

What's the furthest you have ever cycled? Perhaps you cycle to school or to work, or maybe at most a short cycling **trip** with friends? How would you feel about spending months on the road travelling **solo** from the UK to China, by bike?

For British cyclist Pete Jones, **camping rough** and cycling long distances through **inhospitable terrain** are **second nature**. Mr Jones is currently undertaking a **mammoth** trip across the Eurasian continent from Britain to China.

Pete Jones is no stranger to China. But he says many people there are **puzzled** by his passion for cycling, asking why he would choose to cycle when he can afford a car. Indeed, while there are an estimated 400 million bicycles in China, where it has long been the preferred form of transport, **rapid economic growth** has **fuelled** an **explosive expansion** in **car ownership**.

Edward Genochio, another British cyclist who completed a 41,000km trip to China and back, said one of his aims was to "promote cycling as a safe, **sustainable** and **environmentally benign** means of getting about".

In the UK, the last few years have seen a rise in the number of people choosing two wheels over four, with some estimates saying the number of people cycling to work has almost doubled in the last five years.

Politicians also see cycling as a way to **boost their eco-credentials**, with people such as London mayor Boris Johnson often riding to work **under his own steam**. But we may have to wait some time before we see him **emulating** Pete Jones in attempting to cycle all the way to China!

## Glossary

<b>trip</b> - a short journey (usually going to a place and then coming back)	<b>solo</b> - on his own, without anyone else
<b>camping rough</b> - spending nights in a tent in difficult conditions	<b>inhospitable terrain</b> - ground/a piece of land that is difficult to cross
<b>second nature</b> - integral part of his character	<b>mammoth</b> - very long and very difficult
<b>puzzled</b> - slightly surprised/baffled	<b>rapid economic growth</b> - when the production and consumption of goods and services becomes larger very quickly
<b>fuelled</b> - become the reason for	<b>explosive expansion</b> - extremely quick growth
<b>car ownership</b> - here, the number of people who have cars	<b>sustainable</b> - that causes little or no damage to the environment (and so can continue for a long time)
<b>environmentally benign</b> - causing little or no damage to nature/the environment	<b>boost their eco-credentials</b> - show people that they care about the environment
<b>under his own steam</b> - if you do something under your own steam, you do it without help	<b>emulating</b> - copying (someone else's achievements)

### **Read and listen to the story online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/britain/080812\\_cycling.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/britain/080812_cycling.shtml)

## 1. Reading Quiz

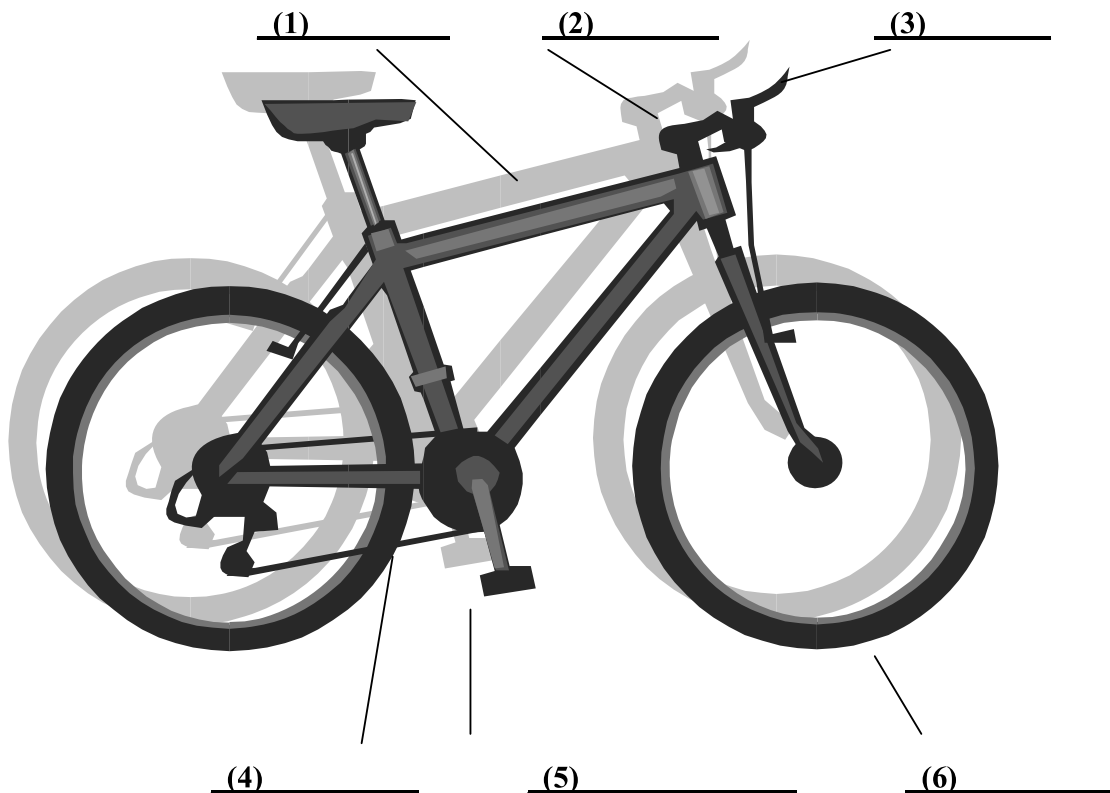
Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Mr Jones is travelling on his own. **True / False**
2. Mr Jones only stays in hotels. **True / False**
3. Edward Genochio is concerned about the environment. **True / False**
4. Cycling is becoming more popular in the UK. **True / False**

## 2. Parts of a bicycle

Look at this picture of a mountain bike and match the words to the correct numbers.

pedal	handlebars	wheel frame	chain	brakes
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### **3. Vocabulary Exercise**

**Complete the sentences with the following words. You will need to use each word or phrase once.**

sustainable	puzzled	second nature	fuelled
		under his own steam	

1. My friend was a bit \_\_\_\_\_ when I said I didn't want to earn lots of money.
2. These days there is a lot of talk amongst politicians about \_\_\_\_\_ development.
3. When I started using email I was a bit confused, but now it's \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A lot of China's economic growth has been \_\_\_\_\_ by the manufacturing sector.
5. Martin was going to ask a friend to pick him up from the airport, but in the end he got home \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4. Wordsearch

Try to find some of the words from the text in the puzzle below.

There are seven words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

c	p	l	a	t	e	a	u	i	g	e	r
k	s	f	j	w	e	q	e	n	a	x	p
x	d	u	s	u	m	y	r	h	e	p	j
w	f	b	s	c	u	k	h	o	t	e	i
o	u	t	v	t	l	j	r	s	e	d	f
v	e	t	e	r	a	n	a	p	d	i	p
y	l	r	x	j	t	i	f	i	l	t	z
i	l	i	s	s	i	j	n	t	g	i	y
e	e	p	g	t	n	c	v	a	d	o	i
e	d	i	a	n	g	o	r	b	b	n	n
m	a	m	m	o	t	h	e	l	l	l	n
a	m	b	p	u	z	z	l	e	d	b	e

mammoth	puzzled	fuelled	trip
emulating	sustainable	inhospitable	