

UNIT 8

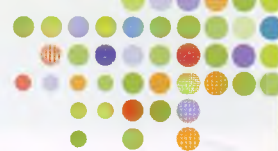
Cities/Urban Lives

- READING ● making inferences
- VOCABULARY ● participles as adjectives
- WRITING ● writing a problem/solution essay; thesis statements
- GRAMMAR ● passive voice



LEARNING OUTCOME

Write a problem/solution essay describing how your city can become a better place to live.



Unit QUESTION

How can we make cities better places to live?

PREVIEW THE UNIT

A Discuss these questions with your classmates.

Do you like where you live? Why or why not?

Many people are starting to believe that “green” (environmentally friendly) cities are desirable places to live. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Look at the photo. What is the woman doing? Why?

B Discuss the Unit Question above with your classmates.

 Listen to *The Q Classroom*, Track 11 on CD 2, to hear other answers.

C Take the quiz to find out about your carbon footprint. Circle your answers.

Carbon Footprint Quiz

A "carbon footprint" refers to the total amount of gasses released into the environment from an individual, group of people, activity, or product. Take this quiz to find out about your personal carbon footprint.

1. How do you usually travel to work or school?

- a. I walk or ride my bicycle.
- b. I take public transportation (subway, bus, train, etc.).
- c. I drive.

2. How often do you eat meat?

- a. never
- b. sometimes
- c. frequently, with most meals

3. What kind of bags do you use when you buy groceries?

- a. reusable cloth bags
- b. paper bags
- c. plastic bags

4. Where do you live?

- a. in a large apartment building
- b. in a small apartment building
- c. in a house

5. How much paper do you use?

- a. Not much because I mostly read online.
- b. Some. I read online, but often print out emails, articles, etc.
- c. A lot. Reading online hurts my eyes, so I print out lots of emails, articles, etc.



How big is your carbon footprint? Find out below.

- If you answered mostly *a*, you have a fairly small carbon footprint. Keep up the good work!
- If you answered mostly *b*, you're doing OK, but there are things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint.
- If you answered mostly *c*, you probably have a large carbon footprint. You should think about ways you can become "greener."

D Discuss the results of the quiz with a partner. What are some things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint?

READING 1 | New Zero-Carbon City to Be Built

VOCABULARY

Here are some words from Reading 1. Read their definitions. Then complete the email message.

alternative (*adj.*) not traditional; not following the usual options or styles, or accepting something that you can use instead of something else

chiefly (*adv.*) mainly, mostly

compete (*v.*) to try to win or achieve something or to try to be better than someone else

environmentally (*adv.*) related to the natural world (land, sea, air) in which we live

recycling (*n.*) the process used to make objects and materials reusable


release (*v.*) to let substances escape into the air, oceans, and so on

renewable (*adj.*) can be continued or replaced so that it is never finished or used completely

resources (*n.*) things that a person or country has or can use

unique (*adj.*) not like anyone or anything else; being the only one of its type

waste (*n.*) material food that is not needed and is therefore thrown away



From: Daniel Ramirez
To: Pedro Ramirez
Subject: Carbon Footprint Meeting

Hi Dad,

I just returned from a city planning meeting about reducing our carbon footprint. It was scary, but also exciting to hear all of the ideas people had. It was scary because I never knew how much carbon dioxide cities produce. Cities are responsible for 70 to 80 percent of the carbon dioxide that activities and products _____ (1) into the air. In addition, our cities produce so much _____ (2)! We don't think about how much garbage we throw out or how much water we use.

The speakers at the meeting said that _____ (3) is very important. We shouldn't throw away materials like newspapers, magazines, cans, and bottles. They also explained some of the problems with the traditional sources of energy we use now, especially fossil fuels like oil and coal. In the 21st century, cities need to explore _____ (4) energy sources, like solar and wind power, for heating and transportation. It was exciting to hear about new buildings that are _____ (5) friendly. They are powered _____ (6) by solar and wind power. These energy sources are _____. (7) Unlike oil, they will always be available, and they leave almost no carbon footprint. It was also exciting to hear about a new type of streetcar that runs completely on batteries. It would be _____ (8) to our city to have this type of transportation—no city has ever done this before!

