



Treat us fairly!

2 Reading and listening: Children's lives around the world

a) Read the texts quickly. Tick the continents the children live on. You can use an atlas.

- Asia Africa North America South America Europe Australia

b) Now read carefully what the children say about their lives and tick T (= true) or F (= false).



Jazmin, 12

I think the internet is a very good thing. For example, children in Iran can now chat with people all around the world. Most Iranian kids can speak English very well.

Of course, you shouldn't spend all your time at the computer. Kids should play games and be outdoors, too!

But sadly, only rich people can have computers and are able to use the internet. Not all families have enough money for the things you need. Luckily, Iran is now full of internet cafés. However, some families are afraid the internet could give the children bad ideas. And so these kids are not allowed to go online.

1. All poor children are allowed to go to internet cafés. T F

Gabriel, 14

There's a lake near my home. Sometimes we go swimming there. My house has two rooms: a kitchen and a bedroom.

But on weekends, we have to sleep under a bridge in São Paulo. At night it can get really cold. Every weekend, I have to sell sweets to earn some money and help my family.

Yesterday, I wasn't able to sell the whole box of sweets. I must try to sell the rest today. Working in the street is bad: you have to get close to the cars to sell sweets, but most people quickly shut the windows. Sometimes the children in the cars want to buy sweets, but their parents don't allow them to.

On weekdays, I go to school. I don't really like it. But if you want to have a good job someday, you have to go to school. The best thing about school is that sometimes we're allowed to play games.

2. Gabriel doesn't have to work during the week. T F



Thierry, 12

My name is Thierry and I am a street child from Rwanda.

I have to live on the street. My biggest problem is finding food. This is why I am a beggar now. My parents died three years ago.

Living on the street is especially hard when it rains. I have to carefully look for food in the rubbish. But sometimes I cut my hands. I can't go to the doctor; it's too expensive.

I must help my grandmother. When I get money, I give it to her so that she can buy some food. We are hungry most of the time. I'm only a child, but I have to look after my grandmother. I would like powerful people to help me and the other poor children.

3. Some of Thierry's problems are being hungry and getting hurt. T F

24 twenty-four

Mariame, 13

Two years ago, I lived with my parents in a village in Ivory Coast. They were very poor, but I went to school there. Sometimes our teacher hit us when we weren't quick enough with our schoolwork. So I started dreaming about living somewhere else.

One day my aunt came to the village and told me I could have some food and clothes. My mother allowed me to go with her. I started working for my aunt. From four in the morning until late I was washing dishes, cleaning the house, and selling water in the streets. I didn't get any money and was not allowed to sleep enough.

Once, I lost a bowl. My aunt shouted angrily: "Find it! Or I'll hit you!" I went to the police and told them everything. Now I want to go back to my village. I will go to school and study. I want to have a good job someday.

4. Mariame went with her aunt because she wanted to have a better life. T F



Anam, 11

My name is Anam, I'm eleven years old and I was born in Mexico City.

I usually wear my Mazahua dress. I love it very much, but people often make fun of it. Sometimes blond children bully me because of my darker skin. This makes me very angry.

The town where my parents come from is called a pueblo. I like it very much! But people in the city have a better life than the people in the *pueblo*. In the city, there are more roads, hospitals and schools.

In Mexico City, we live in a slum. My family has only one room.

There are some kids in my neighbourhood who have got lots of things, like sweets and nice houses.

Everyone in my family works very hard so that one day we can have a bigger house.

5. Anam doesn't like her special dress anymore. T F



c) Listen to the dialogues. Fill in the correct words.

- angrily happily loudly
quietly sadly

1. Jazmin tells us happily that she can learn a lot online.

2. Gabriel talks about sleeping under a bridge sadly/quietly

3. Mariame's aunt threatens the girl angrily.

4. Thierry shouts loudly that he has got some money.

5. Anam talks about the bullying quietly/sadly

d) Look at the grammar box. Then highlight the adverbs below in the texts in 2b.

- quickly carefully
hard well angrily



Grammar For more details see → G 4

Adverbs: How you do something

- She is **angry** (adjective). She shouts at the girl **angrily** (adverb).
Theo is a **quick** reader. First, you should read the texts **quickly**.
Jazmin's English is very **good**. She speaks English very **well**.
Living on the street is **hard**. Gabriel works **hard** to get some money.