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Level 4

Cubans can now buy a car more easily

22nd December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-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/1312/131222-cuba-4.html>

It is now easier to buy foreign made, new and used cars in Cuba. The Council of Ministers of Cuba decided, "to open up the retail sale of...motorcycles, cars, vans and minibuses." Cuba will also "prioritize bicycle sales on the retail market" at cheap prices. New laws mean regulations on car ownership are less strict. Until 2011, people could not sell cars that were made after the 1959 Cuban revolution. Havana was full of vintage cars from yesteryear.

Cuba's government will control car prices. Only it will import foreign cars. Cubans will have to buy imported cars from the government. Profits from sales will improve Cuba's roads and transportation. Car dealers don't expect big sales. Most Cubans cannot afford to buy a car. Havana resident Jorge Canso said: "Yeah, I can buy one, but with what? Unfortunately our economy doesn't allow us to save money to be able to buy one."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-25450026>
<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/12/19/3828433/cuba-lifts-all-restrictions-on.html>
<http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=100683>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. foreign made, new | a. 1959 Cuban revolution |
| 2. open up the retail | b. sales |
| 3. bicycle | c. cars from yesteryear |
| 4. regulations on car ownership | d. sale of motorcycles |
| 5. cars that were made after the | e. are less strict |
| 6. Havana was full of vintage | f. and used cars |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Cuba's government will control | a. improve Cuba's roads |
| 2. buy imported cars | b. buy a car |
| 3. Profits from sales will | c. car prices |
| 4. Car dealers don't | d. money |
| 5. cannot afford to | e. expect big sales |
| 6. our economy doesn't allow us to save | f. from the government |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-4.html>

It is now easier to (1) _____, new and used cars in Cuba.

The Council of Ministers of Cuba decided, "to (2) _____

sale of...motorcycles, cars, vans and minibuses." Cuba will also "prioritize

bicycle sales on (3) _____ " at cheap prices. New laws

mean regulations on car (4) _____ strict. Until 2011,

people could not sell cars that were made after the

(5) _____. Havana was (6) _____ from

yesteryear.

Cuba's government (7) _____ prices. Only it will import

foreign cars. Cubans will have (8) _____ cars from the

government. Profits from (9) _____ Cuba's roads and

transportation. Car dealers don't (10) _____. Most Cubans

cannot (11) _____ a car. Havana resident Jorge Canso

said: "Yeah, I can buy one, but with what? Unfortunately our economy

doesn't (12) _____ money to be able to buy one."

CUBA SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Cuba 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) _____

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-4.html>

Write about **Cuba** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.
