

4

EXTENSION

Name:

1 The words below appear in the text in Exercise 2. Find the words and guess their meanings. Use a dictionary to check your guesses.

1. mad about 2. symbol 3. point

2 Read the text and tick (✓) the sentences T (true) or F (false). Then correct the false sentences.

See Amsterdam on Two Wheels

The Dutch are mad about bicycles. Today, if you visited Amsterdam, you would see bicycles everywhere. Amsterdam has got a population of about 780,000, but there are more than 880,000 bikes! People of all ages have got bikes and they don't wait for sunny weather to use them. On even the rainiest day, you can see teens, young children, grandparents and even mothers with babies riding their bikes. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it!

As a tourist, why not be Dutch for a day and ride a bike in the city? Amsterdam is small, so you can reach most places in 15 minutes. But first, there are a few things you need to know.

- You can hire bikes at shops all over the city for about €9 to €20 a day. There are several large shops near the railway station.
- Amsterdam has got many bicycle lanes. Since the 1970s, the city has invested a lot of money in making cycling safe. These lanes are usually part of the pavement and they've got the bike symbols.
- Cars and bikes have got different traffic lights and they don't always work together. The light for cars might be red when the light for bikes is green. So always look at the correct light at junctions.
- Use your hands to indicate to drivers where you're going. When turning left, point left; when turning right, point right.
- Use a map. As a tourist, it's a good idea to plan your itinerary for the day before you begin riding. You can get a bike map at the Amsterdam Tourist Centre for about €4 or you can find one online.
- Amsterdam has got a lot of bicycle thieves, so don't take an expensive bike into the city. There's an old Amsterdam joke – if you hear someone scream, "Hey ... that's my bike!", you will see at least five people get off "their" bikes and start running away.

	T	F
1. There are more people than bicycles in Amsterdam.
2. The Dutch ride bicycles only in good weather.
3. It doesn't take long to reach places by bike in Amsterdam.
4. In Amsterdam, bicycle lanes are usually in the street.
5. Cyclists have got their own traffic lights.
6. People often steal bikes in Amsterdam.

3 Complete the questions with the verbs in brackets. Use suitable conditionals. Then complete the information according to the text.

1. If tourists hire a bike in Amsterdam, they (pay)
2. If you (cycle) in Amsterdam before 1970, you wouldn't have seen as many
3. A tourist will go to the if he (need) a bike map.

4 Write a letter to a friend, describing a holiday in a city. Make sure you answer these questions.

- Where are you?
- What are you doing?
- Who is with you?
- Where are you staying?