Online deliveries clogging up city streets
6th January, 2018

The huge surge in the popularity of online shopping is creating chaos on the streets of our cities and on our road networks. As the number of online deliveries is skyrocketing, the number of delivery trucks making sure we get our parcels has also increased. The result is that hundreds more trucks are clogging up city streets. This is increasing congestion and adding to levels of pollution. There are literally hundreds more delivery trucks in cities around the world all trying to get parcels delivered on time. Delivery drivers are battling for often non-existent parking spaces. Many are forced to park illegally, or double park, adding to the gridlock for other road users. And the problem is set to intensify.

The BBC reports that the volume of parcel deliveries surged by almost 50 per cent between 2014 and 2016. It said this could continue to increase by up to 28 per cent a year over the next three years. Many cities have taken tough measures to counteract the problems associated with the increasing number of deliveries. Many cities in Europe and Asia have barred deliveries during times when roads are busiest. London is looking at the possibility of using buses for parcel deliveries. Some areas of London are also cracking down on food delivery motorbikes after their streets were being 'swarmed' by scooter riders. Food delivery companies in one London district must now apply for permission to operate.

Sources: bbc.com / nytimes.com / dailymail.co.uk

True / False
a) The article said online shopping is causing chaos on city streets. T / F
b) The article said deliveries may soon be delivered by rocket. T / F
c) The article said cities are making parking available for delivery trucks. T / F
d) The article said the problem of more delivery trucks will soon disappear. T / F
e) Parcel deliveries will rise by as much as 28% next year. T / F
f) Many cities have taken action over to deal with delivery trucks. T / F
g) London is thinking about using buses for parcel deliveries. T / F
h) London is trying to increase the use of motorbike deliveries. T / F

Synonym Match
(The words in bold are from the news article.)
1. surge a. amount
2. chaos b. blocking
3. result c. stamping out
4. clogging up d. havoc
5. intensify e. actions
6. volume f. escalate
7. measures g. authorization
8. barred h. increase
9. cracking down on i. banned
10. permission j. outcome

Discussion – Student A
a) How important is online shopping for you?
b) How do you feel about online deliveries?
c) Are online deliveries making us lazier?
d) How much do you worry that online shopping is killing small stores?
e) How can we stop delivery trucks clogging up streets?
f) Are drone deliveries better than truck deliveries?
g) What should happen to trucks that park illegally?
h) How can we end gridlock on the roads?

Writing
Online shopping is better than shopping at a store. Discuss.

Chat
Talk about these words from the article.
surge / popularity / online shopping / online deliveries / city streets / parcels / gridlock / increase / tough measures / possibility / food delivery / motorbikes / permission
Phrase Match
1. The huge surge  
2. hundreds more trucks are clogging  
3. battling for often non-  
4. adding to the gridlock  
5. the problem is set  
6. volume of parcel deliveries surged  
7. cities have taken tough  
8. barred deliveries during times  
9. cracking down  
10. apply for  

Role Play
Role A – Clothes
You think clothes are the best things to get delivered. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these things to be delivered of these (and why): food, furniture or English teachers.

Role B – Food
You think food is the best thing to get delivered. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these things to be delivered of these (and why): furniture, clothes or English teachers.

Role C – Furniture
You think furniture is the best thing to get delivered. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these things to be delivered of these (and why): food, clothes or furniture.

Role D – English Teachers
You think English teachers are the best things to get delivered. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these things to be delivered of these (and why): food, clothes or furniture.

Discussion – Student B
a) What do you think about what you read?  
b) Do you prefer online shopping or going to a store?  
c) What do you think of barring truck deliveries at busy times?  
d) What do you think of using buses to deliver parcels?  
e) What do you think of food deliveries?  
f) What do you think it’s like to be a delivery driver?  
g) What can we do about overconsumption?  
h) What questions would you like to ask a truck delivery boss?

Spelling
1. The huge rugse in the popularity  
2. creating sahco on the streets  
3. icnlggo up city streets  
4. This is increasing onntegosi  
5. non-ntesiet parking spaces  
6. the problem is set to fnsnetytii  
7. the uomlev of parcel deliveries  
8. measures to tonccetrau the problems  
9. the problems toaacadessi with the increasing number  
10. being ‘aerdwsm’ by scooter riders  
11. companies in one London crtsiitd  
12. apply for isospnierm to operate  

Answers – Synonym Match  
1. h 2. d 3. j 4. b 5. f  
6. a 7. e 8. i 9. c 10. g

Speaking – Deliveries
Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to get delivered at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- ice cream  
- electrical goods  
- coffee  
- English lessons  
- clothes  
- furniture  
- food  
- books

Answers – True False  
a   T  b   F  c   F  d   F  e   T  f   T  g   T  h   F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.