I think it's great that companies are now eager to become involved with these "green" projects. A number of companies will _____ (9) to be hired to make the changes proposed. Together, city officials, companies, and environmental experts can combine their knowledge and _____ (10) to investigate these new ideas and make them a reality.

I'm glad I went to the meeting. It gave me some ideas on how our city can make big changes to help keep our world healthy.

Talk to you soon,
Pedro

PREVIEW READING 1

This is an article from a news website. It describes a brand-new city that is being built in Abu Dhabi, one of the emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates.

Read the first and last paragraphs. Check (✓) the kinds of energy you think this new city will use.

☐ oil

☐ wind

☐ solar

☐ electricity

☐ coal

☐ water



Read the article.

New Zero-Carbon City to Be Built

1 The desert sands of Abu Dhabi seem an unlikely place to build an **environmentally** sound city. A desert is not the first place that comes to mind when you think of “sustainability¹”. In addition, Abu Dhabi, part of the United Arab Emirates, is one of the largest oil producers in the world. But unlikely or not, a new “eco-city” is being built there. Masdar, meaning “the source” in Arabic, will be the first zero-carbon city, meaning the amount of CO₂ **released** into the air will be close to zero.

2 Masdar City will cost \$22 billion to build and will use many different forms of energy, including solar and wind. The entire city will be powered by these **renewable** forms of energy. The first part of this project is the construction of one of the largest solar energy plants in the world. This plant will provide most of the energy for the entire city. When Masdar City is completed, it will be six square kilometers in size and will be the home to more than 50,000 people.



artist's rendition of a street scene in Masdar, Abu Dhabi

3 Masdar City will be **unique** not only in its sustainability, but in many other ways. First, there will be no cars within the city's walls. A personal rapid transit (PRT) system will run under the city. A PRT is similar to a car, but runs on magnetic tracks. When you want to travel to another part of the city, you step into your PRT, program it to go to one of the 1,500 stations, and then sit back and relax. Second, **recycling** is central to the development of the city. Even in the construction process, recycled materials will be used. Water will

¹ **sustainability**: the ability to continually exist without having a negative effect on the surroundings

be recycled and reused; for example, in the irrigation² of crops, any unused water will be used again and again. Human **waste** will be recovered and reused to create soil that can be used in various parts of the city.

- 4 The city itself will be designed to fit in with its surroundings, with narrow streets and building styles reminiscent of ancient cities in the area. The city is situated so that it gets a great deal of sun on one side, while breezes off the Gulf help to cool it on the other. Additionally, the solar panels atop the buildings will shade the walking areas so that they will remain cool and sheltered from the sun. The entire city will be walled, to prevent noise and dust from entering.
- 5 Many people and companies around the world have joined the project. The prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology will have a branch of its college in the city, the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (MIST). It will recruit³ the best students from around the world to do research, **chiefly** in the area of **alternative** energy. Additionally, companies, such as General Electric in the United States and SunTech, a Chinese solar panel manufacturer, have joined to help make Masdar a reality. This has become a truly global project.

Post your comments:

- 6 **aboutimesue28**: This project sounds awesome! It's just the right combination of factors: the oil-rich country has the money and **resources** to investigate new sources of energy. Countries all over the world have the brains and expertise to help with finding new technology. And companies will **compete** to get involved in this first-ever carbon-emission-free city! Way to go, Masdar!

- 7 **curioustoknow76**: It's really surprising to me that a country that is one of the world's top oil producers would be building a city like this. But I think it's great! Maybe even the oil-rich countries realize that it will be harder and harder to meet the world's demands for oil, and therefore we need to find new sources of energy.

- 8 **realitysam**: I have to say to curioustoknow76 that the oil producers want to continue to be very much involved in the energy business. That's the biggest reason why they have decided to invest in renewable energy. They know that the world is slowly coming to believe that we have to change our ways, and they want to be at the forefront of new technology.

- 9 **annoyed55**: I don't understand why money is being spent on a new city. At a point in time when we all have to make changes in our existing lives, the world focuses on this new high-tech city, which will be home to only 50,000 people! What about the cities that are home to millions? They're falling apart! And they use an incredible amount of energy to function! We have to do something about these cities now. It's very nice to build new cities with new technology, but first we need to focus our attention on existing cities!

