

Fourth Class

Reading Passages

Practice

Elements of the Lecture

Identifying Topic & Main Ideas

Understanding Pronoun References

Getting Meaning from Context

Understanding Parts of Speech

A City That's Doing Something Right:

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 8 billion, and almost 4 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 overcrowding, these cities have problems with air pollution, disease, and crime. People spend hours in gridlock—that is, traffic 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.

What does developing countries mean?

What does gridlock mean?

What does predict mean? To say in advance that something will happen

What does commute mean?

What does worsening mean?

Paragraph B : A City and It Mayor:

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 mayor of Curitiba for twenty-five years, Jaime Lerner, was 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 \$2000 per person per year, Curitiba has the same problems as many cities. However, it also has some creative solutions.

Identify The Main Idea

: _____

What does affluent mean?

What does priorities mean?

Paragraph C: Garbage Collection

[C] One creative solution is the method of garbage collection. 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—or for bus tickets. At a recycling plant, workers separate 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.

Tash →

Produce→

What does recycling plant mean?

Paragraph D. 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—now *twice* the size it was in 1974—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..

Paragraph E: The Environment

To make the environment both cleaner and more beautiful, Curitiba has strict laws against polluters. But it also has low taxes for companies that have green areas, so several hundred major industries such as Pepsi and Volvo have offices in the city. 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.

What does pedestrian zone means?

Paragraph F: A Symbol of the Possible

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."

Find a sentence in the conclusion which seems to mean about the same main idea of the whole passage.

Section B

Paragraph A: Sick-Building Syndrome

Elizabeth Steinberg was a healthy sixteen-year-old student on the tennis team at St. Charles High School, west of Chicago, Illinois. But in the fall of 1977, he started to have strange health problems. The same thing happened to dozens of teachers and students at the school. They went to doctors for treatment of a number of symptoms such as sore throats, tiredness, headaches, and respiratory (breathing) difficulties. Doctors treated respiratory infections with antibiotics, but the condition didn't seem to improve, except—mysteriously—on weekends and over vacations, when the symptoms disappeared. Experts came to investigate and find the cause. They discovered that St. Charles High, like thousands of other schools and office buildings nationwide, is a "sick building"—in other words, a building that creates its own indoor air pollution.

Topic:

Main Idea :

Understanding Pronoun Reference: They (paragraph a, Line 4)

Paragraph B:

People have worried about smog for many years, and the government has spent billions of dollars to try to clean up the air of big cities. But now we find that there is no escape from unhealthy air. Recent studies have shown that air inside many homes, office buildings, and schools is full of pollutants: chemicals, mold, bacteria, smoke, and gases. These pollutants are causing a group of unpleasant and dangerous symptoms that experts call "sick-building syndrome." First discovered in 1982, sick-building syndrome most often includes symptoms similar to the flu (watering eyes, headaches, and so on) and respiratory infections such as tonsillitis, bronchitis, and pneumonia.

Topic:

Topic sentence:

What is the closest meaning to the word "Several" ?

Understanding pronoun reference: these (par b, line 5).

Paragraph C

Although most common in office buildings and schools, the indoor pollution that causes sick-building syndrome can also occur in houses. Imagine a typical home. The people who live there burn oil, wood, or gas for cooking and heating. They might smoke cigarettes, pipes, or cigars. They use chemicals for cleaning. They use hundreds of products made of plastic or particleboard—that is, an inexpensive kind of board made of very small pieces of wood held together with a chemical. These products give off chemicals that we can't see but that we do breathe in. In some homes, carbon monoxide from cars in the garage can enter the house. And in many areas, the ground under the building might send a dangerous gas called radon into the home. The people in the house are breathing in a "chemical soup."

Topic:

Topic Sentence or main idea:

Understanding Pronoun Reference:

1. they (paragraph c, line 3)
2. them (paragraph c, line

Paragraph D

There are several solutions to the problem of sick-building syndrome, among them cleansing the building. First, of course, experts must determine the specific cause in any one building. Then workers probably need to take out carpets, wallpaper, and ceiling tiles in order to remove mold and bacteria. Also, they need to clean out the air conditioning system and completely rebuild the system of ventilation. They should remove synthetic products and bring in natural products, instead, if they are available.

Topic:

Main idea:

Understanding Pronoun Reference: them (line 1)

Understanding pronoun reference : they (line5)

Understanding Parts of Speech

W	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
Beauty, beautification	Beautify	Beautiful	Beautifully
Creation		Creative	Creatively
Crowd		Crowded	X
Difference		Different	Differently
	X	Difficult	X
Efficiency	X	Efficient	
Pollution, pollutant	Pollute		X
	Predict	Predictable	Predictably
Safety	Save		Safely
	Solve	Solvable	X
x	Worsen	worse	

Next complete each sentence below with words from the preceding chart. Use the correct form of the base word and write the part of speech in the parentheses after each blank – (n) for noun, (v) for verb, (adj) for adjective, and (adv) for adverb.

Solve

1.They are trying to find a ____solution ____ (n.) to the problem of overcrowding, but this is a difficult problem to _____ solve____ (v.).

2. Pollute

Most people know about air _____ () in big cities, but they're just beginning to learn about the many _____ () that we have inside buildings.

3. Crowd

There are _____ () of people everywhere ; the mass-transit system is especially _____ ().

4. Save

The city is not _____ () because of crime. People can't leave their homes _____ () at night, and the police can't provide for their _____ ().

5. Beautify

Many people bring plants into their homes because the plants are _____ (). However, it's possible that these plants not only _____ () the environment but also clean the air.

6. Differ

The causes of indoor air pollution _____ () from area to area. One reason for the _____ () is that people heat their homes _____ (). People in some areas burn wood for heat ; in other areas, they use something _____ ().