

6

EXTENSION

Name:

1 Write the words below in your own language. You can use a dictionary.

1. passenger
2. material
3. average
4. speed
5. charge a battery

2 Read the text. Then complete the sentences below with the verbs in brackets according to the text. Use the First Conditional, affirmative or negative.

Solar Impulse

On 5th June, 2012, the pilot Bertrand Piccard made aviation history when he flew 2,500 kilometres from Switzerland to Madrid and then to Morocco. The plane, *Solar Impulse*, is the size of a 240-passenger aeroplane and uses only solar energy. Piccard demonstrated that a solar plane can fly day and night. His next plan is to fly the plane around the world.

Solar Impulse is very different from a passenger aeroplane. The aeroplanes are the same size, but Piccard built his solar plane from very light material. It weighs the same as a medium-sized car. There are many solar panels on the aeroplane's wings and during a flight, the sun hits the panels and makes electricity. The electricity turns the propellers and also charges the batteries. The plane uses electricity from the batteries to fly at night or when it is cloudy.

Flying a solar plane uses clean energy and does not harm the environment. But is it

practical? If it isn't a sunny day, the plane will not travel very far. Another problem is speed. The average flying speed of Piccard's solar plane is 70 kilometres an hour and it took him 19 hours to fly from Madrid to Rabat, Morocco. A normal aeroplane travels 10 times as fast and the flight takes about an hour. If I wanted to travel from Madrid to Rabat, I would probably choose a fast flight.

All of us probably won't buy tickets to travel on solar power planes for our next holiday. But that doesn't bother Bertrand Piccard. He wants to protect the environment and hopes that *Solar Impulse* will show people how useful solar energy is. He says that if people see the success of his aeroplane, they will understand that it is possible to use solar energy to run your car, heat your house and turn on your computer.

1. If the sun (shine), the solar panels (make) electricity.
2. If Piccard (fly) at night, he (need) to use the batteries on the plane.
3. If it (rain) for several days, *Solar Impulse* (take off).
4. You (choose) to travel on a solar aeroplane if you (want) to get somewhere fast.
5. People (harm) the environment if they (heat) their houses with clean energy.

3 Answer the questions.

1. What did Piccard show the world on 5th June, 2012?

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2. How is *Solar Impulse* similar to a passenger aeroplane?

.....

3. Why does *Solar Impulse* weigh very little?

.....

4. Why isn't a solar plane impractical? Give two reasons.

.....

5. Why did Piccard develop *Solar Impulse*?

.....

4 Imagine there were only solar planes in the world. How would it affect the world?

Complete the sentence. Use the Second Conditional.

If there were only solar planes in the world,

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.