- 10 **Ecogeek66**: In this description of Masdar, it's "almost" zero-carbon. Solar panels don't work at night, so Masdar will have to "borrow" power from other (not green) energy sources during those times. Since Masdar will give back its extra power to the fossil fuel-powered source during daylight, this is considered to be an even trade. And what about the surrounding areas in Abu Dhabi? Just outside Masdar, you will find many carbon-producing plants!

² **irrigation**: the action of supplying land and crops with water by using pipes, equipment, etc.

³ **recruit**: to persuade someone to become a member of a school or organization

MAIN IDEAS

Circle the answer that best completes each statement.

1. According to the reading, it's unexpected that Abu Dhabi would build an eco-city because _____.
 - a. the weather is beautiful there
 - b. it produces a lot of oil
 - c. it's such a small place
2. Masdar will be unique because of _____.
 - a. its recycling program
 - b. its new alternative energy sources
 - c. its highways
3. What will be the main focus of study at the new college in Masdar?
 - a. the arts
 - b. new medical breakthroughs
 - c. alternative energy
4. The comments posted after the article _____.
 - a. are all favorable
 - b. are mixed
 - c. are all unfavorable

DETAILS

Reread Reading 1. Then answer the questions.

1. How much will it cost to build Masdar City?

2. How large will the city be?

3. How many people will live in Masdar City?

4. Why will there be no cars in Masdar?

5. How many PRT stations will there be?

6. Why is SunTech involved in Masdar?

7. Who posted a comment saying that building Masdar is a bad idea?

8. Who posted a comment saying that building Masdar is a business investment more than an environmental one?



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Discuss the questions in a group. Then choose one question and write five to eight sentences in response.

1. Would you like to live in a city with no cars? Why or why not?
2. Can you think of some advantages to living in a city like Masdar? Can you think of disadvantages?
3. The people who posted comments on the article have different opinions about Masdar. With whom do you agree? Explain.

Reading Skill

Making inferences



Making inferences means reading “between the lines” of a text. This means that a reader guesses something is true, based on what is written and on his or her knowledge about the topic. Making inferences is a very useful skill for reading. It’s a way to get more information from a text beyond what is written.

Read this sentence from Reading 1.

[A desert is not the first place that comes to mind when you think of “sustainability.”

What can you infer from this sentence? What do you think of when you see the word *desert*? It’s hot in the desert. There isn’t much water. It can be difficult for plants and animals to survive there. You can use what’s written and what you already know to infer that it is not usual to think of sustainability in the desert.

A. Read the sentences. Circle the inference that can be made from each statement.

1. As more people move to cities, there is a tremendous strain on public transportation systems.
 - a. Trains and buses will need to run more frequently and will probably break down more often.
 - b. The systems are old and need to be repaired.
2. If cities are to survive into the 21st century, they need to become more sustainable.
 - a. They need to have more hotels and places for people to live; if they don't, cities won't survive.
 - b. Cities need to provide more of their own food and energy; if they don't, they won't survive.
3. One way to use less energy is to buy food that is produced locally.
 - a. Transporting food requires energy.
 - b. Food tastes better when it is grown close to home.
4. If cities are made more "walkable," less energy will be used.
 - a. People will lose weight by walking more.
 - b. People won't be taking forms of transportation that use fossil fuel if they're walking.

B. Read the sentences about Reading 1. Check (✓) the inferences that can be made from the reading. Find the sentence(s) in Reading 1 that support the answers you checked.

- ☒ 1. There will be no roads in Masdar.

First, there will be no cars within the city's walls.

- ☐ 2. You won't be able to leave the city.

- ☐ 3. It's very sunny in Abu Dhabi.

- ☐ 4. There will be no oil-powered energy plants in Masdar.

- ☐ 5. Students who come to study at MIST are interested in building another city like Masdar.

