

The Repair Café

Level: B1

Read how a neighbourhood gives old devices another chance. Then answer the questions.

Reading text

Every Saturday, the library in Mia's neighbourhood becomes a repair café. People bring broken devices instead of throwing them in the bin. When Mia first visited, she carried an old tablet with a dark screen. The tablet had been given to her by her grandfather several years earlier. It held family photographs, but its battery no longer worked. Mia wanted the photographs back more than she wanted a new tablet.

At the entrance, each device was given a number and a short description. A volunteer called Ben examined Mia's tablet and explained the problem. The tablet needed a new battery, but the photographs were still stored safely inside. Mia watched as the back of the tablet was opened with a small tool. A replacement battery was found in a box of spare parts. After twenty minutes, the screen lit up and her photographs appeared.

Ben showed Mia how to save copies of the photographs on another device. He also showed her a short guide on the café's website. The guide was written by volunteers and can be read for free. It gives simple advice about caring for batteries and protecting personal files. Mia was surprised by the number of visitors and the variety of objects. One person brought a lamp; another arrived with a noisy radio.

Not every item could be repaired that morning, but every owner received advice. Some parts had to be ordered, and a few devices were too badly damaged. The volunteers did not promise a perfect result; they taught people about their devices. Before Mia left, she wrote a thank-you message on the café's noticeboard. She returned the following Saturday with her neighbour's broken headphones. This time, she hoped to learn the steps of a repair, not just watch it.

Glossary

repair café	a place where people help fix broken things
device	a piece of electronic equipment
tablet	a small flat computer with a touch screen
battery	the part that gives a device power
replacement	a new thing used instead of an old one
spare parts	extra pieces kept for repairs
files	saved information on a computer or device
noticeboard	a board for public messages

Exercise 1: Choose the correct answer

Read the story and choose the best answer.

- Where does the repair café meet?
a) In a school b) In a library c) In Mia's home

2. Why was Mia's tablet important to her?
a) It held family photographs b) It was brand new c) She used it at work
3. What was still stored inside the tablet?
a) A broken screen b) A missing photograph c) Safely stored photographs
4. What did Mia want to do on her second visit?
a) Buy a new tablet b) Learn the steps of a repair c) Write another online guide

Exercise 2: Right or wrong?

Decide whether each statement agrees with the text.

5. Mia bought the tablet herself a few days earlier. True / False
6. The repair café offers a free online guide. True / False
7. Every device was repaired on Mia's first visit. True / False

Exercise 3: Complete the sentence

Use a word or phrase from the story.

8. Each device ___ a number at the entrance. (past passive: give)
9. The guide ___ by volunteers. (past passive: write)
10. The photographs were still ___ safely inside. (saved)

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) In a library
2. a) It held family photographs
3. c) Safely stored photographs
4. b) Learn the steps of a repair

Exercise 2: Right or wrong?

5. False
6. True
7. False

Exercise 3: Complete the sentence

8. was given
9. was written
10. stored

Free English worksheet from FluencyRoad — practice this topic interactively at <https://www.fluencyroad.com/reading/the-repair-cafe>