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Level 4

Bicycles outsell cars in most EU countries

6th December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-4.html>

The BBC says people in 26 European countries bought more bicycles than cars in 2012. One reason for this is the recession in many countries after the global financial crisis. Austerity measures left consumers with less money. They bought bicycles instead of cars. Fuel prices also made motorists buy bicycles. Another reason is that cycling is becoming more popular. The BBC said it is spreading "beyond the traditional 'cycling capitals' of northern Europe".

Europeans bought 12 million cars in 2012 and 19.2 million bicycles. The Italian car giant FIAT said this was bad news. He called it "carmageddon". Car sales in Italy fell to their lowest levels for five decades. The Italian cycling federation believes this is because of a cycling "revolution". The Italian bicycle maker said customers now want bikes they can get to work on. They will invest in expensive, top-of-the-range bikes.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25209551>
<http://www.france24.com/en/20131203-southern-europe-joins-north-bike-revolution>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. One reason for this | a. 'cycling capitals' |
| 2. after the global financial | b. measures |
| 3. Austerity | c. Europe |
| 4. Fuel | d. is the recession |
| 5. spreading "beyond the traditional | e. prices |
| 6. northern | f. crisis |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The Italian car | a. "carmageddon" |
| 2. bad | b. -range bikes |
| 3. He called it | c. for five decades |
| 4. fell to their lowest levels | d. giant FIAT |
| 5. customers now want bikes they can | e. news |
| 6. top-of-the | f. get to work on |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-4.html>

The BBC says people in 26 European (1) _____ bicycles than cars in 2012. One reason for (2) _____ in many countries after the (3) _____. Austerity measures left consumers with less money. They bought bicycles instead of cars. Fuel prices (4) _____ buy bicycles. Another reason is that cycling is becoming more popular. The BBC (5) _____ "beyond the traditional (6) _____ northern Europe".

Europeans (7) _____ cars in 2012 and 19.2 million bicycles. The Italian car giant FIAT said (8) _____. He called it "carmageddon". Car sales in Italy (9) _____ levels for five decades. The Italian (10) _____ believes this is because of a cycling "revolution". The Italian bicycle (11) _____ now want bikes they can get to work on. They will (12) _____, top-of-the-range bikes.

BICYCLES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bicycles in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

