

STUDENT A

Spider is an environmentalist who lives in a field just outside Oxford in England. By the end of this year he will have lived there (1) _____ (How long?). I met him last week to discuss the future of our planet and the energy crisis that we face. This is what he told me.

'As a result of our modern lives we are definitely going to face an energy crisis within our lifetimes. By the time our children's children are grown up we will have used all of the reserves of fossil fuels. Unless we are able to find a practical solution, we (3) _____ (What will happen if?).

'Many people think that nuclear energy is the answer but I do not. There are so many problems with the use of nuclear energy. One of these is related to safety. No nuclear reactor in the world is 100% safe and if there were a problem in a nuclear power plant, thousands of people would suffer health problems. Another problem is related to waste. It will take thousands of years (5) _____ (What?). This is definitely not the answer to the problem.'

Spider thinks that the best solutions are renewable sources of energy such as solar energy or wind power. He says that if we use these, we will be able to create energy in a clean and safe way. He wishes that people would stop (7) _____ (What?).

When I asked Spider how he sees the future he said, 'I hope people will be living in environmentally-friendly houses. We will all be using (9) _____ (What?) and nobody will be using cars to drive to work or school. We will all be walking everywhere! Green power!!'



STUDENT B

Spider is an environmentalist who lives in a field just outside Oxford in England. By the end of this year he will have lived there for more than five years. I met him last week to discuss the future of our planet and the energy crisis that we face. This is what he told me.

'As a result of our modern lives we are definitely going to face an energy crisis within our lifetimes. By the time our children's children are grown up we will have used (2) _____ (What?). Unless we are able to find a practical solution, we will find it very difficult to live as we do now.

'Many people think that nuclear energy is the answer but I do not. There are so many problems with the use of nuclear energy. One of these is related to safety. No nuclear reactor in the world is 100% safe and if there were a problem in a nuclear power plant, (4) _____ (What?). Another problem is related to waste. It will take thousands of years for today's nuclear waste to stop being radioactive. This is definitely not the answer to the problem.'

Spider thinks that the best solutions are renewable sources of energy such as solar energy or wind power. He says that if we use these, we will be able to create (6) _____ (What?). He wishes that people would stop thinking about today and think about the future more.

When I asked Spider how he sees the future he said 'I hope people will be living (8) _____ (Where?). We will all be using renewable sources of energy and nobody will be using cars to drive to work or school. We will all be (10) _____! (What?) Green power!!'



Spider's fear for the future

Activity Information gap

Aim To complete a text about an environmentalist's fears for the future by asking a partner questions.

Interaction Pairs

Language focus Future perfect; future continuous; first and second conditional; question forms

Skills focus Listening, speaking

Preparation Photocopy one worksheet for each pair of students and cut it in half.

Time 20 minutes

- Procedure**
- 1 Ask the students what they think an environmentalist is (somebody who campaigns to protect the environment) and ask them to discuss in pairs the kinds of issues that such a person thinks about. Get feedback in open class and put some of their ideas on the board.
 - 2 Divide the class into two groups, A and B. Explain that they have the same piece of writing about Spider, an environmentalist, but that some information is missing. The students are going to work together to complete the text about Spider. Tell them that A has the information B is missing and vice versa.
 - 3 Write on the board *Spider is an environmentalist who lives in a field just outside Oxford in England. By the end of this year he will have lived there ____ (How long?).* Elicit the question *How long will he have lived there for by the end of this year?* and write it on the board.
 - 4 Tell the students to work with a partner from the same group and write the questions that they are going to ask for their missing information. Monitor and help as required.
 - 5 When the students have written their questions, tell them to find a new partner from the other group. Tell them to take turns to ask their questions and write the answers in the appropriate gap on their worksheet. Monitor and correct as required.
 - 6 When the students have finished asking and answering questions, ask them to compare their pieces of writing to make sure they are the same.

- Key**
- 1 How long will he have lived there for by the end of this year?
 - 2 What will we have used by the time our children's children are grown up?
 - 3 What will happen if we are unable to find a practical solution?
 - 4 What would happen if there were a problem in a nuclear power plant?
 - 5 What will take thousands of years?
 - 6 What will we be able to create if we use renewable sources of energy?
 - 7 What does he wish that people would stop doing?
 - 8 Where does he hope people will be living?
 - 9 What will we all be using?
 - 10 What will we all be doing?