READING 2 | “Out of the Box” Ideas for Greener Cities

VOCABULARY

Here are some words and phrases from Reading 2. Read the sentences. Circle the word or phrase that best matches the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. Our new heating system is very **efficient**. We were amazed at how well it works and how much money we saved. (expensive / effective / complex)
2. The wind turbines **generate** so much energy that the farm sells some of it back to the electric company. (create / use / lose)
3. Our apartment building has a large vegetable garden on the roof, and we sell the **produce** to the vegetable market in our neighborhood. (meat and fish / fuel and energy / fruits and vegetables)
4. The difference between **urban** residents and country residents is that those living outside of cities are dependent on using cars. (country / city / international)
5. The time has come to think of different ways to farm instead of the **traditional** farming methods. (creative / usual / unusual)
6. Leaving a large carbon footprint now may **threaten** the future of our planet. (risk / help / support)
7. The river that runs through the city has become very **polluted** from all of the garbage and chemicals that have been poured into it. (deep / clean / dirty)
8. Isabel volunteered to help **restore** the old art museum in the city. She helped paint the outside and rebuild the roof. (damage / fix / sell)
9. The new mayor is concentrating on “greening” the city by planting more trees and opening more parks; this is one way to improve the **quality of life** for residents. (well-being / choices / energy)
10. Scientists have been looking for **innovative** ways to produce energy; they know the old ways won’t work forever. (cheap / new / strong)

PREVIEW READING 2

This is a news magazine article called “*Out of the Box*” Ideas for Greener Cities. “Out of the box” means new and different. The article discusses new ways to solve some of the typical problems in cities.

Read the first sentence of each paragraph. Check (✓) the areas you think this magazine article will discuss.

☐ transportation

☐ heating/cooling systems

☐ planting/parks/trees

☐ crime

☐ pollution

☐ population



CD 2
Track 13

Read the article.

“Out of the Box” Ideas for Greener Cities

1 In attempts to make cities more energy **efficient**, local governments have been putting up solar panels on rooftops and adding wind turbines to the waterfront—both to **generate** energy from “free” sources. These are not new ideas, but they’re becoming more and more common and even expected in any plans to make cities greener, or less dependent on energy from coal or oil.

grow 15 times more lettuce than a **traditional** farm, but use only 5 percent of the amount of water. There are many experiments like this one going on in cities.

The Urban Farmer

2 But there are some new ideas that may seem a bit strange. How about gathering your homegrown vegetables from your roof? Instead of growing fruits and vegetables in rolling fields, miles away from cities, grow them in the city—on rooftops, in backyards, on vacant lots. A school in New York City has constructed a small farm on part of its playground, and the **produce** is sold during the summer at local farm stands. Across the world, small **urban** farms are “sprouting” up to help make the cities green and to feed urban dwellers.

3 There’s even talk of bringing farming inside. A company, Valcent, in El Paso, Texas, is testing indoor farming. The test farm consists of rows of vertical panels filled with potted plants. The whole farm is one-eighth of an acre and is expected to



the restored Cheonggye Stream in Seoul, South Korea

Build It Up

4 Taking this idea a few steps further, Dickson Despommier, professor of environmental sciences and microbiology at Columbia University, believes that one day skyscrapers will be the farms of the future, providing enough food for entire cities. As he describes the advantages of indoor farming in a recent newspaper article, “You can control nothing

outdoors, and you can control everything indoors.” Crops grown in a controlled environment will not be **threatened** by floods¹, droughts², or storms. In addition, the costs will be greatly lowered because no herbicides or pesticides would be used, and the food would not need to be transported great distances.

Tear It Down

5 Another “greening” idea that may seem a little unusual involves transportation within cities. You’ve heard of building, repairing, and widening roads for the benefit of car travel. Well, what about tearing them down? This is happening in many cities around the world from Paris to Toronto to San Francisco and New York—all in attempts to make the cities greener.

6 In Seoul, South Korea, the Cheonggye Stream runs through the middle of the city. Over the centuries, as the city became more and more crowded, the stream and its many tributaries became very **polluted**. By the 1960s, part of the stream was so polluted that it was decided it would be best to bury it underground. After it was buried, a highway was built over it. This whole construction process took over 30 years.

7 In 2001, the new mayor of Seoul, Lee Myung-bak, promised to **restore** the stream to Seoul because it had become such an eyesore³, and he wanted to reduce the number of cars in the city. It took four years as the freeway was demolished⁴, and much of the concrete recycled. In September 2005, the restored stream was reopened. It now is a park-like area renewing the **quality of life** of downtown Seoul.



