



What are these? Water fountains, bus shelters or public toilets? Fill the gaps.

1. In towns, there were very few _____ until about forty years ago. Since then they have appeared everywhere, probably because most people no longer wear the kinds of clothes that protect them from the wind, cold and rain. Country _____ have been with us for a good deal longer. Before the Second World War, many of them were paid for by rich local people, often in memory of a member of their family. Some were well built and very attractive, to fit in with the surroundings.
2. By the 1870s _____ were being installed all over Britain. Many of them, for gentlemen only, were made of iron, highly decorated and often in the shape of Indian or Greek temples. A little later, in the 1880s, more solid structures of brick or stone were being built, with accommodation for ladies and gentlemen. Some of these looked like cottages or medieval castles.
3. _____ are to be found everywhere. Most of them were built in the 19th century and some are very grand. This type of _____ was not very hygienic. It usually had an iron cup on a chain and everyone used it. They were built for three reasons. Firstly they provided people with pure _____, at a time when much of the available _____ was dangerous to health. Secondly they were memorials to local residents. Finally, they were intended to persuade people to _____ instead of beer or spirits.

Talking points:

What street furniture do you have in your country?

Use the names:

Benches, litter bins, bus shelters, bike racks, bollards





Check your answers

1. In towns, there were very few *bus shelters* until about forty years ago. Since then they have appeared everywhere, probably because most people no longer wear the kinds of clothes that protect them from the wind, cold and rain. Country *bus shelters* have been with us for a good deal longer. Before the Second World War, many of them were paid for by rich local people, often in memory of a member of their family. Some were well built and very attractive, to fit in with the surroundings.
2. By the 1870s *public toilets* were being installed all over Britain. Many of them, for gentlemen only, were made of iron, highly decorated and often in the shape of Indian or Greek temples. A little later, in the 1880s, more solid structures of brick or stone were being built, with accommodation for ladies and gentlemen. Some of these looked like cottages or medieval castles.
3. *Water fountains* are to be found everywhere. Most of them were built in the 19th century and some are very grand. This type of *water fountain* was not very hygienic. It usually had an iron cup on a chain and everyone used it. They were built for three reasons. Firstly they provided people with pure *water*, at a time when much of the available *water* was dangerous to health. Secondly they were memorials to local residents. Finally, they were intended to persuade people to *drink water* instead of beer or spirits.



Benches



Litter bins



Bus shelter



Litter bin

Bike racks



Bollards