9: 1. lookout, 2. effective, 3. trialled, 4. further, 5. innovative

P. 11: 1. b, 2. a, 3. a

P. 14: since, due to, as a result, as, owing to

P. 21: 1. wrong – because of/due to/owing to, 2. correct, 3. wrong: Because/As/Since, 4. correct, 5. wrong: because/as/since

P. 22: 1c, 2e, 3b, 4a, 5d



Summary

Describing solutions:

- innovative, to trial, effective, on the lookout

Linking words for giving reasons:

- *because, as, since* + **clause**
- *because of, due to, owing to* + **noun**

Linking words for talking about results:

- *As a result,*
- *Therefore,*
- *So*



Vocabulary

lottery

to punish

speeding

to obey

campaigners

novelty

innovative

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effective

further

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