Bicing in Barcelona

Keep It Simple

8 Sometimes solutions can be very simple. Take the city of Barcelona, Spain. In 2007, it started a program called “Bicing.” At over 400 stations in the city, you can rent one of 6,000 bicycles for up to two hours. The first 30 minutes are free, and you can return the bike to any station. The bike stations are close to other transportation stations, like buses and the metro. Barcelona is very hilly, so many people ride the bikes down the hills and then take public transportation up the hills. Since the program started, the number of stations has increased, and so has the number of subscribers, which in February 2009 was 186,000, or 9 percent of the population. But perhaps the best part of Bicing is that the city’s CO₂ emissions decreased by more than 960 tons in the first six months of the program.

9 Cities all over the world have to think of ways to become more energy efficient. Maybe it’s time to think “out of the box” for really **innovative** ways to solve this worldwide problem. It will involve changing the way we think of things, but in the end our quality of life will be improved.

¹ flood: an overflowing of a large amount of water

² drought: a long period of time with no rain

³ eyesore: something that is unpleasant to look at

⁴ demolish: to tear something down

MAIN IDEAS

Read the sentences about the article. Write *MI* for main idea and *SD* for supporting detail.

- SD 1. A school in New York City made a small farm on part of its playground and sells the produce during the summer.
- ___ 2. Growing fruits and vegetables in cities is one idea people have for making cities greener.
- ___ 3. A professor at Columbia University believes that skyscrapers will be farms.
- ___ 4. Tearing down highways and replacing them with parks is another way to make cities green.
- ___ 5. Part of a river in South Korea became so polluted that the government decided to bury it.
- ___ 6. The mayor of Seoul removed a freeway and restored a river.
- ___ 7. Increasing the use of bicycles for transportation is a simple idea.
- ___ 8. Barcelona started a bike rental program called Bicing and reduced its CO₂ emissions by 960 tons in the first six months.

DETAILS

Look at the list of advantages of “out of the box” ideas from Reading 2. Write each advantage in the correct column of the chart.

Floods and droughts won't affect crops.	a decrease in CO ₂ emissions
fewer cars in the city	no herbicides or pesticides
a park-like area	quality of life improved
more “green space”	

“OUT OF THE BOX IDEAS”		
Urban Farming	Tearing Down Highways	“Bicing” Program
	a park-like area	

Q WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A. Discuss the questions in a group.

Tip Critical Thinking

In Activity B, you have to choose among three possible solutions. In doing so, you **conclude** that one way will be better, based on reasons, explanations, and your own knowledge and experience. Making these decisions helps you clarify your own thinking.

1. Which of the ideas mentioned in Reading 2 do you think is the most interesting? Explain.
2. Do you think any of the ideas mentioned in Reading 2 could be used in your town or city? If so, which ones? How do you think they could help improve the quality of life?

B. Think about both Reading 1 and Reading 2 as you discuss the question. Then write five to eight sentences in response.

Both of the readings discuss ways not only to lower carbon emissions, but also to improve quality of life. Which idea do you think will improve the quality of life the most in cities of the 21st century—eliminating the dependence on cars, using renewable energy, or creating more “green space”?

Vocabulary Skill Participles as adjectives



One way to increase your vocabulary is to learn the different forms of a word. For example, the past participle form of many verbs can be used as an adjective.

verb

He recycled his old books by donating them to the library.

adjective

Recycled paper is sent to a company and made into newspaper.

You can guess a word's use by the context and where it is in the sentence. In the first sentence, *recycled* comes after the subject, so you can guess that it is a verb.

In the second sentence, *recycled* is followed by a noun, so you can guess that it is an adjective. Remember that the past participle of a regular verb looks the same as the simple past form.

A. Read each sentence. Write *adjective* or *verb* for each underlined word.

1. The carrots were grown in a controlled environment. adjective
2. They controlled every step of the experiment. _____
3. The increased use of alternative energy has a positive effect on cities.

4. They increased the amount of time they spend walking.

5. The reduced amount of oil available forces us to rethink our use of energy. _____
6. They reduced their dependence on oil by switching to solar energy.

7. The company polluted the river with the chemicals used in its factory.

8. The polluted water is harmful to the fish. _____
9. He has worn the same clothes every day for a week. _____
10. They needed gently worn clothes to donate to the children who had lost everything in the storm. _____



a clothing donation bin

B. Write sentences using five of the words from Activity A. Be prepared to hand in or share your work.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



WRITING

Writing Skill

Writing a problem/solution essay; thesis statements



Tip for Success

Problem/solution essays use phrases such as these for the body paragraphs:

One solution to the problem ...

