

A Cleaner River

Level: B1

Read how a small group makes a plan for the river near their town. Then answer the questions.

Reading text

The river behind Nia's town used to be a popular place for weekend walks. Now plastic bottles covered part of the bank, and the water looked cloudy after heavy rain. Nia wished the river were cleaner, but she did not know the first step. One afternoon, her friend Ravi showed her a photograph of the same place ten years earlier. The trees were taller then, and a path ran beside clear water. The old photograph made the problem feel real rather than distant.

At school, Nia and Ravi invited classmates to discuss a practical plan. Some wanted to remove litter immediately; others worried about the polluted water. Their science teacher warned them: nobody should enter the river without a safety check. The group decided to clean only the path and bank with adult volunteers. They also sent photographs to the council and asked for a water test. If the council tested the water, they would understand the problem better.

On Saturday morning, twelve volunteers arrived with gloves, bags and a clear map. They divided the bank into short sections so no one had to work alone. Nia found dozens of bottles near the bridge, while Ravi collected old food wrappers. By lunch, they had filled eight bags, but the river itself still needed attention. Nia wished they could solve everything in one day, but she knew that was impossible. If more neighbours joined them next month, they could keep the path clean.

A week later, the council replied: a water test was planned for the following month. It also promised more bins beside the path and a sign about protecting the river. Nia felt proud of the cleaner bank, but she knew the water was not safe yet. She placed the old photograph beside a new one on the school noticeboard. The two pictures reminded everyone that a small change could lead to another. Next month, the group plans to return to the path and ask about the test results.

Glossary

bank	the land beside a river
cloudy	not clear because of dirt or other material
litter	rubbish left outside
polluted	made dirty or harmful by waste
volunteers	people who help without being paid
council	the local group responsible for public services
wrappers	pieces of paper or plastic around food
noticeboard	a board for public messages

Exercise 1: Choose the correct answer

Read the story and choose the best answer.

1. What first showed Nia how the river had changed?
a) A water test b) An old photograph c) A council sign
2. Why did the group stay out of the water?
a) The teacher advised a safety check first b) The path was too narrow c) They had no map
3. What did Ravi collect on Saturday?
a) Bottles b) Old photographs c) Food wrappers
4. When was the water test planned?
a) That Saturday b) The following month c) Ten years later

Exercise 2: Right or wrong?

Decide whether each statement agrees with the text.

5. Nia and Ravi asked the council to test the water. True / False
6. The volunteers cleaned the path and the river water on Saturday. True / False
7. The council promised more bins near the path. True / False

Exercise 3: Complete the sentence

Use a word or phrase from the story.

8. If the council tested the water, they ___ the problem better. (result of an imagined action)
9. Nia ___ the river were cleaner. (wanted a different present situation)
10. If more neighbours joined them, they ___ the path clean. (possible result)

Exercise 4: Listen and choose

Listening: online only.

Exercise 5: Listen and write

Listening: online only.

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the correct answer

1. b) An old photograph
2. a) The teacher advised a safety check first
3. c) Food wrappers
4. b) The following month

Exercise 2: Right or wrong?

5. True
6. False
7. True

Exercise 3: Complete the sentence

8. would understand
9. wished
10. could keep

Free English worksheet from FluencyRoad — practice this topic interactively at <https://www.fluencyroad.com/reading/a-cleaner-river>