

## 'A shell of the place it used to be': the importance of libraries – and their fragile future

### Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

**Article summary:** This article discusses the importance of libraries and their future.

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Skills:** Reading, Speaking, Writing

**Language focus:** Present simple

**Materials needed:** One copy of the worksheet per student

#### 1. Warmer

- a. Write the word "Library" on the board. Ask students to call out words or phrases they associate with libraries (e.g., books, quiet, study, community). Have students work in pairs and write as many words as possible in 2 minutes on the word cloud in their worksheets. Elicit answers from students and write their responses on the board to complete the word cloud.

#### 2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups.

**Key:**

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <i>bullied</i>  | 6. <i>stack</i>       |
| 2. <i>decline</i>  | 7. <i>replace</i>     |
| 3. <i>browsing</i> | 8. <i>underpaid</i>   |
| 4. <i>budget</i>   | 9. <i>protagonist</i> |
| 5. <i>damage</i>   | 10. <i>unexpected</i> |

#### 3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to work individually to decide who said each of the statements and write the corresponding name next to them. Encourage students to highlight the evidence in the text. Once finished, give them a few minutes to check in pairs before checking answers with the whole class.

**Key :**

1. *LC*
2. *MT*
3. *JP*
4. *SR*
5. *MT*

#### 4. Key language

- a. Students work in pairs again, this time to complete sentences from the article with the present simple form of the verbs provided in brackets.

**Key:**

1. *is*
2. *offer*
3. *makes*
4. *lives*
5. *are*
6. *think*
7. *are*
8. *'m (am)*
9. *live; need*

#### 5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the statements and provide reasons for their opinions, referring to their own experiences whenever possible.

#### 6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to do some online research on the libraries available in their local area and the services they offer.
- b. Give them some time to share their findings with the group, highlighting any problems they have found.
- c. Encourage students to listen to what their classmates found out and discuss how they could make these libraries even better.
- d. Vote for the three most interesting ideas to improve the library.