Another way to solve the problem ...

An additional solution to the problem ...

A **problem/solution essay** describes a problem and gives some suggestions for solving the problem. A good problem/solution essay includes a **thesis statement** that introduces the topic and states what the problem is, two or more body paragraphs that describe possible solutions to the problem, and a concluding paragraph that restates the problem and summarizes the solutions.

The thesis statement gives the main idea of the whole essay. In the introductory paragraph of a problem/solution essay, the thesis statement describes the situation that has caused a problem and states specifically what the problem is. The thesis statement below is underlined.

Today everyone is very concerned about the environment, in particular global warming caused by CO₂ emissions. Since our cities are responsible for producing most (80 percent) of the world's dangerous carbon emissions, they need to focus on lowering their carbon emissions.

The body of the essay describes possible solutions to the problem stated in the thesis statement. Each body paragraph describes a solution and includes details that explain how or why each solution will work.

Body paragraph 1
Topic sentence
Solution 1

One way to lower carbon emissions in cities is to use renewable energy sources for heating and cooling buildings.

Body paragraph 2
Topic sentence
Solution 2

Another way to lower carbon emissions is to develop more efficient public transportation systems.

Body paragraph 3
Topic sentence
Solution 3

Finally, we need to provide more green space and plant more trees to help absorb the CO₂ emissions.

The concluding paragraph summarizes the problem and the solutions described in the essay.

A. Read the problem/solution essay.

Ideas for Ending Our Traffic Problems

We live in a beautiful city that has so much to offer its residents: museums, theaters, many restaurants, and large parks. But our city also has many problems that need to be addressed. Our downtown area is so congested with traffic at times that it is impossible to get anywhere: Buses can't move, nor can delivery trucks or people trying to walk. The air is filled with exhaust from cars and buses that are unable to move. Currently our downtown area is not a pleasant place to be because of the congestion, and this is a serious situation that needs to be addressed immediately.

First, we need to ban passenger cars from the downtown area. This would allow trucks to make their deliveries more quickly. Also, people would be able to walk the streets without the risk of being killed. The width of the sidewalks could be expanded, allowing for more pedestrian traffic. With fewer vehicles, CO₂ emissions would be lowered, meaning air quality would improve.

Second, if we ban cars from our downtown areas, we will need to provide alternative forms of transportation for people coming to shop and visit. One way to do this is with streetcars. One hundred years ago, when there were fewer cars, the air quality was much better, and people were used to using streetcars to get from place to place. People could leave their cars at home and take a streetcar into the downtown area. Since streetcars are electric, there would be no increase in CO₂ fumes.

Another way to decrease the traffic of our downtown area is to encourage people to ride bikes. This would require building more biking lanes. Bike racks could be built at various locations around the city. Bike rental systems like the ones in Barcelona and Paris would help promote the use of bikes for those who don't own them.

Our downtown area has become extremely crowded in recent years, and it's time to start taking action to change this. Eliminating cars from downtown, introducing a streetcar system, and creating bike lanes are a few possible solutions to improve our city. One result will be an improved downtown area. Another result will be increased profits for downtown businesses.

B. Answer these questions about the essay in Activity A.

1. What is the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph? Underline it.
2. What is the first solution that the writer suggests to solve the problem in body paragraph 1? Put brackets around this information with the number 1.
3. What is the second solution that the writer suggests to solve the problem in body paragraph 2? Put brackets around this information with the number 2.

4. What is the third solution that the writer suggests to solve this problem in body paragraph 3? Put brackets around this paragraph with the number 3.
5. Does the concluding paragraph summarize the problem and solutions described in the essay? Underline the sentence that summarizes the problem. Circle the sentence that summarizes the solutions.
6. Do you agree with the writer's suggested solutions? Why or why not?

Grammar

Passive voice



The **passive voice** changes the word order of a sentence in the **active voice**. In a sentence in the active voice, the *subject* comes before the *object*. In a sentence with the passive voice, the *object* becomes the *subject*.

Farmers **sell** their produce at local farm stands. (active)
Produce **is sold** at local farm stands by farmers. (passive)

In sentences with the active voice, the *agent* (doer of the action) is the subject. In passive voice sentences, the *object* (noun receiving the action) is the subject.

agent receiver
Tanya **made** the coffee. (active)

receiver agent
The coffee **was made** by Tanya. (passive)

Use the passive voice when you want to focus on the receiver of the action. Use the active voice when you want to focus on the agent or doer of the action.

