

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**
www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**
www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 5

Bicycles outsell cars in most EU countries

6th December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Survey	5
Discussion	6
Writing	7

Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



plus.google.com/110990608764591804698/posts

THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-5.html>

The BBC says people in 26 European countries bought more bicycles than cars in 2012. There are several reasons for this trend. One is the recession experienced in many countries after the global financial crisis. Countries introduced austerity measures, which left consumers with less money. This meant they bought a bicycle instead of a car. The rise in fuel prices also made motorists think twice about driving. Another reason is that more people got into cycling. The BBC reports that cycling is spreading "beyond the traditional 'cycling capitals' of northern Europe".

Around 50 per cent more bicycles were sold than cars. Europeans bought 12 million cars in 2012 and 19.2 million bicycles. The head of the Italian car giant FIAT said this was bad news for car companies. He called it "carmageddon". Car sales in Italy slumped to their lowest levels for five decades. The Italian cycling federation believes there has been "a small revolution in terms of lifestyle". The head of the Italian bicycle maker Bianchi agreed. He said: "Customers these days want bikes they can commute with, and top-of-the-range bikes. They are looking for long-term investments."

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the recession experienced | a. into cycling |
| 2. after the global | b. Europe |
| 3. austerity | c. in many countries |
| 4. they bought a bicycle | d. 'cycling capitals' |
| 5. fuel prices also made motorists | e. financial crisis |
| 6. more people got | f. instead of a car |
| 7. beyond the traditional | g. think twice |
| 8. northern | h. measures |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Around 50 per cent | a. giant |
| 2. The head of the Italian car | b. range bikes |
| 3. bad news | c. of lifestyle |
| 4. slumped to their lowest | d. more bicycles were sold |
| 5. a small revolution in terms | e. term investments |
| 6. bikes they can | f. levels for five decades |
| 7. top-of-the- | g. for car companies |
| 8. long- | h. commute with |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-5.html>

The BBC says people in 26 European countries bought more bicycles than cars in 2012. There are several (1) _____. One is the recession experienced in many countries (2) _____ crisis. Countries introduced (3) _____, which left consumers with less money. This meant they bought a bicycle instead of a car. The rise in fuel prices also made motorists (4) _____ driving. Another reason is that more people (5) _____. The BBC reports that cycling is spreading " (6) _____ 'cycling capitals' of northern Europe".

Around 50 per cent more bicycles were sold than cars. Europeans bought 12 million cars in 2012 and 19.2 million bicycles. (7) _____ Italian car giant FIAT said this was bad news for car companies. He called it "carmageddon". Car sales in Italy (8) _____ lowest levels for five decades. The Italian (9) _____ believes there has been "a small revolution (10) _____ ". The head of the Italian bicycle maker Bianchi agreed. He said: "Customers these days want bikes they can commute with, and (11) _____ bikes. They are looking for (12) _____."

BICYCLES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131206-bicycles-5.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)

Bicycles outsell cars in most EU countries – 6th December, 2013
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

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/1312/131206-bicycles-5.html>

Write about **bicycles** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
