



## Reading 67

### TASK 1

Read the text "A City That's Doing Something Right". Then read the following sentences and figure out the meanings of the underlined words from the context and write their synonyms (at least ONE), or a short explanation. See the example.

#### A City That's Doing Something Right

A There's good news and bad news about life in modern cities - first, the bad. People who study population growth **predict** a nightmare by the year 2025: the global population will be more than eight billion, and almost four billion of these people will be living in cities in **developing countries** such as India and Nigeria. Population growth is already causing unbelievable overcrowding. Due to this overcrowding, many cities have problems with air **pollution**, disease, and crime. People spend hours in **gridlock** - that is, traffic is so horrible that it simply doesn't move - when they **commute** daily from their homes to their work and back. There isn't enough water, transportation, or housing. Many people don't have access to health services or jobs. Now the good news: in *some* cities, instead of **worsening**, urban life is actually getting much better.

#### A City and Its Mayor

B It might not be a surprise to find that life in **affluent** cities is improving. But what about cities that *aren't* rich? The city of Curitiba, Brazil, proves that it's possible for even a city in a developing country to offer a good life to its residents. The former mayor of Curitiba for 25 years, Jaime Lerner is an architect and a very practical person. Under his leadership, the city planners established a list of **priorities** - in other words, a list of what was most important to work on. They decided to focus on the environment and on the quality of life. With an average income of only about \$2,000 per person per year, Curitiba has the same problems as many cities. However, it also has some **creative** solutions.

#### Garbage Collection

C One creative solution is the method of garbage collection – *Cambio Verde*, or Green Exchange. **This** does far more than clean the streets of trash. In neighborhoods that garbage trucks can't reach, poor people bring bags of trash to special centers. At these centers, they exchange the trash for fresh **produce** such as potatoes and oranges. They receive one kilo of produce for every four kilos of trash that they bring in. At a **recycling plant**, workers separate glass bottles, plastic, and cans from other trash. *Two-thirds* of

Curitiba's garbage is recycled, which is good for the environment. And the plant gives jobs to the poorest people, which improves their lives.

### **Transportation**

**D** Due to careful planning, Curitiba does not have the same traffic problems that most cities have. The statistics are surprising. The population has grown fast, to over two million people, but traffic has actually *decreased* 30 percent. Curitiba needed a mass-transit system but couldn't afford an expensive subway. City planners began, instead, with an unusual system of buses in the center lanes of five wide major streets. At each bus stop, there is a forty-foot-long glass tube. Passengers pay *before* they enter the tube. Then they get on the bus "subway style" - through wide doors. This allows people to get on and off the bus quickly and efficiently. People don't crowd onto the bus; loading and unloading takes only 30 seconds. This makes so commuting more pleasant and also helps to solve the problem of air pollution.

### **A Creative Social Program**

**E** There is an agricultural operation just outside Curitiba that looks like other farms but actually helps to solve a social problem, in addition to growing crops. At *Fazenda, da Solidandade* (Solidarity Farm), the workers are not experienced farmers. Instead, they are drug addicts and alcoholics who volunteer to spend up to nine months in a program called *Verde Saude* (Green Health). The program helps them in two ways. First, it gives them jobs. They **cultivate** medicinal plants and then process them into herbal teas, syrups, and other products that are sold in health food stores. Second, it helps them to get off drugs and alcohol and to turn their lives around. In exchange for their labor, they receive counseling, medical care, and job training.

### **The Environment**

**F** To make the environment both cleaner and more beautiful, Curitiba encourages **green space**. It has low taxes for companies that have green areas, so several hundred major industries such as Pepsi and Volvo have offices in the city - being willing to incorporate green space in their plants in order to take advantage of the city's low tax rate. Bringing natural beauty into the city is a priority. For this reason, Curitiba gave 1.5 million young trees to neighborhoods to plant and take care of. And the downtown shopping area is now a pedestrian zone - in other words, for walkers only, no cars - and is lined with gardens. Curitiba provides the city people with 22 million square meters of parks and green areas - more than three times the amount that the World Health Organization recommends for urban dwellers.

### **A Symbol of the Possible**

**G** Clearly, overcrowding in big cities worldwide is the cause of serious problems. However, the example of Curitiba provides hope that careful planning and creative thinking can lead to solutions to many of them. Curitiba is truly, as Lewis Mumford once said of cities in general, a "symbol of the possible."

*Ex. 0. People who study population growth predict a nightmare by the year 2025...*

*Predict = say in advance that something will happen*

1. They exchange the trash for fresh produce - such as potatoes or oranges - or for bus tickets.
2. At a recycling plant, workers separate glass bottles, plastic, and cans from other trash.
3. It might not be a surprise to find that life in affluent cities is improving..
4. Under his leadership, city planners established priorities ... .
5. People spend hours in gridlocks . when they commute daily from their homes to their work and back.

### **TASK 2**

*Read Paragraph B of the text "A City That's Doing Something Right". Find the sentence expressing the main idea in Paragraph B. Then find another sentence in Paragraph G that seems to mean about the same. Write the main ideas from B and G in your own words as far as possible in the Answer Form.*

### **TASK 3**

*Look again at the text "A City That's Doing Something Right". Answer the following questions choosing ONE of the options (a, b, c or d). Write your answer in the Answer Form.*

1. According to paragraph A, what will happen in 2025?
  - a. There might be overpopulation in the world.
  - b. India and Nigeria will be overpopulated.
  - c. People will only live in big cities.
  - d. People will see nightmares.
2. Which of the following is closest in meaning to *cultivate*, as it is used in Paragraph E?
  - a. educate
  - b. grow
  - c. bring up
  - d. develop
3. What can be inferred (guessed) about *green space* from Paragraph F?
  - a. It is located outside the city.
  - b. It provides natural beauty and greenery into the city.
  - c. It establishes new laws.
  - d. It is recommended by the World Health Organization.

4. What does *this* mean in the sentence “*This does far more than clean the streets of trash*” from paragraph C?
- a. exchange
  - b. collection
  - c. method
  - d. garbage

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# Reading 67 — Keys

## TASK 1

There can be other possibilities.

Produce = product; things produced by farming

Recycling plant = a factory where trash is processed, or treated to be used again;

Affluent = rich;

Priorities = the most important things;

Commute = to go from home to work.

## TASK 2

Paragraph B: ...that it's possible for even a city in developing country to offer a good life to its residents.

Paragraph G: ...the example of Curitiba provides hope that careful planning and creative thinking can lead to solutions to many of them.

## TASK 3

1. a; 2 b; 3 b; 4 c.