The passive voice is formed by **be + past participle (by + noun)**.

The entire city **is powered** by renewable forms of energy.
A highway **was built** over the river.
Cars **will be eliminated** from city centers.

Tip for Success

The passive voice is often used in news reporting.

A. Look at Reading 2. Find three examples of sentences with the passive voice. Write them on the lines.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Rewrite the sentences. Use the passive voice.

1. They constructed a beautiful garden on top of the apartment building.
A beautiful garden was constructed on top of the apartment building.
2. They planted a vegetable farm in a 20-story skyscraper.

3. Solar panels produced the energy for construction of the city.

4. They tore down the entire highway in 12 months.

5. They built a beautiful park in the area that was once an eyesore.



People in a city can enjoy green space.



In this assignment, you are going to write a problem/solution essay in which you describe how your city can become a better place to live. You could also write about your home, school, or neighborhood. As you prepare your essay, think about the Unit Question, “How can we make our cities better places to live?” Refer to the Self-Assessment checklist on page 176. Use information from Readings 1 and 2 and your work in this unit to support your ideas.

For alternative unit assignments, see the *Q: Skills for Success Teacher's Handbook*.

PLAN AND WRITE

- A. BRAINSTORM** Think of a problem in your city, home, school, or neighborhood. Write it in your notebook. Then brainstorm a list of possible solutions to the problem.
- B. PLAN** Look at your list of possible solutions from Activity A. Circle your best ideas. Then write an outline for your essay.
- 1. Introductory paragraph:** Write a thesis statement that describes the situation that caused the problem and states specifically what the problem is.

- 2. Body paragraph 1:** Describe one suggestion for solving this problem.

Give details that explain how or why the solution will work.

3. **Body paragraph 2:** Describe a second suggestion for solving this problem.

Give details that explain how or why the solution will work.

4. **Body paragraph 3:** (optional) Describe a third suggestion for solving this problem.

Give details that explain how or why the solution will work.

5. **Concluding paragraph:** Summarize the problem and the suggested solutions.

- C. **WR TE** Write your essay in your notebook. Use your outline from Activity B. Include the problem and at least two solutions to the problem. Write four to five paragraphs. Look at the Self-Assessment checklist on page 176 to guide your writing.

REVISE AND EDIT

A. PEER REVIEW Read a partner's essay. Answer the questions and discuss your answers with your partner.

1. Is the problem clearly described in the introductory paragraph?
2. Does the thesis statement state the problem? Underline it.
3. Are there at least two solutions to how the problem can be solved in two body paragraphs?
4. Is there a summary of the problem and solutions in the concluding paragraph?

B. REWRITE Review the answers to the questions in Activity A. You may want to revise and rewrite your essay.

C. EDIT Complete the Self-Assessment checklist as you prepare to write the final draft of your essay. Be prepared to hand in your work or discuss it in class.

SELF-ASSESSMENT		
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the punctuation correct?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all words spelled correctly?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the essay include vocabulary from the unit?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the essay begin with an introductory paragraph that contains a thesis statement?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the thesis statement describe the situation that caused the problem and specifically state what the problem is?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the essay include two or three body paragraphs that suggest solutions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the essay include a concluding paragraph that summarizes the problem and suggests solutions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the passive voice used correctly?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are participles used as adjectives? If so, are they formed correctly?

Track Your Success

Circle the words you learned in this unit.

Nouns

produce
recycling
resource  
waste 

Verbs

compete 
generate  
release  
restore  
threaten 

Adjectives

alternative  
efficient 
innovative 
polluted
renewable
traditional  
unique  
urban 
worn

Adverbs

chiefly
environmentally 

Phrase

quality of life

 Oxford 3000™ words

 Academic Word List

Check (✓) the skills you learned. If you need more work on a skill, refer to the page(s) in parentheses.

READING ● I can make inferences. (p. 162)

VOCABULARY ● I can use participles as adjectives. (p. 168)

WRITING ● I can write a problem/solution essay with a thesis statement. (p. 170)

GRAMMAR ● I can use the passive voice. (p. 172)

LEARNING OUTCOME ● I can write a problem/solution essay describing how my city can become a better place to live.